

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13/36/3	Nashua South		CLM.294
---------	--------------	--	---------

Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 61-63 Middlesex Street

Historic Name: G.C. Moore Woolen Company Storehouse

Uses: Present: warehouse/offices

Original: wool storehouse

Date of Construction: 1896-1897

Source: *History of Chelmsford 1910 – 1970*

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: Henry Prescott Graves

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: brick/brick

Roof: flat

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 2000 some replacement windows

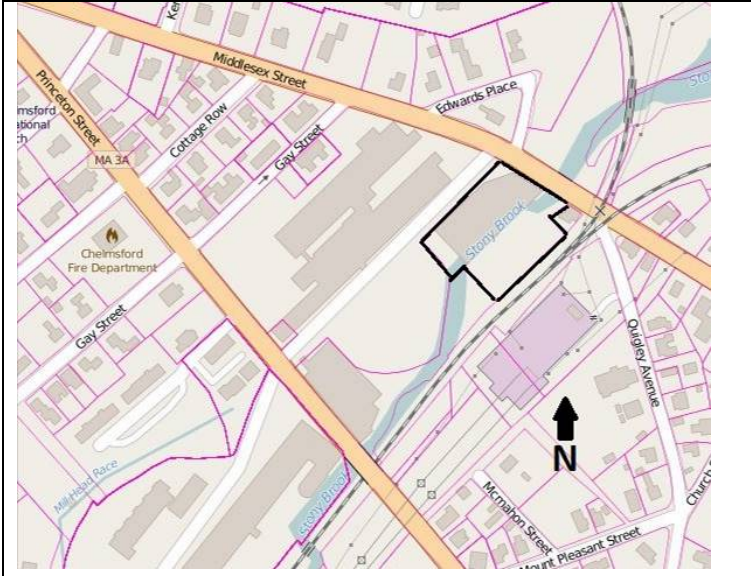
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 1.45 A

Setting: The building is within a complex of former mill buildings on Middlesex and Princeton sts.in N. Chelmsford. It is on the south side of Middlesex St., west of the railroad tracks. Stony Brook, which provided water power upstream via canal, continues to travel below the basement. Parking areas are to the east and west. A playground is in the rear.

Locus Map



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

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

61 MIDDLESEX STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CLM.294

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 Foundry streets. It is a four-story mill building built of brick construction, with a full basement. It follows a rectangular plan that measures roughly 110 feet wide by 250 feet in length. The building rests atop a stone foundation. Stony Brook runs lengthwise underneath the basement of the building, entering the southwest end and exiting just before the Middlesex Street end of the building. To accommodate the alignment of a railroad spur, the northwestern corner of the building was built at an approximate 30-degree angle. The angled portion of the building is eight bays wide. The roof is flat and the cornice features brick corbelling around the perimeter of the roofline. A large, square-shaped water tank cupola is located atop the roof near the center of the western wall of the building. The cupola stands two stories in height. As this was a large building that relied heavily on natural lighting, the exterior walls are comprised largely of flat, expansive, brick surfaces punctuated by a great many arched window openings. Each of the window openings features a brick, segmental arch and a granite sill. Along the eastern wall, there are five stories, each with a row of 31 window openings. Along the west wall there are four stories, each with 29 window openings. The primary (northeast) façade facing Middlesex Street includes four stories or rows of nine windows, and a single pedestrian door located near the center of the first story. Most of the fenestration consists of two-over-two double-hung windows on the façade that faces Middlesex Street, and six-over-six double-hung windows and the remaining three walls. Several openings throughout the building consist of replacement one-over-one double-hung windows.

The building is a good example of a late nineteenth century industrial building 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.

This building, known as the Silesia Mills of the U.S. Worsted Company, was constructed between 1896-1897 when it was under the ownership of George C. Moore as G.C. Moore Wool Scouring Company. George Clifford Moore (1848-1923) was born in Westford and succeeded his father in the woolen and worsted cloth (a type of wool yarn) manufacturing. In 1872 Moore purchased G.T. Sheldon's foundry building on Stony Brook and began wool scouring and combing. Throughout the next few years Moore added other buildings to the complex. In 1890, the worsted mill produced 16,000 pounds of worsted yarn per week.

Henry Prescott Graves designed this building as well as another two-story building for Moore in 1898. Graves (1870-1940) is listed in the 1904 Lowell City Directory as an architect working out of Glidden's Building on Middlesex Street and the Gardner Building in Salem, MA (possibly SAL.2443). He is listed in the 1910 US Population Census as living on Varnum Avenue in Lowell with wife Helen, daughter Frances, father-in-law Orin Osgood, and servant Elizabeth Densmore from Canada. Research did not discover other examples of his work.

In 1902 Moore reorganized the plant and other holdings as the Moore Spinning Company for \$1.6 million. The 1907 Sanborn map shows the complex of buildings in the block between Middlesex and Princeton streets and Gay Street and the railroad tracks with this building serving several purposes. At this date shipping was located in the basement, the machine shop and storage on the first story, storage on the second and third stories, and wool sorting and storage on the fourth story. The map also indicates that Stony Brook travelled under the store house, and then across Middlesex Street to the pond. This configuration is still visible. In 1912 the Moore Spinning Company was sold to the United States Worsted Company for \$3 million.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

61 MIDDLESEX STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	CLM.294
--	---------

In 1931 the Southwell Wool Combing Company purchased the mill complex after the U.S. Worsted Company ceases operations. The 1950 Sanborn map shows that this building was then in use as a wool store house. In 1959 current owner, the Frank GW McKittrick Company, purchased the property. The building is still in use currently as warehouse and office space under McKittrick family ownership.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Chelmsford Historical Commission. *History of Chelmsford 1910 – 1970*. Chelmsford Historical Commission, Chelmsford, MA. 2011.

Chelmsford Public Library. Royal Shawcross Photographs Collection. Available at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/chelmsfordpubliclibrary/sets/72157600000139715/>.

Genealogical research, including U.S. and Massachusetts census records; birth, marriage, and death records; and city directory records from ancestry.com.

Merriam, Fred. *Images of America: North and West Chelmsford*. Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, South Carolina. 2016.

Middlesex North Registry of Deeds. www.lowelldeeds.com.

Perham, Henry S. *A Sketch of the History of Chelmsford, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia, PA, J.W. Lewis. 1890.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Lowell, MA. 1907 and 1950.

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

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

61 MIDDLESEX STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

	CLM.294
--	---------

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

As part of the mill complexes in North Chelmsford, the building is locally significant for its association with this important part of North Chelmsford's history. This and other mill buildings in the area could be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A for their local association with the development of North Chelmsford as a historic district. The building is a good example of late nineteenth century industrial architecture that retains most historic integrity, and therefore, is also recommended eligible under Criterion C for its architectural significance.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

61 MIDDLESEX STREET

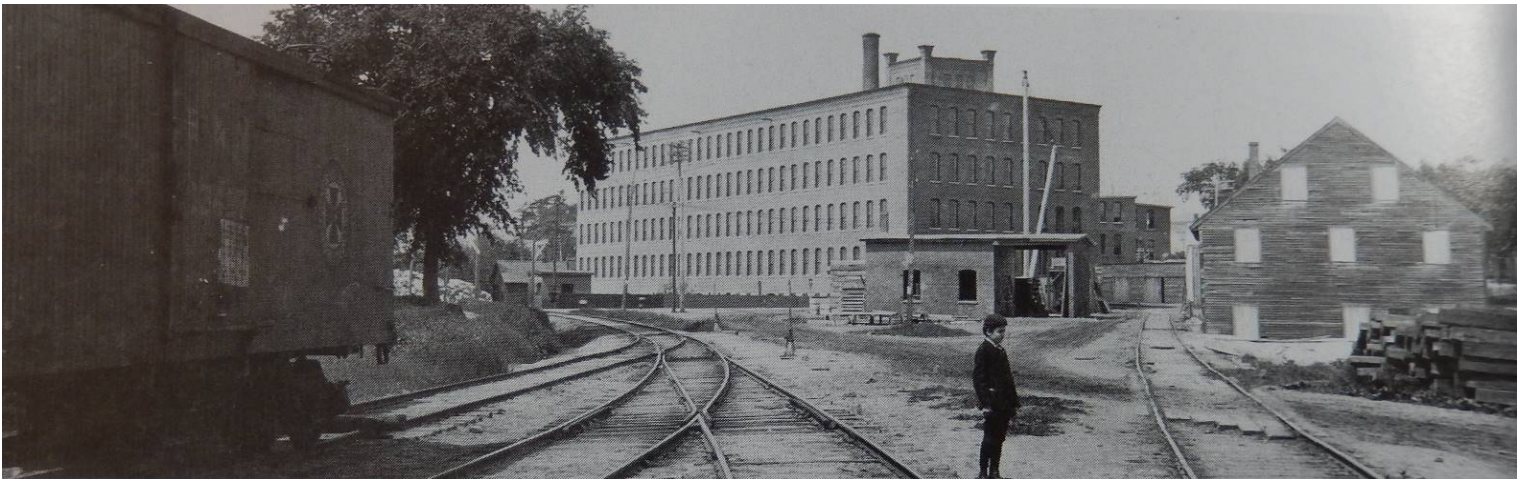
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	CLM.294
--	---------



61 Middlesex Street, facing northeast. May 2016.



Ca. 1899 photograph of 61-63 Middlesex Street. (Chelmsford Public Library.)