

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

93/380/3

Billerica

CLM.348

**Town/City:** Chelmsford

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 90 High Street

**Historic Name:** William and Rena Livingston House

**Uses:** Present: single-family dwelling

Original: barn

**Date of Construction:** pre-1918

**Source:** Chelmsford Historical Society research

**Style/Form:** Craftsman Bungalow

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/vinyl

Roof: asphalt shingle

### Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Detached garage, shed

### Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 1918 renovation from barn to dwelling

Ca. 2010 replacement siding

Ca. 2000 west wall addition

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:** ca. 1918

**Acreage:** 1.04 A

**Setting:** The house is located approximately 60' south of High St across from its intersection with Somerset Pl. A drive west of the house leads to the garage. A swimming pool is to the southeast of the house. The parcel has a slight rise and includes several mature trees. The surrounding area includes 20<sup>th</sup> c. residential development.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Jennifer Burden, Gray & Pape, Inc.

**Organization:** Chelmsford Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): June 2016

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

90 HIGH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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.*

The house was originally a barn that was located at 84 High Street on the east side of that house. The barn was moved to its current location ca. 1918.

The 1.5-story house has a stone foundation, walls clad in replacement vinyl siding with vinyl trim, and a side gable asphalt-shingled roof. The front (north) slope of the roof extends slightly longer than the rear. An internal brick chimney is centrally located along the ridgeline of the roof. A large front gable dormer is centrally located on the front slope of the roof. Most of the fenestration in the house appears to consist of historic six-over-one double-hung windows with decorative shutters. The primary (north) façade is asymmetrically three bays wide. The first story includes a casement window flanked by double-hung windows in the east bay, the main entry in the center bay, and a single window in the west bay. The main entry is sheltered by a Colonial style porch hood supported by square columns. The dormer in the half story features a set of three windows with the outer windows being narrower than the center. A one-story projection with a side gable roof is at the rear of the west wall and a one-story projection with a flat roof is at the rear of the east wall; these areas appear to date to the original construction of the house. Another smaller room on the west wall of the west projection appears to be an addition.

The detached garage is located immediately to the rear of the house. The two-bay garage has a front gable roof in the north bay and shed roof in the south bay. A shed is located to the south of the garage.

The house is a fair example of an early to mid-twentieth century residence that retains historic integrity of location, feeling, and association.

## 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.*

In 1918 William and Rena Livingston purchased a large lot, which they subdivided into three lots 1921. When the Livingstons purchased the property they relocated a barn from the property at 84 High Street to this property and renovated the building for use as a residence. The 1920 U.S. Population Census lists William (1870-1948, born in Lowell) and Rena (born ca. 1882, née Bugbee) living on High Street with young children Mary and William as well as servant Mary Parker (born ca. 1884 in Ireland). Before the Livingstons moved to Chelmsford, they lived in Lowell where William was a grain merchant. By 1930 the Livingston family relocated to Brookline, MA. In 1921 they sold Lot 3 of the new subdivision to Carrie Forsythe, which included 3.01 acres. Less than two years later Forsythe sold the property to Maude M. Parker (ca. 1872-1956). In 1942 Parker added husband Willard (ca. 1881-1962) to the deed. Chelmsford city directories list the Parkers living at this address with Willard working as an advertising manager at Father Johns Medicine Company, Inc. After Maude's death, Willard sold the property in 1957 to Kenneth and Mildred Evans. In 1975 the Evans family divided the 3.01-acre lot into two parcels. The 90 High Street parcel became its current 1.04-acre size and was shown as Lot 1. Lot 2 was immediately behind this parcel and a new drive was constructed to reach the new house that was constructed shortly after the subdivision.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Chelmsford Historical Society. Photographic files for 90 High Street.

Drury, Jane. Personal collection of building history materials for 90 High Street. Currently kept in private collection.

Genealogical research, including U.S. and Massachusetts census records; birth, marriage, and death records; and city directory records from ancestry.com.

Geo. H. Walker & Co. *Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Geo. H. Walker & Co., Boston, MA. 1889.



Ca. 1900 photograph of the house at 84 High Street with the barn in the left background. The barn was moved to 90 High Street ca. 1918. (Chelmsford Historical Society.)