

FORM F - STRUCTURE

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

Assessor's number 92-357-1	USGS Quad Billerica	Area(s)	Form number 950
-------------------------------	------------------------	---------	--------------------

Town Chelmsford

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address or Location 10 Robin Hill Road

Name Parkhurst's Pulpit

Ownership Public Private

Type of Structure (check one).

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> canal | <input type="checkbox"/> powderhouse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dam | <input type="checkbox"/> carousel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fort | <input type="checkbox"/> boat or ship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gate | <input type="checkbox"/> street |
| <input type="checkbox"/> kiln | <input type="checkbox"/> tower |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lighthouse | <input type="checkbox"/> wall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pound | <input type="checkbox"/> windmill |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) ? | <input type="checkbox"/> tunnel |

Date of Construction ca 1850

Source Martha Emerson, granddaughter of S. Parkhurst newspaper article in scrapbook

Architect, Engineer or Designer b. by Samuel Parkhurst

Material(s) stone, uncut: granite fieldstone

Alterations (with dates)

Condition runs

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 30,097 sq. ft. total lot size

Setting set on a wooded knoll overlooking Robin Hill Rd., and to the left of a modern house

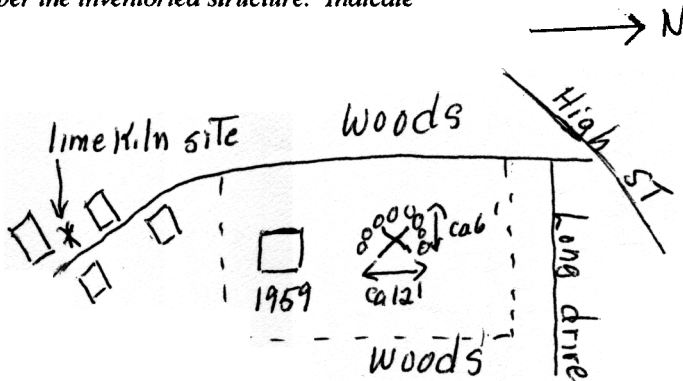
Photograph

(3" x 3" or 3-1/2" x 5", black and white only)
 Label photo on back with town and property address
 Record film roll and negative numbers here on the form. Staple photo to left side of form over this space.
 Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.

roll	negative(s)

Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the structure's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between structure and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried structure. Indicate north.



Recorded by Jane B. Drury

Organization for Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (month/year) September 2003

STRUCTURE FORM

DESIGN ASSESSMENT *see continuation sheet*

Describe important design features and evaluate in terms of other structures within the community.

The no quite half circle of fieldstone rocks which make up the remains of the so-called "Parkhurst Pulpit" is about 12 feet in diameter with about a 6 foot radius. Originally it was a complete circle; there was no roof. The purpose and design of this "pulpit" is unique in Chelmsford; no other one is known.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

Explain the history of the structure, and how it relates to the development of the community.

Located on the western slope of Robin's Hill are the ruins of a circular stone wall built by "Samuel Parkhurst as a protection for his workmen while eating their dinners." Later, his son, "the Rev. John Parkhurst, inheriting the land, was, according to his contemporaries, in the habit of retiring to this enclosure" to meditate and pray. Rev. Parkhurst lived at 147 Robin Hill Rd. and was the minister at the Baptist Church in South Chelmsford.

His daughter wrote a poem about Robin's Hill, in which this place is mentioned:

Still further where the ledge lays bare
Its rocky breast to sun and air,
And watching pine trees murmured low
And stretched their sheltering arms as though
To guard a spot most sacred made,
For there my saintly father prayed;
His presence, his purity,
Have made it a Gethsemane.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Undated Jan. 17 newspaper article, ca 1900, taken from a scrapbook, reference to article written by Mrs. Martha Emerson, granddaughter of the Rev. John Parkhurst
Chelmsford Assessors' Records
Glass negative plate by Willis B. Parkhurst

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register *Criteria Statement form*.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
CHELMSFORD

Property Address
10 ROBIN HILL RD.

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

Area(s) Form No.

	950
--	-----

Pictures Taken by Willis B. Parkhurst



Before 1906



1906



Robin Hill Road #10 'Parkhurst's Pulpit'

9/6/2004 F Merriam