

In Area no.	Form no.
	278



1. Town Chelmsford

Address 53 Littleton Road

Name _____

Present use residence - 1 family

Present owner Howard & Irene Usher

3. Description:

Date 1890-1

Source Lowell Weekly Journal

Style _____

builder _____

Architect Charles E. Parkhurst

Exterior wall fabric siding - wide

left of house, unattached, 1 story
Outbuildings (describe) car garage

Other features large colored glass, round

window on right side at porch: curved
(see picture)

indentation of window under gable

Altered see attached Date _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
28,900 s.f.

One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage ca 100 feet

Approximate distance of building from street
ca 67 feet

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury

Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission

Date August 15, 1983

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| modern <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 888 |
| ca 1900 <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 890 |
| ca 1900 <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| modern <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 1903 <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1913-14 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1894 |
| 1893 <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Greek Revival |
| ca 1873 <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 1892 <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ca 1900 |
| 1891 <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Binger
Ale
factory | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1887 |
- N

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Charles E. Parkhurst

Original use residence - 1 family

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	Conservation	_____	Recreation
Agricultural	Education	_____	Religion
Architectural	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ Invention
The Arts	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian
Commerce	Military	_____	Transportation
Communication	Political	_____	
Community development	<u>X</u>		

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This dwelling is typical of several built in Chelmsford by Charles E. Parkhurst. In 1884 he purchased $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres on the north side of Littleton Road; this house was erected on a small portion of that land. In August 1890 while a carpenter was working on the house, a staging gave way, dropping Mr. Davis almost 40 feet before his fall was broken by an apple tree branch. He suffered only a few slight bruises. The construction was completed in 1891 and the house with $\frac{3}{4}$ acre was sold to George A. Parkhurst, the town clerk and a relative of the builder. Mr. George Parkhurst was also the local journalist for the Lowell Weekly Journal, a source of much information about Chelmsford houses and people of that period. He died in 1904, and his widow sold the property 5 years later. Between 1912-1947 it was owned by Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Aiken. In 1915 Mrs. Aiken fell while descending the front stairs, holding a lighted lamp, and the escaping oil caught fire. Mr. Aiken and a friend threw the blazing lamp out the front door, and Mrs. Aiken suffered only a broken wrist.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Lowell Weekly Journal: 8/29/1890; 1/30/1891

Lowell Courier Citizen: 6/18/1915

Middlesex North Reg. Deeds: Bk. 187, pg. 466(1887); Bk. 225, p. 289 1891

Chelmsford Town Clerk: 1907 plan of Littleton Road

Chelmsford Assessors' records

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Usher

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Chelmsford	Form No: 278
Property Name:	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below

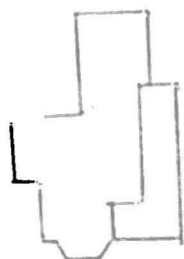
3. Altered

porch ca 1948-50
screened in
concrete steps replaced old wooden porch steps

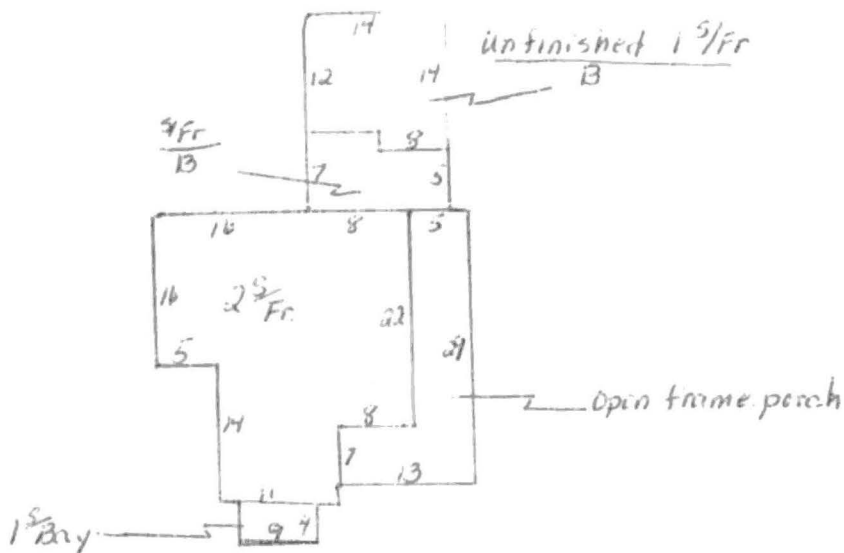
2. wide siding replaced wooden shingles, covering cornerboards
date: present owner says siding was there when they moved in,
fall of 1948. Assessors' revaluation records of 1971 stated
wall covering was wood shingles.

3. interior cherry woodwork - painted white by present owners

1907 plan



1971 Revaluation record



Staple to Inventory form at bottom

53 Littleton Road
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

1083, pg. 437	12/19/1947	Emma B. Aiken, widow, to Howard R. & Irene R. Usher, Lowell 3/4 acre & buildings thereon
484, pg. 598	4/20/1912	Barzillai A. Colpitts to Curtis A. & Emma B. Aiken 3/4 acre & building thereon
Bk. 431, pg. 387	3/15/1909	Clorinda H. Parkhurst, widow, to Barzillai A. Colpitts 3/4 acre & buildings thereon
Bk. 225, pg. 289	7/ 1/1891	Charles E. Parkhurst to Clorinda H. Parkhurst \$2300 3/4 acre & dwelling-house thereon
187, pg. 466	4/19/1887	Benjamin M. Fiske, Somerville, to Charles E. Parkhurst 3 acres land
170, pg. 327	11/ 4/1884	Josiah R. Fletcher to Benjamin M. Fiske, Somerville \$700 4½ acres land

Lowell Courier-Citizen:

June 18, 1915 - Mrs. Curtis Aiken met a painful accident at her home in Littleton street, Thursday evening, fracturing her right wrist. She was descending the front stairs and carried a lighted lamp in her hand. The lamp was broken in the fall and the escaping oil caught fire and blazed up on the rugs in the hall. Her husband and Abbot Russell who were on the piazza, heard the crash and rushed to her aid, Mr. Russell throwing the blazing lamp out of doors and her husband smothering the fire on the rugs that threatened to ignite her clothing. Mrs. Aiken was dazed by her fall and unable to account for the cause of the accident. An examination of her injuries showed that her right wrist had been badly fractured, and an x-ray taken today confirmed this.

Lowell Weekly Journal:

Aug. 29, 1890 - Mr. Davis, a carpenter, while working upon Charles E. Parkhurst's new house fell to the ground, a distance of nearly 40 feet. The accident was caused by a staging giving way, and had the fall not been broken by the friendly branch of an apple tree the consequences might have been fatal, whereas the result was a few slight bruises.

Jan. 30, 1891 - Winter weather does not completely check building operations. Charles E. Parkhurst has well under way, to be placed on the market in the spring, a two-story house on Littleton street in a desirable location and one owned by B.M. Fiske on the "Lane", so called.

53 Littleton Road



Taken about 1900. George A. Parkhurst standing by front door - Mrs. Parkhurst (Clorinda Hodgman) seated on side porch.

1983. Original picture in Commission files, negative held by George Parkhurst.



8/28/2004 F. Merriam



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