

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

35/142/13	Westford		CLM.378
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 248 Main Street

Historic Name: Joseph Marshall House

Uses: Present: single-family dwelling

Original: multiple-family dwelling

Date of Construction: between 1875 and 1889

Source: Map and deed research

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 1975 conversion to single-family residence

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .15 A

Setting: The house is located approximately 20' southeast of Main St. A sidewalk is in front of the house. The small grassy lot includes mature trees and shrubs. This is the final lot in Chelmsford before crossing into Westford to the west. 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

248 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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 has a stone foundation, walls clad in wood clapboard with wood trim, and an asphalt-shingled front gable roof with gable returns. An internal brick chimney is located along the west slope of the roof. Windows throughout the house are historic, two-over-two, double-hung windows. The primary (northwest) façade is three bays wide and features wood cornerboards. Single windows are located in each bay on the second story and the half story features one window below the gable peak. The first story includes single windows in the west and center bays. The main entry is in the east bay and features a historic wood panel door that is sheltered by a porch hood with decorative brackets. The main portion of the house is three bays deep with single windows in each bay. The rear portion of the house, which appears to date to its original construction, is two stories tall with a flat roof. A two-story porch is located at the rear of the southwest wall. The first story of the porch is open with square wood support columns. The second story has a shed roof and a series of historic, two-over-two windows that enclose it as a sleeping porch.

The building is a good example of a late nineteenth century residence that 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.

The house does not appear on the 1875 map of West Chelmsford, but is present on the 1889 map of the area. Deed research traced the ownership history of the property to 1873 when Joseph Marshall purchased the lot from Luther Blodgett, who owned the house at 209 Main Street that was later relocated across the street (CLM.366). The 1875 map shows that Marshall had not constructed the building before this date, therefore, it was constructed between 1875 and 1889.

Joseph Marshall also built Marshall's Hall that was located between this building and the West Chelmsford United Methodist Church (CLM.376). The hall was erected before 1887 and remained standing until ca. 1921. The Hall served several purposes, including rehearsal space for plays, commercial space on the first story, boarding rooms on the upper stories, and space for public gatherings.

The 1896 city directory lists Joseph and Josiah Marshall living on Main Street and working at the Marshall & Son store in Westford. By 1896 Josiah owned the property and Joseph is listed as boarding with Betsy Barlow in this house at 248 Main Street. In 1912 Joseph is listed as the property's owner with Josiah as a boarder. It appears Joseph married Hulda Peterson in 1910. After Joseph's death in 1913, Hulda became the sole owner of the property according to deed research. In 1915 Josiah relocated to Juniper Road in Chelmsford. In 1920, Hulda sold the property to Eugene Grosse. Grosse sold it five months later to Ralph G Habeman. The 1930 US Population Census lists Ralph (born ca. 1897) living on Main Street with wife Marion (also born ca. 1897), young son Ralph, Jr., and Marion's mother Margaret MacGregor (born ca. 1848). Margaret MacGregor was a sister of Joseph Marshall, therefore making Marion Habeman Joseph's niece. At this date Ralph was employed as a repairman at a stone quarry. In 1972 Marion sold the property to Edward Finn, marking the end of the 52-year history of Haberman family ownership of the house. In 1973 Finn sold the property to current owner William A. Nolan, who converted the house from a two-family to a single-family residence.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

Chelmsford Historical Society. Files for 248 Main Street and Marshall Hall. Available from the Chelmsford Historical Society.

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.

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

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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 248 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.