

FORM B – BUILDING

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

112/387/4

Billerica,
MA

CLM.420

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

Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



View looking northeast from Mill Road.

Address: 8 Mill Road

Historic Name: John and Hannah Spaulding House

Uses: Present: Multiple-family dwelling

Original: Single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1761

Source: Deed, Marriage date

Style/Form: No style

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Uncut stone?

Wall/Trim: Brick; vinyl siding

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Vinyl siding; Vinyl-frame windows; Two chimneys likely removed from north elevation; Façade entrance altered with vinyl and aluminum (?) siding and modern door.

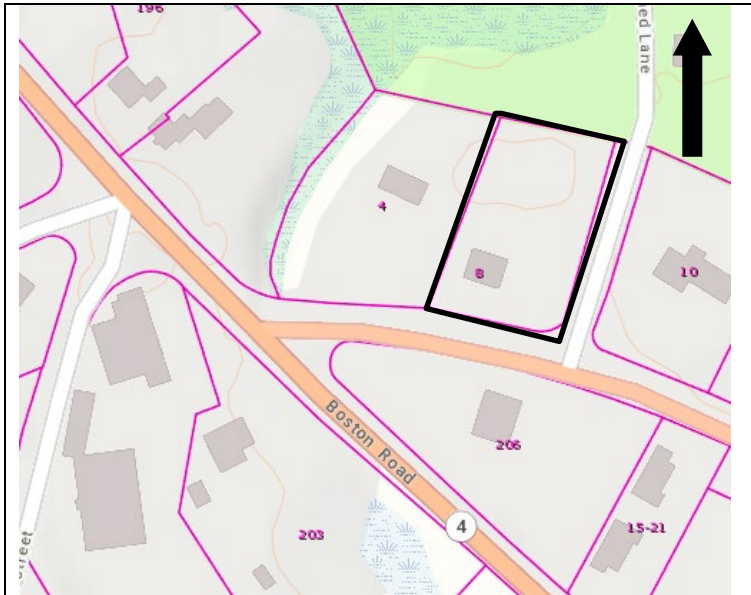
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.59

Setting: The house is located near the Boston Road intersection; surrounding houses date from the 20th C, with the exception of the house 203 Boston Road (ca. 1706) across the street. A lumber yard is located across Boston Road. A mid-20th C automotive repair shop is located across Mill Road from the house.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Consultant

Date: September 2021

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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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.

8 Mill Street faces south and is separated from the road by a grass lawn and two large evergreen trees. The remainder of the lot is covered with grass. An asphalt-paved sidewalk with a cut granite curb is located at the roadside. An asphalt-paved driveway leads from Mill Street past the east side of the house and ends at the rear of the building.

The 2-story building is constructed of common bond brick on the side and rear elevations and covered with vinyl siding on the south façade and at the gable peaks. The foundation, where visible, appears to be stone or perhaps parged brick. The side-gabled roof has overhanging eaves with gable-end cornice returns. Two rectangular brick interior chimneys with parged caps rise from the east and west ends of the south roof slope. The 5-bay façade features a center entrance with a pilastered entablature altered with aluminum or vinyl siding and a late-20th century Colonial Revival-style door. The side elevations are two bays wide. Alterations to the brick on the west elevation indicate that a third window was located at the north end of the elevation at some point and then removed. Alterations to the brick on the east elevation indicate that there was likely a third window or a door at the first floor at some point and then removed. A bulkhead access to the basement is located at the east elevation. All windows are vinyl replacements.

A small stone or concrete foundation located at the east end of the north (rear) elevation may have supported an ell. A wood stair and deck are attached to the second floor of the rear elevation.

The extensive alterations to the building have resulted in diminished architectural integrity. However, the building's massing, overhanging eaves, and chimney placement are similar to those of other dwellings in Chelmsford and indicate a local vernacular form. Seen as a group, these similarities provide clues to 8 Mill Road's possible original appearance. 101 Mill Road (CLM.6) has also been altered but retains a similar 5x2 bay layout, brick side elevations, overhanging eaves, and (likely clapboarded) façade and gable peaks. 134 Boston Road (CLM.12) is a larger house but features the same 5x2 bay arrangement, overhanging eaves, clapboarded facade, and interior brick chimneys at the four corners of the roof. The entrance at 134 Boston Road is a likely approximation of what 8 Mill Road looked like at the time of construction. Executed entirely of brick, 24 Chamberlain Road (CLM.58) is very similar to 8 Mill Road in size, massing, and chimney placement. Although clad in clapboard and only one bay deep, 171 Mill Road (CLM.7) has a very similar massing and fenestration pattern and size to 8 Mill Road.

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 house at 8 Mill Road may have been constructed as early as circa 1761, based on information presented in deeds. The loss of exterior architectural details has resulted in the loss of stylistic clues that might aid in determining a construction date. The loss of details at the windows, entry surround, and along the cornice is extensive. An interior inspection of the house by an architectural historian with expertise on early construction practices might provide clues to the construction date. More research is recommended.

Yeoman John Spaulding, Jr. (1725-1805)¹ married Hannah Spaulding (1731-1814)² in 1761 in Chelmsford and may have constructed the house around that time. The couple had five children. Their son, John Spaulding III (1762-1835),³ who was

¹ Findagrave.com. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18164316/john-spaulding>. Accessed Sept. 13, 2021.

² Findagrave.com. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18164306/hannah-spaulding>. Accessed Sept. 13, 2021.

³ Findagrave.com. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18164315/john-spaulding>. Accessed Sept. 13, 2021.

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later known as Deacon John Spaulding, served as a drummer in the Drum and Fife Corps during the Revolutionary War.⁴ Later, Deacon John Spaulding worked as a husbandman. Deacon John Spaulding married Lucy Fletcher (1761-1802)⁵ in 1786. He was married for the second time to Mary Hutchinson (or Hutcherson) of Carlisle (1767-1846) in 1802.

In 1786, John Spaulding, Jr. sold half of his land and all the buildings thereon to his newly-married son, Deacon John Spaulding.⁶ This transaction included the agreement that the son would allow his father to use “the easterly end of the dwelling house, one half of the cellar ... under the West room and the east end of the barn (except for the horse stable and sheep house.)”

In 1832, Deacon John Spaulding sold the homestead property to his son, Varnum Spaulding (1808-).⁷ The sale included a house, two barns, and outbuildings. The sale included the provision that John and Mary Spaulding retain lifelong use of the “easterly half of [the] dwelling house,” as well as use of one half of the other buildings as needed “...to bestow [his] goods and produce annually.” Varnum Spaulding’s intention to marry Laura A. Dutton (1812-1839) was recorded on December 15, 1831. Varnum was married a second time to Sarah Butterfield in 1840 and a third time to Mary Whitney in 1854. At the time of the 1855 Massachusetts census, Varnum Spaulding was living with members of the Lane family.

Varnum Spaulding sold the house and property to Abner B. Lane in 1855,⁸ who, in turn, sold the house and 98 acres the following year to Thomas J. Pinkham of New Hampshire.⁹ Sarah Burt of Buxton Center, Maine owned the property from 1875 until 1883.¹⁰

John Redman owned the house from 1883 until 1906,¹¹ having purchased it with the help of his father-in-law. John H. Redman (1858-) married Nellie Hosmer in Lowell in 1880. Redman worked as a “sketch maker,” according to census records. The couple lived here with their six children.

Henry Pearson owned the house from 1909 until 1958.¹² Henry Pearson (ca. 1870-) and his wife, Matilda (ca. 1866- before 1920), were born in Sweden where they were married in 1892. They immigrated in 1898 and 1899, respectively. The couple lived here, on what was then called “Russell’s Mill Road,” with their nine children, all of whom were born in Massachusetts. At the time of the 1910 census, Henry Pearson worked as a Fitter in a machine shop, their son, Fritz, worked as a Machinist in a machine shop, and their daughter, Hildur, worked as an Operative in a woolen mill. Sons Arthur and Frank later also worked in a machine shop. Daughter Mabel later worked as a clerk in a drugstore and daughter Lillian managed a laundry. In 1940, Frank worked as a farmer on the family land.

In 1958, Claude J. Harvey and his wife, Etta M. Harvey, purchased the 44-acre property.¹³ (Most of this land was later sold to the town of Chelmsford for municipal water supply.) Claude J. Harvey was awarded the municipal contract for residential trash removal from 1944-1946.¹⁴ Later, Harvey served Chelmsford as one of the original seven members appointed by the Selectmen to the Development and Industrial Commission. The Commission’s purpose was to promote the industrial resources of Chelmsford to prospective businesses.¹⁵ The property remained in the Harvey family until 2000.¹⁶

⁴ U.S. Revolutionary War Pensioners, Compiled Revolutionary War Military Service Records, 1775-1783, Ancestry.com. Accessed Sept. 13, 2021.

⁵ Findagrave.com. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18164319/lucy-spaulding>. Accessed Sept. 13, 2021.

⁶ Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book 93, p. 342

⁷ Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book 310, p. 546.

⁸ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 19, p. 192.

⁹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 4, p. 507; Book 19, p. 192.

¹⁰ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 113, p. 76; Book 161, p. 113.

¹¹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 161, p. 113; Book 394, p. 461.

¹² Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 429, p. 386; Book 429, p. 387; Book 1417, p. 501.

¹³ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 1418, p. 242.

¹⁴ Parkhurst: 117.

¹⁵ Parkhurst: 223.

¹⁶ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 10640, p. 151.

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



View looking north. Façade.



View looking northeast. West (side) brick elevation.



View looking west at east elevation.



View looking southwest at east (left) and rear elevations.
203 Boston Road (CLM.327) visible at right distant.