

FORM B - BUILDING

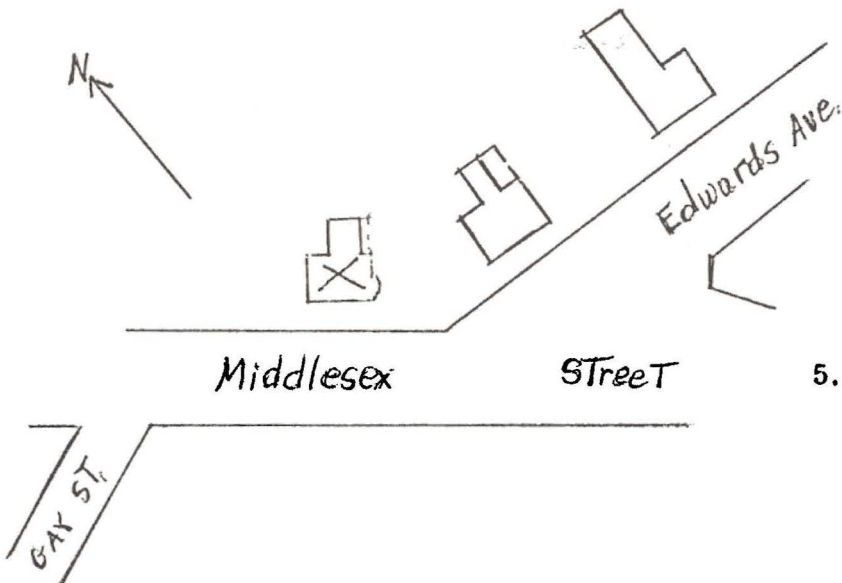
| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| In Area no. North Chelmsford | Form no. 122 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

2.



4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

1. Town Chelmsford
Address 54 Middlesex Street
Name Britton/Woodward House
Present use residence

Present owner Bruce H. & Bernard V. Clark

3. Description:

Date 1844

Source deed; tax records

Style cape

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric siding

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features _____

Altered see attached Date _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:

19,223 sq. ft.

One acre or less x Over one acre

Approximate frontage 122.15 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

ca 30 feet

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury

Organization Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date January 23, 1984

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Jared B. Britton
 Original use residence
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Aboriginal | Conservation | Recreation |
| Agricultural | Education | Religion |
| Architectural | Exploration/ settlement | Science/ Invention |
| The Arts | Industry | Social/ humanitarian |
| Commerce | Military | Transportation |
| Communication | Political | |
| Community development | <u> x </u> | |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

During the early 1840s, Lincoln Drake, the Easton and North Chelmsford iron founder, was sub-dividing and selling off "house lots" to some of his employees. In December 1843 Jared B. Britton, a moulder, purchased one of these lots, and his house was built the following year. He too was from Easton, but he had moved to North Chelmsford and in 1838 married an Easton girl, Keziah Dean. After living in the house for 37 years, Jared died of heart disease in 1881, and the next year his widow sold the property to Lucy and Horace Watson Woodward. The latter, a grocer, soon succumbed to pneumonia, and his widow remained here until her own death in 1901. For the next 28 years, the house was owned by the large mill owner, George C. Moore, and his successor, the United States Worsted Company, and the dwelling was rented out. Between 1930-1979 it was the home of John W. Dixon, an electrician, and his family. In common with many North Chelmsford houses, this has been the residence of blue collar workers through-out it's entire history.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

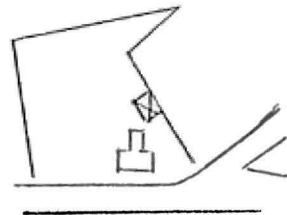
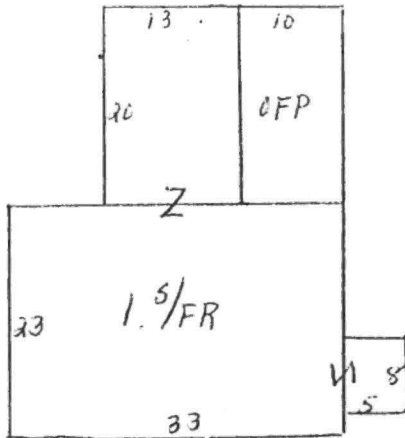
1856 Wallings Map; 1875 Beers Atlas; 1889 Walker Atlas; 1893 No. Chelmsford Drawing by Geo. E. Norris, Brockton
 Middlesex No. Dist. Reg. Deeds: Bk. 15, pg. 263 (1843); Plan Bk. 55, plan 7 (1930)
 Chelmsford Vital Records, Assessors' Records, Building Inspector's Records, Tax/Real Estate Valuation Records 1853, 1844, 1873, 1918
 Register of Voters List, 1877-1883; Vital Records to 1855
 Chelmsford Street Directories: 1898/99, 1945, 1946, 1950, 1970
 Bruce H. Clark

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

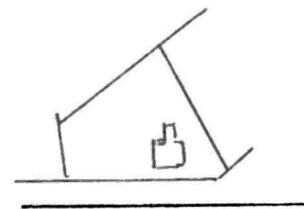
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Community: Chelmsford | Form No: 122 |
| Property Name: Britton/Woodward House | |

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.



1889
Walker Atlas



1875
Beers Atlas

9/23/1970
Revaluation sheet

Ell porch: added between 1893 - 1930

Bow window: added before 1893

Attached barn - right rear of ell
added 1873
removed 1918

Summer of 1980:
"Masonite" siding put on
porch - at right rear
flat roof replaced by pitched roof

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

54 Middlesex Street

| | | |
|--|------------|--|
| Bk. 2401, pg. 269 | 12/21/1979 | Estate of Catherine A. Dixon to Bruce H. & Bernard V. Clark \$38,000 19,223 sq. ft. & buildings Lot 14 - 1930 plan |
| Bk. 791, pg. 471 | 6/14/1930 | U.S. Worsted Corp. to John W. & Catherine A. Dixon \$2850 19,223 sq. ft. & buildings Lot 14 - 1930 plan reserving: right of way |
| Bk. 676, pg. 515 | 1/13/1923 | U.S. Worsted Company to U.S. Worsted Corporation |
| Bk. 587, pg. 492 | 5/15/1918 | George C. Moore to U.S. Worsted Company |
| Bk. 338, pg. 149 | 11/11/1901 | John F. Johnson, Malden, to George C. Moore, North Chelmsford 23,440 sq. ft. & buildings |
| Middlesex Probate Docket #55294 | 1901 | Estate of Lucy Woodward to John F. Johnson |
| Bk. 155, pg. 60 | 5/29/1882 | Keziah Britton, widow, to Lucy Woodward \$2000 19,354 sq. ft. & buildings |
| Middlesex Probate Docket #12263 | 1881 | Estate of Jared B. Britton to Keziah Britton, widow |
| North: Bk. 15, pg. 263 South: Bk. 439, pg. 80 | 12/09/1843 | Lincoln Drake, Easton, to Jared B. Britton, North Chelmsford \$61.31 13,354 for house lot |



View from roof of Silesia Mill, 54 Middlesex Street of far right

Courtesy of Richard O. Lahue





54 Middlesex Street

8/22/2004 F. Merriam

