

FORM B – BUILDING

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

14/19/13	Nashua South		CLM.389
----------	--------------	--	---------

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

Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 70 Middlesex Street

Historic Name: Caleb Blood House

Uses: Present: single-family dwelling

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: between 1831 and 1856

Source: 1831 and 1856 maps of Chelmsford

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: asbestos tiles/vinyl

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 1930 replacement siding

Ca. 1950 ell addition

Ca. 2000 replacement windows

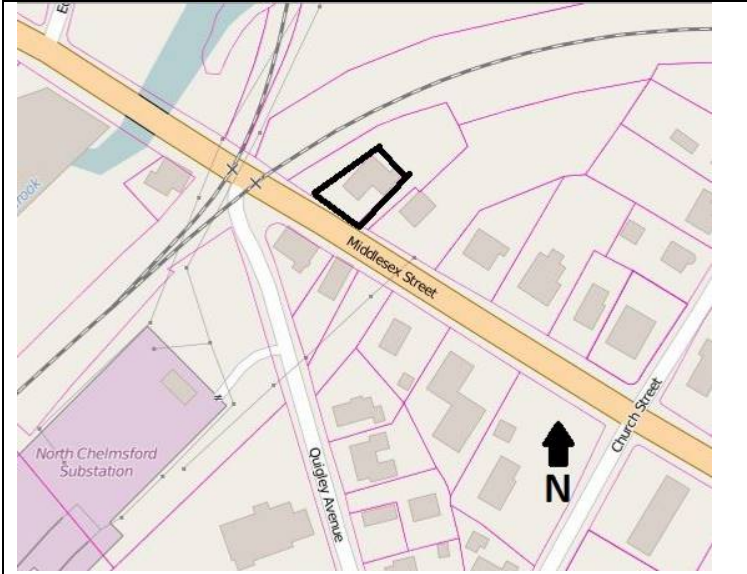
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .09 A

Setting: The building is located approximately 25' north of Middlesex St., just east of the railroad tracks. The small lot includes a paved parking area along the east side of the house and a few mature trees in the front. The surrounding area includes 19th 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

70 MIDDLESEX STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CLM.389

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 on the north side of Middlesex Street, just east of Quigley Avenue. Built ca. 1840, it is a one-and-a-half story, front-gable house. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the exterior walls are covered with asbestos shingles. The original portion of the house rests atop a stone foundation. The addition at the rear appears to rest atop a concrete foundation. The primary (south) façade, which faces Middlesex Street, is divided into three bays on the first story and two on the half story. The front entrance is located in the first bay on the east side of the primary façade. The entry features sidelights and a transom. A pair of six-over-six double-hung windows are located in the half story of the gable, and a pair of six-over-six double-hung windows are located in the two bays to the west side of the front entrance. A small, one-story cross-gable addition is located at the rear end of the house. The addition likely to ca. 1950. It includes a pedestrian door, which faces southward toward Middlesex Street, and a modern, three-sided bay window.

The building is a fair example of a mid-nineteenth century residence that retains historic integrity of location, setting, 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 of the area; therefore, it was constructed between these dates. The 1856 map notes that C.A. Blood owned this property along with the building immediately to the east. C. appears to be Caleb Blood. The 1850 US Population Census lists Caleb (1816-1856) living in Chelmsford with parents Benjamin (1773-1860) and Mary, brother Benjamin, Jr. (1805-1887) and three younger children, who were likely Benjamin, Sr. and Mary's grandchildren. At this date Benjamin, Sr. was a machinist, Benjamin, Jr. and Caleb were laborers.

By 1875 Mrs. Brennan is shown as the owner of the property. Mrs. Brennan was Johanna Brennan (born ca. 1826). The 1870 US Population Census lists Johanna living in Chelmsford with daughter Maria (born ca. 1847), son George (ca. 1849-1922), daughter Ellen (born ca. 1845), her husband Peter Connor (born ca. 1839 in Ireland), and their infant son John H. At this date Maria was operating a sewing machine in a mill, George was a moulder, and Peter was working in the iron foundry. By 1889 the property was transferred to Ellen Connor, and the 1910 census lists Ellen, then widowed, and George living together on Middlesex Street with a boarder named Fred Roberts. George then continued to work as a moulder and Fred was employed in the worsted mill. George assumed ownership of the property and retained it until his death in 1922. Shortly thereafter Margaret E. and John J. Larkin purchased the property. The 1930 census lists the Larkins owning a property on Middlesex Street with John (born ca. 1878 in Connecticut), Margaret (born ca. 1880), and four children born between ca. 1906 and 1918). At this date John was a machinist in the woolen mill. In 1931 the Lowell Co-operative Bank assumed ownership of the property and within a few weeks sold it to Sarah Dunigan. The 1930 census lists Sarah's husband John (born ca. 1899) living in Chelmsford with Sarah (born ca. 1901) and sons John, Jr. (born ca. 1924) and Robert (born ca. 1928). John, Sr. was listed as a coal merchant. In 1947 Sarah transferred ownership of the house to John, Jr. Two years later he sold it to married couple Pamphile A. and Elsie Falardeau. The 1950 city directory lists Pamphile and Elsie at this address with Pamphile working as an electrician. The Falardeau family retained ownership of the property until 1986 and it was sold two additional times since that date.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

70 MIDDLESEX STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	CLM.389
--	---------

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

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.

Hales, John G. *Plan of the Town of Chelmsford in the County of Middlesex*. Surveyed in 1831 by John G. Hales.

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, 1890

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

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