

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

35/92/1	Westford		CLM.366
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 209 Main Street

Historic Name: Rev. Samuel H. and Isadora Virgin House

Uses: Present: single-family dwelling

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1898

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

Style/Form: Classical Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Carriage house

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 2000 replacement siding and windows

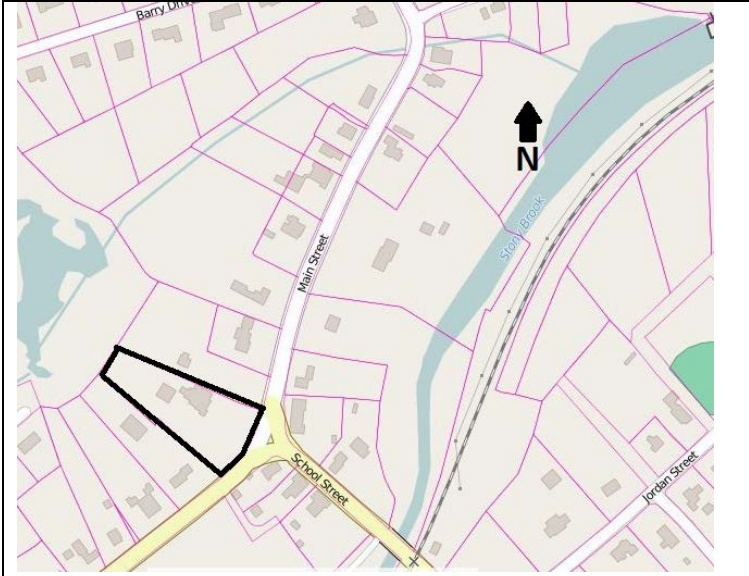
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 1.4 A

Setting: The house is located approximately 140' west of Main St., across from its intersection with School St. Asphalt drives to the north and south of the house lead to the carriage house. The flat and grassy lot includes several mature trees and shrubs. The surrounding area features 19th and 20th c. residential and commercial developments.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Jennifer Burden, Gray & Pape, Inc.

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

209 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 2.5-story house has a stone foundation, walls clad in replacement vinyl siding with wood trim, and an asphalt-shingled hipped roof. One internal brick chimney is located along the rear slope of the roof. Single dormers with double windows and pediments are centrally located on the slopes of the primary (southeast) façade and the southwest and northeast walls. Most windows throughout the building are replacement, one-over-one, double-hung windows with wood surrounds. A dentil molded cornice with a wide friezeboard runs along the perimeter of the building. The primary façade is three bays wide. The south bay features a two-story bay window and the north bay of both stories features single windows. The center bay of the first story includes the main entry that features sidelights and a transom. A porch wraps around from the south two bays of the primary façade to the southwest wall. The porch has a slightly pitched roof supported by paired piers. The porch has wood railings along the primary façade and a solid stone railing at the south corner.

The carriage house is located at the southwest corner of the house. The building is clad in painted vertical wood siding with wood trim and has a standing seam metal, front gable roof. The primary (southeast) façade has a large entry door in the center and a regular-sized entry door at the north corner. Fenestration throughout the building consists of six-over-six, double-hung windows; however, it is not apparent if the windows are historic or replacements.

The house is an altered example of a Classical Revival style residence that retains historic integrity of location, setting, design, 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.

In 1869 Rev. Samuel Virgin, D.D., who was the pastor emeritus of the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Brooklyn, NY, married Isadora Blodgett, daughter of Luther and Elmira Blodgett. At that date the house that is now at 208 Main Street (CLM.365) was located on this parcel and under the ownership of the Blodgett family. In 1898, Rev. Virgin relocated the house across Main Street in order to construct a larger and more elaborate home for his retirement.

By 1910 Carl Nilson or Nelson purchased the property. The 1910 US Population Census lists Carl Nelson (born ca. 1866 in Sweden) living on Westford Street and working as a stone cutter in a quarry. Living with him were wife Marie (born ca. 1868 in Sweden) and eight children born between 1890 and 1906 with the eldest four born in Sweden and the rest in Massachusetts. In 1915 Nilson sold the property to Miriam V Ravi Booth. The 1919 city directory lists Miriam and her husband Rev. Vincent Booth living on Main Street across from the West Chelmsford Post Office, which would have been this property. They only retained the property until 1920, selling it to Charles Clogston and Lewis Balfe as joint tenants. The deed for this transaction included a dwelling house and between 40 and 50 acres of land in West Chelmsford and Westford. The 1925 city directory lists Clogston living on Main Street with wife Annie and working at the Mechanic Savings Bank. The directory also lists Balfe living on Main Street with wife Marion and operating the Balfe Service Station. Since the directory does not provide street numbers, it is not known if they were residing in the same house or if either of them were living in this house. In 1932 Clogston and Balfe subdivided the property, selling the portion with the house to Herbert and Lillian French. The 1940 census list Herbert (1886-1969) and Lillian (ca. 1890-1971) living on Main Street with their five children born between 1913 and 1927. At this date Herbert was a marqueteer for an inlay manufacturer. After Herbert's death, the property was transferred to Lillian. After Lillian's death the property was sold in 1971 to Edward and Lorraine Boisvert. Since that date the property was sold three additional times.

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

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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 209 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.