

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

17/22/4	Nashua South, NH		
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 249 Groton Road

Historic Name: Michael and Agnes Ward House

Uses: Present: Single-family dwelling

Original: Single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: circa 1916

Source: Deed, city directory

Style/Form: No style

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Cut stone

Wall/Trim: Vinyl siding / Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: 2 pre-fabricated frame sheds (Late 20th C)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Vinyl siding; Shed dormer at rear elevation; porch additions; replacement windows; wood deck at rear (last Q 20th C).

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.92

Setting: Located on a busy suburban street near highway exit. Small houses to the east and west date from the early 20th century to mid-20th century and are located close to the roadway. Light industrial building to the north.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Consultant

Date: April 7, 2021

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

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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.

249 Groton Road is a 1 ½-story side-gabled frame dwelling. The lot is covered with grass with scattered mature trees and decorative shrubs. An in-ground swimming pool and two pre-fabricated sheds are located to the rear of the house. An asphalt-paved driveway leads from Groton Road to the west elevation of the house.

249 Groton Road appears to have been originally constructed as a very small 1 ½-story, side-gabled house with a two-bay shed dormer at the south façade and a 1-story, 1-bay-deep ell along the width of the rear elevation. The main block is three bays wide at the south façade (now inside the enclosed porch) and contains a center paneled wood door flanked by 2/2 wood sash windows. The house was originally two bays deep with a single window in the gable peaks. The house has overhanging eaves with gable-end cornice returns. The cut granite foundation is located beneath the side-gabled section as well as under the 1-bay addition. Original windows are 2/2 wood sash with narrow molded surrounds.

Several additions were made to the house over time. The rear block was raised by one story and a shed roof added. Paired sash windows are located in the east and west elevations of the addition's second story. A shed-roof porch added to the south (main) elevation porch rests on a concrete block foundation and is accessed by four poured concrete steps. The porch is supported by square-section corner posts. The porch has been enclosed with metal-framed jalousie windows. A late 20th metal door with a narrow, fixed-light sidelight is located on the south elevation.

A porch, now enclosed, was also added to the rear of the house. This shed-roof porch wraps around the northwest corner of the house and terminates in a hipped roof shelter over the rear entrance. This rear porch rests on a concrete block foundation similar in material to the front porch, indicating that they were likely added around the same time. A projection on the west elevation of the main block shelters the bulkhead entrance to the basement. The projection has a shallow gable roof and contains a vertical board and batten door with a metal thumb latch. This projection rests on a concrete block foundation. A pipe railing leads from the rear entrance along a set of poured concrete stairs to the driveway. Windows in the additions, other than the jalousie front porch windows, are 1/1 sash. A wood deck (late 20th C) is attached to the rear of the building,

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.

Michael J. Ward (ca. 1869-1933)¹ immigrated from Ireland 1906 and met Agnes Simpson (ca. 1878-after 1959), who immigrated from England in 1896. The couple married in Waltham in 1908 and had at least one child, John Norman Ward (1913-1993).² In 1910, the couple lived on Dunstable Road in North Chelmsford near Michael Ward's blacksmith shop, which was located on Adams Street at the corner of Middlesex Street.³

In 1916, Michael Ward purchased 7.5 acres at 249 Groton Road.⁴ At the time of the 1920 census, Michael Ward was working as a grinder at a machine shop. By the time of the 1930 census, Michael Ward was working as a laborer at a stone quarry, most likely the nearby Fletcher Granite quarry. He worked as a quarryman until his death. By 1940, John Norman Ward had

¹ Findagrave.com. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/114194969/michael-j-ward>. Accessed April 6, 2021.

² Findagrave.com. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18165555/john-norman-ward>. Accessed April 6, 2021.

³ Lowell City Directory. 1912. Ancestry.com. Accessed April 7, 2021.

⁴ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 581, page 454.

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completed college and was working as a carder at Abbot Worsted woolen mill in Graniteville.⁵ After the war, John Ward married Phyllis Gertrude Hall (1913-1969)⁶ in 1945 in Westford and the couple lived with his mother at 249 Groton Road.

In 1976, John Ward sold the property to John and Irene Anderson, who were already residing at 249 Groton Road.⁷

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⁵ U.S. Draft Card, World War II. Ancestry.com. Accessed April 7, 2021.

⁶ Findagrave.com. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18165556/phyllis-gertrude-ward>. Accessed April 6, 2021.

⁷ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 2210, page 79.

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



South and east elevations. View looking northwest.



West elevation. View looking east.

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