

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

35/92/3	Westford		CLM.370
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**Town/City:** Chelmsford

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 225 Main Street

**Historic Name:** William H. and Martha J. Brown House

**Uses:** Present: multi-family dwelling

Original: multi-family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** between 1831 and 1856

**Source:** 1831 and 1856 maps of 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*):

Ca. 1980 replacement garage doors

Ca. 1990 replacement windows

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** .84 A

**Setting:** The house is located approximately 30' northwest of Main St. Asphalt drives on the east and west of the building lead to attached garages. The mostly flat and grassy lot includes mature trees and shrubs. Walkways lead from the drives and street to the main entry. The area includes 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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

225 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 Greek Revival style building has a stone foundation, walls clad in wood clapboard with wood trim, and an asphalt-shingled front gable roof with gable returns. Three internal brick chimneys are located in the building – two are on either slope of the roof near the primary (southeast) façade and the third is along the ridgeline near the rear of the building. Most windows throughout the building appear to be replacement six-over-six or four-over-four double-hung windows with false muntins; two historic, wood, two-over-two double-hung windows are located in the half-story of the primary façade. The primary façade is five symmetrical bays wide with single windows in the bays of the second and half stories. The first story includes squared bay windows with molded cornices and flat roofs. The slightly recessed main entry in the center bay has a historic wood double door topped with a transom. The entry is sheltered by a flat roof projection that is supported by two, fluted, round, Doric columns. The building is five bays deep with single windows in most bays. The second bay from the primary façade on both the southwest and northeast walls includes an entry sheltered by a flat roof hood with decorative, scrolled brackets. These walls also feature molded friezeboards. Garage wings are attached to the rear of the building at the north and south corners; these wings are shown on the building on the 1875 and 1889 maps of the area.

The building is a good example of the Greek Revival style and 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.*

The building does not appear on the 1831 map of Chelmsford, but is present on the 1856 map of the area; therefore, it was constructed between those dates. The 1856, 1875, and 1889 maps list W.H. Brown as the owner of the property. The 1860 US Population lists William H. Brown (1826-1894, born in England) living in Chelmsford and employed as a master painter. Joe Wall, a contemporary of Brown, noted that Brown was, "the best all-around painter that ever was in this neighborhood...and he had the name of being first-class in all branches of the painting trade." Living with William were wife Martha J. (1830-1910), young children Martin and Emily, and presumably a brother, Edmund Brown (born ca. 1838 in England) who was an apprentice painter. After Martha's death in 1910, her estate sold the property to James Reid. The 1910 US Population Census lists Reid (1845-1919, born in Scotland) then living on School Street with wife Margaret (1852-1936, born in Scotland), and children George and Margaret, who were born in Massachusetts. James was then a superintendent at a quarry and George was a blacksmith at a quarry. The heirs of James Reid retained the property until 1945. The 1930 census shows that Margaret, George and Margaret continued to live at this address and George continued to work as a blacksmith. In 1945 Eleanor Studer and John Collar purchased the property as joint tenants. The 1946 city directory lists John Collar living at this address and working as a carpenter. The Williams family was also listed at this address with Fred Williams working as a carpenter, Sidney as a mechanic, Gertrude as a housewife, and Mary listed at home. Eleanor Studer is not listed in this directory. After Collar's death in 1960, Eleanor sold the property in 1961 to Robert and George Picard. The property was then sold via several transactions to three different families.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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225 Main Street, facing northwest. November 2015.

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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 225 Main Street would be a contributing resource to that district as an example of residential architecture constructed during its period of significance that retains most historic integrity. The building could also be individually eligible for the National Register at the local level as a good example of the Greek Revival style that retains most historic integrity.