

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

23-92-3	Nashua South, NH		
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



North façade. View looking southeast.

Address: 240 Groton Road

Historic Name: Ernest and Lena Fisher House

Uses: Present: Single-family dwelling

Original: Single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1930

Source: Deed, City Directory, Census

Style/Form: No style

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Cut granite and uncut granite

Wall/Trim: Vinyl/Vinyl

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Garage (ca. 1930)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Siding, replacement windows (L 20th C)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 2.61

Setting: Located on a suburban street at edge of interstate highway right-of-way. Houses to north, east, and west date from early 20th century to mid-20th century and are located near road frontage.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Consultant

Date: Feb. 7, 2020

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

240 GROTON RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.

240 Groton Road is a 1-story frame dwelling located at the northeast corner of the lot. An asphalt driveway leads from Groton Road along the west side of the house. The rear of the lot is heavily wooded with deciduous trees. A single apple tree is located in the northeast corner of the lot. A concrete and brick well head is located beside the north elevation of the garage.

The house rests on a cut granite and uncut granite foundation. (The cut granite foundations, also featured in several neighboring houses may very well be offcuts from the nearby Fletcher quarry.) The front-gabled roof has overhanging eaves at the east and west elevations and close eaves at the north and south elevations. A slender interior brick chimney is located near the roof ridge. The entire building is covered with vinyl siding. Windows are predominantly vinyl-frame; wood-frame three-light hopper windows remain at the basement level.

The house is oriented to the north. The north façade is comprised of an enclosed porch that fills the north elevation and rests on wood piers. The façade contains a center entrance flanked by a pair of small sash windows to the east and a row of three attached sash windows to the west. The northeast corner of the former porch appears to have been finished for increased living space. The northwest corner of the former porch does not appear to be finished living space, as evidenced by the different fenestration pattern. Poured concrete steps lead to the entrance, which is flanked by square-section wood balustrades.

The three-bay east elevation contains two single sash windows and one pair of sash windows. Two basement windows are located at the east elevation. The west elevation contains three bays of sash windows. Two basement windows are located at the west elevation. A small, shed-roof projection at the south elevation contains the second entrance. A small porch with square-section balustrade is located at the south corner of the west elevation.

A detached frame garage is located west of the house. The gable roof has overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. The building is sheathed with clapboards; late 20th C composite wood panels are attached over the clapboards on the west façade and north and south elevations. The gable ridge runs east-west. A double-leaf board and batten vehicle door is centered on the west elevation. The building rests on fieldstone piers.

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.

240 Groton Road was likely constructed circa 1930, soon after Ernest Fisher purchased this land.¹ Ernest Fisher (b. 1887) and his wife, Lena Fisher (b. ca. 1896), appear in a 1931 city directory at this address. Ernest Fisher was employed by the Lowell street department; Lena Fisher worked as a stitcher in a shoe factory.

George and Regina Gendreau purchased the property in 1944.² George A. Gendreau (1887-ca. 1951) worked as a machinist at the U.S. Cartridge Company in Lowell³ and, later, as a leather worker at American Hide & Leather in Lowell.⁴ The 1949 Chelmsford city directory lists George Gendreau's profession as leather worker.

¹ Middlesex North Deed Book 774, p. 294.

² Middlesex North Deed Book 1017, p. 155.

³ U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, City of Lowell, Massachusetts. Ancestry.com. Accessed Feb. 7, 2020.

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Frederick and Ivy Shugrue owned the property from 1957 to 1975.⁵ Frederick Shugrue worked as a bus driver in Lowell.⁶

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Walker, George H. & Co., *Atlas of Middlesex County*. Boston: George H. Walker & Co., 1889.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



East and North elevations. View looking southwest.



South and East elevations. View looking northwest.

⁴ Massachusetts Marriage Records, 1908. Ancestry.com. Accessed Feb. 7, 2020. Also U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, City of Lowell, Massachusetts. Ancestry.com. Accessed Feb. 7, 2020.

⁵ Middlesex North Deed Book 1371, p. 185 and Book 2191, p. 319.

⁶ Lowell, Massachusetts City Directory. 1960. Ancestry.com. Accessed Feb. 7, 2020.

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West and South elevations. View looking northeast.



Foundation detail. West elevation.



Garage. East and north elevations.



Garage. West elevation.