

CLM-321

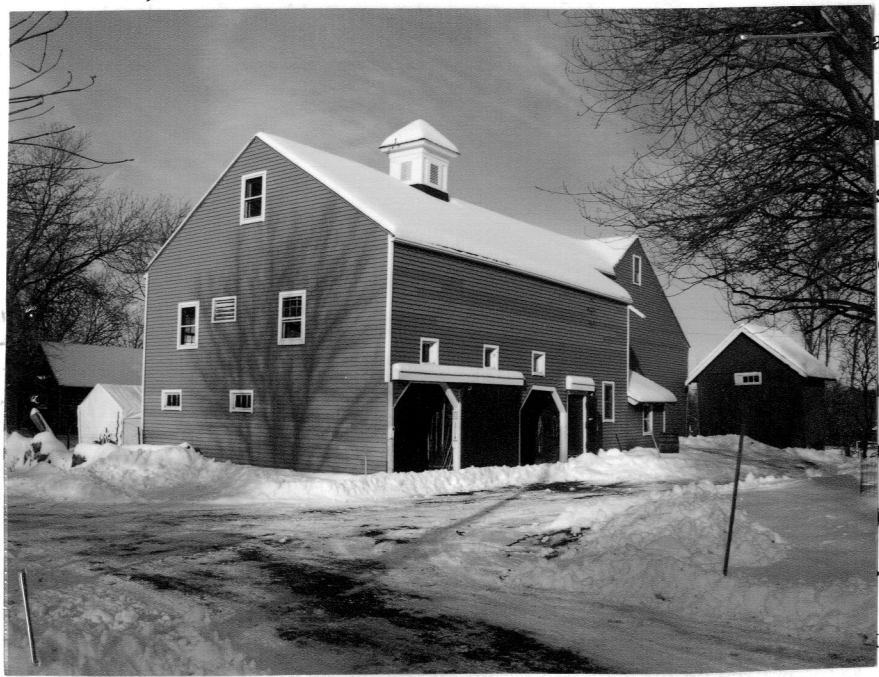
**FORM B – BUILDING**

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

Assessor's Number **37/130/1//** USGS Quad **Billerica** Area(s) **CLM.321** Form Number

PR 11/30/2009

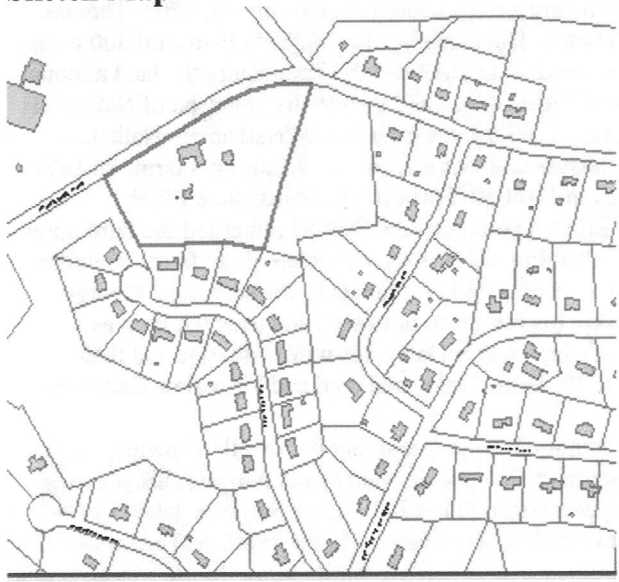
**Town** Chelmsford



**Address** 66 Graniteville Road  
**Historic Name** Richardson/Lahaise Barn  
**Uses:** **Present** residential  
**Original** farm  
**Date of Construction** after 1728 and after 1776  
**Source** Tax records and Deeds  
**Style/Form** English Barn and Bank Barn  
**Architect/Builder** Elijah Richardson  
**Exterior Material:** Vinyl Siding

**Sketch Map**

1/08



**Foundation** Granite blocks  
**Wall/Trim** Wood  
**Roof** Asphalt Shingles  
**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures** Corn Crib

**Major Alterations** (with dates)

**Condition** Very Good

**Moved**  no  yes **Date**

**Acreage** 6.1 acres

**Setting** The barn is across the street from the middle school sport fields. The farm has a heavy green barrier along its boundaries presently the visitor with a idyllic New England farm scene. Behind and on the west and east side of the farm are housing developments.

**Recorded by** Linda V. Prescott  
**Organization** Chelmsford Historical Commission  
**Date** 08-27-2009

**RECEIVED**

SEP 01 2009

## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION see continuation sheet

This outstanding barn was built in several stages. The oldest barn is an English style barn facing east and is 5 bays long, with the doors on the long side of the building. The barn is without a cellar, the foundation is made of large dressed rectangular granite blocks from a local quarry, the chisel marks on the blocks indicate the foundation was laid before 1822. The flooring is of heavy lumber boards. The hand hewn timbers rest on granite blocks laid on their ends. The top of each block stands about 18 inches above the floor providing the wood with an excellent insect and water barrier. With in the later part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the hay loft was been converted into finished room. Outside the finished room is evidence of the old hay loft. Amazingly, the barn has all of its original hardware. The total height of the barn is about 2 stories of hand hewn, wood pegged timbers with mortise and tenon joints. In the later half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, windows and a cupola was added for ventilation. Windows have been replaced and the barn has vinyl siding.

Chelmsford's earliest tax records show the second, larger barn was standing in 1824. The newer, larger barn is attached to the older barn forming a right angle. The newer barn faces east to west with doors at both gable ends. The foundation is of large rectangular granite blocks, some blocks show round ended chisel marks, some blocks have the marks of square ended chisels and several blocks have a combination of both chisel marks. This barn has a cellar and is built into a bank, therefore it can be called a typical Bank Barn. Today the cellar is used for wagon and equipment storage. There is evidence of insect damage to the supports and floor joists in the cantilever section of the barn which was been carefully repaired in the later part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The beams in the barn are hand hewn, wood pegged and some of the joists are logs that have and some do not have bark. The sides of the total barn have been covered with aluminum siding and the windows have been replaces with current vinyl clad windows. The original windows and cupola were installed in the later half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to improve light and ventilation. A small milk shed was added to the south west corner of the barn helping to define the holding pen on the west side of the barn. The fencing of the pen is an old stone wall with gate posts of rectangular granite showing chisel marks of the older, pre 1822 chisels.

Off the northeast corner of the barn is a Corn Barn. The Corn Barn is perched on the stone retaining wall, half of the building rests on granite blocks and the other half is supported by upright square granite pillars.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE see continuation sheet

The land the barn sits upon was part of the 1685 Wamesit Land Purchase by Thomas Hinchman and Jonathan Tyng. Thomas Hinchman settled in Chelmsford in 1654, where he quickly became recognized for his leadership skills and his ability to understand and work with the Indians. Thomas was chosen to be a Deacon in 1660 and kept the church books. By 1663, he had completed the Wamesit Land Purchase, and became a Magistrate. In 1666, he was a Major of the Middlesex Regiment and a Representative. On July 18, 1703, Thomas Hinchman died at the age of 74 and is buried in the Forefather's Cemetery. In 1702, Thomas Hinchman sold to Nathaniel Howard 300 acres of the Wamesit Purchase Land to be divided with Ezekell Richardson. Ezekell Richardson died in 1692 and did not acquire the land although some records indicate the Richardson family did live on the farm. The land passed from father to son and then to the grandson of Nathaniel Howard until land became the deeded property of Elijah Richardson, son in law of Samuel Howard, the grandson of Nathaniel. Nathaniel Howard was one of Chelmsford's early settlers. Nathaniel was born in Salem, Massachusetts and was a tenant on Winthrop's farm. In 1679, Nathaniel Howard moved to Chelmsford with a group of Wenham men. Nathaniel died in 1709-10. Earliest tax records state Elijah Richardson, who's wife was Molly Howard, working the 107 acre farm with 2 barns. Elijah's youngest son, Samuel, inherited the farm upon Elijah's death. The farm then passed through several Samuels and Elijahs until 1840, when Francis B. Parker purchased the farm. The farm stayed in the Parker family until 1862, when George Penniman purchased the farm from Edward Parker, Francis B. Parker's son. George Penniman was from Lowell, city directories indicate he considered himself a farmer, kept his residence in Lowell and used the farm as a summer residence. In 1904, George Penniman died and the farm was sold to James P. Daley. James Daley, his wife Catherine and their children were dairy farmers and ran JP Daley & Son, milk dealers from the farm. By 1930, James Daley had died and his widow Catherine sold the farm and moved to North Chelmsford.

In August of 1930, Catherine Daley sold the farm to Amedee Lahaise, a Canadian immigrant who was living in Lowell. Amedee, died at the age of 74, had raised a family on the farm, his oldest son Alphonse was a mechanic (handy to have on a farm) and Armand, his youngest son eventually inherited the farm. Life was difficult for the Lahaise Family during the depression of the 1930's, the farm was taken by the town for back taxes. Eventually the family was able to clear the taxes and regain full ownership of the farm. In the 1960s and again in 1977, the Lahaise sold land reducing the farm to 90 acres. Finally, in 1977, Marie Lahaise Duncklee inherited her family farm. Marie was born in a small cottage on the farm near the family house that had been destroyed by lightening earlier that year. The family built a colonial style home in 1938 on the old foundation. The Duncklees have continued to sell parcels of land. At the present time, the house, barn and corn crib sit on 6.1 acres of land.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES see continuation sheet

Town of Chelmsford Tax and Cemetery Records  
 Ancestry Census  
 North Middlesex Registry of Deeds  
 Rev. Water's "History of Chelmsford"  
 S.J. Philips's "Old House Dictionary"  
 Chelmsford Historical Society, Penniman Family Picture  
 Photographer, Fred Merriam

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

CHELMSFORD 66 GRANITEVILLE ROAD

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

Area(s) Form No.

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George Penniman With Parents, Mr and Mrs Robert Penniman

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

Town  
Chelmsford

Property Address  
46 Graniteville Rd

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CLM. 321



North side of Barn  
facing Graniteville Rd  
#0382  
Jan '08



Southwest side of Barn  
#0390  
Jan '08