

FORM B – BUILDING

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

108-428-7

Westford,
MA

CLM.429

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

Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



View looking northeast.

Address: 150 Hunt Road

Historic Name: Martha and James Alcorn House

Uses: Present: Single-family dwelling

Original: Single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1914

Source: Deed, Maps

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Cut granite; uncut stone

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards; wood trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Attached garage ell.

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Chimney removed; windows replaced (early 21st C); Earlier ell removed after 2000; Garage ell added mid-late 20th C. Clapboards replaced 20th C. Front door surround replaced 2nd or 3rd Quarter of 20th C.

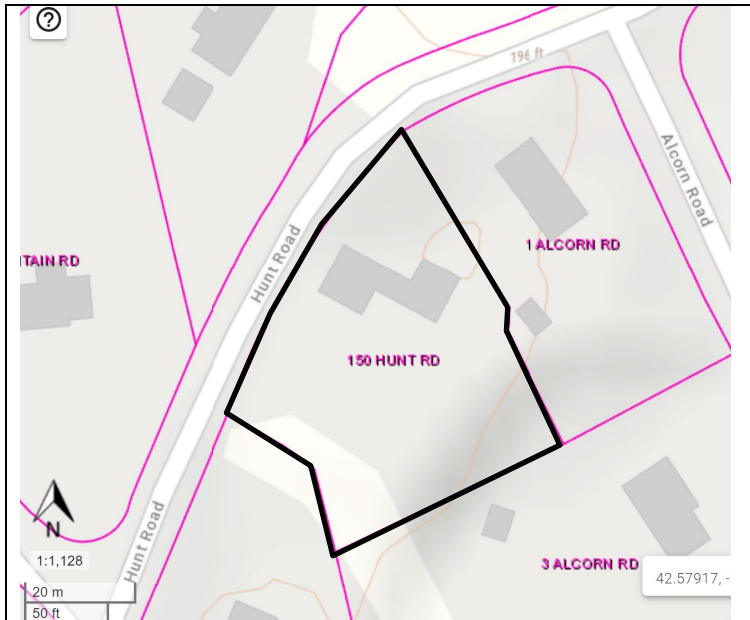
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.6

Setting: The house is located in a suburban setting with late 20th C houses on adjacent lots to the northeast, northwest, and south.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Consult.

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date: March 2022

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

150 HUNT RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

	CLM.429
--	---------

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 is oriented to the northwest, facing the road. An asphalt-paved driveway leads from the road past the north elevation of the house to a garage located at the basement level of the rear ell. The level lot is planted in grass with ornamental trees near the house and larger trees at the edges of the lot.

The 1½-story frame dwelling rests on a cut stone slab foundation and is capped by a side-gabled roof with shallow eaves and box cornice. The saltbox-roof extension along the rear (southeast) elevation appears to have been added after initial construction, as indicated by differences in the foundation materials. The building is five bays wide and one bay deep (a second bay was added later in the saltbox addition). A single sash window is located in the north and south gable peaks. A small, one-story, perpendicular ell extends from the rear elevation. A larger one-story frame ell (constructed in the second half of the 20th century) is attached to the northeast corner of the small ell and contains a garage within its poured concrete foundation. The building is covered with narrow wood clapboards with cornerboards. No chimney remains at the main block. A brick chimney is located at the south elevation of the ell.

The facade features a center entrance with a heavy six-paneled wood door accessed by two cut stone steps. The pilastered surround features half-height sidelights above wood panels. This Colonial Revival-style entrance surround was a stock item manufactured during the second and third quarters of the 20th century. Located between the door and sidelights are slender pilasters with delicate fluting. At the outer edges are doubled fluted pilasters with a simple capital. A narrow, molded cornice caps the surround. The slender windows contain replacement sash with 6/12-light inserts. Shallow wood crowns cap the narrow, flat surrounds.

The small ell contains a personnel door and a triple window on the north elevation. The south elevation, which is partially obscured by a tall fence, appears to contain a row of full-height, multi-light doors

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.

Field observation, examination of historic maps, and deed research undertaken in an effort to present the history of this dwelling have resulted in inconsistencies that preclude this researcher from providing a definitive construction date. Interior inspections are beyond the scope of this survey, but a closer examination of surviving framing, floorplans, and interior features and finishes by an architectural historian with expertise in building technology could provide additional insights into a likely original construction date and on the physical evolution of the building over time. This researcher presents the following information to guide future researchers.

- No house appears in this location on the 1831 map of Chelmsford.
- In 1843, Eli and Mary Hunt Parker purchased property in this general location that included a dwelling house.¹ In the mid-19th century, the extended Hunt family owned more than 100 acres in this area, lending their name to the roadway. Joshua and Olivia Hunt's house was located near the present-day location of 101 Hunt Road, according to historic maps. Joshua and Olivia Hunt's son, Samuel C. Hunt, lived at 65 Hunt Road and their daughter, Mary A. Hunt, likely lived here at 150 Hunt Road after her marriage to Eli Parker.

¹ Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book 445, p. 70.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

150 HUNT RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

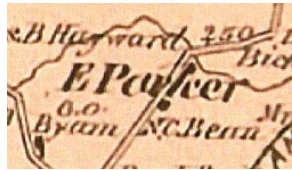
Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

CLM.429

In 1844, Mary A. Hunt (1804-1882) married Eli Parker (1787-1877).² The marriage of Mary A. Hunt and Eli Parker involved an unusual pre-nuptial agreement. Mary A. Hunt required assurances that, in the case of Eli Parker's death, that she would have a guaranteed place of residence until her death. (This was Eli Parker's second marriage and he had heirs from his first marriage.) In 1843, contingent on their pending wedding, Mary A. Hunt and Eli Parker recorded an indenture tied to the property that secured the property for her use should she outlive her future husband, which she did.³ While, at the time, women could inherit their husband's property at the time of his death, Mary A. Hunt made sure prior to the wedding that there would be no confusion and no competition from his heirs. Census records and historic maps indicate that Eli Parker worked as a farmer and the couple lived with Olivia Hunt, who appears to have been Mary's sister.

- 1856 map of Chelmsford includes a house owned by Eli Parker in this location.
- The 1875 map of Chelmsford may depict a house owned by Eli Parker in this location. [It is unclear whether the top of the "k" depicts a house. The large type size of Eli Parker's name on the map indicates the large amount of property he owned in this area.]



The 1889 map of Chelmsford shows no building in this location. [That the building was omitted is a possibility.]

Deed research, working backwards from the present day, provides a chain of title for an 8.5-acre tract of land with a consistent boundary description in 1851, 1857, 1887, 1894, 1914, 1953 and 1957:

"Beginning at the southeasterly corner of the property at a stake in the ditch and running South 85 ½ degrees West 806 ½ feet to land of Amos W. Dutton;
Thence northerly 6 degrees West 120 feet on said Dutton land to land of Eli Parker;
Thence northeasterly and northerly by said Parker's land to the Road;
Thence by the Road 170 feet to a stake and stones;
Thence southerly by land formerly of William F. Burrows to the point begun at."⁴

None of these deeds mention Eli Parker as an owner but, rather, only as an abutter.

The deeds include no mention of buildings until 1953, which seems to indicate that the building was constructed between 1914 and 1953.

- In 1914, Martha Alcorn purchased the property.⁵ Martha Alcorn (1878-1961)⁶ and James Thomas Edward Alcorn (1880-1950) were born in Canada and immigrated in 1901 and 1900, respectively. The couple married in 1904 and had four children. Census records note that James Alcorn worked as a farmer. In 1957, Martha Alcorn sold the property to her daughter, Edith Alcorn (1919-1988).⁷ Edith Alcorn worked as a children's librarian at the Chelmsford library.⁸

Census records place the Alcorn family in this house during the 1920-1940s.

² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18168936/eli-parker>. Accessed Dec. 3, 2021.

³ Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book 445, p. 70.

⁴ Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book 619, p. 493 (1851) and Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 11, Page 90 (1857); North Book 187, p. 316 (1887); North Book 252, p. 317 (1894); North Book 527, p. 32 (1914); North Book 1238, p. 506 (1953); North Book 1374, p. 502 (1957).

⁵ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 527, p. 32.

⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18162850/martha-marintha-alcorn>. Accessed Feb. 22, 2022.

⁷ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds 1374, p. 502.

⁸ Parkhurst, *History of Chelmsford 1910-1970*: 81

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

150 HUNT RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CLM.429

Physical clues further confuse the history. The building rests on a cut stone slab foundation, which was no longer common after the turn of the 20th century. Could the existing house have been constructed on the foundation of an earlier building?

In 1961, Edith C. Alcorn sold the property to Claude J. and Etta M. Harvey, who owned many properties in Chelmsford and extensive property in this area.⁹ The subdivision surrounding 150 Hunt Road was developed in the late 1960s.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

F. W. Beers & Co. *Atlas of Middlesex County*. New York: J. B. Beers & Co. 1875.

Chelmsford Tax Assessor records. 2022.

Findagrave.com.

Hales, John G. Plan of Chelmsford. 1831.

Middlesex North Registry of Deeds.

Middlesex South Registry of Deeds.

Massachusetts Census. Ancestry.com.

Massachusetts Marriage indices. Ancestry.com.

Parkhurst, Eleanor. *History of Chelmsford 1910-1970*. Chelmsford: Chelmsford Historical Commission. 2011.

United States Census. Ancestry.com.

Walling, Henry Francis. *Map of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Boston: Smith & Bunstead. 1856.

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

Waters, Rev. Wilson. *History of Chelmsford, Massachusetts*. Lowell: Courier-Citizen Company. 1917.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



Façade, entrance detail.

⁹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds 1519, p. 470.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

150 HUNT RD

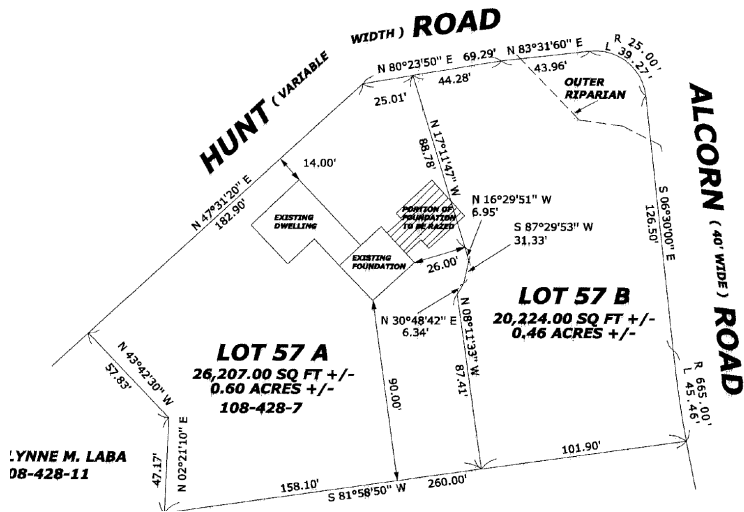
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

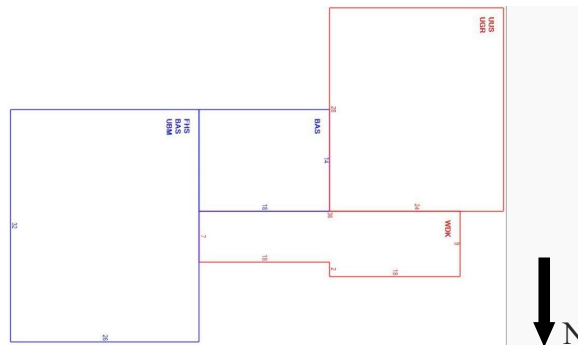
CLM.429



View looking south. Garage ell at left.



Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Plan Book 205, Plan 143. 2000. Shaded portion shows ell to be demolished.



Assessor's sketch.