

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

14/ 19/ 17/

Lowell

Town/City: Chelmsford

Place: North Chelmsford

Address: 58 Church Street

Historic Name: John O'Connor House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1895

Source: taxes, maps, plans

Style/Form:

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood

Roof: asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: single car garage

Major Alterations (with dates): none

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .16 acres

Setting: Set on a small cul-de-sac off a main road with housing of mixed styles but mostly late 1800's. Originally the street was called Depot street due to the railroad station at the end of the street.



MA_Chelmsford_58_ChurchStreet_GoogleEarth_CHC_2021

Locus Map

See continuation sheet.

Recorded by: Linda V. Prescott

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date: 5/2021

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TOWN

ADDRESS

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: The two-story house has a stone foundation, a multi-plane asphalt-shingled roof, and is clad in wood clapboards on the first story and painted wood shingles on the second. One chimney is located on the building. The roof line is a side gable with a flat slope on the rear, a truncated gambrel with a porch overhang on the front, and a hexagonal pyramid on the turret. Most windows throughout the house are one-over-one, double-hung replacement windows. The primary (east) façade is two bays wide with the two-story, three panel turret in the northeast bay. The first story of the façade includes an entry door just south of the turret and a one-bay porch with replacement columns and railings. The northeast and southwest walls are two bays deep with single windows in each bay. A one-story, 6x3 foot enclosed porch is set within the northwest corner of the house. The un finished one-car garage has a stone foundation, an asphalt-shingled roof, and is clad in wood siding. The building is an altered example of a mid-nineteenth century residence that retains historic integrity of location, setting, feeling, and **association**

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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.

The exact date the house was built is difficult to identify. The house does not appear on the 1889 Walker Map. The builder that developed the corner of Middlesex Street and Depot Street was Augustus Whidden, who tended build homes for mill workers and his best customer was George Moore, owner of the wool mill. In the 1900 real estate tax lists records George Moore owning "5 dwellings on Whidden land" (1). Those 5 dwellings are on the corner of Middlesex and Depot Streets. In 1901, George Moore sold the house to John O'Connor a superintendent in the George Moore Mill (2) (3).

John O'Connor was the son of Irish immigrants born on New York in 1850 (4). By 1891, John appears on the Chelmsford Voting Lists (5). The earliest city directory, 1896, lists John as being in residence as a superintendent in the George Moore Mill. Records also show he was married to an Irish immigrant named Hannah and had a son, James H. who moved to Hyde Park 1897-1898 (6). Records show a John O'Connor, of North Chelmsford, was a resident of the local poor farm in 1907 listed as a cripple (7).

On November 24, 1911, John sold the house to Annie F. Riney, an Irish immigrant (8) (9). Annie was the widow of Daniel P. Riney (10). Upon purchase of the house, she moved in with her daughter Annie F., a clerk working in Lowell, Catherine a mill employee and son John W. (11) Annie passes away in on October 30, 1920 of cardio renal disease in Chelmsford at age 64 (12). Annie's daughters Katherine M. Riney and Annie F. Ketchen sold the house to Frank E. McCarty of Chelmsford. The deed states; Annie F. Riney is deceased, Stephen L. Ketchen is the husband of Annie Kitchen and Katherine M. Riney is single (13).

Before buying 58 Church Street, Frank E. McCarthy lived in a rented home on Quigley Ave, North Chelmsford for over 20 years with his wife Sarah and their 3 children (14). Frank was born Frank E. McCarty, somewhere before 1910, he changed the spelling of his last name. While working and living in the rented property, Frank was a weaver in the wool Mill (15). When Frank purchased the house, he was working as a crossing tender on Middlesex Street. For the rest of his working life, he worked for the railroad (16). According to the Lowell Sun Newspaper, Frank enjoyed participating in local plays his wife was a member of the church women's group. Frank worked as a gate attendant until 1946 when he retired at the age of 72 (17).

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Members of the family lived in the house until 1974 when the Estate of William H. (son and silver salesman) (18) sold the house to Richard and Glenda Lewis (19). The house has changed hands several more times.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1. Chelmsford Real Estate Taxes, 1900
2. Middlesex North Registry of Deeds, Book 338/216
3. City Directory 1898, Chelmsford Public Library
4. 1910 Federal Census, Ancestry.com
5. Chelmsford Voting Records, Ancestry.com
6. City Directory 1898, Chelmsford Public Library
7. Chelmsford Pauper Lists, Ancestry.com
8. 1910 Federal Census, Ancestry.com
9. Middlesex North Registry of Deeds, BK 479/207
10. Massachusetts Vital records, Ancestry.com
11. City Directory 1945-16, Chelmsford Library
12. New Hampshire Death Records, Ancestry.com
13. Middlesex North Registry of Deeds, BK 653/415
14. Federal Census 1910, 1920, Ancestry.com
15. Federal Census 1920, Ancestry.com
16. City Directories, Chelmsford Public Library
17. City Directories, Chelmsford Public Library
18. City Directories, Chelmsford Public Library
19. Middlesex North Registry of Deeds

58 Church



58 Church Street

Deeds

DATE	BK/PG	NAMES	DESCRIPTION
Mar 28 2007	21101/99	Norkunas to Mullins	Stanley W. and Sharon Norkunas, husband and wife of Dunstable to David and Heather Mullins, husband and wife, tenants by the entirety of 200 Bedford Rd., #12F, Woburn, MA, the land and buildings situated on the northerly side of Church St., formerly called Depot St., North Chelmsford bounded thus: Beginning at the Southeasterly corner of premisis at a point 185.58 ft. from the intersection of Church St. and Middlesex St. at a stone bound at the land formerly of Davidson; thence Southwesterly along the Northerly line of Church St. 67 ft. to a stone bound at land formerly of George C. Moore; thence at an angle of 90° , 48' Northeasterly along said Moore's land 103 ft. to a stone bound; thence at an angle of 89° 12' Northeasterly along said Moore's land 67 ft. to a stone bound at land now or formerly of Felix Prue; thence at an angle of 90° 48' Southeasterly along said Prue land 103 ft. to point of the beginning. Containing 6,900 sq. ft.
Oct 10 1975	2168/602	Flaherty to Norkunas	Patrick J. and Helen M. Flaherty, husband and wife, both of Chelmsford, as tenants by the entirety, to Stanely W. and Sharon C. Norkunas, husband and wife, both of 58 Church St., tenants of the entirety, the land and buildings situated on the Northerly side of Church St., formerly called Depot St., in North Chelmsford described thus: see above.
June 7 1974	2113/616	Lewis to Flaherty	Richard W. and Glenda L. Lewis, husband and wife, both of Chelmsford to Patrick J. and Helen M. Flaherty, husband and wife, as tenants of the entirety, both of 58 Church St., the land and buildings situated on the northerly side of Church St., formerly Depot St., North Chelmsford described thus: see above
Jan 18 1974	2098/584	Bill, admin to Lewis	Elizabeth R. Bill, Administratrix of the Estate of William J. McCarthy, deceased of Chelmsford to Richard W. and Glenda L. Lewis, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety, of 137 Littleton Road, Westford, the land and buildings situated on the northerly side of Church Street, North Chelmsford, formerly called Depot Street, described as thus: see above

58 Church Street

Deeds

Nov 15 1921 653/415	Riney to McCarthy	Katherine M. Riney of Chelmsford and Annie F. Ketcham of Wallingford, Vermont to Frank E. McCarthy of Chelmsford a certain lot of land with buildings situated on the northerly side of Depot Street, North Chelmsford described thus: Beginning at the Southeasterly corner of the premisis distant 185.58 ft. from the intersection of said Depot Street with Middlesex Street at a stone bound at land formerly of Davidson supposed to be now Abbie Farley and Jennie Ripley or Felix Prue; thence running Southwesterly on the Northerly line of Depot Street 67 ft. to a stone bound at land of George Moore, thence at an angle of 90°48' Northwesterly on the line of Moore's land 103 ft. to a stone bound to the point of the beginning including an angle of 89°12' . Containing 6,900 sq. ft. surveyed May 16, 1921 by Smith and Brooks, Cicvil Eng., Lowell. Annie F. Riney, deceased. Stephen L. Ketchen, husband of Annie Ketchen. Katherine M. Riney, unmarried.
Nov 27 1915 547/190	Riney to Riney	Annie F. Riney, widowed of Chelmsford, Annie F. and Katherine M. Riney, single, both of Chelmsford to two undivided thirds parts of a certain lot of land with the buildings situated on the northerly side of Depot Street in North Chelmsford. Beginning at the Southeasterly corner of the premisis at a point marked by a stone bound at land formerly of Davidson, supposed to be now Abbie Farley and Jennie Ripley; thence running Southwesterly on the northerly line of said street 67 ft. to a point marked by a drill hole in a stone bound on the easterly side of a lane at the land of George C. Moore, now or formerly, thence northwesterly in a straight line on said Moore's land 103 ft. to a point to be marked by a drill hole in a stone bound ; thence northeasterly in a straight line on said Moore land 67 ft. to stone bound at Davidson's land; thence southeasterly on Davidson land 103 ft. to the beginning. Containing 6,901 sq. ft.
Nov 24 1911 479/207	O'Connor to Riney	John O'Connor of Chelmsford to Annie F. Riney, single woman, of Chelmsford a certain lot of land with the buildings situated on the Northerly side of Depot Street in North Chelmsford described thus: see above Hannah O'Connor, wife.

58 Church Street

Deeds

Dec 24 1901 338/216

Moore to O'Connor

George C. Moore of Chelmsford to Joh O'Connor of Chelmsford a certain lot of land with the buildings situated on the Northerly side of Depot St. described as thus: the Southeasterly corner of the premisis at a point marked by a stone bound at land formerly of Davidson, supposed to be now Abbie Farley and Jennie Ripley; thence running Southwesterly on the northerly line of said street 67 ft. to a point marked by a drill hole in a stone bound on the easterly side of a lane at the land of George C. Moore, now or formerly, thence northwesterly in a straight line on said Moore's land 103 ft. to a point to be marked by a drill hole in a stone bound ; thence northeasterly in a straight line on said Moore land 67 ft. to stone bound at Davidson's land; thence southeasterly on Davidson land 103 ft. to the beginning. Containing 6,901 sq. ft.

58 Church Street
Resident List

YEAR	PG	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	OCCUPATION	NOTES	AGE
1896-7	167	O'Connor	John O.	Supt Geo C. Moore's	h Depot n Main	
1898-9	183	O'Connor	John O.	Supt Geo C. Moore's	h Depot n Main	
1905	186	O'Connor		Supt Geo C. Moore's	h Depot n Main	
1915		O'Connor	John O.	none		
		Riney	Annie	wid Daniel P	h Church n Middlesex	
			Annie F.	clerk (L)	b Mrs. A. Riney	
1921		Riney	Annie	none		
1925-6	228	McCarthy	Frank E	Crossing tnd @ Middlesex	h Depot (NC)	
			(Sarah)			
1931		McCarthy	Frank E	crossing tndr	h Church (NC)	57
			Sarah	at home	Church	51
1932	172	McCarthy	Francis E	crossing tndr	h Church (NC)	
			(Sarah)			
			Mildred C		r Francis E McCarthy	
1938-9		McCarthy	Frank E	railroader	Church st	65
			Sarah	housewife	Church st	54
1940	23	McCarthy	Frank E	railroader	Church st	66
			Sarah	housewife	Church st	55
1941	24	McCarthy	Frank E	railroader	Church st	67
	66		Sarah	housewife	Church st	54
1942	24	McCarthy	Frank E	RR	58 Church st	68
	25		Sarah	housewife		57
1943	25	McCarthy	Frank E	RR	58 Church st	69
			Sarah	housewife		58
1944	25	McCarthy	Frank E	RR	58 Church st	70
	25		Sarah	housewife		59
1945	26	McCarthy	Frank E	RR	58 Church st	71
	26		Sarah	housewife		60
1946	25	McCarthy	Frank E	retired	58 Church st	71
			Sarah	housewife		60
1947	26	McCarthy	Frank E	retired	58 Church st	73
			Sarah	housewife		62
1948	26	McCarthy	Frank E	retired	58 Church st	74
	27		Sarah	housewife		62
1949	26	McCarthy	Frank E	retired	58 Church st	75
	26		Sarah	housewife		64
1950	27	McCarthy	Frank E	retired	58 Church st	76
	29		Sarah	housewife		65
1951	32	McCarthy	Frank E	retired	58 Church st	77
			Sarah	housewife		66
			Wm J	salesman		49
			Mildred C	at home		44
1952	21	McCarthy	Frank E	retired	58 Church st	78
			Wllm j	salesman		50
	32		Sarah	housewife		67

58 Church St.
Resident List

YEAR	PG	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	OCCUPATION	NOTES	AGE
1953		McCarthy	Frank E	retired	58 Church st	79
			Wilm J	salesman		51
			Sarah	housewife		68
			Mildred C	at home		46
1954		McCarthy	Frank E	retired	58 Church st	80
			Wilm J	salesman		52
			Sarah	none		
			Mildred C	at home		47
1955		McCarthy	Frank E	retired	58 Church st	81
			Wilm J	salesman		53
			Mildred C	at home		48
1959		McCarthy	Frank E	retired	59 Church st	b 7/18/04
			Wilm J	salesman		



58 Church Street, 10 March 2020, by Fred Merriam



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