

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

35/104/2	Westford		CLM.365
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 208 Main Street

Historic Name: Luther Blodgett House

Uses: Present: single-family dwelling

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca.1865

Source: *Images of America: North and West Chelmsford*

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

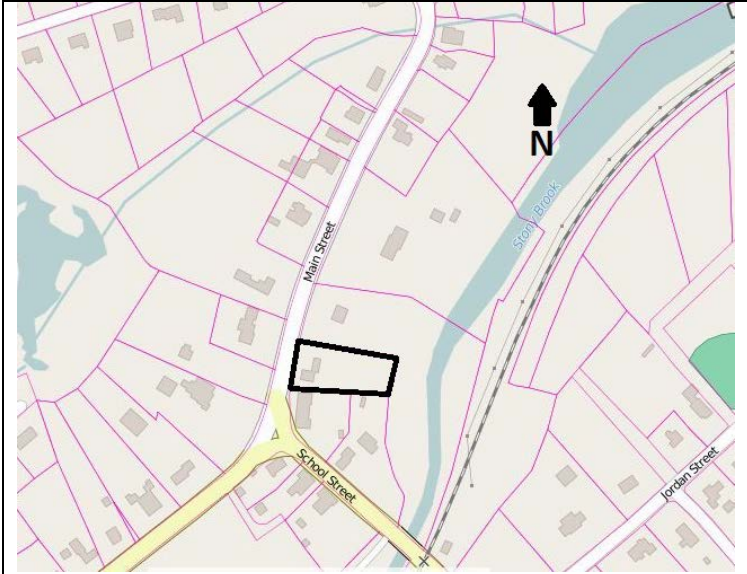
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:** 1898

Acreage: .63 A

Setting: The house is located approximately 30' east of Main St north of its intersection with School St. An asphalt drive is to the north of the building. The grassy lot with mature trees and shrubs slopes down to the east toward Stony Brook. 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

208 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Area(s) Form No.

CLM.365

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 upright-and-wing building is 2.5 stories in the upright portion and 1.5 stories in the wing portion. The building has a stone foundation, walls clad in wood clapboard with wood trim, and an asphalt-shingled roof. Brick internal chimneys are centrally located along the ridgeline of the front and side gable roofs. Fenestration throughout the building consists of historic, wood, two-over-two, double-hung windows. The primary (west) façade of the front gable portion of the building is three bays wide and features a molded pediment. Single windows are located in the bays of the second and half stories as well as in the south bays of the first story. The main entry is located in the north bay of the first story and features a historic wood and glass door surrounded by multi-lite sidelights and transom. The wing portion of the building is five bays wide. A secondary entry is located in the center bay and is flanked by single windows. A third single window is in the south bay while the north bay includes a triple window. A three-bay wide porch shelters the entry and the south two bays. The porch has a flat roof supported by wood turned columns and features wood railings. The half story of the wing has two bays with a small, two-light casement window in the north bay and a front gable wall dormer in the south bay.

The building is a good example of the Greek Revival architectural style and retains all aspects of 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.

Previous research from the Chelmsford Historic Society shows that this building was originally located across Main Street. In 1869 Rev. Samuel H. Virgin, D.D., who was the pastor emeritus of the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Brooklyn, NY, married Isadora Blodgett, the daughter of Luther and Elmira Blodgett, in this house in its original location. In 1898 Rev. Virgin has the building relocated across the street to provide space to construct a larger and grander home for his retirement (CLM.366). Therefore, this is why a building does not appear on the 1889 map of West Chelmsford in this location.

Deed research traced the ownership history to 1894 when George C. Moore, proprietor of mills in Chelmsford, including the worsted mill in West Chelmsford, purchased two, undivided half interests of the property. One half interest came from George and Abiel Abbott and the other from the estate of Charles Sargent. Moore lived in North Chelmsford during his ownership of this property. Presumably an employee of Moore's mill lived at this address; however, since city directories do not provide street addresses, it is not known who lived here. After Moore's death in 1923 his estate sold the property in 1924 to Elizabeth Burne (ca. 1871-1961, born in England). The 1925 directory lists Elizabeth living on Main Street with husband John (born ca. 1862 in England), who was employed as a stone cutter. The 1930 US Population Census lists the Burnes living on Main Street with son Frederick (1905-1995), daughter Leonna (born in Massachusetts ca. 1896), and her husband Arthur Cook (born ca. 1897 in England). At this date John was no longer working, Fredrick was a clerk at the telephone company, and Arthur was a Chelmsford police officer. In 1940 Elizabeth granted the property to Fredrick and his wife Dorothy. The 1942 city directory lists Fredrick and Dorothy on Main Street, but Elizabeth relocated to Adams Street by this date. The property remained in the Burne family until 1996, which marked the end of the 72-year ownership history of the Burne family.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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.

Merriam, Fred. *Images of America: North and West Chelmsford*. Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, South Carolina. 2016.

Middlesex North Registry of Deeds. www.lowelldeeds.com.

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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 208 Main Street would be a contributing resource to that district as an example of residential architecture constructed during its period of significance that retains all aspects of historic integrity.