

FORM B – BUILDING

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

35/92/16	Westford		CLM.377
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 245 Main Street

Historic Name: John and Evangeline Monahan House

Uses: Present: single-family dwelling

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1898

Source: Deed research

Style/Form: Dutch Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: unknown

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Carriage house

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

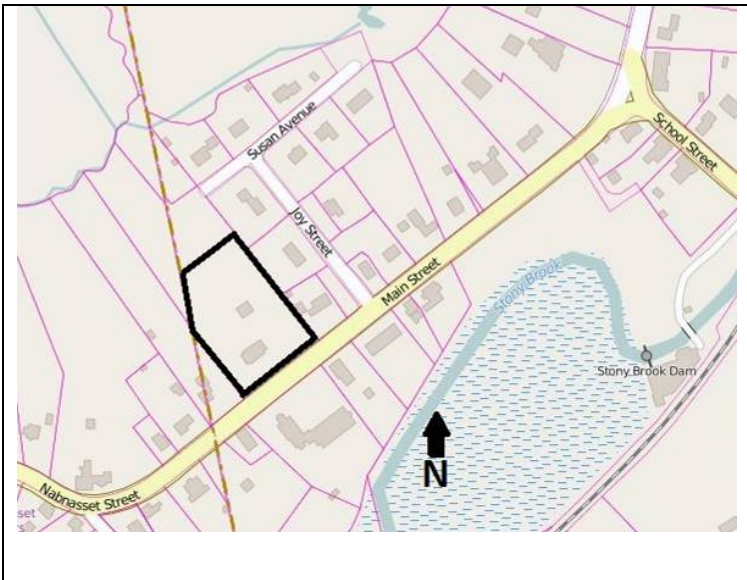
Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 1.6 acres

Setting: The house is located approximately 60' northwest of Main St. An asphalt drive northeast of the house leads to the carriage house. The lot is heavily landscaped with mature trees and shrubs, including many against the house. 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

245 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 building is clad in wood clapboard with wood trim and has an asphalt shingled gambrel roof. Internal brick chimneys are located near the gable ends along the ridgeline of the roof. Most of the windows throughout the house appear to be historic, two-over-two, double-hung windows with exterior storm windows. Most windows also feature decorative shutters. The primary (southeast) façade is three bays wide. The first story features bay windows in the east and west bays and the main entry in the center. The entry is sheltered by a one-bay porch that has a flat roof and friezeboard supported by round wood columns. The presence of mature shrubs obscures other details of the first story of the façade. The second story features pediment gable dormers in each of the three bays. The smaller east and west dormers have single windows with shutters and a sunburst pattern within the pediment. The center dormer has a single window flanked by narrow windows with fluted pilasters between the openings. This pediment features a semi-circular center ornamentation with a keystone motif. Decorative wood railings connect the center dormer to the east and west dormers. The side walls are two bays deep with full-length porches on the first story and two single windows on the second and half stories. The porch on the southwest wall has a hipped roof and friezeboard supported by round wood columns.

The carriage house is located approximately 60 feet to the northwest of the house. The carriage house is two stories tall, is clad in wood clapboard and shingles, and has an asphalt-shingled side gable roof. An octagonal cupola is centrally located along the ridgeline of the roof. The primary (southeast) façade is three bays wide with a single window in the west bay and a ribbon of three, four-light casement windows in the east bay. The central bay features a garage door opening that is topped with a pediment wall dormer. The dormer features a wood hay loft door in the center. The carriage house is three bays deep with single windows in the north and south bays of the first story and a secondary entry in the center bay. The second story includes two single windows.

The building and its carriage house are an excellent examples of the Dutch Colonial Revival architectural style that retain 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.

Deed research traced the property's ownership history to 1846 when John Farrar sold it to George Provancha. The 1855 Massachusetts Census lists Provancha farming at this date. Provancha is listed as the property's owner on the 1875 and 1889 maps of West Chelmsford. Provancha (ca. 1818-1896, born in Canada) married Olive Brown (ca. 1814-1889) in 1843 and by 1855 they had one daughter, Isadora, born ca. 1844. Shortly after Olive's death George remarried Jennie Sanders (born ca. 1867) in June of 1890. Shortly after George's death, Jennie sold the property in 1898 to John Monahan (ca. 1868-1953); at this date the property was approximately 5.5 acres. Given the Dutch Colonial style of the house, the building was likely built after Monahan made the purchase. The 1910 US Population Census lists Monahan living on Main Street with wife Evangeline (ca. 1875-1925), five children born between 1895 and 1907, and a servant named Bridget Murtha (born ca. 1868 in Ireland). At this date John was listed as a builder performing general work and by 1912 he was a partner in the substantial Edwards and Monahan Company, Builders, along with his Westford neighbor William C. Edwards. In 1920 the company was hired to rebuild the West Chelmsford United Methodist Church located across Main Street after it was destroyed by fire (CLM.376).

After Evangeline Monahan's death shares of the property transferred to each of the children and to John. By 1954 part of the property was subdivided as it was then listed as 3.4 acres. The property has been further divided since then as it currently

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Area(s) Form No.

CLM.377

stands as 1.6 acres. The property has been transferred numerous times within the Monahan family and currently Ruth E. Monahan is the owner of the property. The property, therefore, has currently been in the Monahan family for 118 years.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

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.



245 Main Street, facing north. November 2015.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

245 MAIN STREET

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Carriage house, 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 245 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. The resource is also individually eligible for inclusion in the National Register at the local level as an excellent example of the Dutch Colonial Revival style that retains all aspects of its historic integrity.