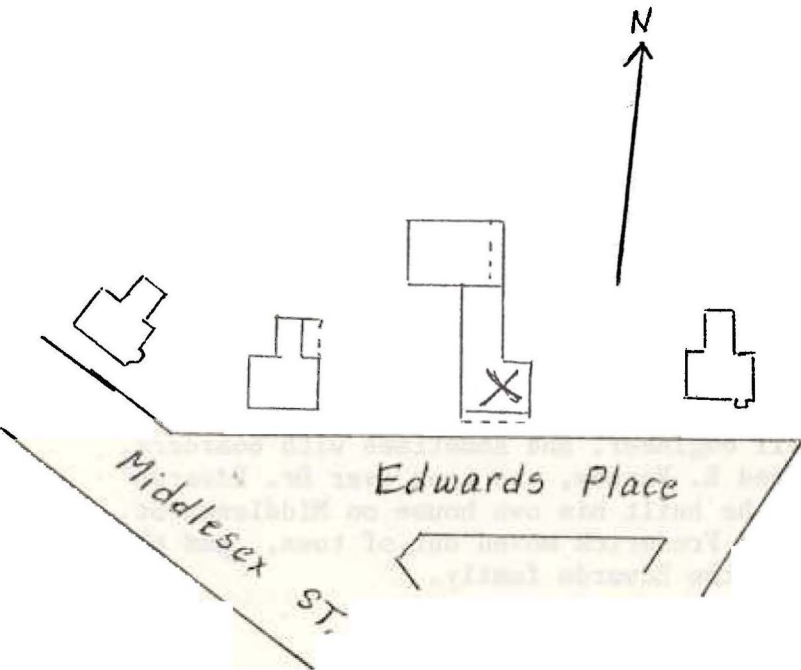


MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

2.



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 6 Edwards Place
Name Dr. Edwards House
Present use residence
Present owner Frederick & Donna Crosby

3. Description:
Date 1845
Source deeds, tax records, Road Book
Style Greek Revival
Architect _____
Exterior wall fabric clapboard
Outbuildings (describe) _____
Other features _____

Altered see attached Date _____
Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
20,000 s.f.
One acre or less x Over one acre
Approximate frontage 150 feet
Approximate distance of building from street
ca 30 feet

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury
Organization Chelmsford Historical Commission
Date January 23, 1985

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) James Pike, Jr.

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

In 1839 James Pike, jr., a North Chelmsford blacksmith, married Betsy Pool. Six years later he purchased his house lot from the Easton & No. Chelmsford iron founder, Lincoln Drake, and the house was erected that summer of 1845. On Oct. 23, 1845 the town selectmen met at the house to officially "lay out" Edwards Place, then called River Rd. In Oct. 1848, however, he sold the property.

Between 1848 & 1930 it was owned by the Edwards family. Dr. Nathan B. Edwards was born in Westford in 1820, educated at Groton Academy, and received his M.D. from the Berkshire Medical Institute in 1844. The following year he settled in practice in Chelmsford and married his first wife, Maria Fletcher, whose ancestors helped found Chelmsford.

"It is not too much to say that no person in Chelmsford was ever held in more universal respect than Dr. Edwards." He served 5 terms as Selectman and was representative to the General Court in 1859. Dr. Edwards was chairman of the organization of the No. Chelmsford Library Association in 1872; he later sold the association land and a building for a library. In January 1893 the church on the opposite side of Middlesex St. from his house was destroyed by fire. Dr. Edwards rode his horse bareback to Lowell to secure the help of the Lowell Fire Department.

Dr. Nathan Edwards died 5 months later, but his widow, Sibyl R., remained in the house, sometimes with his son Frederick, a civil engineer, and sometimes with boarders, including John Hobbs, a carpenter, and Dr. Fred E. Varney, who took over Dr. Edwards' practice in 1894. Dr. Varney stayed here until he built his own house on Middlesex St. Mrs. Sibyl Edwards died in 1917, age 95 years, Frederick moved out of town, and the house was rented out. In 1930 it was sold out of the Edwards family.

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

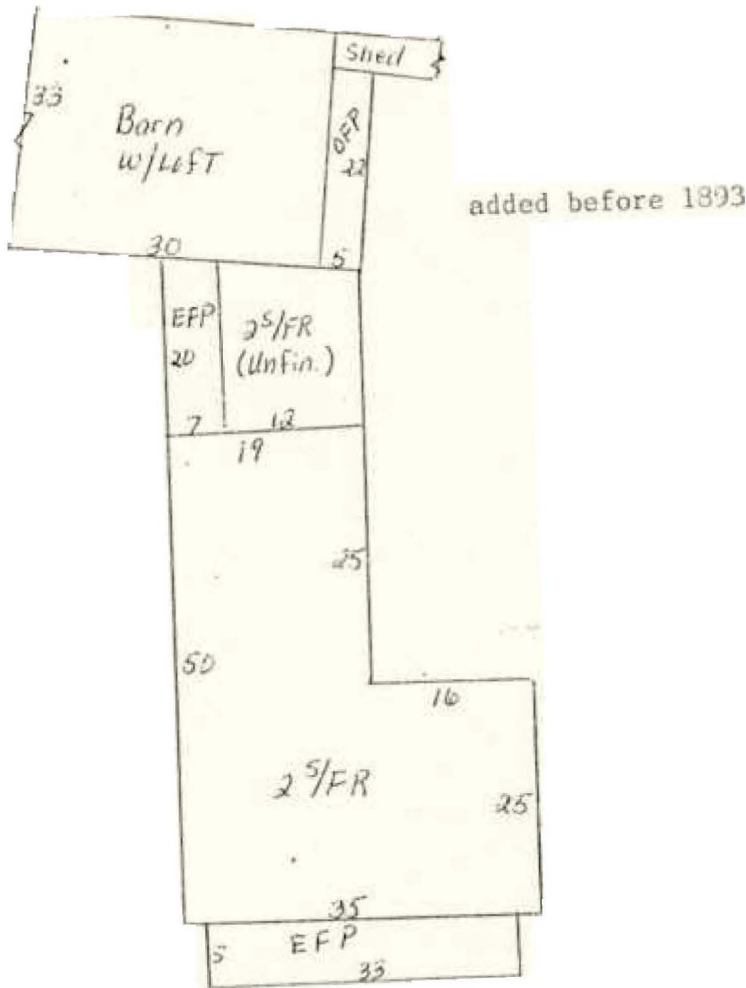
1856 Map; 1875 Beers Atlas; 1889 Walker Atlas; 1893 Drawing by Geo. E. Norris, Brockton Middlesex No. Dist. Reg. Deeds: Bk. 15, pg. 428 (1845)
Chelmsford Vital Records to 1855; Chelmsford Book of Roads, original pg. 113
Lowell Sunday Telegram, 10/4/1908; Lowell Courier Citizen, 6/1/1907, 9/15/1908
Annual Town Report for 1917; Register of Voters List 1877-91
History of Chelmsford by Rev. Wilson Waters
Street Directories: 1898/99, 1905, 1915/16, 1919, 1922
Revaluation records; tax/real estate valuation records

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

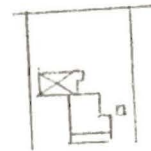
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Chelmsford	Form No: 123
Property Name: Dr. Edwards House	

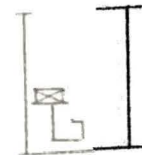
Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.



9/23/1970 Revaluation Sheet



1889 Walker's Atlas



1875 Beers Atlas

Fence outlining front yard - removed
1908

Victorian hood
added over doorway on left side

Front porch
probably added 1875-89
double brackets under eaves - found
only here

Dormers on both sides of house
added?

Front porch
wooden floor replaced with concrete

Chimney removed since 1893
main house, right side in symmetrical
location of present chimney on left
side

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

6 Edwards Ave.

Bk. 25 3, pg. 2	12/03/1981	Robert W. & Sophie A. Barnett to Frederick S. Jr. & Donna L. Crosby, 6 Edwards Ave. \$62,000 land & buildings
Bk. 1608, pg. 85	7/10/1963	Florette C. Swiderski; Marcel A. Bellemore Robert R. Bellemore, Springfield, to Robert W. & Sophie A. Barnett, Lowell land & buildings
Middlesex Probate Docket #347665	1958 Will	Estate Emma Bellemore to Florette C. Swiderski; Marcel A. & Robert R. Bellemore
Bk 1015, pg. 435	11/16/1944	Shelagh Kerwin, Lowell, to Emma Bellemore 1. land & buildings 2. land opposite 1st lot
Bk. 1015, pg. 434	11/16/1944	Azarie & Emma Bellemore to Shelagh Kerwin, Lowell 1. land & buildings 2. land opposite 1st lot
Bk. 947, pg. 232	6/28/1940	Fannie F. Clement, Pelham, N.H. to Azarie & Emma Bellemore 1. land & buildings 2. land opposite 1st lot
Bk. 798, pg. 335	12/17/1930	Victor E. Edwards, West Boylston to Fannie F. Clement, Pelham, N.H. 1. land & buildings 2. land opposite 1st lot
Bk. 620, pg. 329	11/30/1917	Frederick B. Edwards, North Chelmsford, to Victor E. Edwards, Worcester 1. land & buildings 2. land opposite 1st lot
Middlesex Probate Docket #111307	1917 Administration	Estate Sibbyl R. Edwards to Frederick B. & Victor E. Edwards
Middlesex Probate Docket #35137	1893 Will	Estate Nathan B. Edwards to Sibbyl R. Edwards
North: B. 18, p.406 South: B.676, p.369	3/01/1854	Jonathan V. Fletcher, Charlestown, to Nathan B. Edwards \$850 1. land & buildings 2. land opposite 1st lot & also opposite 1st Congregational Meeting House

North: B. 16, p.515
South: B.547, p. 152

10/20/1848
Bond

Jon^a V. Fletcher, Charlestown, to
Nathan B. Edwards
\$1850
1. land & buildings
2. land opposite 1st lot & also opposite 1st
Congregational Meeting House
Edwards to keep buildings insured for benefit
of Fletcher

North: B. 16, p.515
South: B.547, p.150

10/19/1848

James Pike Jr. to
Jon^a V. Fletcher, Charlestown
\$1500
1. 16894 sq. ft. & buildings
2. land opposite 1st lot & also opposite 1st
Congregational meeting house

North: B. 15, p.428
South: B.463, p.410

5/03/1845

Lincoln Drake, Easton, to
James Pike Jr., North Chelmsford
\$166
16894 sq. ft. house lot

6 Edwards Avenue

1831 map: no
1856 map: N. B. Edwards
1875 atlas: Dr. N. B. Edwards
1889 atlas: Dr. N. B. Edwards

Lowell Courier Citizen

June 1, 1907 North Chelmsford
John Hobbs, who has lived out of town for the past two years and formerly of this village, has taken up his residence again at Mrs. Edward's house.

Sept. 15, 1908 North Chelmsford
Some improvements are being made on the sidewalks around the Edwards lot in Middlesex Street.
1905, 1911/12 Chelmsford Street Directory:
Edwards, Sibyl R. - widow of Nathan B., house Edwards av. near Middlesex
(only possible applicable Edwards listed)

Lowell Sunday Telegram

October 4, 1908 North Chelmsford
Extensive improvements are being made at the old Edwards homestead on Middlesex street. The fence is to be displaced by a hedge and the grounds are being rolled.

Building Inspector's records, as of 10/11/1984 - nothing

Book of Roads: page 161 (original book page 113)

"We the subscribers, Selectmen of the Town of Chelmsford, met at the house of James Pike, jr., on the 23rd day of October, 1845, proceeded to lay out a town way as follows....."

Chelmsford Vital Records to 1855

Pike, James, jr. married Betsy B. Pool, int. April 17, 1839
Pike, Harriett S. - born at North Chelmsford, June 18, 1843, daughter of James, blacksmith, & Betsy B.
Pike, Franklin M. - died May 3, 1847, age 6 y., 3 m., inflammation of heart, son of James & Betsy B.

Edwards, Nathan B. of North Chelmsford, age 25 years, physician, born Westford, s. of Peter & Martha B. of Westford, married October 30, 1845 Maria H. Fletcher, age 26 years, daughter of Gardner & Frances Fletcher
Edwards, George Henry - born Jan. 14, 1848, son of Nathan B., physician, & Maria H. at North Chelmsford
Edwards, George Henry - died Oct. 19, 1849, age 1 year, 9 months, dropsy on the brain, son of Nathan B. & Maria H. (Fletcher)

Annual Town Report for year ending December

Deaths:

Feb. 4, 1917 Sibbyl R. (Hutchins) Edwards, age 95 years, 6 months

Street Directories:

1898/99

Edwards, Frederick B. - removed to Boston
Edwards, Sibbyl R. - widow of Nathan B., h. River n. Main
Varney, Fred e. - physician, River n. Main, h. do.

1905

Edwards, Sibyl R. - widow of Nathan B., h. Edwards ave. near Main
Hobbs, John C. - carpenter, h. Edwards ave. near Main
Varney, Fred E. - physician, Main near Cottage, h. do.

1915/16

Edwards, Fred B. - civil engineer, b. Mrs. S. R. Edwards
Edwards, Sibyl R. - widow Nathan B., h. Edwards ave.
Hobbs, Caroline H. - widow John C., h. Wilson blk, Central sq.

1917/18

Edwards, Fred B. (Lucy H.) -civil engineer, h. Edwards ave.
Edwards, Sibyl R. - widow Nathan B., h. Edwards ave.

1919

Edwards, Fred B. (Lucy H.) - removed to California
Edwards, Sibyl R. - widow Nathan B., died Feb. 4, 1917

1922

Edwards - none listed at that address

Register of-Voters List:

1877 - 1883

Edwards, Nathan -physician precinct 8

1884 - 1891

Edwards, Nathan B. - physician, resided precinct 8
Edwards, Victor E. - resided precinct 8; removed Dec. 1885

History of Chelmsford, by Rev.Wilson Waters

pg. 597 North Chelmsford Fire District

The first annual report of the North Chelmsford Fire District in 1907, states that when Shaw's store with the church under which it was located was destroyed by fire in the year 1893, Dr. N.B. Edwards rode his horse bareback to Lowell, and secured the services of the Lowell Fire Department. About three years later, through the influence of George C. Moore and others, some water pipe was laid in the village....1906 a fire district was established.

pg. 765 N. B. Edwards

Selectman: 1852, 1853, 1854, 1864, 1865
Representative: 1859

pg. 587 North Chelmsford Library

A meeting for the organization of the North Chelmsford library Association met at the Town Hall in that village, Jan. 19, 1872. Dr. N. B. Edwards was chairman. The officers elected were President, N. B. Edwards.....
October 16, 1878 it was voted to purchase a building and land of N. B. Edwards....

pg. 804

Dr. Nathan B. Edwards was born in Westford, Mass., January 3, 1820. he was educated at Groton Academy, studied medicine with Dr. Elisha Huntington, of Lowell, and received the degree of M.D., from the Berkshire Medical Institute in 1844. The following year he settled in practice in Chelmsford.

It is not too much to say that no person in Chelmsford was ever held in more universal respect than Dr. Edwards. Notwithstanding the somewhat exacting duties of his profession, movements for the educational, religious, political or material interests of the people ever found in him an earnest supporter.

He filled, at one time or another, almost every position to which his townsmen could elect him. He died June 12, 1893.

Dr. S. W. Pike followed Dr. N. B. Edwards at the North Village, and in turn was succeeded in Aug. 1894, by Dr. Fred E. Varney.

Real Estate and Tax Valuation Lists

1845

Pike, James, jr.

4 shares in Fitchburg Railroad, no property

1846, 1847

Pike, James, jr.

house & land \$900



