

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

23-92-1	Nashua South, NH		
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**Town/City:** Chelmsford

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

## Photograph



North Façade. View looking southeast.

**Address:** 236 Groton Road

**Historic Name:** Lennart and Lorraine Leedberg House

**Uses:** Present: Single-family dwelling

Original: Single-family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** circa 1936

**Source:** Census; marriage records; city directory

**Style/Form:** No style

**Architect/Builder:** Not known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Cut granite; uncut granite

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingle / Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Pre-fabricated frame shed (Late 20<sup>th</sup> C)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Vinyl windows and metal doors (late 20<sup>th</sup> C)

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no     yes     **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.51

**Setting:** Located on a suburban street at edge of interstate highway right-of-way. Small houses to the north and west date from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and are located close to the roadway.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Consultant

**Date:** February 7, 2020.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

236 GROTON RD

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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.

236 Groton Road is a diminutive 1½-story frame dwelling with just 859 square feet of living space. A low, fieldstone wall is located along the west lot line. An asphalt-paved driveway leads from Groton Road past the east elevation of the house. The building rests on a granite foundation. The front-gabled north façade contains a single window and the main entrance, which is enclosed by a shed-roof porch. Three poured concrete steps reach the entrance. A single window is located in the north gable peak. The asphalt-shingled roof features overhanging eaves. A slender brick chimney pierces the east roof slope. Windows have simple, flat wood surrounds and sills with vinyl-frame replacement sash and sliders; Doors are metal replacements. Shallow basement windows with vinyl sash are located in the west and south elevations of the main block.

The east elevation has been extended with an enclosed, 1-story shed-roof porch along the depth of the east elevation. A small gabled-roof projection is located at the southeast corner of the house. The northeast corner of the enclosed porch contains two vinyl sash windows and a steel door. The gable-roof projection contains a single sash window on the east and south elevations. A single shed dormer is located on the east elevation. A shallow, 48 square foot shed-roof projection is centered on the west elevation.

## 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.

236 Groton Road was likely constructed circa 1936, around the time that Lennart Leedberg married his wife, Lorraine. Lennart Leedberg (1913-1983)<sup>1</sup> was one of twelve children of Oscar and Ingeborg Leedberg. In 1919, Oscar F. Leedberg purchased 3.3 acres of land at what would become 234 and 236 Groton Road.<sup>2</sup> Oscar F. Leedberg (1874-1956)<sup>3</sup> and his wife, Ingeborg (1887-1960),<sup>4</sup> were both born in Sweden. Oscar immigrated in 1892; Ingeborg arrived in the United States in 1905. The couple married in 1907. Oscar Leedberg likely constructed 234 Groton Road circa 1920, shortly after purchasing the land. (234 Groton Road was demolished circa 1958 to make way for Route 3.<sup>5</sup> The thick cut-granite walls of a garage are all that remain of the original buildings at 234 Groton Road.)

Oscar F. Leedberg and several of his sons, including Lennart, worked at the H.E. Fletcher Quarry located across Groton Road at the Westford line.<sup>6</sup> Oscar Leedberg worked as a paving stone cutter; Lennart worked as a driller. Census records indicate that several of the Leedberg's neighbors were also Swedish stone cutters working at H.E. Fletcher. The cut granite foundations at 236 Groton Road, as well as those at many of the neighboring small houses, may very well be offcuts from the Fletcher quarry. Fletcher Granite was founded in 1881 by Herbert E. Fletcher. By 1950, the quarry employed 600 men. Fletcher's "Chelmsford White" and "Chelmsford Gray" granite was used at Quincy Market, the Newport, Rhode Island bridge, the Verrazano Narrow Bridge in New York City, among many other locations.

Census records indicate that, in 1940, Lennart and Lorraine Leedberg (1919-2000), their three small children, and one of Lennart's brothers were living at 236 Groton Road. In 1943, Lennart and Lorraine Leedberg moved to 264 Groton Road. In

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18165120>. Accessed Feb. 4, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Middlesex North Deed Book 600, p. 190.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18165123>. Accessed Feb. 3, 2020.

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18165118/ingeborg-b\\_-leedberg](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18165118/ingeborg-b_-leedberg). Accessed Feb. 3, 2020.

<sup>5</sup> Middlesex North Plan Book M-539. Dated 1958.

<sup>6</sup> Ancestry.com. WWI Draft Registration cards. Accessed Feb. 3, 2020.

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1944, Oscar and Ingeborg Leedberg sold 234 Groton Road<sup>7</sup> and moved into 236 Groton Road, where they lived until their deaths. The Leedberg family sold 236 Groton Road in 1962 to Kenneth and Josephine Koch.<sup>8</sup>

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## SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



E and N elevations, view looking SW.



E and N elevations, view looking SW.

<sup>7</sup> Middlesex North Deed Book 1016, p. 371.

<sup>8</sup> Middlesex North Deed Book 1580, p. 482.

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Rear, south elevation. View looking northwest.



West elevation. View looking east from 240 Groton Road.