

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

93/336/2	Tyngsboro		306
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Town Chelmsford
 Place (neighborhood or village) Chelmsford Center

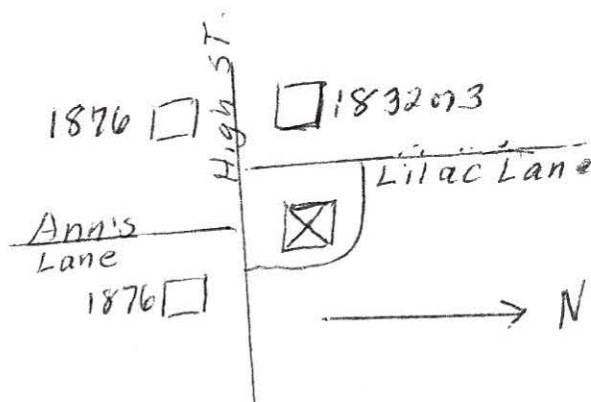
Address 61 High Street
 Historic Name P. J. Brennan House
 Uses: Present residence
 Original residence
 Date of Construction 1891-2
 Source Lowell Weekly Journal
 12/18/1891; 2/5/1892; 5/20/1892
 Style/Form Victorian
 Architect/Builder perhaps 1st owner, Peter Brennan,
 who was a carpenter



MA, Chelmsford, High Street #61, 10/13/2006

Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Exterior Material:

Foundation split granite blocks
 Wall/Trim clapboard, butted
 Roof ridge: gable to front

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

1956 – addition/changes
 see continuation sheets

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 2.03 acres

Setting A paved drive leads from High St. up beside the left side of the house to the front of the barn. A picket fence runs beside High St. A stone wall is along the left side from High St. to ca opposite the barn. Lawn & trees are on the right side of the property & go steeply down to a marshy area. The rear area is lawn until it goes back up to a fence. The property ends in woods on other side of the fence.

Recorded by Jane B. Drury

Organization for Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (month / year) August 2006

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The residence at 61 High Street is a 2½ story building with a ridge roof with front gable and is T shaped. A one story rear ell with dormer is attached to a large barn with cupola on top. Attached to the rear of the barn are more sheds. See continuation sheets for pictures taken in August 2006 and for outlines and measurements of the building at various dates. Cornerboards are on the main house and rear ell and are topped with brackets. A tall, narrow brick chimney is located at the junction of the main roof and that of the "T", and is just right of the main roof ridge.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE see continuation sheet

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.

During late fall or early winter of 1892 Peter J. Brennan began erecting the house at 61 High St. on land he and his wife, Mary, had purchased the previous year. Ownership of the land was subject to an 1849 well right of Sewall Parkhurst. It was believed that the house was being built for sale by Peter Brennan, but in May 1892 Peter & Mary Brennan moved into their new house. However, tax records of May 1893 state that the house was still unfinished although the perhaps then unattached barn was. The Brennans did not reside there long, because in 1894 they sold it, and by 1898/99 they were residing in North Chelmsford. Although not listed as a contractor, very likely Peter, if not the builder, at least worked on this house, as he was a carpenter who had a business of house finishing and the manufacture of screens & windows.

In April 1896 Melvin Walker & his wife Abby moved here from Westford; he was a farmer. They resided here until 1919, when Charles Forsythe and his wife Carrie became the new owners. Charles was the superintendent of streets, but in 1920 they sold to Irad or Isaac Hall. However, they continued to live here until 1925/26, when they moved to California, and the Halls moved in. Mr. Hall is said to have been a meat inspector or wholesale meat man. Zeno & Charlotte Jarvis moved here from Lowell, having become owners of the property in 1930. Charlotte died about 1940, but Zeno spent some of his retirement years here, until 1930 when he sold the house to George & Barbara Parkhurst and moved back to Lowell.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES see continuation sheet

Middlesex No. District Reg. Deeds: Bk. 11, pg. 25, 1891; bk. 7640, pg. 182, 1/9/1995
Lowell Weekly Journal: 12/18/1891; 2/5/1892; 5/20/1892
Chelmsford Assessors' records; Street Directories; Building Inspector's records; tax records
George A. Parkhurst: 12/21/1983
Jeanne Sullivan: July 1980

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
CHELMSFORD

Property Address
61 HIGH STREET

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History

George Parkhurst descended from the old Parkhurst family of early Chelmsford. Barbara was descended from the Hildreth family of early Chelmsford/Westford. Both were greatly interested in the history of these two towns. He was a chemical engineer and she was a bacteriologist. They raised their family here before moving in 1966 to Overlook Drive, also in Chelmsford.

61 High St. was purchased in 1966 by Louis & Claire Kelly, who moved here with their children Joan, Martin and John. Son Russell was born after that. Louis was a baker by trade, as was Martin when he became old enough. About 1980 the parents were apparently divorced, and by 1985 Claire had remarried, to Vernon F. Williams, a sales executive. They sold the dwelling in 1989 to Robert Waskiewicz, a financial planner, who resided here for 5 years, when the present residents purchased the property.

Alterations

- ca 1948 soon after Parkhursts moved in
 - kitchen: 2 smaller windows replaced 2 windows which went down to floor & were 2 over 2
- ca 1949
 - front porch screened in
 - double front door replaced by solid door with lites
- ca 1950
 - minor changes to back porch: post in middle of porch with was replaced by an elliptical arch
 - kitchen: two windows, 2 over 2, were replaced by a large casement window. This was on opposite side of kitchen from above window change
- ca 1954
 - bathroom: 2 small windows put in.
 - when Parkhursts moved in, they found someone had partitioned bath out of a bedroom, leaving hall
 - Parkhurst took out partition; changed things around somewhat
- 1956 addition.
 - contractor: George Picard
 - roof raised on rear part, in front of the barn. Anderson window installed there.
 - west side: roof removed & raised up 7 or 8 feet, & the roof put back on. Dormer made, Anderson window became master bedroom
- ca 1956-58
 - porch added: with green fiberglass roof
 - contractor: Ralph House
- 1974 addition
 - indoor pool built 24' x 40'
 - contractor: Richard Campbell
 - poured foundation
- 1985
 - reconstruction of deck, bath laundry
 - contractor: Brian O'Neil
- ca 1990
 - removed exterior door – from kitchen on front of house, 1 on right side of main door.
 - added 30 x 15 woodshed attached to rear of house
- same general period: a few interior changes

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

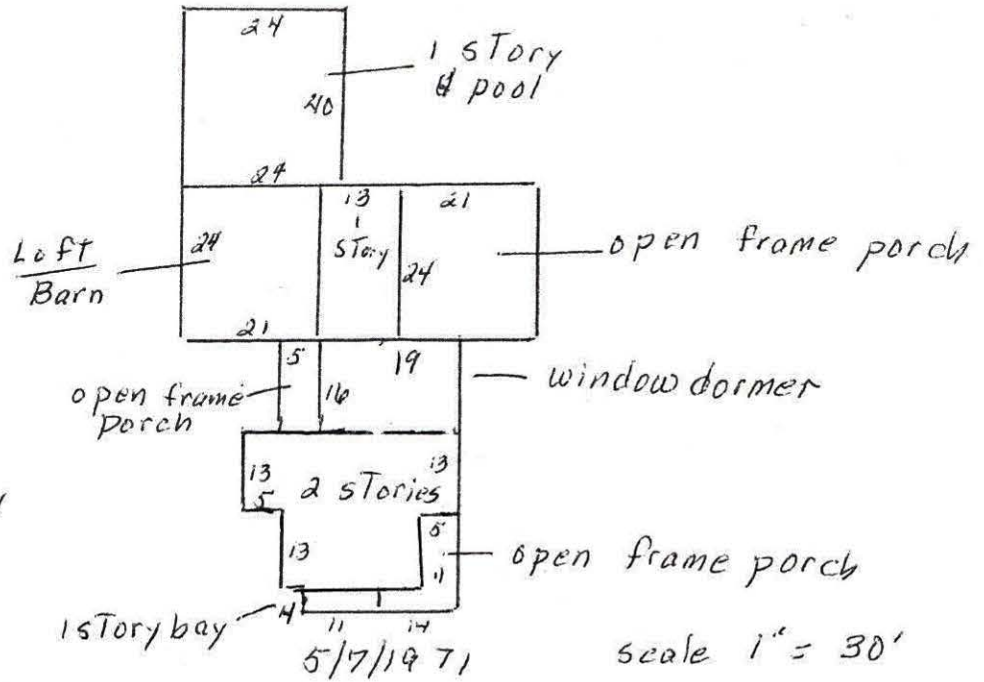
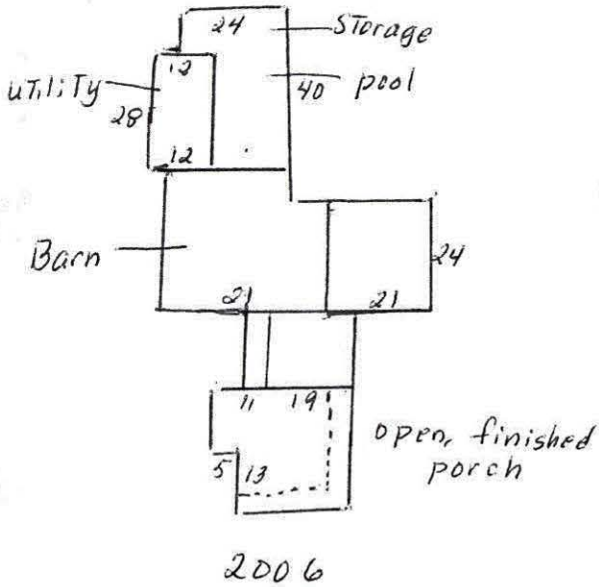
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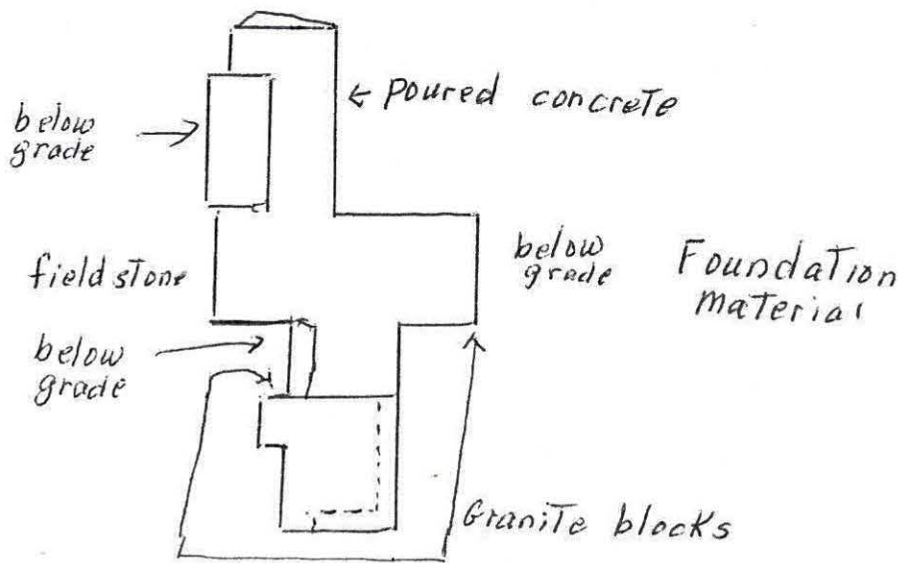
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Area(s) Form No.
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Assessors' Records



scale 1" = 30'



Aug. 2006 Field Visit

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Area(s) Form No.

August 19, 2006



Front



Front, right sides



under gable of the "T"
right side



main T right side
house

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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Area(s) Form No.



Barn main house
Left side



Main house left side



Rear right side



Rear Left side

61 High Street
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

Bk. 7640, pg. 181 01/09/1995 Robert J. Waskiewicz, Main St. Westford, to
Simon J. & Marilyn H. Curry, 61 High St.
\$285,000
88,350 sq. ft. & buildings thereon: northerly side High St.
same: Waskiewicz deed, Bk. 5011, pg. 270

Bk. 5011, pg. 270 09/15/1989 Vernon F. Williams to
Robert J. Waskiewicz

Bk. 4925, pg. 237 06/20/1989 Claire E. Williams to

Bk. 2633, pg. 254 07/21/1983 Louis E. Kelly to

Bk. 1738, pg. 29 02/05/1966 George A. & Barbara H. Parkhurst to
Louis E. & Claire M. Kelly
88,350 sq. ft. & buildings thereon
including right: land south of premises

Bk. 1093, pg. 534 06/18/1948 Zeno P. Jarvis, Lowell, to
George A. & Barbara H. Parkhurst
88,350 sq. ft. & buildings thereon
including right: land south of premises

Bk. 788, pg. 407 04/08/1930 Willie F. & Ethel M. Douglas, Lowell, to
Zeno P. & Charlotte M. Douglas, Lowell
88,350 sq. ft. & buildings thereon
including right: land south of premises

Bk. 777, pg. 474 06/17/1929 Irad B. Hall to
Willie F. & Ethel M. Douglass, Lowell
88,350 sq. ft. & buildings thereon
including right: land south of premises

Bk. 631, pg. 186 08/21/1920 Charles R. Forsythe to
Irad B. Hall
88,350 sq. ft. & buildings thereon
including right: land south of premises

Bk. 602, pg. 378 05/19/1919 Melvin Walker to
Charles R. Forsythe
88,350 sq. ft. & buildings thereon
including right: land south of premises

Bk. 273, pg. 325 04/01/1896 Alonzo L. Russell, Lowell, to
Melvin & Abbie E. Walker, Westford
88,350 sq. ft. & buildings thereon
including right: land south of premises
subject: 1849 well right of Sewall Parkhurst

Bk. 252, pg. 488 04/18/1894 mortgage Maud M. Marsh to
Fred M. Barney, Lowell
\$1800
88,350 sq. ft. & buildings thereon (insured against fire)
including right: land south of premises
subject: 1849 well right of Sewall Parkhurst

Bk. 273, pg. 326: discharge of mortgage

- Bk. 235, pg. 546 06/16/1892 Peter J. & Mary C. Brennan to
Louis A. Young
88350 sq. ft.
subject: 1849 well right of Sewall Parkhurst
- Bk. 229, pg. 11/25/1891 Alonzo L. Russell, Lowell, to
Mary C. Brennan
88350 sq. ft.
subject: 1849 well right of Sewall Parkhurst
- Bk. 229, pg. 554 11/25/1891 Alonzo L. Russell, Lowell, to
Mary C. Brennan
88350 sq. ft.
subject: 1849 well right of Sewall Parkhurst
- Bk. 225, pg. 068 06/29/1891 George A. & S. Waldo Parkhurst; Ellen L. Comins, Concord, N.H. to
Alonzo L. Russell, Lowell,
\$4500
 $\frac{3}{4}$ part - 30 A. land & buildings thereon
subject: 1849 well right of Sewall Parkhurst

*Compiled by J. Drury
1984, 2006*

Lowell Weekly Journal

Dec. 18, 1891 – P. J. Brennan is building a house on High street opposite the residence of L. A. Young.

Brennan – 61 High St.

Young – 60 High St.

Feb. 5, 1892 – P.J. Brennan is pushing his new house on High street.
It is reported that it will be for sale when completed.

May 20, 1892 – Peter J. Brennan has moved into his new house on High street.

Jeanne Sullivan July 1980

Kellys have indoor pool in the basement

George Parkhurst Dec. 21, 1983

1956 addition

roof raised on back part – front of barn –Anderson window

was storage room with stairs

going up to it with 1 window (still there, faces 35 High St.)

other side: was a solid wall next to driveway – was ca 4 ft high

roof taken off on west side & raised up to 7 or 8 feet & roof put back on. Made barn dormer with

Anderson window; became master bedroom

kitchen: 1st floor

basement

Parkhurst (mostly) changes

1. ca 1950

minor change to back porch – cosmetic

post in middle with brackets replaced with elliptical arch

2. ca 1950

put in big window with casements in kitchen (2 windows were 2/2)

3. when 1st moved in

other side of kitchen had 2 windows, 2/2, down to floor – replaced with 2 smaller windows

4. ca 1949

front porch (a bit to side)

screened in

5. double front door replaced with solid door with lights

6. ca 1960

partition removed between sitting room & parlor; made into a large room

7. ca 1954

bathroom: 2 small windows put in

when Parkhurst moved: they found someone had partitioned bath out of bedroom, leaving hall.

Parkhurst took out partition; changed things around

8. ca 1956-58

porch with green fiberglass roof

put in by Ralph House

9. Kelly added pool

Hall: was a meat inspector or wholesale meat man.



