

FORM B – BUILDING

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

28/92/28	Westford		CLM.355
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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: 163 Main Street

Historic Name: John Jeffrey House

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: between 1831 and 1856

Source: 1831 and 1856 maps of West Chelmsford

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: aluminum siding/aluminum

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Attached garage and breezeway

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 1930 garage and breezeway additions

Ca. 1970 replacement siding, porch enclosure, 2nd story addition

Ca. 1990 replacement windows

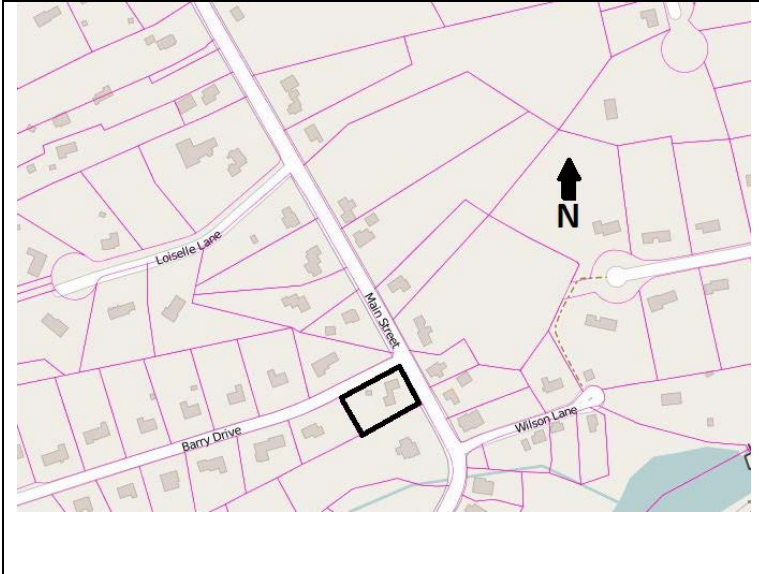
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .52 A

Setting: The house is located at the SE corner of Main and Barry, approximately 35' from Main St. A low stone wall is located along Main St. An asphalt driveway south of the house leads to the garage. The front and rear yards are flat and grassy with mature trees and shrubs. The surrounding area includes 19th and 20th 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

163 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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, an asphalt-shingled front gable roof, and is clad in replacement aluminum siding with aluminum trim. An internal brick chimney is located near the center of the south slope of the roof. Most windows throughout the house are replacement, six-over-six, double-hung windows with false muntins. The primary (east) façade is three bays wide with single windows in the bays of the second story. The north bay is an addition on the second story that is one bay wide and two bays deep. The first story features a full-width, enclosed porch with a hipped roof. Windows in the porch are jalousie windows with wood surrounds. The main entry is located at the north end of the porch and features a replacement door. A three bay wide and one bay deep enclosed breezeway is located at the rear of the south wall. The breezeway has a single window in the north and south bays and an entry in the center bay. The breezeway connects the house to the two car garage. The oversized garage has a front gable roof, is clad in aluminum siding, and features wood garage doors.

The house 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 1831 map of Chelmsford does not show a house at this location, but the 1856 map of West Chelmsford show that J. Jeffrey owned a house here. John Jeffrey (sometimes spelled Jeffroy) purchased the property in 1846 from Artemas Parker, Jr. The 1850 US Population Census lists J. Jeffrey (ca. 1822-1901, born in Canada) as living in Chelmsford with wife H. (Harriet, born ca. 1825 in England), and two children aged four and one. The 1865 Massachusetts State Census lists Jeffrey still living in Chelmsford and farming, but at this date he and Harriet had nine children ranging in age from 19 to one-year-old. The 1880 census lists John and Harriet still living in Chelmsford with four of their children: George (born ca. 1860 and working in the file shop), Frank (born ca. 1861 and working in the file shop), Lucy (born ca. 1864 and working in the woolen mill), and Clara (born ca. 1866 and at school). After John's death in 1901, the property passed to his children. The 1905 city directory lists John H. Jeffrey, Jr. (ca. 1846-1929) farming with a house on Main Street; brother Robert is also listed living there and working as a farmhand. The 1920 census and 1925 directory both list Jeffroy living alone on Main Street, but provide no occupation. After John's death in 1929, none of Jeffrey's family members are listed as residing in Chelmsford. In 1936 the remaining heirs of John Jeffrey, Sr. sold 11 acres of the property to Angelo and Angelina Leo (the original acreage of the property is not known); thus marking the end of the 90-year ownership history of the Jeffrey family. The 1937 city directory lists the Leos living on Main Street and Angelo working as a stone cutter. The 1940 census shows that Angelo (1903-1967, born in Italy) and Angelina (1908-1990, born in Massachusetts) had four children born between 1930 and 1937. At this date Angelina was a spinner at the worsted mill. After Angelo's death in 1967 the property passed to Angelina. In 1990 her estate sold the property to current owners O'Neil J. and Theresa M. LeBlanc.

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CHELMSFORD

163 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.

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.

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

Historic Aerial Maps. www.historicaerials.com.



View of north wall of 163 Main Street, showing second story addition, facing south. 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 163 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.