

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no. North Chelmsford	Form no. 136
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1 Town Chelmsford

Address 44 Gay Street

Name Peter Ridings House

Present use 1 family residence

Present owner Maryrita & Michael Ryan

3. Description

Date 1847

Source deeds

Style Greek Revival

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric siding over clapboards

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features _____

Altered see attached Date 1889

no Date _____

x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 90 feet

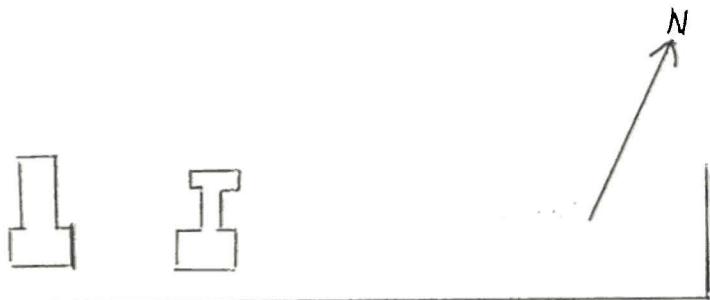
Approximate distance of building from street

ca 28 feet

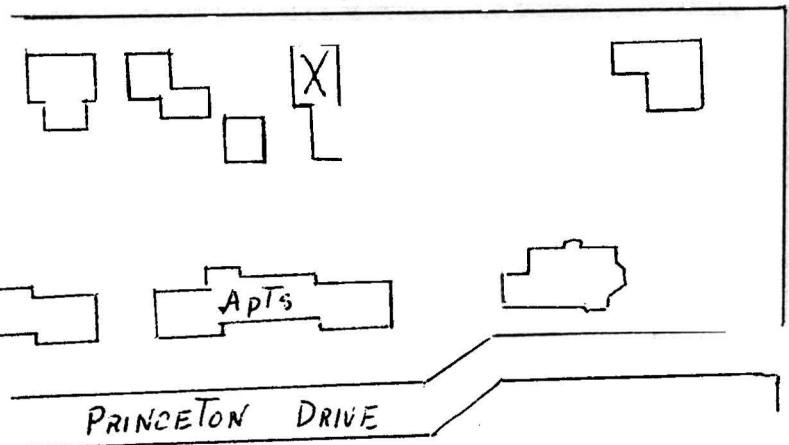
6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury

Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission

Date November 20, 1986



Gay STREET



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

7. Original owner (if known) Edmund Rogers

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
The Arts	Industry	Social/ humanitarian
Commerce	Military	Transportation
Communication	Political	
Community development		

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

Little is known about the first two families who owned this house. Edmund Rogers & his wife, Mary W., came to North Chelmsford from Marlboro about 1847, when the house was built. Edmund was a blacksmith/mechanic, who probably worked for Lincoln Drake, the local iron founder, from whom he had purchased the land the previous fall. In 1848 he sold the house to another mechanic, Willard L. Gee. By 1856 Willard & his wife Rebecca had moved to Lowell, and Peter Ridings moved in with his family.

Peter & his wife, Amelia, had come from England to North Chelmsford several years before, and he worked at the local foundry as a moulder. A teenage son had died of typhoid fever just one month before the Ridings purchased the house. It was a large family, however, and four daughters married moulders or machinists, continuing the connection of the house with the iron industry.

The Duncan family, which owned it for 43 years until 1923, were also connected with the nearby North Chelmsford industries as machinists, carpenter, and night watchman.

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

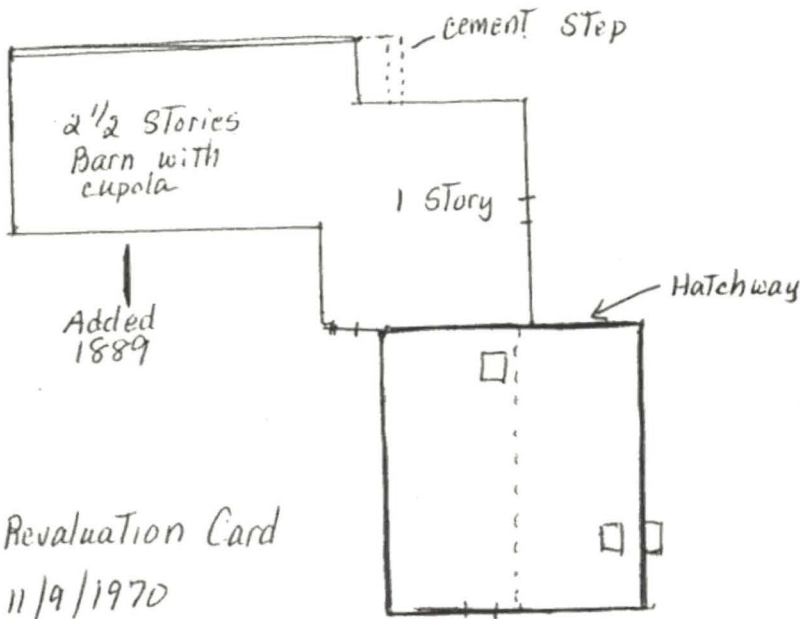
M.No.D.R.Deeds: Bk. 16, pg. 280 (10/3/1846); Bk. 17, pg. 56 (3/14/1848)
Tax/Land Valuation records
1856 Wallings Co. Map; 1875 Beer's Atlas; 1889 Walker Map; 1952 Sanborn Insurance Map
Chelmsford Street Directories: 1898/99, 1905, 1915, 1919, 1922
Chelmsford Vital Records to 1850: Essex Institute
Building Permits: #192 (1957), #308 (1980)
Vital Records; Assessors' Records, including Revaluation Card
Appeals Board permission: October 27, 1985
Mrs. Estelle McEnany; Mr. Raymond E. Secor, Sr.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Chelmsford	Form No: 136
Property Name: Peter Ridings House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below



— Existed in 1875, 1889, 1856

1957 Barn remodelled: part made into accountant's office (used about 4 years)
 Exterior door closed off (rear of 1 story section/barn)
 Plumbing business was in barn prior to 1957.

After 1979 Exterior siding put over clapboards

1980 Masonry chimney added: right side of main house
 New heating system
 Neighbor: says "house was in a shambles" and much needed work was done.

Oct. 27, 1986 Permission given to convert 12 room house to 2 family residence.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

44 Gay Street
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

Bk. 1387, pg. 325	10/24/1957	Raymond E. Secor to Raymond E. & Rita E. Secor land & buildings: east side Gay St., formerly Silver Street
Bk. 1381, pg. 293	9/09/1957	David M. & Christina A. O'Connell to Raymond E. Secor, unmarried land & buildings: east side Gay St., formerly Silver Street
Bk. 1324, pg. 222	1/23/1956	John J. Jr. & Mary E. McQuade to David M. & Christina A. O'Connell, Lowell land & buildings: east side Gay St., formerly Silver Street
Bk. 1122, pg. 238	8/15/1949	Estate of Mary B. Pierce to John J. Jr. & Mary E. McQuade \$6400 land & buildings: east side Gay St. formerly Silver Street
Middlesex Probate Docket # 287682	1949 Will	Estate of Mary B. Pierce
Middlesex Probate Docket # 291407	1949	Estate of Wesley D. Pierce, Tyngsboro
Bk. 990, pg. 175	5/03/1943	William L. & Hazel G. Messer to Wesley D. & Mary B. Pierce, Tyngsboro land & buildings: east side Gay St. formerly Silver Street
Bk. 936, pg. 292	10/17/1939	Lowell Institution for Savings, Lowell, to William L. & Hazel G. Messer land & buildings: east side Gay St. formerly Silver Street
Bk. 865, pg. 353	8/01/1935 Foreclosure	Lowell Institution for Savings, Lowell \$2000 land & buildings: east side Gay St. formerly Silver Street
Bk. 686, pg. 341	7/17/1923 Mortgage	Augustus E. Duncan, Cambridge, to Lowell Institution for Savings \$2500 land & buildings: east side Gay St. formerly Silver Street
Bk. 681, pg. 590	5/23/1923	Amelia R. Duncan, unmarried, to Augustus E. Duncan, Somerville land & buildings: east side Silver St.
Bk. 593, pg. 565	6/22/1918	Augustus E. Duncan, Somerville, to Amelia R. Duncan, unmarried land & buildings: east side Silver St. 2/3 part

Middlesex Probate Docket # 142684	1917 Administration	Estate of Fred T. Duncan to Augustus E. & Amelia R. Duncan
Middlesex Probate Docket # 78992	1908 Administration	Estate of Frances M. Duncan to Fred T. Duncan
Middlesex Probate Docket # 72031	1906 Administration	Estate of Nathaniel J. Duncan to Frances M., widow, & Fred T. Duncan, son
Bk. 209, pg. 158	9/13/1880	Peter Ridings, Fitchburg, to Nathaniel J. Duncan \$1300 land & buildings: east side Silver St.
Bk. 7, pg. 143	8/19/1856	Willard L. & Rebekah C. Gee, Lowell, to Peter Ridings \$1300 land & buildings: easterly side of lane leading westerly from Middlesex Turnpike near Harvey Silver's house
Bk. 7, pg. 594	8/13/1856	James C. Durant, New York City, & William C. Durant, Boston, to Rebecca C. Gee, Lowell \$200 land & buildings: east side of lane leading westerly from Middlesex Turnpike from near Harvey Silver's house All our interest assigned our mother, Ann Caryl
North: B. 17, pg. 57 South: B. 529, pg. 206	3/14/1848	Willard L. Gee, mechanic, to Ann Caryl, Lowell, wife of John Caryl, mechanic \$656 $\frac{1}{2}$ part: land & buildings: east side of lane leading westerly from Middlesex Turnpike from near Harvey Silver's house
North: B. 17, pg. 56 South: B. 529, pg. 205	3/14/1848	Edmund Rogers, mechanic, to Willard L. Gee, mechanic \$1200
North: B. 16, pg. 280 South: B. 504, pg. 202	10/03/1846	Lincoln Drake, Gentleman, Easton, to Edmund Rogers, blacksmith, Marlboro \$36 7200 square feet land: Silver Street



PETER BORDO
1847

*Family
Room*

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