

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

50/ 208/ 2	Billerica		
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Town/City: Chelmsford

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



View looking southwest toward façade.

Address: 150 North Rd

Historic Name: Charles and Emily Reed House

Uses: Present: Single-family dwelling

Original: Single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: circa 1856

Source: Marriage date

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, uncut / Poured Concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles; Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Foundation reinforced with poured concrete; Roof replaced (ca. 1905); Porch added to southwest corner of house and dormers added (second Q 20th C); Porch enclosed (mid-20th C); Replacement windows and doors (1st half 20th C)

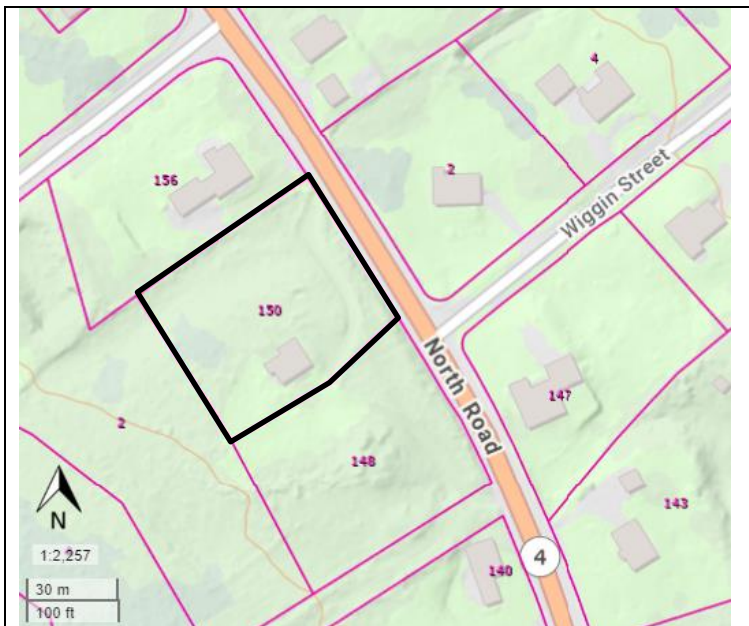
Condition: Poor

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.93

Setting: The house is located on a major north-south route in a residential setting. Nearby houses range in date from the 18th century through the mid-20th century.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Cons.

Organization: for Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date: June 2024

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.

Set into a steep, heavily-wooded slope, the house is oriented to the northeast, facing the street. A curving gravel driveway leads from the north corner of the lot to the southeast corner of the house. The house consists of a 1½-story, side-gabled main block with a 1-story rear ell. The 3-bay main block has a center entrance containing a Colonial Revival-style, 4-panel wood door. Cast concrete steps lead from the front yard to the entrance. The foundation is constructed of fieldstone augmented with poured concrete. The gable roof has deep eaves edged with narrow molded wood, Colonial Revival-style trim. A shed dormer with overhanging eaves is centered on the northeast roof slope. The dormer contains a single sash window. A similar shed dormer, without a window, is centered on the southwest elevation. The dormers are clad with vinyl siding. A truncated, slender brick chimney rises from the southwest roof slope, beside the dormer. The side elevations are one bay deep with a window centered at the first floor and one centered in the gable peak. The main block has been expanded with a shed-roof extension along its rear elevation. The expansion rests on a cut stone foundation. Windows throughout the main block are 1/1 wood sash with plastic screw-on shutters, unless otherwise noted.

The rear ell has been expanded at least twice. The earliest addition was a perpendicular ell centered on the main block's rear elevation. The ell rests on fieldstone foundation. A single window is located at the east end of its northwest elevation. A sliding glass door is centered in the ell's southwest gable end. A Beverly jog, resting on a brick and concrete foundation is located at the west corner of the ell, beside the sliding door. Vinyl siding partially covers the jog's elevations. A shed-roof porch with exposed rafter tails was added to the south corner of the house and has since been enclosed. A sash window is located in its southwest elevation and a paneled wood door is located in its southeast elevation.

The building's modest size and 3x1-bay, vernacular form indicate a likely 19th-century construction date. The overhanging eaves, augmented foundation, and Colonial Revival and Craftsman trim details indicate a substantial reworking of the original building in the early 20th century. The building retains a low level of integrity and is in fair physical condition.

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 was likely constructed circa 1856 for Charles and Emily Reed and substantially remodeled circa 1905 for Leonard Spaulding. Charles Spaulding Reed (1835-1898)¹ married Emily E. Emerson (1837-1909)² in 1856. The house was likely constructed soon thereafter, on land owned by Emily's father, Owen Emerson. Owen and Louisa Emerson lived next door at 140 North Road. A Civil War veteran,³ Charles S. Reed worked as a farmer, as indicated in census records. After Owen Emerson's death, Emily's brother, H. Herbert Emerson, sold the land in 1879 to Stephen A. Coburn of Lowell, who appears to have been a real estate investor.⁴ Census records, the 1889 atlas, and an 1896-1897 city directory indicate that Charles and Emily Reed continued to make this their residence.

In 1905, Leonard Spaulding of Chelmsford purchased the house from the Coburn family.⁵ Leonard Spaulding (1843-1925)⁶ lived here with his wife, Hannah Bicknell Spaulding (1858-1925)⁷, and their children. Leonard Spaulding worked as a farmer and

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18169228/charles-spalding-reed>. Accessed May 14, 2024.

² https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18169230/emily_e_reed. Accessed May 14, 2024.

³ Waters, p. 371.

⁴ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 136, p. 98.

⁵ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 378, p. 556.

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“concreter,” according to census records and a 1905 city directory. After the couple’s deaths in 1925, the property was transferred to the couple’s son, Jacob Ira Spaulding (1897-1962),⁸ known as Ira.⁹ Jacob Ira Spaulding served in World War I as a wagoner, transporting food, water, medical supplies, ammunition and artillery to the front lines.¹⁰ Upon his return, Ira Spaulding used his experience driving teams of horses for a woolen mill (1920 census) and a “grainery” (1930 census). With the rapid population growth in Chelmsford after World War II, the town hired full-time paid firefighters for the first time. Ira Spaulding was one of the initial seven firefighters hired by the town.¹¹ Jacob Ira Spaulding’s estate sold the house and property in 1969.¹²

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⁶ https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18180765/leonard_spaulding. Accessed May 14, 2024.

⁷ https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18180763/hannah_eliza_spaulding. Accessed May 14, 2024.

⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18180764/jacob-ira-spaulding>. Accessed May 14, 2024.

⁹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book p. 256. P. 255.

¹⁰ <https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~gregkrenzlok/genealogy/veterinary%20corp%20in%20ww1/wagonerduties.html>. Accessed May 20, 2024.

¹¹ Parkhurst: 60.

¹² Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 1910, p. 386.

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View looking south toward main block. Ell partially visible at right.



View looking southeast toward side (north) elevation of main block. Note extended roofline and rear addition at right side of elevation. Ell partially visible at far right.



View looking north-northeast toward rear (southwest) and side (southeast) elevations. Beverly job visible at left. Enclosed porch visible at center.



View looking north toward southeast elevation. Enclosed porch visible at left.

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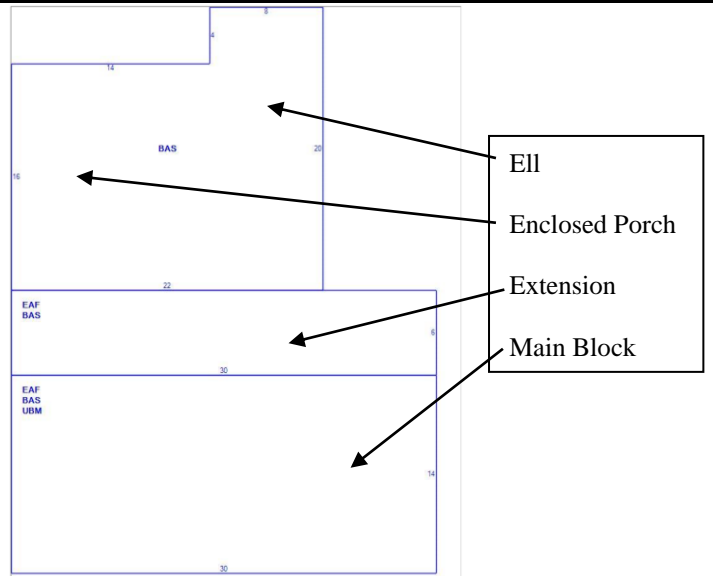
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Eave detail, façade.



Assessor's Sketch



1875 atlas.



1889 atlas.