

(Attach photo here)

FORM B - BUILDING SURVEY

207

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

1. Is this building historically significant to:
Town Commonwealth Nation

Building has historical connection with the following themes: (see also reverse side)

- Scholar
- Agriculture
- Art/Sculpture
- Education
- Government
- Literature
- Music
- Commerce/industry
- Science/invention
- Travel/communication
- Military Affairs
- Religion/philosophy
- Indians
- Other _____

Development of town/city

Architectural reason for inventorying:

2. Town Chelmsford

Street address 21 Chelmsford St.

Name Kittredge / Howard House

Use: original & present residence + doctor's office

Present owner Henry Eriksen

Open to public no

Date 1845 Style Greek Revival

by Dr. Francis H. Kittredge Source of date Frances Andrews See attached sheet

Architect _____

OR part of Area # _____

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added _____

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material granite block

WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other _____

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard and irregular because of ells
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork on barn

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed + barn all interconnected

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 small entry -> dining room PORTICO full length of house Balcony supported by 4 Doric columns

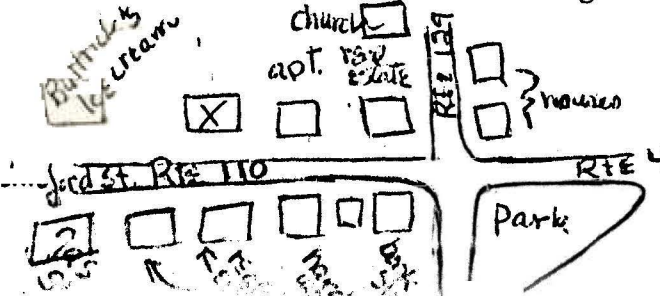
FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament stained glass window panels on either side of front door

Entrance: Side Front Center/Side Details: main entrance, others in office wing, dining room kitchen + shed

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 6 panes over six spacing irregular because house is so broken up

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings



6. Footage of structure from street 10-15 feet back
Property has 200 feet frontage on street

Recorder Janet Lombard & Jane Drury

For Chelmsford Historical Commission

Photo # 3-19 Date 2/3/1974

SEE REVERSE SIDE

1. Outbuildings shed + barn are connected to house

2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal
Predominant features wall along sidewalk, side yard grassed + sloping to barn cellar
Landscape architect _____

3. Neighboring Structures
Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.
Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern + 19th century
Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

This house was built between 1839 and 1843 by Dr. Francis Kittredge, son of Dr. Paul Kittredge, who had built his house across the street in 1831. Francis, familiarly known as Dr. Frank, was associated with his father for many years, and upon the death of the latter in 1845, succeeded to his practice. In 1848 he disposed of his interests in Chelmsford to Levi Howard, M.D., whose devotion to his profession and patients resulted in a wide & lucrative practice not only in Chelmsford but also in the adjacent towns. Dr. Howard worked to within a week of his death in 1885 and was succeeded in practice by his son, Amasa Howard, M.D. Although Dr. Amasa Howard remained in the house through the rest of his life and also enjoyed a widespread practice, the house was owned by his wife, Louise. One of Amasa & Louise's sons was an architect and designed the Campanile Tower on the Berkley campus in California. Following Dr. Amasa's death, Louise Howard sold the house in 1924 to still another doctor, Leonard C. Durstoff, M.D. The present owner, Henry Eriksen, bought the house in 1948 and now runs an antique business in the barn.

This house and the Dr. Paul Kittredge house across the street are an interesting example of the shift in Architecture from the Federal to the Greek Revival style.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

- 1856 Walling's County map
- 1875 Beer's Atlas
- "Chelmsford Vital Records in 1850"
- Waters, "History of Chelmsford, Mass."
- 1955 Chelmsford Newsweekly
- Notebook of Miss Frances Andrews
- Mrs. Margaret Mills

RESTRICTIONS _____

Original Owner: Dr. Francis M. Kittredge
Deed Information: Book Number 14 Page 410, Middlesex North Registry of Deeds
15 350
Joseph Reed to Dr. Francis M. Kittredge
Dr. Francis M. Kittredge to Dr. Floyer G. Kittredge

21 Chelmsford St

Northern Middlesex Registry of Deeds

North: Book 1103, pg. 461	11/ 1/1948	Helen & Henry Erickson from Florence K. Small, wife of Ivan Small 1/4 acre
North: Book 1103, pg 460	2/23/1934	Ivan O. Small from Nellie V. Small 1/4 acre
North: Book 828, pg. 26	9/11/1933	Nellie V. Small from Ingrid I. Robinson 1/4 acre
North: Book 804, pg. 360	8/10/1931	Ingrid I. Robinson from Leonard C. Durstoff 1/4 acre
North: Book 705, pg. 297	4/11/1924	Leonard C. Durstoff from Louise Howard 1/4 acre
North: Book 263, pg. 121	5/ 3/1895	Louise C. Howard from Elwin Howard et al 1/4 acre
North: Book 16, pg. 453		
South: Book 537, pg. 208	6/18/1848	Levi Howard from Floyer G. Kittridge

Lowell Weekly Journal

Jan. 1885

It is with deep sorrow that we pen the words which will awaken like emotion in the hearts of all who knew him - Dr. Levi Howard is no more. At his home in this village, at quarter-past seven o'clock Friday evening, he passed peacefully away. Not only to distant friends but to the majority even in this community the intelligence of his departure will come with startling force, for none who saw him but a few days since engaged in the active duties of his calling could suspect that so soon would be resigned forever the engrossing cares and toils of a professional career of forty years' duration. Just one week prior to his decease his last work was done in visiting a patient in a neighboring town. Upon his return, as he entered the house he said to his son, "I believe my life work is over." Prophetic words! too soon and too sadly fulfilled.

Dr. Howard was the son of Deacon Levi Howard and Mary Howard, nee Houghton, and was born in Bolton, Mass., in May, 1820, being at his decease nearly 65 years old. His father was a farmer in comfortable circumstances, and the son passed his boyhood and youth upon the farm, receiving a common school education in his native town, continuing his studies at Worcester and at Bridgton academy, Me. He then taught school a few terms "on the cape" and in Bolton, afterwards beginning the study of medicine under the direction of his uncle, Dr. Lewis W. Houghton of Waterford, Me. He attended one course of medical lectures at Bowdoin college, and then entered Dartmouth Medical college, graduating at the latter in 1845.

After graduation he practiced with his uncle, Dr. Houghton, in Waterford for three months. While here he married Miss Lydia J. Hapgood, and soon moved to Still River, Mass. - a village of Bolton - and here practiced his profession two years. In 1848, learning that Dr. Francis Kittredge of Chelmsford wished to resign his lucrative practice to take up his residence in California, Dr. Howard came here, where he has ever since resided, enjoying in a marked degree the confidence and esteem of the community, as evidence by the constant and ever increasing demands for his professional services.

Dr. Howard was a member of the Massachusetts Medical society, of the North Middlesex Medical society, was at one time its president and had held all the various offices in its gift. During Gov. Talbot's administration he was appointed a trustee of the Blind Asylum at South Boston. Never taking an active part in politics yet he consented several years ago, yielding to the earnest solicitation of friends, to become a candidate for the office of state representative in the state legislature. In so doing he was in part influenced by the belief that the change would afford him the rest which he needed from the exacting duties of his profession. He was, however, unsuccessful and, paradoxically as it may seem, his personal popularity and professional ability contributed to his defeat. Many of his personal and political friends neglected to go to the polls, feeling that his election was sure, while others voted against him fearing that his medical services could not be had when wanted; so that through the over confidence of his friends rather than the strength of the opposition he failed to secure the only political office he ever sought. In his religious views he was a Baptist, and while a member of the church and a firm believer in the doctrines of this denomination he was never strictly sectarian. For several years he was a deacon of the Central Baptist church, gave largely to the erection of its meeting house and always contributed liberally to the support of public worship. Two of his sons adopted their father's profession; the elder, George L., a young man of much promise, died before he had completed his studies; the other, Dr. Amasa Howard, has been associated with his father the past two years, meriting and receiving the favor of the community. Besides these, Dr. Howard's only students have been the brothers Dr. Samuel L. Dutton of Boston and Dr. Charles Dutton of Tyngsborough, for both of whom their preceptor always cherished the warmest friendship and whose success in their chosen profession is most creditable alike to

instructor and pupil.

Last June, Dr. Howard, knowing well the nature of the malady fastened upon him, left his practice in charge of his son and in company with his devoted wife sailed for Europe, where he spent several months; but it now seems evident that it was too late to secure even a temporary benefit from change of climate and occupation.

While a critical analysis of Dr. Howard's merits and gifts as a medical practitioner must be left to those who are versed in the science and technics of the profession, it may be said that one of his distinguishing characteristics was his strong common sense; he was eminently practical. Not fluent in speech, his thoughts were always expressed in terse, well chosen language. He never jumped to conclusions, and the diagnosis of every case entrusted to his care was the result of a most minute and careful examination. Before age and disease had impaired his bodily vigor his very appearance at the bedside of the sick fairly rivaled the efficacy of the contents of the medicine chest, causing many a patient to feel if not to say that his presence "doeth good like a medicine." Another and by no means the least prominent trait of his character was his kindness to the poor, and many are they who without money and without price have received the benefit of his skill and advice; and when his body shall have been laid in the grave not they alone but the more fortunate all classes will join in the benediction. contained in the poet's lines:.....

Dr. Howard leaves a widow, 3 sons and 2 daughters. One son associated with his father has already been named, one is in his senior year in Harvard college, and the third is studying for the profession of architect. Of the daughters one is the wife of Prof. J.H. Willoughby, principal of the Middleborough High school, and the other a teacher in London, England.

The death of Dr. Howard makes a void in this community not easy to fill. Fortunate, indeed, will be his successor if he shall win the respect, esteem and confidence bestowed in so large a measure upon the honored physician who has gone to his final rest.

The funeral services will be held at the Baptist church Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Dec. 15, 1883 "Chelmsford Eagle"
The friends of Mrs. Dr. Frank Kittredge, formerly of Chelmsford, will regret to learn that she is lying dangerously ill at her home in Santa Cruz, Cal.

Lowell Courier - Citizen

June 27, 1910 - The death of Mrs. Susan Kittredge Brown, a native of and for many years a resident of Chelmsford, occurred at the Old Ladies' home in Haverhill on Sunday, aged 86 years. She was a daughter of Dr. Paul Kittredge and is the last of a family of 14 children. The body will be brought to Chelmsford Tuesday afternoon for burial in the family lot in Forefathers' cemetery.

Masters Hawthorne and Frances Howard of West Chester, Pennsylvania, are visiting their grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. Amasa Howard. They came over on Saturday accompanied by their father, A. Hawthorne Howard, on the new New York-Portland express.

Aug. 9, 1910 - "Ted," the valued Boston terrier belonging to Dr. Howard, was killed by an automobile in Central square this forenoon. He was a familiar figure about the village, trotting sedately along with a courteously wagging tail, for he was friends with all and was liked by all. In September of last year, he narrowly escaped death when struck by the engine of a fast moving freight and tossed 20 feet or more.

Aug. 22, 1910 - Dr. Amasa Howard left today for his annual vacation at Bethlehem New Hampshire, where he is forced to go because of hay fever. He will be absent until the first frost come.

Dec. 31, 1912 - Dr. Amasa Howard is confined to his home by an attack of pneumonia that developed on Sunday from a severe cold that kept him in the house during the previous week. His condition was considered rather more favorable today, and tonight he was resting comfortably.

Jan. 30, 1914 - Dr. Amasa Howard, who was graduated president of the class of 1882, medical department of Dartmouth college, attended last night the annual dinner of the Dartmouth Alumni Association of Boston and vicinity, held at the Copley-Plaza hotel in Boston.

Sept. 4, 1914 - During Dr. Amasa Howard's absence at Bethlehem, New Hampshire, Dr. Marshall Alling of Lowell, who has been associated with him for a year, will take care of his practice, being at Dr. Howard's office daily at the hours given in the suburban advertising columns this morning.

Sept. 7, 1909 - Dr. Howard's valuable Boston terrier "Ted" was struck by the engine of a freight train at the Centre crossing this afternoon and though stunned for a time and bearing a number of bruises was thought to have escaped without serious injury.

The dog was struck twice, the first time being tossed a matter of 20 feet and landed between the rails where he was again picked up by the cow catcher and thrown to the side of the strack.



7/25/2004 F. Merriam



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12/28/2004 F. Merriam