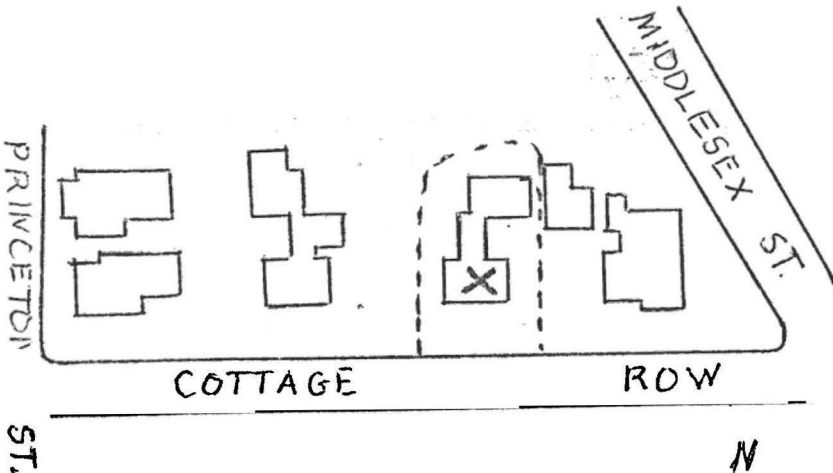




4 Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE  
 USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_  
 MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Town Chelmsford  
 Address 7 Cottage Row  
 Name Pratt/Bearce House  
 Present use residence  
 Present owner Jeanne L. McAndrew

3. Description:  
 Date after 1831, before 1842  
 Source deed, tax records, 1831 map  
 Style cape  
 Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exterior wall fabric clapboard - butted  
 Outbuildings (describe) none  
 Other features attached garage  
exterior & door woodwork - similar to several  
other houses in same area  
 Altered see attached Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:  
 6460 sq. ft  
 One acre or less x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approximate frontage 80 feet 2 inches  
 Approximate distance of building from street  
ca 26 feet

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury  
 Organization Chelmsford Historical Commission  
 Date March 14, 1986

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) probably Lincoln Drake

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8 Themes (check as many as applicable)

- |                                    |                            |                         |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Aboriginal                         | Conservation               | Recreation              |
| Agricultural                       | Education                  | Religion                |
| Architectural                      | Exploration/<br>settlement | Science/<br>Invention   |
| The Arts                           | Industry                   | Social/<br>humanitarian |
| Commerce                           | Military                   | Transportation          |
| Communication                      | Political                  |                         |
| Community development <u>  x  </u> |                            |                         |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The exact date of this house is unknown, but it was erected after 1831 but by 1841 by the North Chelmsford/Easton iron founder Lincoln Drake. Mr. Drake sold it in June 1841 to Oliver R. Pratt, a moulder, who probably worked at Mr. Drake's nearby foundry. By 1846 Oliver and his wife, Mary Ann, were living in Manchester, N.H., and they sold it to Joshua Pratt, another moulder, who lost it 3 years later when it was sold at a Sheriff's sale.

For 58 years, however, it was under Bearce family ownership. Elijah D. Bearce learned the foundry business in Foxboro but moved to North Chelmsford in 1845, where he joined the local foundry. Soon after he purchased the house at 7 Cottage Row, he became the Agent for the Chelmsford Foundry Co. His long connection with the foundry business made him a valuable man in his line, and he was recognized as a leading citizen of the town. He out-lived two wives, died in 1906, and his children sold the house in 1915.

10. Bibliography; and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records early maps, etc.)

1831 map; 1875 Beers Atlas; 1889 Atlas  
Middlesex North Dist. Reg. Deeds: Bk. 15, pg. 332 (1843); Bk. 15, pg. 509 (1846)  
Street Directory: 1898/99  
Illustrated History of Lowell, Mass., pg. 153  
#361 Building Permit (1967)  
Mrs. Jeanne McAndrew, 11/28/1984  
Chelmsford Tax/Reas Estate Valuation Records

7 Cottage Row  
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

|   |                                    |  |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| 1095, pg. 596                               | 7/10/1948                          | George N., Jr. & Hazel L. Swallow to<br>Robert F. & Jeanne L. McAndrew, Lowell<br>6460 sq. ft. & buildings - #7 Cottage Row        |
| Bk. 779, pg. 303                            | 7/29/1929                          | Doris Elsie Ryan to<br>George N., Jr. & Hazel L. Swallow<br>6460 sq. ft. & buildings thereon                                       |
| 667, pg. 373                                | 7/14/1922                          | Arthur Smith to<br>Dora Elsie Ryan<br>6460 sq. ft. & buildings thereon   |
| 605, pg. 105                                | 5/17/1919                          | Albert J. McComb to<br>Arthur Smith<br>6460 sq. ft. & buildings thereon  |
| 544, pg. 479                                | 8/31/1915                          | Heirs of Mary A. Bearce to<br>Albert J. McComb<br>6460 sq. ft. & buildings thereon   |
| Middlesex Probate<br>Docket #72452          | 1906<br>Will                       | Estate of Elijah D. Bearce to<br>Heirs of Mary A, Bearce   |
| Bk. 352, pg. 337                            | 7/30/1902                          | Heirs of Mary A. Bearce to<br>Elijah D. & Ruth A. Bearce<br>6460 sq. ft. & buildings thereon -<br>during natural life of grantees  |
| Bk. 78, pg. 61                              | 2/27/1871                          | Dana B. Gove, Lowell, to<br>Mary A. Bearce<br>\$500<br>6460 sq. ft. & buildings thereon  |
| 78, pg. 60                                  | 2/27/1871                          | Elijah D. Bearce to<br>Dana B. Gove, Lowell<br>\$500<br>6460 sq. ft. & buildings thereon   |
| Bk. 10, pg. 412                             | 5/22/1857                          | Frederic W. Blodgett, trader, to<br>Elijah D. Bearce, Gentleman<br>\$1000<br>6460 sq. ft. & buildings thereon                      |
| North:Bk. 17, p. 88<br>South:Bk. 568, p.135 | 8/06/1849                          | Marcus Keyes, William Hamblet, butchers, to<br>Frederic W. Blodgett, stable keeper<br>\$171.71<br>6460 sq. ft. & buildings thereon |
| North:Bk. 18, p.527<br>South:Bk. ?, p.515   | 8/22/1849<br>Writ of<br>Possession | Joshua Pratt, Artizan, to<br>Joel Adams, Esquire<br>6460 sq. ft. & buildings thereon - possession<br>\$13.14 cost & damages        |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| North: B. 17, p.183<br>South: B.566, p.229 | 8/02/1849<br>sale after<br>mortgage<br>redemption | Joseph Butterfield, Deputy Sheriff, Lowell<br>to Marcus Keyes & William Hamblet, butchers<br>\$171.71                               |
| Lowell Daily Journal<br>and Courier        | 7/23/1849   | Advertisement of Sheriff's Sale<br>to be held 8/2/1849<br>6460 sq. ft. & buildings thereon  |
| North: B. 16, p.552<br>South: B.548, p.381 | 12/09/1848<br>mortgage                            | Joshua Pratt, moulder, North Chelmsford,<br>to Francis M. Kittredge, physician, Lowell<br>\$500<br>6460 sq. ft. & buildings thereon |
| North: B. 15, p.509<br>South: B.475, p.345 | 1/08/1846   | Oliver R. Pratt, moulder, Manchester, N.H.<br>Joshua Pratt, moulder<br>\$850<br>6460 sq. ft. & buildings thereon                    |
| North: B. 15, p.332<br>South: B.429, p.198 | 6/01/1843   | Lincoln Drake, Easton, Gentleman, to<br>Oliver R. Pratt, moulder<br>\$600<br>6460 sq. ft. & buildings thereon                       |

left to his widowed mother, and assisted her in the care of the youngest children, a position of no slight responsibility for a lad of 13 years. He early engaged in fruit gardening, in which he was quite successful, and, until failing health compelled him to give up active business life, he continued to supply the Lowell market.



ELIJAH D. BEARCE.

In politics he was early connected with the old Whig party, at its demise joining the Democratic organization, but for a few years he has taken no active part in political affairs. He has held various positions of honor in his native town, having served for several years on the Board of Overseers and School Committee, and two years was elected a Selectman, and from 1868 to 1894 occupied the position of Town Treasurer. He was an active member of the Farmers and Mechanics' Association in Chelmsford, of which he was Secretary for several years. He was for a number of years

Trustee of the Middlesex North Agricultural Society, and is now one of its Vice-Presidents. He was also for a term of years an active member of the old Middlesex Agricultural Society, whose fairs were held at Concord. Mr. Warren's activities have not been confined to his native state; three times he has visited California, and has made three trips abroad. While travelling in Europe he acted as correspondent for the Lowell Weekly Journal. He has also taken an active part in literary and debating societies, and for 12 years served as Librarian of the Chelmsford Social Library.

He is a member of the Pentucket Lodge of Masons, and attends the First Unitarian Church in Chelmsford, of which he was Treasurer for many years.

Sept. 7, 1851, he was united in marriage to Julia E. Manning, of Chelmsford. The following named children have blessed this union: George M., born Sept. 4, 1852, died Feb. 1, 1869; Martha E., born Oct. 1, 1854; Joseph E., born Oct. 29, 1856; Louisa C., born Oct. 16, 1858, now the wife of Dr. Amasa Howard; Charles E., born Feb. 6, 1861, died Aug. 29, 1865; Daniel E., born Feb. 28, 1864, died Sept. 27, 1865; Arthur M., born July 31, 1870; and another son, who was born Dec. 13, and died Dec. 16, 1868.

Mr. Warren is respected by all classes of citizens for his upright, honorable business methods, and he has won the commendation of the people of his native town for his zeal and conscientiousness as a public official. At the town meeting when his resignation as Treasurer was accepted, the resolutions then unanimously adopted, expressed the high esteem in which he is held. Another proof of the public confidence in his thorough integrity and business judgment, is the large number of estates he has been called upon to settle, the cares of which bore heavily upon him before he was compelled by ill health to surrender these trusts.

The subject of this sketch, Mr. Elijah D. Bearce, was born in Hanson, Mass., in June, 1824. His grandfather, Benjamin Bearce, who was born in

Pembroke, Mass., at the age of 15 enlisted in the Continental Army in the War of Independence, and served under General Washington. His great-grandfather was a Lieutenant in the Colonial Army, and was killed at the capture of the city of Quebec.

Mr. Bearce attended the public schools of his native place until he attained the age of 15 years. Upon leaving school he entered the foundry at Foxboro, Mass., to learn the business, where he remained three years. He then went to Kingston, Mass., and followed his occupation for four years; and, in 1845, removed to North Chelmsford, where he obtained employment in the foundry of William Bird & Co. On the death of Mr. Bird the foundry passed into other hands, and was incorporated in 1859 under the name of the Chelmsford Foundry Company, of which Mr. Bearce was chosen Agent, a position which he still retains.

In politics Mr. Bearce is a Democrat of the old school, and believes that the United States should pay all its obligations in gold or its equivalent. He has always declined political office, although he has held various town offices and has served fifteen years on the School Committee.

Mr. Bearce has always taken an active interest in military affairs. He was a Sergeant in Company C, 3rd Regiment, in 1840, and has two commissions as Adjutant of Cavalry, and he evidently takes more pride in his marksman badge as a sharpshooter than any other man in the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia.

In religion Mr. Bearce is a believer in the doctrine of the New Jerusalem Church, called the Swedenborgian Church by some, as Emanuel Swedenborg was the first that promulgated that doctrine.

In the Odd Fellows Mr. Bearce ranks high, having been a member of the order for more than fifty years. He has been a member of the Grand Lodge and Grand Encampment for forty-five years, and is seldom absent from the Lodge, Encampment, or Canton. He has been one of the Trustees of Merrimack Lodge, No. 7, for about sixteen years, and has always taken an active part in all the business of the order.

Mr. Bearce has been twice married, first to Mary A. Howard, of Hanson, in 1848. Seven children are the result of this union, four of whom are living. Their names are Clara A., Hubert, Bertha E., and Bessie A. All are married and have children. His second wife (now living) was Mrs. Ruth

A. Smith, of Lowell, to whom he was married in 1893.

Mr. Bearce's success in life has been due to his patient, persevering effort, untiring energy, and honest endeavor to make his every effort fruitful of success.

His long connection with the foundry business has made him a thoroughly valuable man in his line, and he is recognized as a leading citizen of Chelmsford, and has won the respect of all classes of citizens, fully exemplifying the old adage:

"Honor and shame from no condition rise;  
Act well your part, there all the honor lies"



HON. ELISHA H. SHAW.

The subject of this sketch, Hon. Elisha Herman Shaw, of Chelmsford, is descended from John Shaw, who came to Plymouth, Mass., in 1627, and on the maternal side from Colonel John Robinson, of Westford, who was in the Continental Army under Washington at the investment of Boston. His great-grandfather on the paternal side, Thomas Shaw, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. His grandfather, Samuel Shaw, was born at Middleborough, Mass., in 1771. He served in the War of 1812, and died at Middleborough in 1864. His grandmother, Lydia Cobb, was born in Middleborough in 1756, and died there in 1850. His father, Elisha Shaw, was born at Middleborough in 1814, and died at Chelmsford in 1881. His mother, Mercy Marie Lincoln, was born at Westford in 1823, and died at Chelmsford in 1852.

The subject of our sketch was born at Chelms-

7 Cottage Row

1889 Atlas: E.A. Bearce  
1875 Beers Atlas: E. Bearce  
1856 Wallings map: F.W. Blodgett

Waters, History of Chelmsford

pg. 376-7 Company F Unattached Cavalry (Spalding Light Cavalry)  
Adjutant (with rank of 1st Lieut.) - Elijah D. Bearce 1874-78  
1878 office abolished. Troop disbanded 1907.

666

In the account of Early Mining Operations is recorded the development of the iron industry by William Adams and others, until the organization of the Chelmsford Foundry Company.

In 1888 a shop, eighty by forty-four feet, and two stories high, was erected in connection with their foundry for the finishing and fitting up of their cast and wrought iron work. An addition, sixty by thirty feet, one story high, was erected in 1890. They also occupied a shop in Boston and another in Cambridge for the same purpose. In their foundry and shops, in the several places, they employed about 150 hands. From 1825 many heavy castings were made for the mills erected in Lowell, Nashua and Manchester, especially in the line of heavy gears, until the burning of their pattern-house in 1875.

The stone-ore, pig-iron, hard coal, sand and other materials used in a foundry were brought from Boston to North Chelmsford in canal-boats, by way of the Middlesex Canal and Merrimack River, till 1853, when the canal was given up. The boats were "poled" up from the head of the canal into the pond below the grist-mill dam, and the freights transferred to carts and conveyed to the places of their use. Castings were frequently sent to Boston by the same route.

Mr. E.D. Bearce and Mr. H.W.B. Wightman were prominent in the management of this industry.

The Chelmsford Foundry Company went out of existence in 1913. October 11, 1912 was the last day they poured.

#361 Building Permit

Purpose: to remodel barn  
Owner: Jeanne McAndrew  
Date: 8/22/1967  
Estimated cost: \$200

Conversation with Mrs. Robert Shaunessy, owner of 10 Cottage Row, Aug. 21, 1980:

This house at 8 Cottage Row is very similar to her house at 10 Cottage Row. Similar room layout. Stairs at #7 are in front of the chimney; at #10 they are at the rear.

"Addition" at rear; 1 story with center chimney.

2 story barn at rear of "addition;" has porch at left rear.



8/7/2004 F. Merriam





**Cottage Row #7**

**5/1/2004 F. Merriam**