

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

35/142/1	Westford		CLM.368
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 216 Main Street

Historic Name: Chelmsford Woolen Company Housing

Uses: Present: multi-family dwelling

Original: multi-family dwelling

Date of Construction: between 1856 and 1875

Source: 1856 and 1875 maps of Chelmsford

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Detached garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .28 A

Setting: The house is located at the southeast corner of Main and School sts, approximately 20' south of Main St. The small grassy lot includes shrubs close to the building and mature trees. The garage is to the southwest of the house and is accessible via Main St. 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

216 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, walls clad in wood clapboard with wood trim, and an asphalt-shingled side gable roof. Two internal brick chimneys are located on the rear slope of the roof near the ridgeline. An unadorned friezeboard runs the width of the façade and includes decorative brackets at the corners. Windows throughout the building appear to be historic, two-over-two, double-hung windows. The window openings have wood surrounds and feature shutter hardware; several openings have shutters. The primary (northwest) façade is five bays wide with single windows in all but the center bay of the first story. This bay includes the main entry that has a modern storm door. The entry is sheltered by a hipped porch hood with decorative brackets. The building is two bays deep with single windows in each bay. The rear (southeast) wall features a one-story porch addition that has a concrete block foundation.

The garage is located to the southwest of the house. The building has two modern garage doors, is clad in wood clapboard, and has a front gable roof.

The building is a slightly 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 house does not appear on the 1856 map of the area, but is present on the 1875 map and is labeled as one of the buildings owned by T.H. Tyler on the southwest corner of Main and School Streets. Thomas Henry Tyler (1832-1905) was then the owner of the Chelmsford Woolen Mills south of the houses as well as prominent wool merchant in Boston. The six dwellings housed workers at the woolen mills, but the names of individual occupants are not known. When the mill was sold to the H. Heerey and Company, the dwellings were included in the sale. The mill closed in 1857 as a result of an overall financial depression. Soon after Isaac Farrington of Lowell purchased the mill property and resumed operations. In 1863 the mill burned, but was quickly rebuilt. After a number of ownership transfers, the mill burned again in 1883, but was not reconstructed. Tyler and his successor, Heerey were the final operators of the Eagle Mills.

Deed research for this building was inconclusive and it was not discovered when the house was no longer under mill ownership. The 1945 city directory lists Arlene and Mabelle Goodwin living at 216 Main Street (they resided in Arlington the previous year). Arlene was enlisted in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) program at this date and Mabelle was a housewife. In 1953 Ada and Guy Staveley purchased the property. The 1954 city directory lists them at this address with Guy, Sr. employed as an iron moulder, Ada was a housewife, Guy, Jr. was then in the US Navy, and daughter Dorothy was a nurse. In 1986 the property was transferred to Guy Jr. Later that year he sold the property to current owner Brian Lobao.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

Drury, Jane. Personal collection of building history materials for 216 Main Street. Currently kept in private 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.

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

Waters, Dr. Wilson. *The History of Chelmsford, Massachusetts*. Lowell, Mass., 1917.

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Garage, facing
northeast.
November 2015.



Undated photograph showing building at 216 Main Street on the right from Jane Drury Collection.

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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 216 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.