

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

116/428/12

Westford

112

Town Chelmsford

Place (neighborhood or village) South Chelmsford

## Photograph

(3" x 3" or 3-1/2" x 5" black and white only) Label photo on back with town and property address. Record film roll and negative numbers here on the form. Staple photo to left side of form over this space. Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.

Roll Negative(s)

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Address 45 Maple Rd.

Historic Name Sweetser/Fletcher House

Uses: Present 1 family residence

Original 1 family residence

Date of Construction spring 1898

Source tax records, deed bk. 296, pg. 451

Style/Form Victorian

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite blocks with some fieldstone

Wall/Trim wood clapboards

Roof gable to front

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

barn 20 ft. x 40 ft. b. 1982 for horse & storage shed

Major Alterations (with dates)

1981 additions on rear side

Condition good

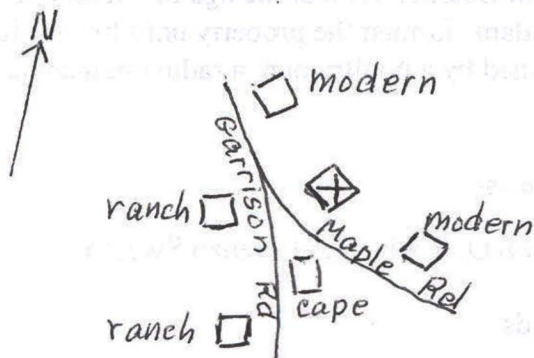
Moved  no  yes Date

Acreage 44,455 sq. ft

Setting rural/residential

## Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by Jane B. Drury

Organization for Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (month / year) August 2004

## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *see continuation sheet*

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

This is a typical working family house of Chelmsford of its period (Victorian).

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

*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 first owner of this house was Lorenzo Sweetser, a carpenter, who came here from Westford with his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Maria Spaulding, a Chelmsford native. Lorenzo had served in the Civil War, having enlisted 18 Aug. 1862 in the 35<sup>th</sup> Mass. Reg. E. Maria died Dec. 1904, and the following year Lorenzo sold the house and moved to Malden. He is believed to have returned to Chelmsford, and he and both his wives are buried in Heart Pond Cemetery in South Chelmsford. That cemetery is located quite near to 45 Maple Rd. The second owner and resident were Lucinda (Vose) & Benjamin Fletcher. He had been a farmer and deacon of the church in Westford for many years, having come there from NH. Benjamin had also served in the Civil War, mustered in Sept. 1862 as a private in Co. G, 13<sup>th</sup> Regt. Inf. NJ Vols. He was transferred to the Invalid Corps in Sept. 1863 and discharged at Fort Munroe Sept. 18, 1865. Benjamin and Lucinda celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 1902, while living in the Parkerville section of Westford. He died in South Chelmsford November 1906. She died in October 1908 at the age of 79, and her daughters sold the property at 45 Maple Rd. a year later. Charles L. Adams farmed the property until his death, but his widow, Effie, remained there until 1930. Since then it has been owned by a poultryman, a radio engineer and now a retired police officer, who lives there with his family.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds, Bk. 296, pg. 451, Benjamin O. Robbins to Lorenzo Sweetser  
Chelmsford Street Directories  
Chelmsford Assessors records; tax records; Building Inspector's records  
Westford Days, compiled by Marilyn Day, published 1998  
Unidentified newspaper article, Nov. 25, 1902: "Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebrated Yesterday"

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
CHELMSFORD

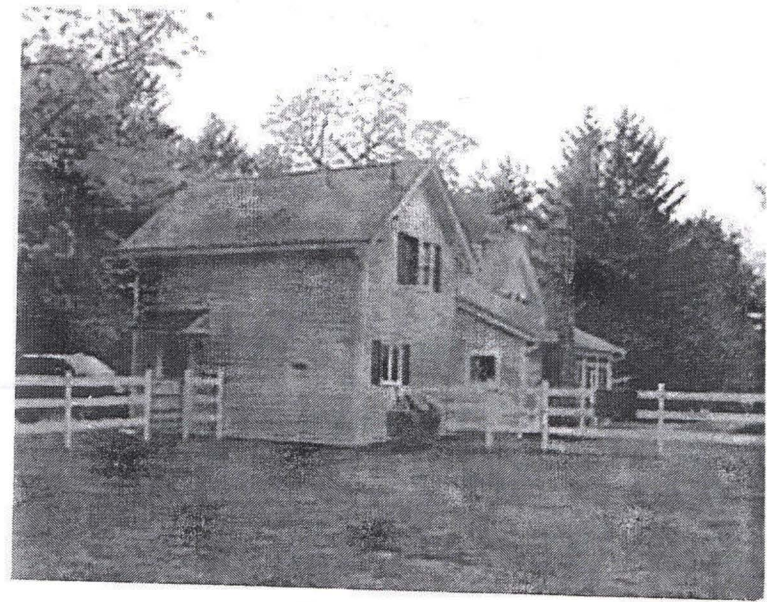
Property Address  
45 MAPLE ROAD

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Left side



Rear

June 2004



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
CHELMSFORD

Property Address  
45 MAPLE ROAD

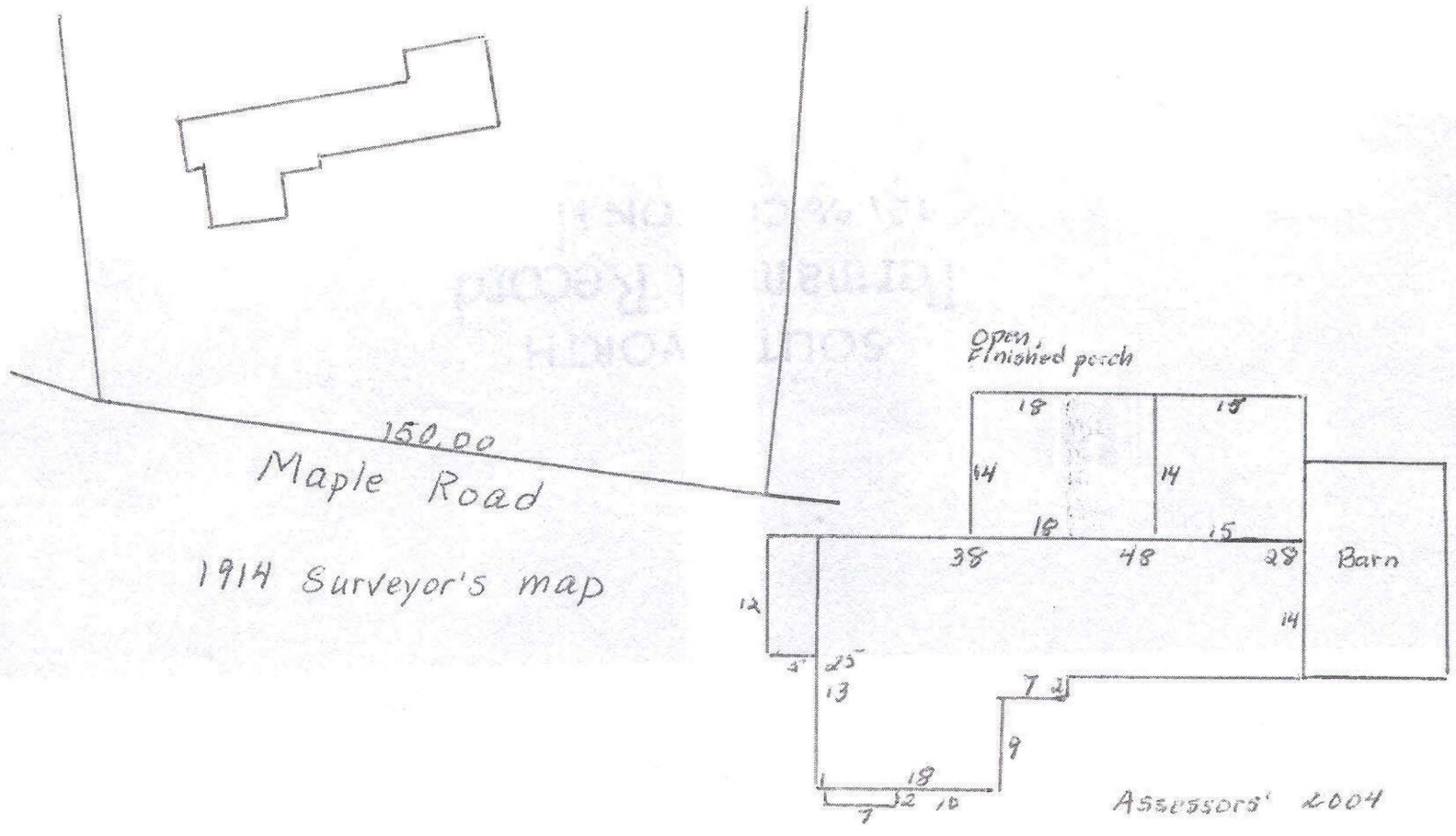
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Alterations:

date

- 1981 additions in 2 sections to rear  
rear wall of ell removed  
cedar clapboard exterior  
left section:  
floor: existing concrete slab ; 3 new post footings  
right section:  
floor: new concrete slab  
chimney: extends from rear wall
- recent 2 concrete steps replaced old steps: front entrance door to ell
- unknown center chimney of ell removed (see old picture)  
main house chimney is immediately to left of ridge



45 Maple Road

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

Bk. 2134, pg. 127	Nov. 29, 1974	Estate of Harold J. Henkel to Steven A. & Sheila R. Burns, 1 Byrne Ave., Westford 44,455 sq. ft. & buildings: 45 Maple Rd., north side road Parcel A, 1974 Henkel plan, bk. 119, pg. 127A
Estate Harold J. Henkel Probate Docket #476112	Nov. 19, 1974	
Bk. 1115, pg. 441	May 23, 1949	Grace M. West, widow, Lowell to Harold J. & Mabelle F. Henkel 4 A & 147 sq. rods & buildings: 45 Maple Rd. same: Adams to West, 1930, Bk. 786, pg. 15
Bk. 786, pg. 15	Jan. 13, 1930	Effie A. Adams to Charles D. & Grace M. West, Lowell 4 A. & 147 sq. rods & buildings subject: 1 <sup>st</sup> 7 2 <sup>nd</sup> mortgage by Oscar Spalding \$1000 same: Robbins to Adams, 1911, bk. 474, pg. 375
Bk. 474, pg. 375	Sept. 7, 1911	Charles O. Robbins to Effie A. Adams 1. 4 A. & 147 sq. rods & buildings same: Lander to Robbins, 1910, bk. 448, pg. 347 2. land from will of father Benjamin O. Robbins
Bk. 448, pg. 347	Jan. 20, 1910	Ella M. Lander & Ada L. Parmenter, Waltham to Charles O. Robbins 1. ½ A. & buildings same: Sweetser to Fletcher, 1905, bk. 381, pg. 144 2. ½ A. land adjoining parcel 1 same: Sweetser to Fletcher, 1906, bk. 390, pg. 39
Bk. 381, pg. 144	August 4, 1905	Lorenzo Sweetser, Malden, to Lucinda V. Fletcher, Chelmsford ½ acre & buildings same: Benjamin O. Robbins deed March 17, 1898, Bk. 296, pg. 451
Bk. 296, pg. 451	March 17, 1898	Benjamin Osgood Robbins, Chelmsford, to Lorenzo Sweetser, Westford ½ acre land

Compiled by Jane B. Drury



Where Aunt Lucinda Fletcher lived 1907  
Near S. Chelmsford













