

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

28/92/21	Westford		CLM.354
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

**Town/City:** Chelmsford

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 157 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Frederick Hale House

**Uses:** Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1880

**Source:** 1889 map of West Chelmsford, deed research

**Style/Form:** no style

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl and wood shingle/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

### Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Detached garage

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

Ca. 1990 replacement sidings

Ca. 2000 replacement porch materials

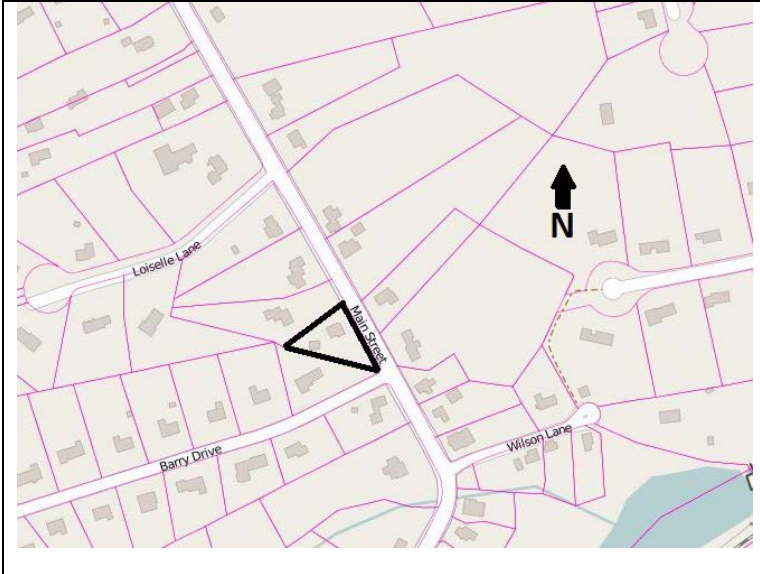
**Condition:** Fair

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

**Acreage:** .39 A

**Setting:** The house is located approximately 45' southwest from Main St. A low stone retaining wall runs along the front of the parcel. An asphalt-paved driveway along the south of the house leads to the garage. The flat and grassy front and rear yards have a few 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

157 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 house has a stone foundation, a multi-plane asphalt-shingled roof, and is clad in replacement vinyl siding on the first story and painted wood shingles on the second. No chimneys were identified on the building. The roof line is a side gable with a flat slope on the rear, a truncated gambrel with a porch overhang on the front, and a hexagonal pyramid on the turret. Most windows throughout the house are one-over-one, double-hung windows with exteriors storms that make it difficult to determine if the windows are historic or replacement. The primary (northeast) façade is two bays wide with the two-story, three panel turret in the north bay. The first story of the façade includes an entry door just south of the turret and a one-bay porch with replacement columns and railings. The northwest and southwest walls are two bays deep with single windows in each bay. A one-story, full-width, enclosed porch is located along the rear of the house.

The two-car garage has a stone foundation, an asphalt-shingled hipped roof, and is clad in wood siding. The north garage door bay is currently infilled with sheeting and the south bay features a replacement garage door.

The building is an altered example of a mid-nineteenth century residence that 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 1889 map of the area show the building was then owned by T. Hale. In 1882 Frederick Hale purchased a half-acre lot from George Mills for \$600. This price for only a half-acre of land suggests a building was located on the site although the deed makes no reference what was included in the sale. The 1880 Census lists Hale (born ca. 1851 in England) then living in Chelmsford and working in the file shop. In this record, John Jeffrey is listed as the next householder and he is shown the 1889 map as living to the immediate south of Hale; therefore, Hale was living in the area before he purchased the property. Research did not reveal if the T. Hale on the 1889 map was a misprint for F. Hale or if T. Hale was a relative of Frederick. Hale does not appear in city directories during his period of ownership (1882-1903). When Hale sold the property in 1903 the deed stated he was then living in Providence, RI. At this date he sold the property to Amy Stubbs, who was then living in Barnstable County, MA. In 1906 when Stubbs sold the property she was still listed in Barnstable County, and therefore, never lived at this address. In 1906 Nils Lofsteadt purchased the half-acre lot. Lofsteadt (ca. 1858-1947, born in Sweden) is listed in the 1910 Census living on Main Street with wife Joanna (born ca. 1858 in Sweden), and three children aged 18 through 8. The family immigrated to the US via Boston in 1903 and were all listed as speaking English. At this date Nils was a groundskeeper for a private family and eldest son Albert was a stone cutter in a quarry. By 1940 Nils continued to live at this address along with daughter Molly (1901-1993), her husband Edwin Burne (1900-1959), and their two children Donald and Richard. In 1945 Lofsteadt sold the property to Molly and in 1950 she added Edwin to the deed. The 1942 city directory lists Edwin working as a clerk and living at this address. In 1990 Molly Burne granted the property to her sons, who in 1994 sold the property to current owners Warren and Sandra King.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

Genealogical research, including U.S. and Massachusetts census records; birth, marriage, and death records; and city directory records from [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com).

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

Hales, John G. *Plan of the Town of Chelmsford in the County of Middlesex*. Surveyed in 1831 by John G. Hales.

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

Walling, Henry F. *Map of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Smith & Bumstead, Boston, MA. 1856.



Garage at 157 Main Street, facing west. November 2015.

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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 157 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.