

FORM B – BUILDING

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

50/131/9

Billerica

CLM.392

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

Town/City: Chelmsford

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Chelmsford

Photograph



Address: 147 North Road

Historic Name: Ephraim Spaulding House

Uses: Present: multiple-family dwelling

Original: farmstead

Date of Construction: pre-1791

Source: Deed research

Style/Form: altered beyond recognition

Architect/Builder: Federal/Greek Revival

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/vinyl

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 1990 replacement siding and windows

Ca. 1990 partial porch enclosure, replacement materials

Ca. 1960 garage addition

Early 20th c. rear and side additions

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .92 A

Setting: The house is located at the southeast corner of North and Wiggin sts., approximately 20' from North St. A paved drive from Wiggin St. leads to the garage. The lot is flat and grassy with several mature trees. The surrounding area is residential with a mid- to late 20th c. subdivision development immediately to the east.

Locus Map



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

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

147 NORTH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.

The 2.5-story building has a stone foundation, walls clad in replacement vinyl siding with vinyl trim, and an asphalt-shingled cross gable roof. An internal brick chimney is located along the ridgeline of the ell of the house. Another internal brick chimney is located within the addition on the northwest wall. Fenestration in the building consists of a combination of replacement six-over-six double-hung, sliding, and casement windows. The primary (southwest) façade is four bays wide and faces North Road. The south bay has a front gable roof. The second story has four single windows across the façade. The first story has a single window in the south bay and a porch in the north half. The south half of the porch has been enclosed and has a double window. The open portion of the porch has turned wood detailing and a replacement railing. The main entry is located in the north bay and has sidelights. The northeast wall of the main mass of the house is three bays deep with three windows on the first story and one window each on the second and half stories. The southeast wall has a second story addition that is supported by turned wood columns. The secondary entry on this wall is flanked by sidelights. The one-story, two-car garage extends from the rear of the house.

The building is an altered example of the late eighteenth century house that retains historic integrity of location 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.

Previous research completed by Jane Drury and Barbara Morse of the Chelmsford Historical Commission discovered the property has a long history with the Spaulding family. Deed research traced the ownership history to 1791 when Jonathan Spaulding (born ca. 1734) granted a half interest in all of his land and buildings to his son Ephraim Spaulding (1762-1828). In 1792 Ephraim married Lydia; therefore, the transfer of property the year before may have been in preparation of the event. In 1836 the estate of Ephraim Spaulding granted the property to son Jonathan (1806-1892). The deed mentions the widow of Ephraim (Lydia, Jonathan's mother) was then living on the property. In 1831 Jonathan married Mary Ann Harwood (1811-1887). The 1860 U.S. Population Census lists Jonathan and Mary living in Chelmsford with children Lydia (born ca. 1835 and then a teacher), Mary (born ca. 1840), George E. (ca. 1845-1914), and Emma (born ca. 1855). Also living with them was Mary's mother, Mary Harwood (born ca. 1785). Jonathan was listed as a farmer with \$4,000 worth of real estate, which was average for farmers in the area. Jonathan's obituary in the *Lowell Weekly Journal* noted that at the date of his death on April 28, 1892 he was one of the oldest residents in the Town and was a lifelong farmer, having lived on the family farmstead until his passing. Prior to his death, Jonathan granted the property to his son George Ephraim Spaulding. George had left the family farmstead for North Chelmsford, where he worked as a patternmaker in the Chelmsford Foundry Company. After Jonathan fell ill in April 1890, George returned home and assumed ownership of the property in October of that year. An article in the October 24, 1890 issue of the *Lowell Weekly Journal* noted George's return and that he started making improvements to the house. George retained the property until 1911, selling it to Martin N. and Olive V. Diall of Brookline, MA. At this date George once again relocated to North Chelmsford, where he died three years later.

After the sale of the property in early 1911, Martin Diall (born ca. 1848 in Ohio) said he planned to make many changes and improvements to the property. Deed research was unclear to when the Dialls sold the property, but by 1925 they were living in Boston. In 1942 Helena and William Dawson took ownership of the property. Helena (1913-1982) and William (died 1957) farmed the property during their ownership period. They called the property Dawson Farm and Helena was a member of the Chelmsford Grange. After Helena's death, the property remained in the Dawson family until 2011.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Chelmsford Historical Commission. Jane Drury's file on 147 North Road, currently in private collection.

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

Lowell Weekly Journal. Excerpts of articles in Jane Drury's file on 147 North Road.
24 October 1890. George Spaulding's relocation to the family home.
6 May 1892. Obituary of Jonathan Spaulding.

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.

Waters, Wilson. *History of Chelmsford, Massachusetts*. Courier-Citizen Company, Lowell, MA. 1917.



147 North Road, facing southeast, taken from Wiggin Street. November 2015.