

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

28/104/5	Westford		CLM.351
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**Town/City:** Chelmsford

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 148 Main Street

**Historic Name:** John Curtis Farmstead

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

Original: single-family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** 1847

**Source:** Deed research

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival/Italianate

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Detached garage

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

Ca. 1950 side addition

Ca. 2000 replacement siding and windows

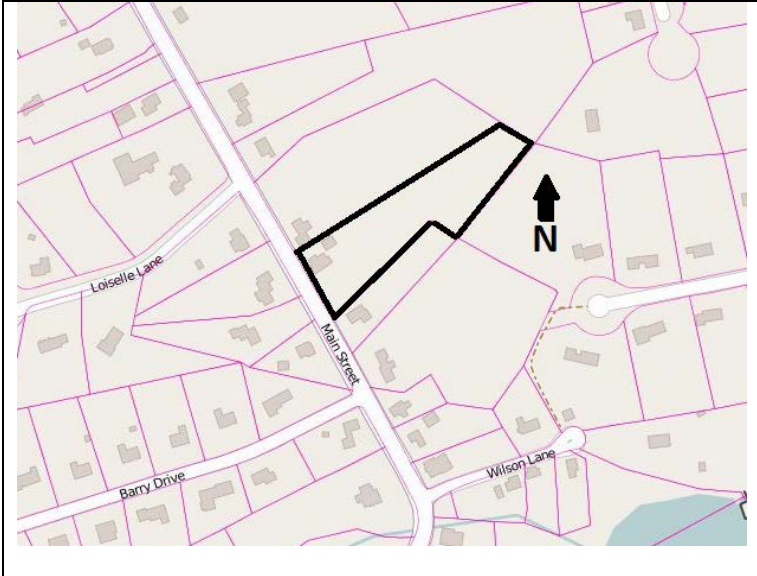
**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** 2.12 acres

**Setting:** The building is located approximately 20' northeast of Main St. An asphalt-paved driveway along its northwest side leads to the garage. A low stone retaining is in front of the house. The lot is mostly flat and grassy with mature trees. The surrounding area includes 19<sup>th</sup> and 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

148 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CLM.351

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 1.5-story building has a granite foundation, an asphalt-shingled front gable roof with gable returns, and is clad in replacement vinyl siding with wood trim. Windows throughout the house are replacement, one-over-one, double-hung windows. The primary (southwest) façade has three bays on the first story and two on the half. Single windows are located in the half story and the two north bays of the first story. The main entry is located in the south bay and features a historic wood and glass door as well as a replacement storm door. The entry is sheltered by a flat hood with wood molding that is supported by ornately carved wood brackets. The southeast wall is three bays deep with a single window in each bay. This wall also includes a centrally located side gable wall dormer with gable returns and a paired window. The original portion of the house is very similar to the house next door at 152 Main Street.

A two-story addition is located on the northwest wall. The addition has a concrete block foundation, a side gable roof without gable returns, and is clad in replacement siding. An external brick chimney on the northwest wall is near the center of the front slope of the roof. An entry door is to the north of the chimney. The addition is asymmetrically two bays wide with a single window in each bay. A one-story addition is also located at the rear of the building. A two-car detached garage is located to the north of the house. The garage has an asphalt-shingled hipped roof with exposed rafter tails and is clad in replacement siding.

The house is an altered example of a mid-nineteenth 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.*

Deed research traced the ownership history of this property to December 1846 when John Farrar sold three acres of land to John Curtis for \$155. In April 1848 Curtis (sometimes spelled Curtiss) sold the property to Samuel Carr. Research did not discover further information about Curtis. The \$239 price stipulates it included 6 acres of land and the buildings thereon (the six acres included the lot that is now 146 Main Street to the north). The property, therefore, was constructed by Curtis during his period of ownership from December 1846 through April 1848. Furthermore, the Chelmsford tax valuation list for 1848/1849 list Samuel Carr with a house valued at \$300 and six acres of improved land valued at \$100. The deed notes that Carr worked as a finisher in the mill in 1848. The 1850 US Population Census lists Carr (born ca. 1805 in England) living in Chelmsford with wife Maria (also born ca. 1805 in England) and four children, all of whom were born in England. Carr was listed as a farmer in the census. The 1855 Massachusetts Census lists Carr as a finisher living with his wife, two children, as well as married daughter, Louisa Marvill (born ca. 1833) and her two young children. In 1858 the Carrs sold the property to Marvill, who was then listed as a widow, for \$1000. It appears Louisa remarried between 1858 and 1866 to Albard Andrews and they assumed ownership of the property. The deed notes Albard was born in Simco, Canada, but no further information was discovered about him. In 1866 the Andrews sold the property to John Fox of Andover for \$925. No further information was discovered about Fox, but it appears he died ca. 1876 since his heirs then sold the property to John McAuliffe for \$1200. The 1870 Census lists McAuliffe (born ca. 1815 in Ireland) working in a woolen mill and living in Chelmsford with wife Hannah (born ca. 1813 in Ireland) and two children. McAuliffe died ca. 1894 because his estate sold the property that year to Edwin F. Coburn for \$1300 at public auction. The 1920 Census lists Colburn (ca. 1868-1927) living on Main Street and working as a superintendent at a machine shop. Living with him was wife Mary J. (also born ca. 1868). After Edwin's death in 1927, the property was granted to Mary, who retained it until 1946. The property, therefore, was in the Coburn family for 52 years. Since 1946 the property has been sold seven additional times; the last being in 1987 to current owners James and Carol Cullen.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

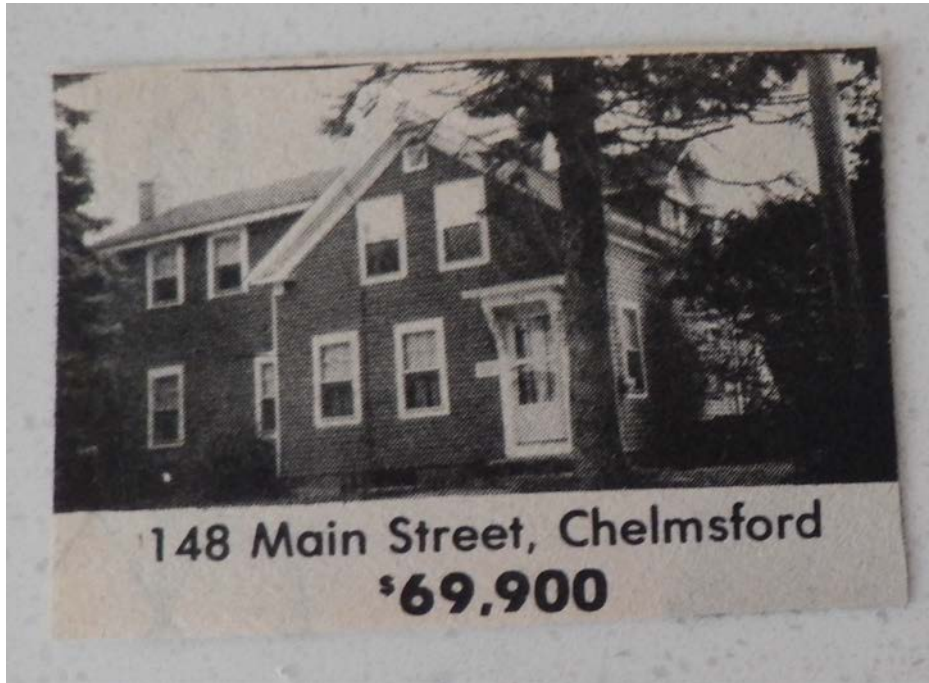
Chelmsford Historical Commission Files. Jane Drury Collection materials for 148 Main Street.

Drury, Jane. Personal collection of building history materials for 148 Main 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.

Middlesex North Registry of Deeds. [www.lowelldeeds.com](http://www.lowelldeeds.com).



Unidentified clipping, Jane Drury File, newspaper photograph of 148 Main Street when it was for sale in 1978.

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## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible       Eligible **only** in a historic district
- Contributing to a potential historic district       Potential historic district

Criteria:     **A**     **B**     **C**     **D**

Criteria Considerations:     **A**     **B**     **C**     **D**     **E**     **F**     **G**

### Statement of Significance

The area of West Chelmsford is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places as a locally significant historic district under Criterion A for the development of this area around the Roby Manufacturing Company and Chelmsford Woolen Mills, as well as under Criterion C for its intact examples of mid-nineteenth through early twentieth century residential architecture. The boundary of the proposed district would include resources built during the period of significance along Main Street from approximately Loiselle Lane in the north to the Westford Town Line, as well as resources along School Street between Main Street and Graniteville Road. This building at 148 Main Street would be a contributing resource to that district as an example of residential architecture constructed during its period of significance that retains some historic integrity.