

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

| | | | |
|----------|----------|--|---------|
| 28/92/39 | Westford | | CLM.361 |
|----------|----------|--|---------|

Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 185 Main Street

Historic Name: Jonas C. Butterfield Barn

Uses: Present: single-family dwelling
Original: barn

Date of Construction: between 1875 and 1889

Source: 1875 and 1889 maps of West Chelmsford

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: unknown

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/vinyl

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

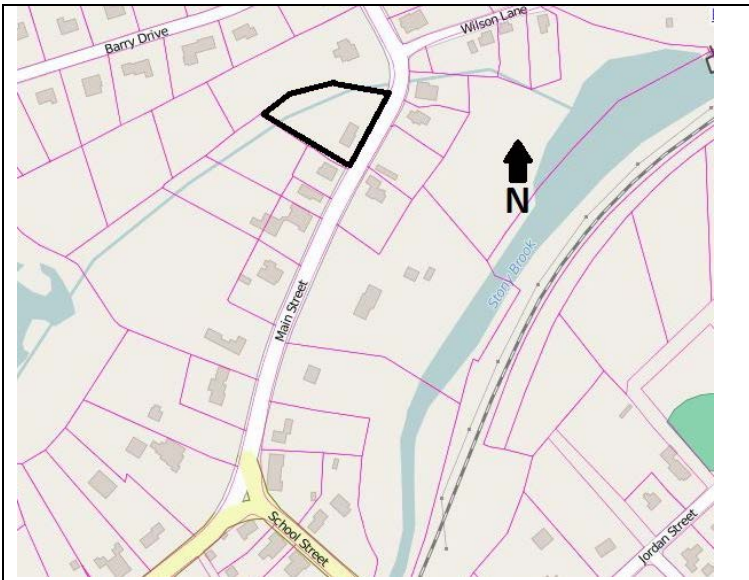
Unknown date: porch addition
Ca. 2000 replacement siding
Ca. 1960 garage addition
Change of use from barn to house
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .81 A

Setting: The house is located approximately 25' northwest of Main St. An asphalt drive leads from the street to the attached garage on the north of the building. The flat grassy lot includes 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

185 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CLM.361

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 2.5-story house is clad in replacement vinyl siding with vinyl trim and has a steeply-pitched side gable roof. An internal brick chimney is centrally located along the ridgeline of the roof. Most windows in the building appear to be historic, wood, eight-over-eight, double-hung sash windows. The primary (southeast) façade is five symmetrical bays wide. The outer bays of both stories include single windows with those on the second story being slightly smaller. The main entry is in the center bay of the first story and features a replacement door and sidelights that have been covered with siding. The center bay of the second story features a historic, wood, eight-pane, casement windows. The northeast wall has a one-bay wide, two-bay deep addition. The addition is one-story tall with a two-bay garage in the basement. A one-story, seasonally-enclosed porch is located on the southwest wall.

The house is an altered example of a late 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 building does not appear on the 1875 map of West Chelmsford, but is present on the 1889 map of the area, therefore, it was constructed between these dates. A postcard on file with Chelmsford Historical Society of 189 Main Street notes this building at 185 Main Street was originally a barn that was later converted into a residence. The 1875 and 1889 maps indicate that Jonas C. Butterfield (ca. 1822-1893) owned several buildings on the north and south sides of Main Street at these dates. The 1860 US Population Census lists Butterfield as a farmer living in Chelmsford with wife Philena D. and daughter Clara. Butterfield's value of real estate at this date was \$5000, which was among the highest in the area. The 1865 Massachusetts Census lists Butterfield as a sword maker, therefore he was employed at the Roby Manufacturing Company at this date. The 1880 census lists Butterfield as a painter, therefore he had many occupations over his life time. In 1875 Butterfield sold property to Nathaniel JN Bacheller and Andrew J Hiscox, proprietor of the Hiscox File Company. The 1889 map of West Chelmsford shows that this building was part of the file shop, and likely was then used as a barn or storage for the company (Hiscox File ceased operations in 1888 however). By 1898 the property, referred to as Lot E on Plat Book 79, page 45, was transferred to George C. Moore (proprietor of mills in North Chelmsford) along with the lot that included the former Roby Manufacturing Company/Hiscox File Company. At this date Lot E included the buildings at 185 and 189 Main Street, but they were subdivided in the early twentieth century. The deeds during this period are not clear, but in 1943 Elizabeth Nelson Layton of Virginia sold the property to Alva D. Hughes. Hughes retained the property for only one year before selling it in 1944 to Harry and Isabell Fishbourne. The 1946 city directory lists the Fishbournes living at 203 Main Street with Harry employed as a machinist; no entries for 185 Main were discovered in the 1945 or 1946 directories. In 1947 the Fishbournes sold the property to James K Connell and Mercia Dale as joint tenants. The 1950 city directory does not list Connell, but John H. and Mercia (as Mercier) Dale are listed at 185 Main with John working as an electrician. Connell assumed full ownership of the property by the early 1950s; however, the 1956 city directory does not list him as living in the area. Instead, Ernest Coupe is at this address and working as a tax executive. In 1958 Connell sold the property to Robert Noy, who retained the property until 2010.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

185 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CLM.361

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

Chelmsford Historical Society. Photograph 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.



Postcard of 189 Main Street with 185 Main Street in the right background. (Chelmsford Historical Society.)

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

185 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

| | |
|--|---------|
| | CLM.361 |
|--|---------|

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 185 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.