

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

28/92/46	Westford		CLM.84
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 189 Main Street

Historic Name: Elias Messenger House

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1828

Source: Deed and tax record research

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: Elias Messenger

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: brick/wood

Roof: asphalt-shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

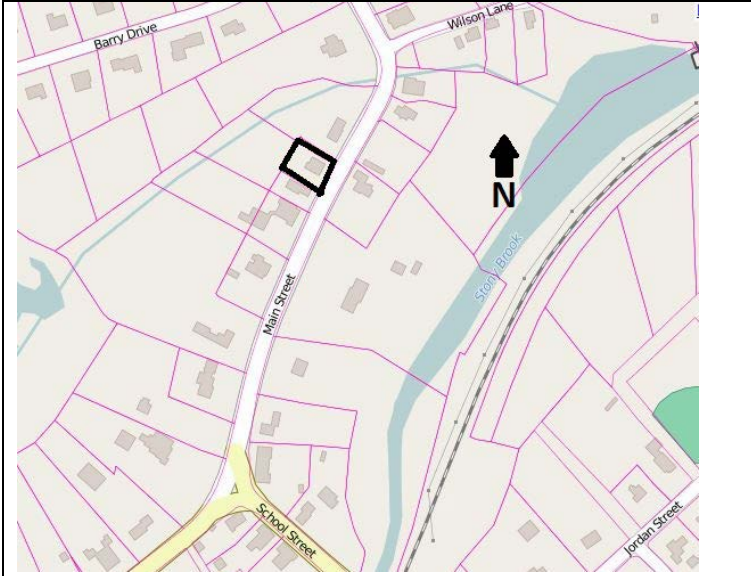
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .22 A

Setting: The house is located approximately 25' west of Main Street. Parking areas are located to the north and south of the house. The small, flat, grassy lot includes mature trees and shrubs. The surrounding area features 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

189 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CLM.84

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 building has a granite foundation, brick load-bearing walls, and a side gable asphalt-shingled roof with gable returns. Two internal brick chimneys are located on the rear slope of the roof. A molded cornice is along the front of the building. Most windows throughout the building are historic, wood, two-over-two, double-hung sash windows with stone lintels and decorative shutters. The primary (east) façade is five symmetrical bays wide with single windows in each bay except in the center bay of the first story. This bay features the main entry, which includes a historic wood and glass door with an exterior storm door topped with a four-pane transom. The building is one bay deep with single windows in each bay of each story. The half story windows are historic, wood, three-over-three, double-hung sash windows that are approximately half of the size as the other windows. A two-story wing is located at the rear of the south end of the house. The wing, which appears to be original to the building, has a granite foundation, is clad in wood clapboard, and has a rear gable roof. The wing is three bays wide on the first story with single windows in the outer bays and a wood and glass door in the center bay. A one-story, two-bay open porch is located at the rear of the wing and features a slightly hipped roof and wood support columns. The two bays in the second story feature wood casements with six lights.

The building is good example of an early nineteenth century Federal style house that retains all historic integrity.

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 Inventory Form completed for this property in 1977 by Diane Fay and Jane B. Drury provides an early history of the property. Elias Messenger (1806-1849), a bricklayer, purchased this property in March of 1828 and by June 1830 he constructed the house. Messenger and his brother George (1798-1860) are listed in the 1830 US Population Census as living in Chelmsford near Deacon John Farwell. Farwell, who arrived to the area from Fitchburg in the early 1820s, established the scythe factory on Stony Brook near the house. It appears the Messengers were connected to Farwell as they were born and buried in Fitchburg; research did not determine if they were related. George Messenger built a house at 197 Main (CLM.86) in 1827. In 1836 Messenger relocated to Lowell and sold the property the Farwell family. Ownership of the property remained in the hands of the factory owners until 1924 when the executors of George C. Moore sold this property as well as several others formerly owned by Moore. George C. Moore (1849-1923) was proprietor of several mills and business in North Chelmsford, including the wool scouring mill on Middlesex Street (CLM.300); he also owned the water rights of the former scythe factory.

Deed research was inconclusive between 1924 and 1952. Ownership of the property was transferred at least three times in 1952, with Francis E. Clogston purchasing it that December. From 1952 until 2010 Clogston owned the property (he was the owner during the original survey of the property). No structural changes have occurred to the building since that survey.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

Drury, Jane and Diane Fay. Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory Form, "J.N. Perry House." CLM.86. 1977.

Fay, Diane and Jane Drury. Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory Form, "Brick House." CLM.84. 1977.

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

Middlesex North Registry of Deeds.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

189 MAIN STREET

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	CLM.84
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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 189 Main Street would be a contributing resource to that district as an early example of residential architecture in the area that retains historic integrity.