

107/405/5

Westford

H

11, 100,  
337-341,  
972

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

**Town/City:** Chelmsford

**Place** (*neighborhood or village*): South Chelmsford

**Name of Area:** Old Chelmsford Garrison House

**Present Use:** museum/education

**Construction Dates or Period:** 17<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> c.

**Overall Condition:** Good

**Major Intrusions and Alterations:**  
buildings moved to site

**Acreage:** 8.05 A

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

**Organization:** Chelmsford Historical Commission

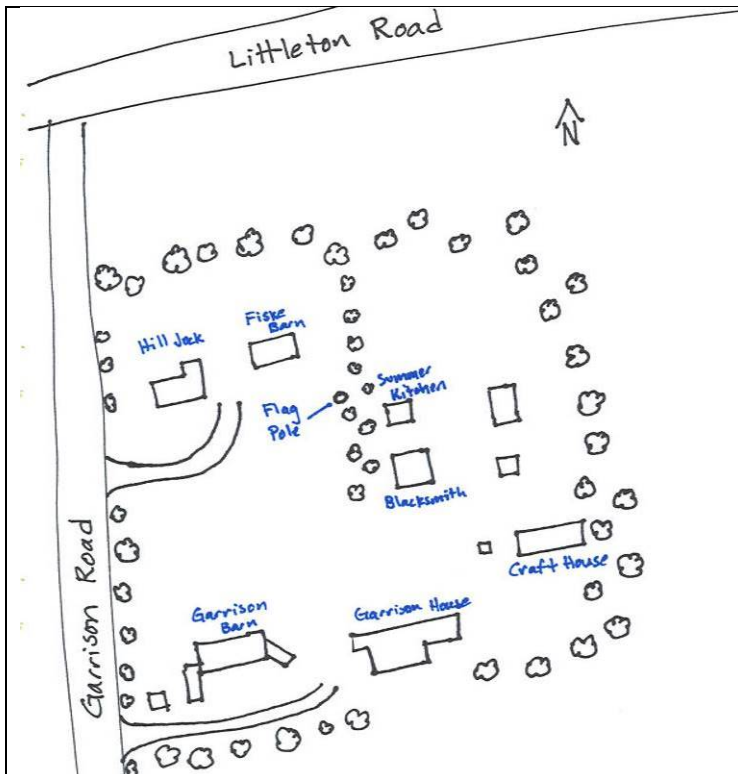
**Date** (*month/year*): June 2016

**Photograph**



Garrison House, CLM.100. May 2016.

**Locus Map**



see continuation sheet

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD OLD GARRISON HOUSE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

H

11, 100, 337-  
341, 972

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, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.*

The "Old Chelmsford" Garrison House is situated on eight acres on the east side of Garrison Road, south of its intersection with Littleton Road. The complex includes nine buildings, one structure, and auxiliary buildings, many of which were moved to the site in order to ensure their preservation. Each of the primary buildings is further described on individual survey forms:

- Hill Jock House – CLM.11
- Garrison House – CLM. 100
- Blacksmith Shop – CLM.337
- Craft House – CLM.338
- Fiske Barn – CLM.339
- Garrison House Barn – CLM.340
- Summer Kitchen – CLM.341
- Flag pole – CLM.972

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this relates to the historical development of the community.*

The Old Chelmsford Garrison House Association was chartered in 1959 and incorporated in 1961 with the goal to save the Garrison House from potential demolition. The Association assumed ownership and responsibility first for the buildings on the 1.4-acre lot donated by the Lahue Corporation in 1959. At this date the property included four buildings: the Garrison House, its adjacent barn, the McCormick Craft Center building, and the Bartlett Educational Building. In 1973 the buildings on the lot were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Bartlett Educational Building, an example of a Hodgson portal house from the twentieth century that was moved to the site in 1969, is no longer part of the property.

In 1969 the Association began its educational program, "A Day in the Life of a Colonial Child," which attended by second-grade students in Chelmsford and other nearby school districts. The program provides the students a tour of the Garrison House, barn, and Blacksmith Shop as well as gives each student the opportunity to get hands-on experience in the Craft House with churning butter, quilting, and candle dipping. The successful program continues currently and countless longtime community members have fond memories of their "day" as a Colonial-era child.

The 1.4-acre property has grown to include approximately 8 acres that has extended north towards Littleton Road. The Association has also added buildings to the site, including the Byam Blacksmith Shop in 1977 that was moved from 11 Maple Avenue, Hill Jock House in 2004, Fiske Barn was rebuilt on site in 2005, Loudon House arrived in 2005 and rebuilt in 2012, and the former Town Common flagpole in 2013.

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

The "Old Chelmsford" Garrison House Association.

<http://www.garrisonhouse.org/>

Letter to members 2016

May 2016 site visit and interview with Deb Taverna and Linda Prescott

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

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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 locally significant for its association with the early preservation efforts of Chelmsford.

**INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Hill Jock House, CLM.11 and Fiske Barn, CLM.339, facing northeast. May 2016.



Garrison House Barn, CLM.340, facing north. May 2016.

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Craft House, CLM.338, facing northeast. May 2016.



Byam Blacksmith Shop, CLM.337, facing west. May 2016.

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Summer kitchen, CLM.341, facing northwest. May 2016.



Flag pole, CLM.972, facing north. May 2016.