

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

107/405/5

Westford

H

CLM.337

Town/City: Chelmsford

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Old Chelmsford Garrison House Association

Photograph



Address: 105 Garrison Road

Historic Name: Byam Blacksmith Shop

Uses: Present: blacksmith shop

Original: blacksmith shop

Date of Construction: 1820

Source: Old Chelmsford Garrison House Association

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: piers

Wall/Trim: wood/wood

Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

N/A

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1977: Building relocation

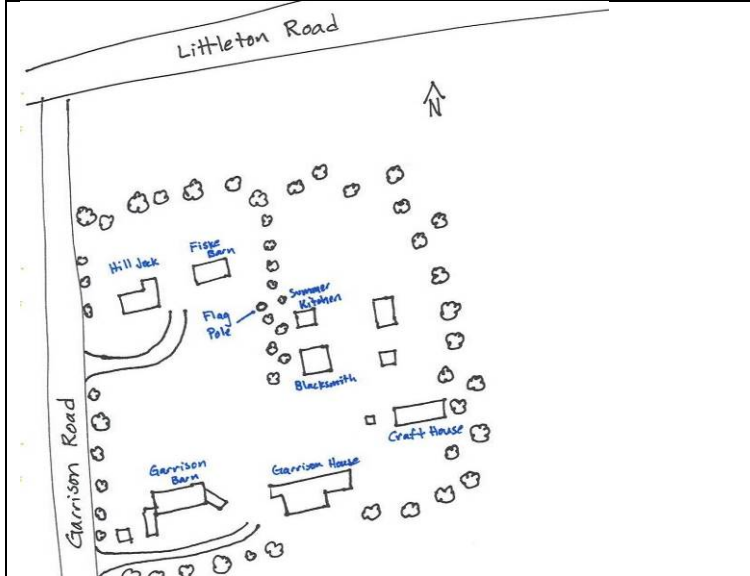
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:** 1977

Acreage: N/A

Setting: The building is on the Garrison House Association property. The building is located to the north of the Garrison House. The summer kitchen is to the north of the blacksmith shop.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Jennifer Burden, Gray & Pape, Inc.

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

105 GARRISON ROAD

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:

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

The 1.5-story blacksmith shop has a pier foundation, walls clad in wood clapboard with wood trim, and a side gable roof covered with slate shingles. An internal brick chimney on the rear slope of the roof is utilized for the forge. A set of three wood steps lead to the centrally located main entry on the east wall. The entry has a set of wood doors with iron hinges. A 27-pane wood window is to the south of the door. A wagon door is north of the entry door. The north wall is four bays deep with three windows and a pedestrian door on the first story and a casement window on the half story. The south wall mirrors the north, but lacks a doorway. The interior of the building is one open room because its king truss construction that allows the truss to support the roof system without interior walls or other supports. The building has a wood floor.

The forge is on the south half of the building and features an uncommon wood hearth. A fire in 1998 charred many of the trusses (see photograph below). Fortunately, the fire was contained before the potential loss of the building. The building also exhibits numerous examples of historical blacksmith tools and implements.

The building is a rare surviving example of an early nineteenth century blacksmith shop that retains historic integrity of design, materials, workmanship, 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 blacksmith shop was built and operated by Marcus Byam (1805-1878), who resided in South Chelmsford. Byam's son, Daniel Proctor (1841-1918) assumed operations of the blacksmith shop. Daniel became known for manufacturing and repairing blue sleds used by numerous Chelmsford residences for hauling during the winter months. The blacksmith shop building was then known as the "Sleigh, Sled and Wagon Repository." The building remained in the Byam family until it was granted to Eleanor Parkhurst (1909-2000), Daniel's granddaughter. Ms. Parkhurst, gifted the blacksmith shop building to the Garrison House Association to use for school and public education programs. The building was relocated to the property in October 1977.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Old Chelmsford Garrison House Association. <http://www.garrisonhouse.org/blacksmith.html>.

Merriam, Fred. *Chelmsford Revisited*. Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, South Carolina.

Parkhurst, Eleanor. *History of Chelmsford 1910 – 1970*. Edited by Fred Merriam. Chelmsford: Chelmsford Historical Commission. 2011.

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district
- Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: **A** **B** **C** **D**

Criteria Considerations: **A** **B** **C** **D** **E** **F** **G**

The Garrison House, barn, and McCormick Craft House were listed in the NRHP in 1973; however, the property has expanded since that date. The 8-acre property may be considered for a historic district expansion to include the additional land and buildings. While the newer buildings were relocated to the site, some are historically significant individually, and therefore, their lack of locational historic integrity do not detract from their overall significance. The property is also significant for its association with the early preservation efforts of Chelmsford. The blacksmith shop is locally significant as a rare example of an early nineteenth century shop that retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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Primary façade and south walls, facing northwest. May 2016.



Interior of blacksmith shop, showing forge and charred portions of the ceiling. May 2016.

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1908 photograph of the blacksmith shop in its original location on Maple Road. (Chelmsford Historical Commission/ Linda Prescott.)