

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

28/92/16	Westford		CLM.352
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**Town/City:** Chelmsford

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 151 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Pliny Gammell House

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

Original: single-family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1897

**Source:** 1889 map of West Chelmsford and 1897 tax valuation records

**Style/Form:** no style

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

## Exterior Material:

Foundation: unknown

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/vinyl

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** shed

## Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 1990 porch column replacements

Ca. 2000 garage and rear addition

Ca. 2000 replacement siding

**Condition:** Fair

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

**Acreage:** .93 A

**Setting:** The house is located approximately 40' southwest of Main St. A low granite retaining wall is along the perimeter of the front grassy yard. The asphalt-paved driveway features short granite pillars at its corners. The rear of the lot is flat and grassy with some mature trees. The area features 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

151 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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 two-story, ell-shaped building features an asphalt-shingled roof with gable returns on the front gable and is clad in replacement vinyl siding with vinyl trim. A brick internal chimney is located within the northwest slope of the front gable. Windows throughout the house are one-over-one, double-hung windows with exterior storms that make it difficult to determine if the windows are historic or replacement. The primary (northeast) façade is asymmetrically five bays wide with two bays in the front gable portion and three in the side gable wing. The front gable has single windows in both bays of the second story, a three-sided oriel projection in the north bay of the first story and the main entry in the south bay featuring a replacement door and sidelights. A full-width, open porch spans the front gable. The porch has a flat roof with vinyl trim supported by round Doric columns. The side gable wing includes a front gable wall dormer with gable returns and a paired window near the ell of the building. The wing also features a three bay enclosed porch with a hipped roof, three sets of paired windows, and an entry door in the center bay. A two-car garage is attached to the wing. The garage and a rear addition were constructed ca. 2000.

The house is an altered example of a late nineteenth century residence. It retains historic integrity of location, setting, 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.*

The building does not appear on the 1889 map of West Chelmsford. Deed research traced the ownership of the property to Pliny Gammell and the 1897 tax valuation records of Chelmsford show that amongst his real estate was a dwelling valued at \$1000. City directories list Gammell (born ca. 1842) living on Hastings Street in Lowell until 1897, and then in 1898 directory lists that he moved to West Chelmsford. The building therefore was constructed ca. 1897 based on this research. Further information regarding Gammell while he resided in West Chelmsford was not discovered. By 1900 Gammell sold the property to John A. Anderson. The 1910 US Population Census lists Anderson (born ca. 1864 in Sweden, died 1934 in West Chelmsford) living on Main Street with wife Ingrid (born ca. 1863 in Sweden) and three teenaged children born in Massachusetts. At this date Anderson was a stone cutter in a quarry and his son Anthony was an apprentice stone cutter. By the mid-1920s John changed careers to be a dairy farmer, yet continued to live at this address. The 1930 Census lists him as a milk farmer living with Ingrid, son Alfred, who was a granite cutter, daughter-in-law Winona, and their two young children. In 1940 the Anderson family sold the property to Richard L. and Helen E. Monahan. The 1940 Census lists the Monahans renting a house on Main Street. Richard (born ca. 1911) and Helen (born ca. 1916) lived here with one-year old son Richard, Jr. and Helen's sister and brother-in-law Ruth and William Powers. Richard was then listed as a civil engineer and the 1940 city directory shows that he was working for JC & WT Monahan Civil Engineers and Surveyors at 219 Central Street in Lowell. The Monahans retained ownership of the property until 1945 when they sold it to John E. and Isabelle Leslie. According to city directories, John worked in the quarries. The Leslies retained the property until 1960, and since that date the property has sold three additional times. Current owner Michael McCall purchased the property in 1990.

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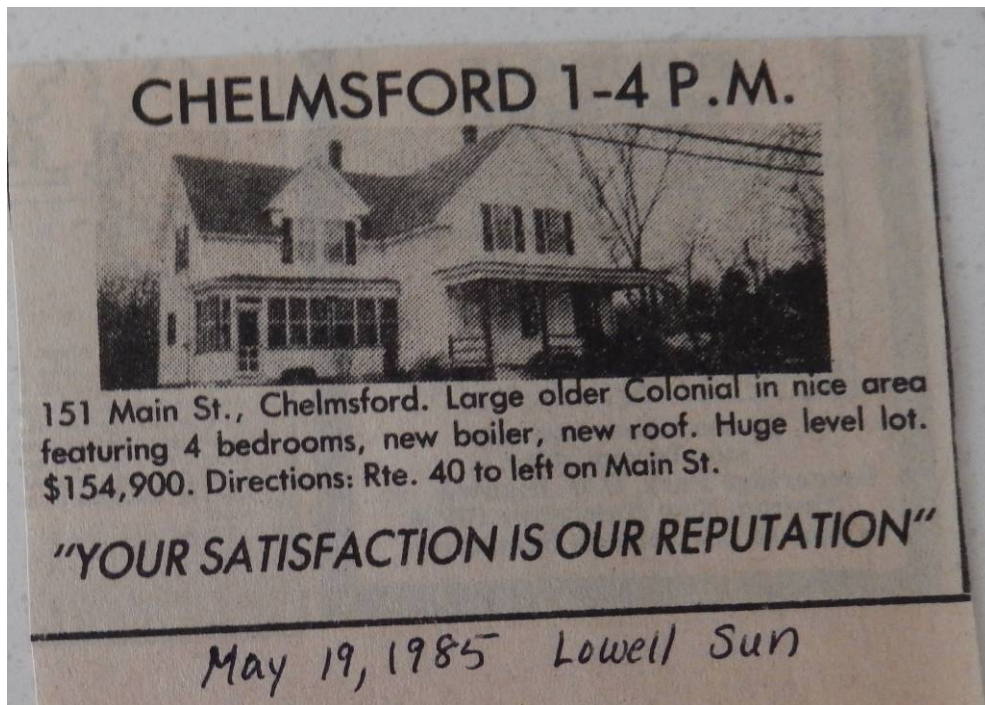
## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Chelmsford Historical Commission files. Jane Drury collection materials for 151 Main Street.

Drury, Jane. Personal collection of building history materials for 151 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.



Lowell Sun real estate advertisement, 19 May 1985, 151 Main Street when the house was for sale, from Jane Drury File.

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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 151 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.