

# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

03/256/1	Billerica		152
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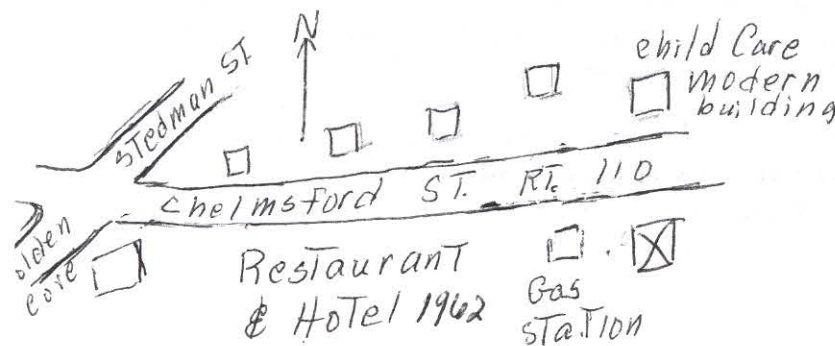
Town Chelmsford  
 Place (neighborhood or village) Chelmsford Center  
 Address 191 Chelmsford St.  
 Historic Name Scoble/Dowd House  
 Uses: Present 2 family residence  
           Original 1 family residence  
 Date of Construction 1890  
 Source tax records



CD#1 IMG 3979

### Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Style/Form

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation original house: granite blocks  
 additions: cemented rubble, some with concrete blocks over the rubble.

Wall/Trim siding: 1956

Roof ridge, front to back

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

2 temporary storage sheds ca 1973: from kits: 1 metal & 1 wood

garage b. 1956, 15 x 22 ft., block foundation

Major Alterations (with dates)

1899 many rooms added. See continuation sheet

Condition good

Moved  no  yes Date

Acreage 1 1/2 acres

Setting The property is sandwiched between an assisted living complex on 1 side & a gas station & hotel on the other. Across busy Rt. 110 (Chelmsford St.) a Child Care Building & a house may be torn down for 40B housing. Otherwise, that side of the street between Stedman & Dalton Rds. is residential. (See continuation sheet)

Recorded by Jane B. Drury

Organization for Chelmsford Historical Commission

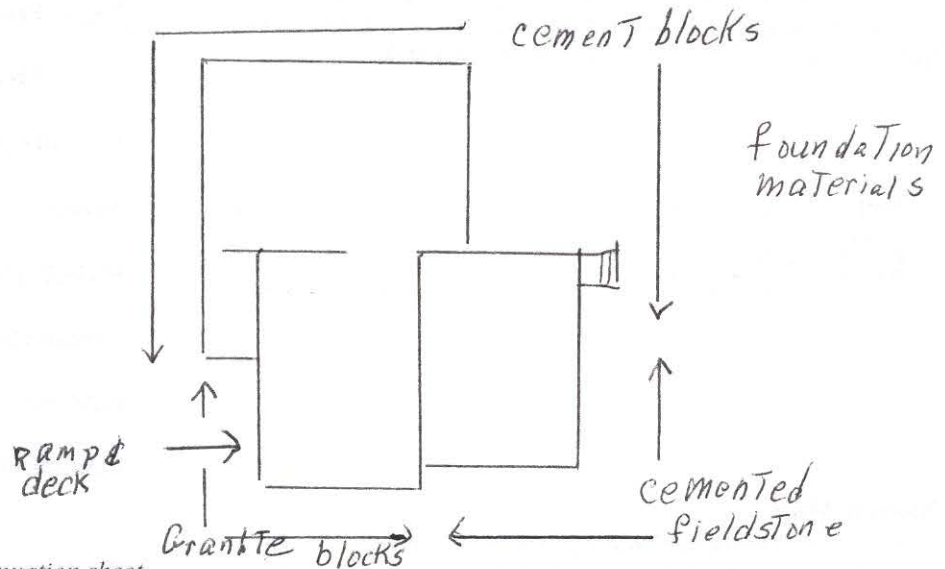
Date (month / year) January 2007

## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The residence at 191 Chelmsford St. is a typical one in Chelmsford built near the turn to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It has a ridge roof with the gable facing the front of the building. One tall, narrow chimney, probably the original one, is located in the middle of the roof ridge. Two other smaller chimneys are near the rear end of the additions, one on the rear right side of the house and the other on the left. The latter is now closed off, it was used for a stove no longer used. A temporary wooden ramp leads up to the entrance door at the front of the left addition. Built for a single family about 1930 it became a 2 family residence.



### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE see continuation sheet

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

In March 1893 Gilbert W. Parker, a mechanic of Lowell, sold to William Scoble the land on which the residence at 191 Chelmsford St. had been built about 3 years earlier, and which the Scobles had been renting.

William and Florence Scoble and their family lived here about 30 years. He was then a mill hand but soon became a "second hand" in Lowell. By 1911 he was working as a carpenter, which he continued to do as long as he lived in the house. The Scobles' son David worked as a "daughtsman", first in Lowell, and later he commuted to Boston. He moved to Fall River in 1917/18 but returned in 1922 with his wife, Blanche. However, David and Blanche only stayed in the home a short period. David's sister Gertrude worked as a stenographer/bookkeeper in Lowell. William, Jr. was employed as a clerk, also in Lowell. In 1925 he married Alecha M. Gooch of Lowell and moved to New York, after which lived at 191 Chelmsford St. with his parents for about 3 years before they moved to Islington. Sometime in the mid 1930s William and Florence Scoble left 191 Chelmsford St. and moved in with his relatives, William & Ethel Scoble, who had a produce stand on North Rd.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES see continuation sheet

Middlesex No. District Registry of Deeds: Bk. 241, pg. 328; 1893

John Dowd: house floor plans Aug. 2006; information given during house visit Sept. 5, 2006

Chelmsford street directories; Assessors' Records; Building Inspector's Records

Bill given by W<sup>m</sup> Scoble to F. Dowd: Feb. 1897, Apr. 14, 1899, May 17, 1899; tax records 1891 - 1900

Lillian Dowd: Joann Dowd Monahan

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*



# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
CHELMSFORD

Property Address  
191 CHELMSFORD ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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## HISTORY

By 1943 Gaspard G. & Emma Michaud and their children Roland & Emma were renting part of the house. Gaspard was a weaver. A few years later an Army couple came from California and lived in the other side of the house. She was a floor lady.

In Nov. 1948 William & Florence's son, William E. Scoble, Jr., as administrator of his father's estate sold the property to Francis & Lillian Dowd.

By this time Gaspard G. & Emma J. Michaud were renting the entire house from William Scoble. They lived in the front part of the house and were the parents of the people that lived in the rear part.

It was almost two years after purchasing the property before the Dowds could move in. It took about a year before the Michauds could find a new home. The house needed a lot of repairs, and the Dowds bought it for a cheaper price because of all the things that needed to be fixed. Francis & Lillian Dowd did a lot of the work themselves.

When they first moved into the house they got their water from a well outside of the house that was quiet a distance away. There was a water pump which brought the water from that outside well through old water pipes that came into the back corner of the cellar. Later, another water well was located deep in the back part of the cellar. It has long since been filled in, and the rear cellar floor is concrete now.

For several years the family lived in the front of the house, while the rear was rented out.

The first family of renters was Edward and Rachel Vondal, who were here from about 1950 to 1955. "Eddy" worked at the wool mills with Mr. Dowd, and later they both worked as mail carriers at the Chelmsford Post Office. Their children were Cindy, Kenneth, and then Patsy. About the time of Patsy's birth they moved to Stedman St.

The second was a Mrs Hoyle and her son.

The third renter was "Candy" Wilson. She was divorced, had a son, and a neighborhood thief for a dog. He would go off into the neighborhood and would always bring back something that belonged to someone else. It sometimes was a small scatter rug, or a child's toy, or a bucket or mop, a hair brush, gloves, towels-- anything that tickled his fancy. The dog is remembered better than Candy and her son!

The fourth family to rent were Paul and Eileen Peterson and their 2 young children.

Mary & Vincent St. Hilaire lived in rear of 191 Chelmsford St. from 1962 to Nov. 1964. They were the last of the renters. The rent was \$15/ week. Mark & Matthew were both born while they were living there: Mark in May 1962.

Meanwhile, Francis & Lillian Dowd had five children to raise in the house, and the children wanted their own bedrooms. Three bedrooms in the front part of the house were just not enough for 2 adults and 5 children, so after 1964 there were no more families renting space here.

Francis died in 1997, but Lillian remains in the rear section of the house. In the front part live her son John and his wife Gail, with their two children, Michael and Jennifer.

The Dowd family has lived here for almost 60 years.

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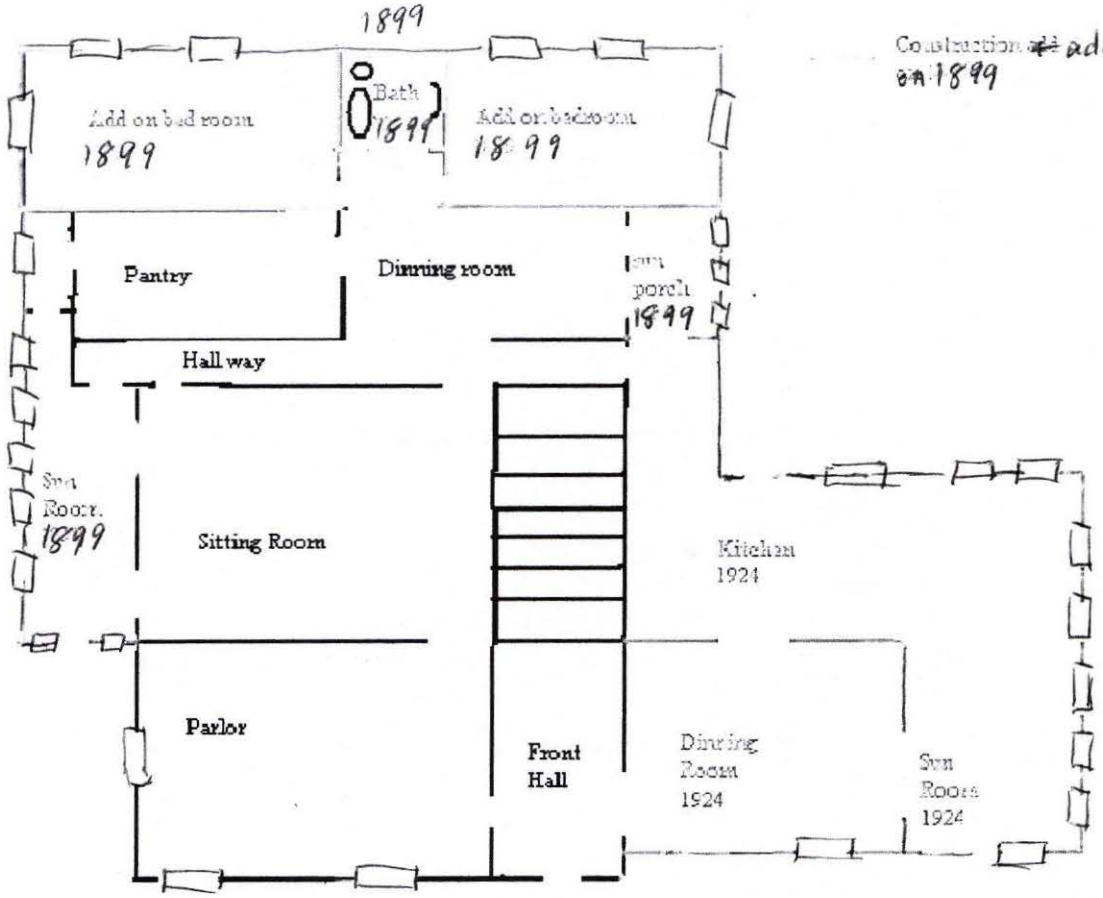
## SETTING

A paved drive runs up along the left side of 191 Chelmsford St.

The ground goes steeply down to a lawn to a lightly wooded area with a very small stream at the rear of the property. Beyond it flows the larger but still small Golden Cove Brook, for which the immediate area is commonly known. Rt. 495 is just beyond that brook. Two storage sheds and a garage are located to the right of the house. The garage is situated 21 feet from the house.

## ALTERATIONS

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1899    | Many rooms added  |
| ca 1956 | Rear: raised up & a new concrete block foundation replaced the old wooden one.<br>Sun porch built on left side, located half way behind 2006 kitchen<br>sun porch is L shaped |
| 1990s   | Windows replaced (2 together): left & rear of house.  |



Construction # add  
on 1899

Construction changes made in 1924 to house on 191 Chelmsford  
1899

Information By  
John Dowd



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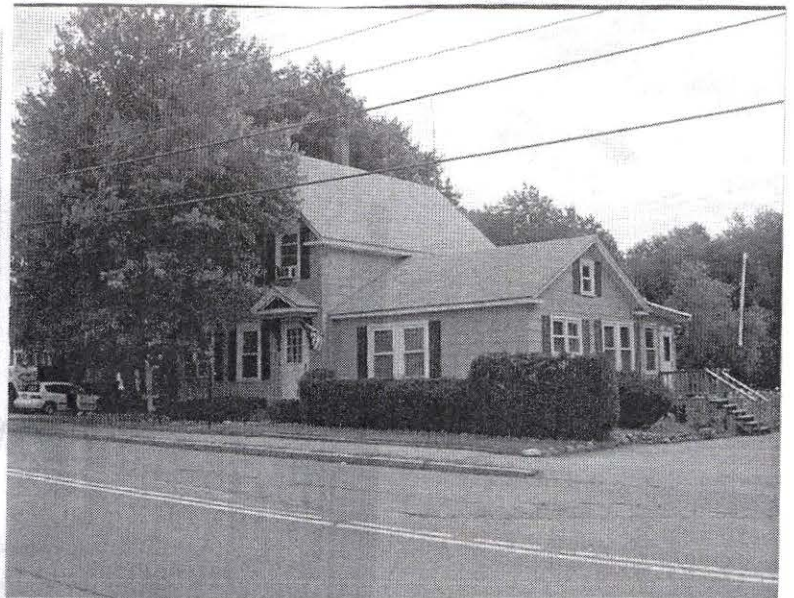
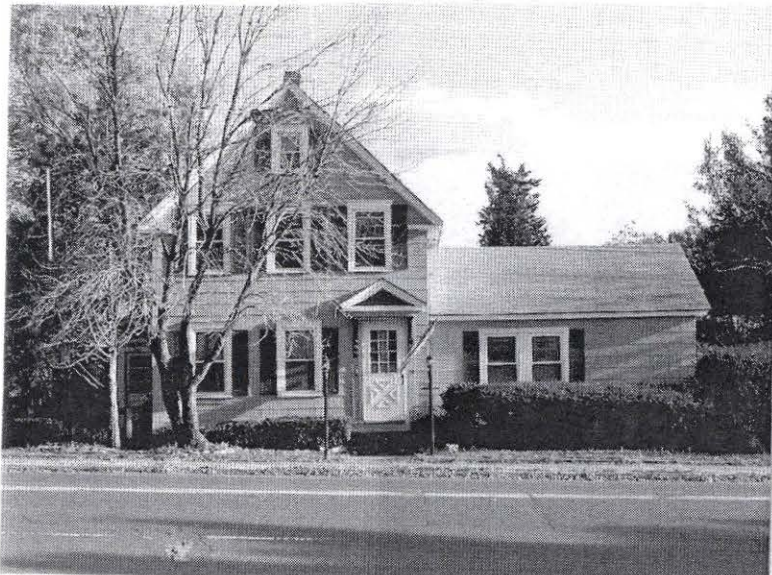
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## ALTERATIONS



1954  
new siding



Sept. 8, 2006



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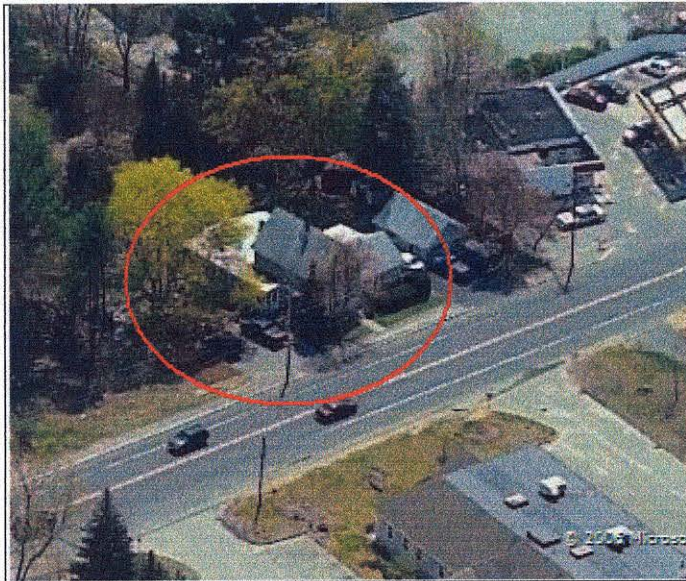
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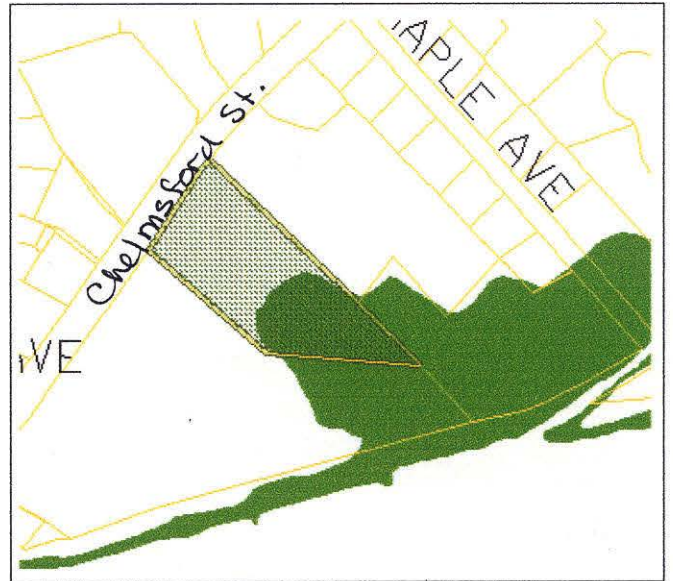
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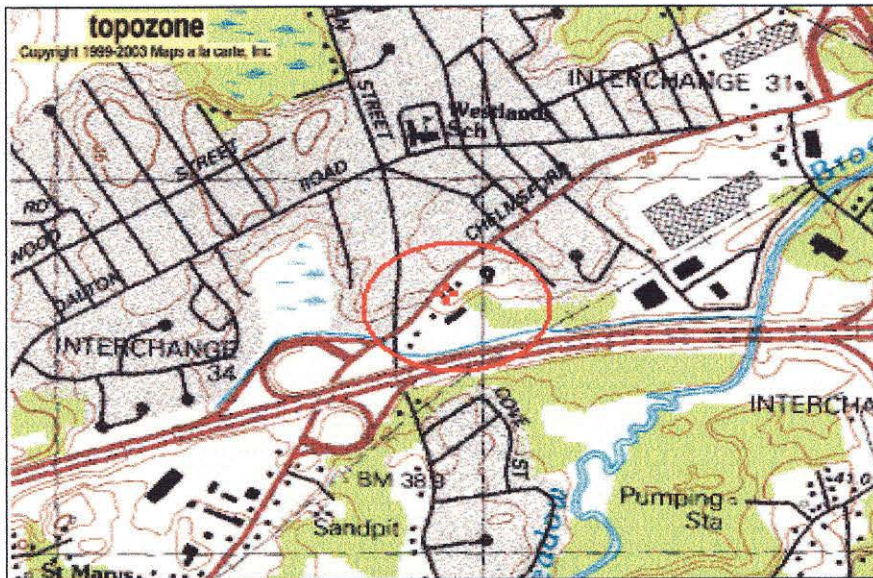
## Locational Information



191 Chelmsford Street viewed from local.live.com



191 Chelmsford Street, Assessor's Map



Topozone excerpt from Billerica USGS quadrangle.

Decimal coordinates as provided by Topozone: 42°36'26"N 71°20'30" W



191 Chelmsford Street  
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

Bk. 1105, pg. 504  
Scoble by Admr. to Dowd

1948

I, William E. Scoble, of Westwood, Norfolk County, Massachusetts Administrator of the Estate of William Scoble, of Chelmsford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts by power conferred by License dated November 18, 1948 issued by Middlesex County Probate Court, Docket #279407 and every other power, for \$6500.00 paid, grant to Francis M. Dowd and Lillian A. Dowd, husband and wife, as tenants by entirety and not as tenants in common, both of said Chelmsford the land in said Chelmsford bounded and described as follows; a certain parcel of land situated on the southeasterly side of Chelmsford Street, and thus bounded: Beginning at the northerly corner of said premises on the southeasterly side of said street at a stone bound, at the westerly corner of land supposed to belong, now or formerly, to Claude C. Leitner et ux; thence southeasterly by said last mentioned land, 583.44 feet to a stone bound at land supposed to belong formerly to Josiah Fletcher, and now or formerly to one Zollinger; thence westerly by said last mentioned land, 391 feet to land conveyed to Ernest A. Pouliot et ux by deed of even date; thence northwesterly by said last mentioned land, 260 feet to said Chelmsford Street; thence northeasterly along said street 215 feet to the point of beginning; by any or all of said measurements more or less and however otherwise said premises may be measured, bounded or described. For title see Middlesex North District Deeds, Book 241, page 328, and Book 255, page 204.

Signed: Nov. 30, 1948  
Recorded: Nov. 30, 1948

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Bk. 255, pg. 204  
Parker to Scoble

1894

I, George W. Parker of Lowell, County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts in consideration of \$410 paid by William Scoble of Chelmsford in said County.....a certain lot of land situate in said Chelmsford on the southerly side of the road leading from Lowell to Chelmsford Center called Chelmsford St. bounded and described as follows to wit Beginning at the northeasterly corner of the premises at a stone bound at said road and running southeasterly by land now or formerly of one Stevens 35 36/100 rods to a stake in a ditch; thence westerly by a ditch along land belonging to one Fletcher to land of said Scoble; thence northerly along last named land to said road; thence easterly along said road to point of beginning. Containing about one and one half acres. Being the same premises conveyed to me by Mary Stevens July 25, 1890..... I Margaret Parker wife of said grantor.....

Signed: June 12, 1894  
Recorded: June 13, 1894

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Bk. 241, pg. 328  
Parker to Scoble

See Book 255, Page 204

1893

I, George W. Parker, no Lowell, County of Middlesex County and Commonwealth of Massachusetts in consideration of \$410 paid by William Scoble of Chelmsford in said County..... a certain lot of land containing one acre more or less situate in Chelmsford in said County on the southerly side of the road leading from Lowell to Chelmsford called Chelmsford street, bounded and described as follows . Beginning at the most northerly corner of the premises which is 8 rods northerly from the most northerly corner of land of one Putney; thence southwestery on said road or street 8 rods to said Putney land; thence southeasterly on said Putney land 20 rods more or less to a ditch at land now or formerly of one Fletcher; thence northeasterly on said ditch bounding on said Fletcher land to a point opposite a bound near said ditch at land now or formerly of Mary Stevens; thence northwesterly on said Stevens and on a line parallel to the second boundary line and 8 rods distant therefrom to the bound first mentioned. Being the same premises conveyed to me by Mary Stevens by her deed of Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1888 Recorded Middlesex North Deeds Book 201, Page 118..... I Margaret Parker wife of the said grantor.....

Signed: Mar. 14, 1893  
Recorded: Mar. 14, 1893

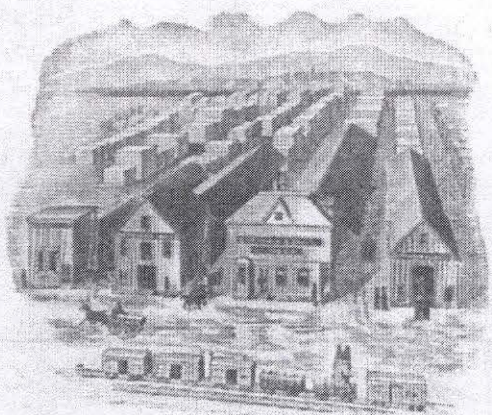


I Mary W. Stevens of Chelmsford in the County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts in consideration of Two Hundred and Seventy five Dollars to me paid by George W. Parker of Lowell in said County ..... a certain lot of land containing one acre more or less situated in said Chelmsford on the southeasterly side of the road leading from said Lowell to said Chelmsford centre called Chelmsford street bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the most northerly corner of the premises at a point on said road or street eighty rods northeasterly from the most northerly corner of land of one Putney; thence southwesterly on said road or street eight rods to said Putney land; thence southeasterly on said Putney land twenty rods more or less to a ditch at land now or formerly of one Fletcher; thence northeasterly on said ditch bounding on said Fletchers land to a point opposite a bound near said ditch at other land of said grantor; thence northwesterly on said grantors other land on a line parallel with the second boundary line and eight rods distant therefrom to the bound first mentioned. Being part of the same premises conveyed to me by Sarah Harriman by her deed dated December 26 A.D. 1883 and recorded in the registry of Deeds Northern District for said County Book 164, Page 219..... I the said Mary W. Stevens widow, unmarried...

Signed: Oct. 20, 1888

Recorded: Oct. 23, 1888





# Burnham & Davis

WESTERN CANALS AND

## LUMBER

Also: Shingles, Clapboards, Mouldings, Laths, Pickets, Posts, Etc.

Wholesale & Retail  
Western Ave.  
Lowell Mass April 30 1897

Crawford Burnham  
Charles D Davis

Sold to W<sup>m</sup> Scoble

Chelmsford

April 14	400 ft Hem. Bds	12 <sup>00</sup>	500
"	202 <sup>00</sup> Cand Spr NW	16	323
"	48 <sup>00</sup> 2x12 Spr	18	72
"	512 <sup>00</sup> Spr Emmer	17	870
"	116 <sup>00</sup> 2x5 Spr	.	197
"	Sawing Plates	.	25
"	7 ft 12" Spr Sd	18	13
"	12 <sup>00</sup> 1 1/2 x 2 1/2 Thumb	1/2	23
"	100 5 1/2 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cl. Clapbds	25	250
"	36 ft Nor Finish	"	90
"	130 <sup>00</sup> Boards	25 <sup>00</sup>	33
"	25 <sup>00</sup> 4 1/2" Crown	1/2	56
"	24 <sup>00</sup> 2" Bed	"	24
17	81 <sup>00</sup> 1x6 Geo Pine P <sup>2</sup> S	32	259
"	1 Window 14x28 4 Lights	325	325
"	1 " " 2 "	300	300
"	1 Set Out Side Door Jambs	75 <sup>00</sup>	75
"	148 ft 2x4 Spr	17	81
"	28 <sup>00</sup> 2x3 "	"	39
"	302 <sup>00</sup> Spr NW	"	513
"	51 <sup>00</sup> 1/2" Spr Shitz	20	102
"	40 <sup>00</sup> Spr Finishing	17	68
18	3 <sup>00</sup> 12x10 Hd Pipe Trash	12 <sup>00</sup>	36
"	1 7/8 Laths	250	250
"	63 ft Nor Finish	27	170
"	1 Set 2x5 7/8 Door Jambs	75 <sup>00</sup>	75
"	3 ft 2" Bed	1/2	03
"	3 <sup>00</sup> 4 1/2" Crown	.	07
24	6 <sup>00</sup> Pat. Pl. Bead	1 <sup>00</sup>	06
			<hr/> 4785





191 Chelmsford Street

1956 Photo courtesy of John Dowd





191 Chelmsford Street

2005 Photo courtesy of John F. Dowd





191 Chelmsford Street

4/8/2007 F. Merriam



