

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13/34/1	Nashua South	G	CLM.386
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 41-43 Middlesex Street

Historic Name: Ziba and Adeline Gay House

Uses: Present: multiple-family dwelling

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: between 1831 and 1856

Source: 1831 and 1856 maps of Chelmsford

Style/Form: Gothic Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/vinyl

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 2000 replacement windows and siding

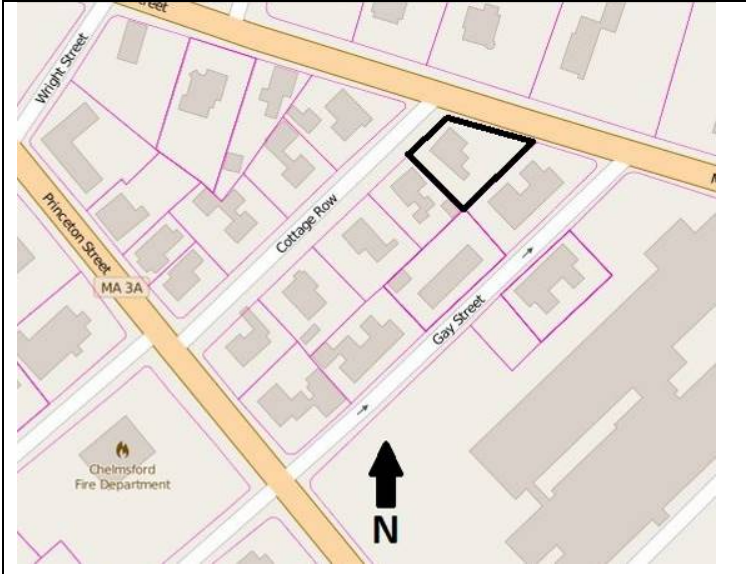
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .18 A

Setting: The house is located at the southeast corner of Middlesex St. and Cottage Row, approximately 25' south of Middlesex St. A paved drive is at the rear of the building. The front of the lot is flat and grassy with few mature shrubs and trees. The surrounding area includes 19th and 20th c. industrial and residential developments.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Jennifer Burden, Gray & Pape, Inc.

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

41-43 MIDDLESEX STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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.

This building is located at the southeast corner of Middlesex and Cottage Row streets. It is a one and-a-half story cross-gabled, wood frame house. Built ca. 1840, the house features elements of Greek Revival style architecture. Fenestration throughout the house consists of replacement one-over-one double-hung windows. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the exterior walls are covered with replacement vinyl siding with vinyl trim. The house rests atop a stone foundation. The primary (north) façade, which faces Middlesex Street at an angle, is divided into seven bays on the first story, with three of the bays located in the front-gabled portion of the façade, and the remaining four bays located in the wing or side-gabled section toward the east side of the house. The front entrance is located in the third bay from the west end of the façade. The entry includes sidelights and a Classical-inspired porch canopy supported by square columns. The front-gabled portion of the primary façade features gable returns and a pair of one-over-one double-hung windows in the half story. The wing to the east of the front-gabled section includes a gabled roof dormer with a pair of one-over-one double-hung windows and a recessed porch that covers the two bays at the east end of the façade. The west side of the house, facing west toward Cottage Row Street, is divided into four bays, with a side entrance located in the second bay from the north, and a covered porch that extends the width of the north two bays. The porch roof rests atop narrow, Doric columns and features fanlights between each of the columns.

The building is an altered example of a mid-nineteenth century residence that 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 North Chelmsford; therefore, it was constructed between these dates. According the 1856, 1875, and 1889 maps this house was the Ziba Gay residence. The Silver and Gay Machine Shop (CLM.293), located along Princeton Street, was established in 1830 and was one of the first shops to manufacture worsted yarn machinery and invented the automatic ball winder. This was the residence of Ziba Gay, Jr. (1823-1902). In 1838 Ziba Gay, Sr. (1796-1864) received three-quarters interest from Lincoln Drake of several pieces of land and water power rights. In 1841 Gay granted a one-half interest in these properties to Harvey Silver; thus creating the company of Silver and Gay. In 1857 Ziba, Sr. made his son a partner in the business and in 1859 he granted his half interest to Ziba, Jr. The 1870 US Population Census lists Ziba Gay living in Chelmsford with wife Adeline (born ca. 1823), son Frederic (born ca. 1851), daughter Emma (1859-1941), housekeeper Frances Duncan, her son Fred Duncan, and Sarah Taylor, a school teacher whose relation to the family is not known. At this date Ziba was listed as machinist with a combined personal and real estate value of \$25,000. Frederic was then working in the machine shop and Fred was an apprentice there. Ziba was active in Chelmsford, being a selectman and assessor from 1874-1879, town auditor from 1880 to 1895, and was president of the North Chelmsford Library Association from 1898 until his death in 1902. In 1900 Ziba, then widowed, was living with Emma, who was also involved with the North Chelmsford Library as a librarian until 1903 and later spent three years as a director. After Ziba's death, the property transferred to Emma. She retained it until 1920 when she deeded it to the US Worsted Corporation. In 1930 the company sold the property to Frederick and Annie Hayward for \$4200. The 1940 census lists the Haywards (both born ca. 1889 in England) living on Middlesex Street with Frederick working as a comber in the worsted mill. Annie died in 1954 and Frederick sold the property in 1959. After this transaction, the property was sold six additional times.

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Geo. H. Walker & Co. *Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Geo. H. Walker & Co., Boston, MA. 1889.

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

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Undated photograph of 41-43 Middlesex Street. (Chelmsford Public Library.)

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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 North Chelmsford was determined eligible for inclusion in the NRHP by MHC in 1987 for its local level of historical significance. The historic district boundary of Area G roughly includes resources along Middlesex and Princeton streets between Wright Street, Gay Street, and Edwards Avenue. The district is eligible for inclusion in the NRHP at the local level under Criterion A for its association with the industrialization of North Chelmsford in the mid- to late-nineteenth century and under Criterion C for its examples of workers' cottages, modest single-family houses, and elaborate residences owned by local industrialists. The building at 41-43 Middlesex Street retains sufficient historic integrity to contribute to this potential historic district.