

FORM B – BUILDING

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

72-308-10	Billerica		049
-----------	-----------	--	-----

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

Town Chelmsford
 Place (neighborhood or village)



Address 212 North Road
 Historic Name Henry Spaulding/Staples Hse
 Uses: Present residence
 Original residence
 Date of Construction ca 1800
 Source probates, marriage date
 architectural evidence
 Style/Form Federal originally, now Greek Revival
 Architect/Builder Henry 3rd Spaulding was 1st owner
 Exterior Material:

Foundation main house: granite blocks
 ell: foundation hidden
 Wall/Trim wood clapboard
 Roof gable

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures none

Major Alterations (with dates)
 c. 1840 center chimney removed; Greek Revival changes
 1883: "addition of a piazza upon two sides, and has made other desirable changes". That on the left side of the house remains.
 1890s: "extensive improvements"

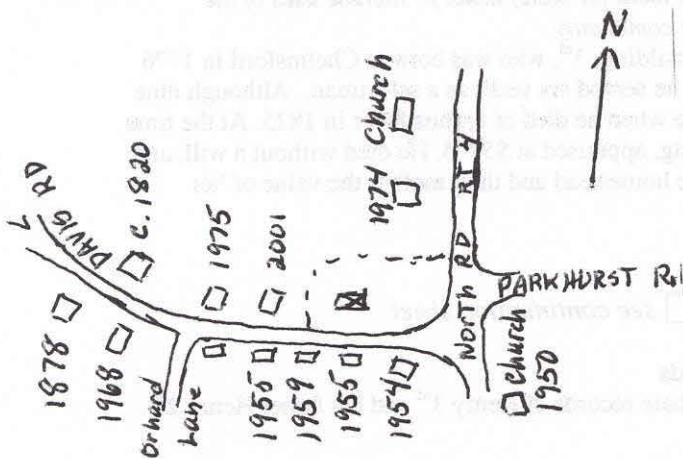
Condition fair
 Moved no yes Date

Acreage 13016 sq. feet

Setting Three houses above this house is located the J. Spaulding House, built ca 1820, but other than that, 212 North Rd. is surrounded by modern buildings. It is located at the intersection of North & Davis Rds. The property & Davis Rd. slope up rather steeply. The house is set well back from North Rd.

Sketch Map

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



Recorded by Jane B. Drury

Organization for Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (month / year) May 2005

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

This one family, 2 ½ story residence at 212 North Road has 5 x 1 bays. The ell immediately behind the main house is old but its age is not known. There are 3 chimneys, two of them being located on the ell. A "3 holer" is located at the rear of the ell.

Double brackets decorate cornice on the gable of the main house; also 1 set on a post of the porch. These are found only on the left (south, Davis Rd.) side of the building. The porch was added in 1883 and originally extended on the front façade, and also on the front part of the left side, as does is now.

Although the architecture, inside and out, is now mostly Greek Revival style, it was originally built in the 1790-1810 period, and probably ca 1801, when the first owner was married.

"The fact that there is evidence of a former center chimney is the strongest argument that the house might predate 1810. (Center chimneys were not unknown in these parts as late as the first decade of the 19th century.) The house is timber-framed which is also still o.k. for slightly after 1800. The purlin roof with vertical roof boards wouldn't necessarily suggest an 18th-C. date. The tricky thing is that some of these features are representative of quite a long period of time. Even the width of the floorboards is not out of line for a community that still had plenty of trees in 1800.

The wide recessed doorway is pure Greek Revival. The views of the two gable ends are intriguing. The pitch of the roof is slightly steeper than I would expect for the early 19th-C. and could indicate an 18th-C. date. While the roof boards and cornice of the "left" end project out over the wall in the mid-19th-C. manner, the roof trim of the "right" gable end was not updated, giving a very different visual effect... [In the left front room] the window trim and a fireplace surround and mantel are consistent with the Greek Revival (mostly after 1830 and which could date to the 1840s.) The cased summer beam, front girt, and corner post shows a structure that would be earlier than 1830 – my guess would be anywhere from 1790 to 1820."

Probates confirm Henry Spalding being the first owner, and he was married on March 1, 1801.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE see continuation sheet

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 first owner of the dwelling at 212 North Rd. was Henry Spalding, 3rd, who was born in Chelmsford in 1776 and who married Jemima Spalding in 1801. He was farmer, and he served six years as a selectman. Although nine children were born to Henry & Jemima, only four were still alive when he died of typhus fever in 1825. At the time of his death his homestead contained about 118 acres and building, appraised at \$5875. He died without a will, and in 1845 his son Ephraim P. paid his siblings for their share in the homestead and their mother the value of her dower. Jemima died in 1859.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES see continuation sheet

Spalding Memorial, by Charles Warren Spalding, 1897, pg. 297

Chelmsford Assessors' records, tax records, Town Clerk's records

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds, Bk. 16, pg. 75; Probate records of Henry 3rd and his father Henry 2nd.

Street directories

1831 map, 1856 map, 1875 Beers Atlas

History of Chelmsford, Mass., by Rev. Wilson Waters, pg. 389, 375

Lowell Weekly Journal: Feb. 7, 1890; Feb. 21, 1890; June 13, 1890; Oct. 24, 1890

Lowell Courier-Citizen: Feb. 21, 1908; Feb. 23, 1908; Aug. 9, 1915; Oct. 12, 1915

Lowell Sun: Sept. 23, 1938

Illustrated History of Lowell and Vicinity, Mass., by Courier-Citizen Company, 1897

Vital Records of Chelmsford Mass. to 1850

Anne Forbes, Preservation Consultant, 2005

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

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

Town Property Address
 CHELMSFORD 212 NORTH RD.
 Area(s) Form No.

	049
--	-----

HISTORY

Ephraim Parkhurst Spalding married Nancy Barker Spalding of Hillsboro, NH in 1835. They became the parents of three children, but only Henry reached adulthood, and he died at age 23. It probably was Ephraim who removed the center chimney and remodeled the front door, which is now inset, as in Greek Revival buildings. The house may have turned 90° at this time. He also made many changes to the interior. Ephraim was a farmer, and in 1837 he owned 2 barns; by 1842 he had erected a cider mill, but one of the barns had been removed by 1847. He spent his life here, until he sold the residence in the spring of 1873 to Charles Starbird of Lowell.

Born in Kingfield, ME in 1834, Charles D. Starbird married his first wife, Melissa A. Cain, in 1871. The first of two children was born shortly before he purchased this house. Mr. Starbird was very successful in real estate in Lowell, and it is doubtful that the family ever lived at 212 North Rd. for the brief he owned it. If so, they soon returned to Lowell.

Henry E. & Caroline B. Hill, did reside here between 1873 and 1886. It was he who, ten years later, made several changes to the house, including adding the porch, or piazza, which wrapped around the left and front sides. Part of that porch still remains on the left side. A month or two before selling this property in 1893, Henry Hill was appointed postmaster for Chelmsford Center. The post office was then located next door to the Wilson Block/Central Hotel (inventory #204), where the Hills probably moved after leaving 212 North Rd., and they definitely were there by 1896.

The dwelling was probably rented out for a few years while under the ownership of Hannah Pease of Lowell. In 1890 William H. Staples purchased the farm as a summer home and moved here from Lowell with his wife, Temperance, whom he had married in 1865, and their children. Eight children were born to them, and six were still living in 1900. In 1868 Mr. Staples became a partner in the Lowell firm of Staples Brothers, builders of churches throughout the state, large corporation buildings, and many Lowell buildings. While living here in Chelmsford Mr. & Mrs. Staples were "active and useful members of the Central Congregational church and interested in the prosperity of the community." On January 20, 1900 he died suddenly of a heart attack in his home, where his funeral was also held a few days later. William Staples was only 57 years old. The house was sold to the McLarneys in 1900, but his widow and sons Robert and Arthur remained there with the McLarneys five more years, before they moved back to Lowell in 1905.

James A. McLarney was a plumber, his business being conducted in Lowell. During the winter months of 1904/5 his wife, Rose McNally, was in poor health, and she died very suddenly of a pulmonary hemorrhage in March 1905, her death being very unexpected. However, James remained at "Hillside Farm," as 212 North Rd. was then known. For two weeks in February 1908 there was a rash of burglaries in the nighttime in Chelmsford Center. One evening the burglar was seen going toward North Chelmsford with "town authorities in hot pursuit, driving a sleigh." Four times the burglar heard the police officers coming in their wagons, and he jumped behind a stone wall or clump of bushes, remaining there until they had passed. On Feb 23rd, James McLarney was "called up on the telephone to be informed about the work of the desperado and while talking to one of the officers, over the wire, heard footsteps on the piazza outside. When he reached the window, however, no one was in sight. It later proved that the burglar made the noise." The burglar was caught later that night. About a month later, on March 23rd, 1908, it was voted at Town Meeting that the street intersection in front of the house be named McLarney Square. There were two apartments in the house at Hillside Farm, one of which was occupied briefly in 1915 by William Foster. That fall Rose G. McLarney, James and Rose's daughter, was married to Patrick Haley, the current postmaster at Chelmsford Center. Following their wedding trip they stayed briefly with her father but soon moved to their nearby house at 11 Davis Road. In 1920 James sold the farm and moved back to Lowell.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town
CHELMSFORD

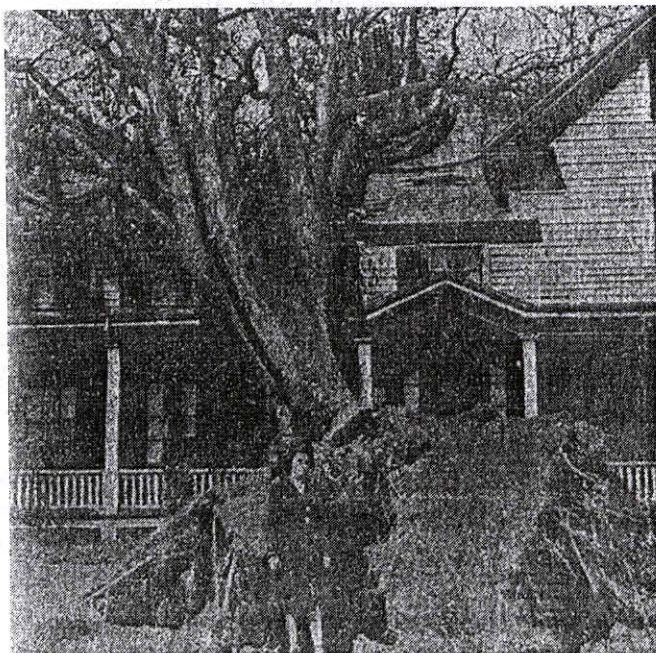
Property Address
212 NORTH RD.

Area(s) Form No.

	049
--	-----

HISTORY

John and Margaret Cahill and their family resided here for about thirty years. In September 1938 the famous hurricane hit Chelmsford, and 212 North Road was not spared. A large tree left of the house was uprooted and fell on the center of the house, "crushing the roof and causing heavy damage." John worked as a farmer until entering the Coast Guard during W.W. II.



[Sun Staff Photo]

Literally cut in two is this house on the North road in Chelmsford, known as the Cahill place. An idea of the size of the tree is given by comparison with the girl standing alongside the upturned roots. The tree struck in the exact center of the house, crushing the roof and causing heavy damage.

John & Sarah Ann Cronhimer and their daughter, Elsie Sexton, were the next owners. Elsie Sexton was a book seller/antique dealer, the same occupation of the present owner. She stayed in the house after her parents' deaths, living in her own apartment upstairs, with the new (present) owner, until her own death.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town
CHELMSFORD

Property Address
212 NORTH RD.

Area(s) Form No.

049

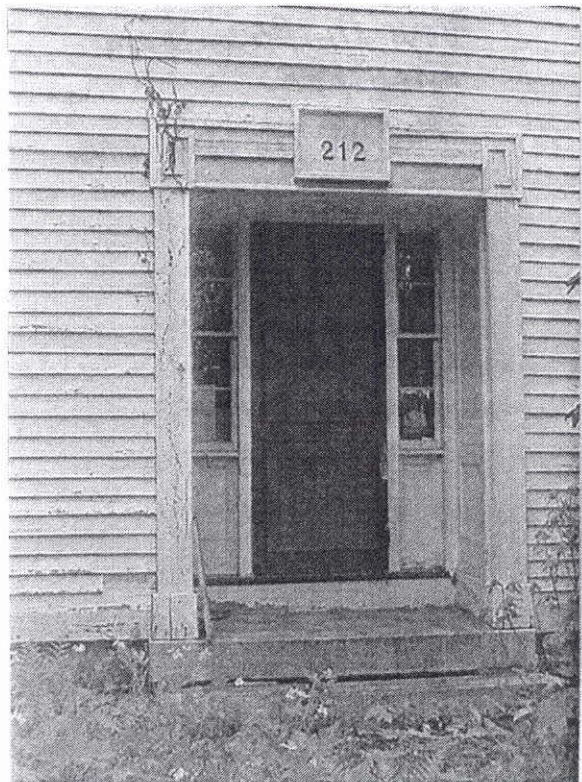
ALTERATIONS



1973



May 20, 2005



Front entrance
May 20, 2005



Left side April 1909

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
CHELMSFORD

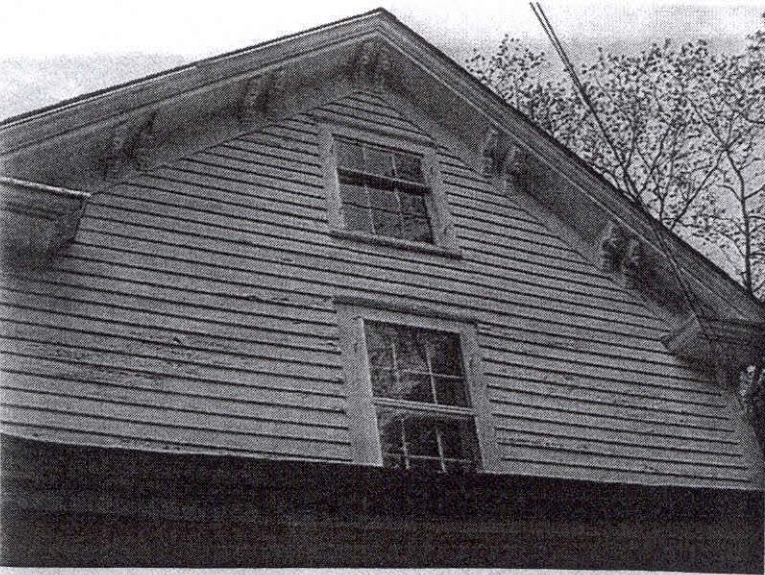
Property Address
212 NORTH RD.

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

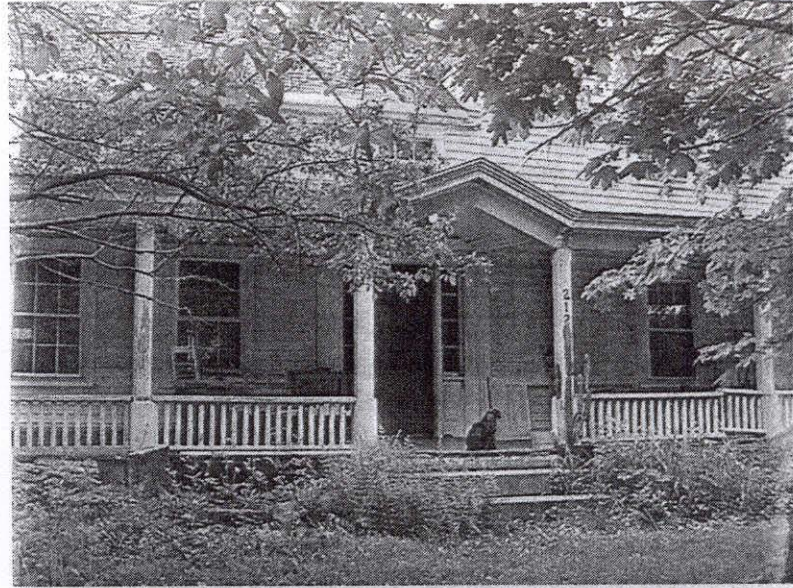
May 20, 2005

Area(s) Form No.
049

ALTERATIONS



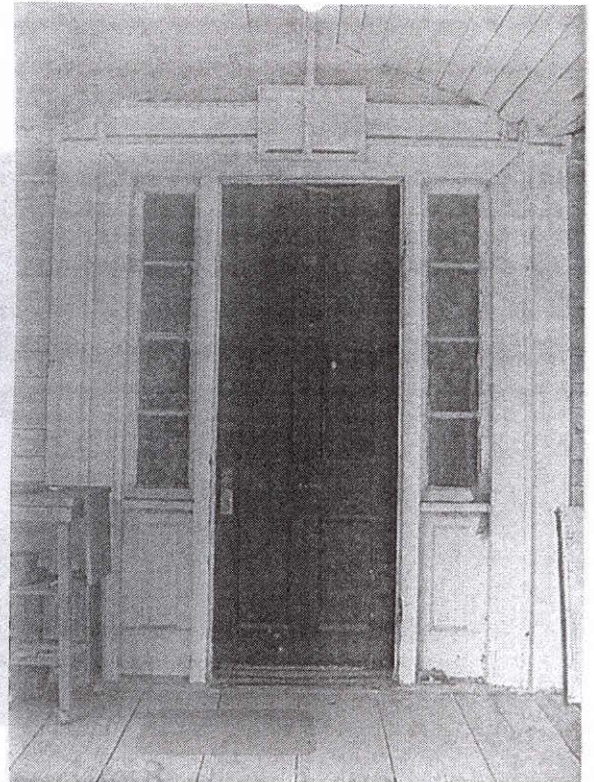
Main house left side
above porch



Left side



Left side



Left side entrance
from porch

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town
CHELMSFORD

Property Address
212 NORTH RD.

Area(s) Form No.

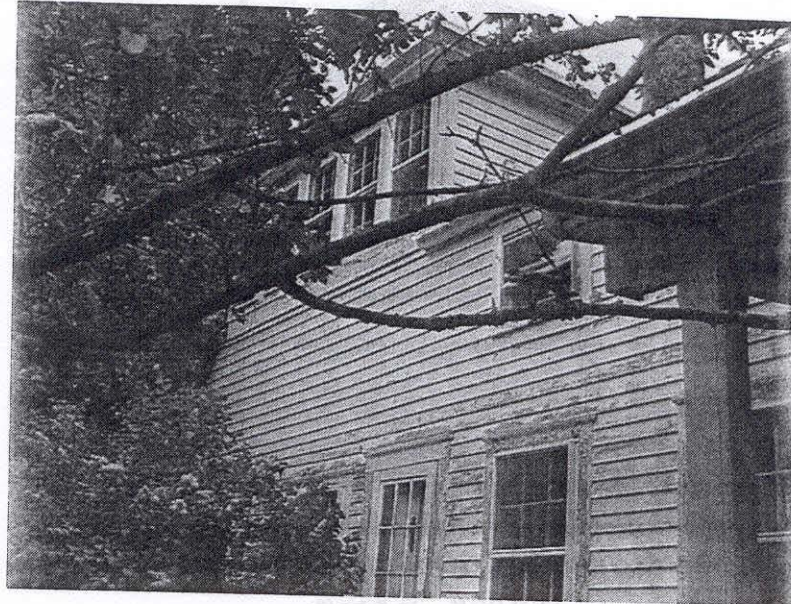
049

May 20, 2005

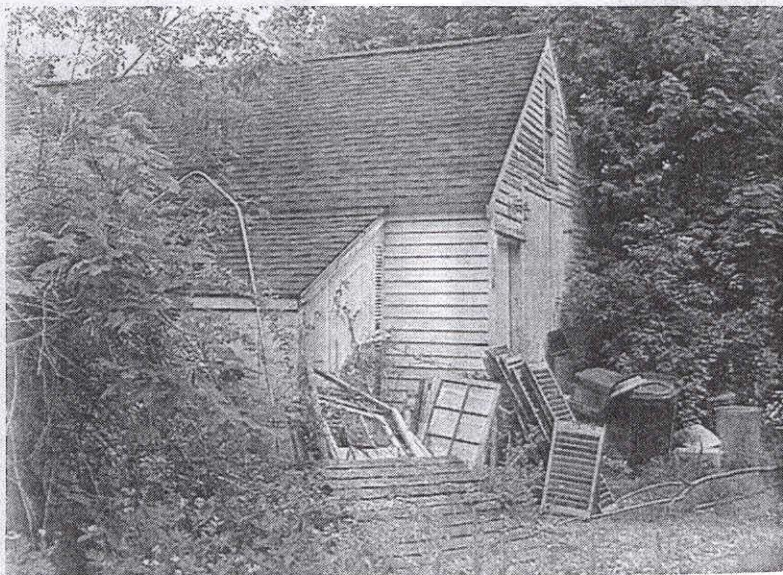
ALTERATIONS



Left side ell



Left side ell



Right side & rear

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
CHELMSFORD

Property Address
212 NORTH RD.

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

May 20, 2005

Area(s) Form No.

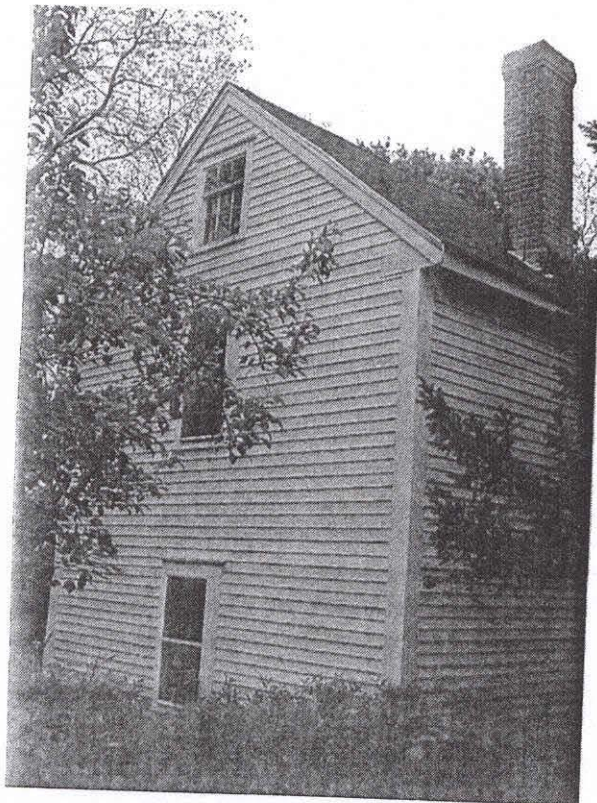
ALTERATIONS



Right side ell + shed



Right side
main house, ell, shed



Right side Main house

Middlesex North Registry of Deeds

North: Book 1935, pg. 586	9/29/1970	Natale J. Sergi from Sarah Ann Cronhimer & Elsie Sexton 40,000 sq. ft.
North: Book 1508, pg. 102	3/22/1961	John & Sarah Ann Cronhimer & Elsie Sexton from John & Sarah Ann Cronhimer
North: Book 1152, pg. 119	9/19/1950	John & Sarah Ann Cronhimer from Margaret E. Cahill 3.75 acres
North: Book 1083, pg. 133	12/10/1947	John & Margaret Cahill from Gerald Cahill---(several Names) 12.52 acres
North: Book 665, pg. 340	7/25/1922	Joanna Cahill from James & Amiee Webster 12.52 acres
North: Book 598, pg. 369	2/26/1919	James & Aimee Webster from James A. McLarney 12.52 acres
North: Book 322, pg. 472	8/27/1900	James A. McLarney from Temperance B. S ^t aples (executrix for the estate of William Staples

Middlesex District Registry of Deeds

North: Book 322, pg. 474	8/27/1900	Mortgage deed: James McLarney to Temperance Staples
North: Book 216, pg. 562	6/9/ 1890	William H. Staples from Hannah E. Pease 12.52 acres
North: Book 182, pg. 159	5/7/1886	Hannah E. Pease from Caroline B. Hill Several lots containing 14, 20, etc. acres each.
North: Book 97, pg.11	10/1/1873	Caroline B. Hill from Charles D. Starbird
North: Book 92, pg. 261	4/29/1873	Charles D. Starbird from Ephraim P. Spalding
North: Book 16, pg 75		
South: Book 461, pg. 492	12/19/1845	Ephraim Spaulding from Jemima Spalding Mary L. Barbour Joel Spalding Benjamin Spaling (From the estate of Henry Spalding)

when he bought the Thetford Woolen Mills, at Thetford, Vermont, where he remained between three and four years. Later, in connection with Mr. G. S. Rogers, he started a woolen mill at Ash-



CHARLES D. STARBIRD.

land, New Hampshire, in 1882, under the firm name of Carter & Rogers, and continued there seven years. In 1889 the firm bought the Lebanon Woolen Mills, at Lebanon, New Hampshire, and moved the machinery from Ashland there, and since that time have carried on the manufacture of woolen goods. When the firm first started in business they employed but twenty-five hands; today they employ over one hundred.

Mr. Carter is a Republican, and was a member of the Board of Aldermen in 1890. He is a Congregationalist. He is a member of the Old Residents' Association, also of the Langdon Club, of Lebanon, New Hampshire, and is a Director of the Everett Knitting Works.

Nov. 13, 1861, he was united in marriage to H. Addie Johnson, of Saxonville, Mass. The following children are the result of this union: Lillian Blanche, born in Lowell in 1867; and Bertha Johnson, born in Lowell in 1869.

CHARLES D. STARBIRD.

Mr. Charles D. Starbird was descended from an ancient family of Scotch origin. His father, Moses Starbird, was born in Kingfield, Maine, and died in the same place at the age of 74 years. His mother, Hester Dolbier, was born at Farmington, Maine, and died at Kingfield, Maine.

Mr. Charles D. Starbird was born in Kingfield,

Maine, in 1834, and died in 1892. His education was received in the district schools of Farmington, Maine, graduating from the High School. He first kept a provision store on Dutton Street, and later, in 1874, went into the real estate business, in which he remained until the time of his death.

Mr. Starbird was a Republican in politics, and was in the Legislature in 1883-84. He was also in the Common Council. In religion he was a Universalist, and a member of the I. O. O. F., K. of P., and U. F. R. A.

In 1871 he was united in marriage to Melissa A. Cain, of Clinton, Maine. By this union there were two children: Charles D., born in 1872, and Alice M., born in 1874. In 1882 he was married for a second time to Miss Angie A. Wells, of Waterville, Maine.

Mr. Starbird was very successful in real estate transactions, and built up a large business by his persevering effort, unwearied industry, and strict integrity.

CYRUS K. RUSSELL.

Mr. Cyrus K. Russell is descended from a Norman French family, founded as early as 1016. The English representative of this family was John, Earl of Bedford, and to him William Russell, the first American ancestor, traced his ancestry. He came from England, and settled in Cambridge, Mass., about 1640. From him the line of descent runs as follows:

Nathaniel; William; Joseph married Sarah Russell, at Harvard, Mass., July 12, 1768. Reuben, son of Joseph, was born at Littleton, Mass., June 11, 1773, and died at Billerica, Mass., Oct. 3, 1854. He married Nancy Wilson, who was born at New Ipswich, N. H., in 1783, and died in Lowell, Mass., in 1875.

Cyrus King Russell was born in New Ipswich, N. H., Aug. 8, 1815. He came to Lowell in 1829, when 14 years of age. He first went to work in a grocery store at the corner of Central and Hurd Streets, and afterwards in the Lowell Machine Shop, where he began to learn the machinist trade.

The course in life which seemed thus marked out for him was suddenly brought to a close when, at the age of 17, Mr. Russell met with an accident, by which he suffered the loss of his left arm. It was on the occasion of General Jackson's visit to Lowell, June 27, 1832. Young Russell belonged to the military company, and was assisting in firing the salute in Lowell in honor of the distinguished

Lowell Weekly Journal

June 13, 1890 - W.H. Staples of Lowell, who recently bought the Pease homestead has already taken possession and will make his summer home in Chelmsford.

Oct. 24, 1890 - Wm H. Staples, who purchased the Pease estate last summer is doing good work in making the rough places smooth. Next spring he will set out a large number of fruit trees, vines, etc.

Feb. 21, 1890 - George W. Pease of this village died at his home on North street Sunday morning at 1 o'clock, aged 55 years. He was a resident of this city for a number of years, being engaged in the provision business in Centralville and subsequently in the manufacture of paper boxes as a member of the firm of Littlefield & Pease. About 1885 he removed to Chelmsford on account of impaired health, but for the past 3 years has been gradually failing, his malady being Bright's disease. Deceased was a native of Ludlow in this state. He was a man of most exemplary character and an active member of the Eliot Congregational church in this city. He leaves a widow and a son, Edward, teller of the Railroad National Bank.

Feb. 7, 1890 - Mr. Geo. W. Pease, formerly of Lowell, has been quite ill the past week, but is now more comfortable. It is his intention to pass the remain of the winter in the city at the home of his son, Edward W., on Warwick street

Lowell Courier-Citizen

Oct. 12, 1915 - Patrick Henry Haley, postmaster at Chelmsford Centre and Miss Rose Gertrude McLarney, daughter of James A. McLarney, were united in marriage at 5:45 this evening at the parochial residence of St. John's church in North Chelmsford, by the pastor, Rev. Edmund T. Schofield.....On their return they will make their home with the bride's father at Hillside farm, Chelmsford Centre, where they will be at home to their friends after Nov. 1.

Aug. 9, 1915 - William Foster, who has been occupying the tenement above the postoffice, has removed to J.A. McLarney's in the North road.

Feb. 21, 1908 Chelmsford Centre was startled at midnight last night by a burglar who entered one house and was last seen going toward North Chelmsford with the Chelmsford town authorities in hot pursuit, driving a sleigh.

The burglar had entered the home of Rep. Edwin C. Perham, near the Centre, had mused up everything in numerous drawers, but had not taken anything of value. Silver spoons lying on the dining room table were passed by, while the thief searched work bags and desk drawers for cold cash. He got none.

Mr. & Mrs. Perham were asleep in an adjoining room, but knew nothing of the marauder. Their three children, Charles, Arnold, and Elsie, were at the dance at the Town Hall. These three, returning home shortly after midnight, met a strange man and they spoke to him. The man started on the run and disappeared toward the Centre. He wore a cap, was tall, with broad shoulders and wore a three-quarters length black overcoat.

When the three young people arrived home, they found the rooms ransacked and the front window open. They immediately aroused Mr. Perham, who notified the Lowell police. A drag net was at once thrown around Lowell, all the officers keeping on the alert for the suspicious man. North Chelmsford was notified, and the burglar was anxiously watched for. At an early hour this morning he had not been located.

Feb. 23, 1908 - It now appears that the burglar, John Kominski, who entered the home of Rep. Edwin C. Perham on Friday evening of last week was also about the house of Thos. A. Harmon on Bridge Street with the same object in view. From the time the man was seen on Westford street after entering Mr. Perham's residence until he was passed on Centre street by Ralph Adams, for headed for the North village there was about an hour that his whereabouts were unaccounted for. At Mr. Harmon's house two lamps were burning, one in the sitting room and one in the kitchen. In the kitchen that looks out upon a piazza, the curtains had not been drawn. Mr. Harmon who had not remained up until the close of the costume party at the town hall that evening, lay for a time upon a lounge in the sitting room. As he was lightly dozing he was aroused by a sound upon the piazza, but after listening and not hearing a recurrence he dismissed it from his mind. The account next morning in the Courier-Citizen of the burglar's visit to town and his description recalled to mind to residents of Bridge street that they had passed just such a man as they were returning from the town hall. The time that he was seen on Westford street and later on Bridge street fit together so well that there is no doubt but that he would have accomplished more in his line had the conditions been favorable. Telephones, both of the local and New England lines played an important part and made possible the man's quick capture.

Through the arrest of John Kominski, a Lithuanian, aged 26, claiming Lawrence as his home, at an early hour on Saturday, the police believe they have brought to a close the long series of breaks and daring burglaries which have occurred in the suburban towns around Lowell during the past two weeks.

The capture of the man was accomplished by Constable Fred I. Vinal of North Chelmsford and Joseph Ryan, also of that village, and was one worthy of commendation.

Close upon the reported burglaries which happened in Dracut on recent date, word was received shortly after midnight Saturday of an attempt to break into the home of Representative Edwin C. Perham of Chelmsford Centre. Word was quickly despatched to the officers of the town and in company with many of the residents of the place and the officers of the surrounding villages a drag net was formed and concerted action by at least 100 people decided upon in an endeavor to capture the person responsible for the affairs which have wrought excitement among the residents in the surrounding towns.

From what has been learned the burglar entered Mr. Perham's house by a

side door, mugged up everything in bureau drawers in one room but passed by silver spoons and other silverware of value.

Mr. & Mrs. Perham, asleep in an adjoining room were not aware of the presence of the man, so lightly did he move about. This happened some time before midnight. Shortly after 12 o'clock Charles, Arnold, and Elsie Perham, children of Rep. Perham, while returning from a dance, met a strange man a short distance from their house. His appearance raised some suspicion at the time, but nothing was thought of it until the trio arrived in their home and found their rooms ransacked. The aroused the other members of the household and word was sent to the selectmen of the town and the constabulary force of the village and in less than an hour 25 men were scouring the streets for the marauder.

From Mr. Perham's house the man went to the home of P.C. Bliss and after moving about the premises undetected, helped himself to some oranges and drank a quantity of milk which was left standing in a jar. From there he started down the main road in the direction of North Chelmsford. Reaching George H. Barton's house, the fellow, so he later stated to the police, intended entering there also but was scared away by the lighting of a light and the ring of a telephone. It proved later that the ringing of the telephone bell was a call from one of the officers of the town informing Mr. Barton to be on the lookout for the burglar.

It happened that while Kominski was in the Bliss house the officers passed by and seeing a light in one of the rooms decided that the members had been aroused by some one and were on the watch for an attempted break. The burglar, all of the time, was entirely unconscious of the nearness of the officers.

James N. McLarney, who lived at the old Staples place on the main road was also called up by telephone to be informed about the work of the desperado and while talking to one of the officers, over the wire, heard footsteps on the piazza, outside. When he reached the window, however, no one was in sight. It later proved that the burglar made the noise.

Previously the Lowell police headquarters were communicated with, and they in turn communicated by telephone with the officers of all the surrounding towns. Among those called were was Joseph Ryan at North Chelmsford. He awakened Constable Vinal from his slumbers and both started out to scour the streets of the village for the man. The two started out with their carriage at first, but later decided to go afoot, fearing that the noise of the horse and wagon might warn the man of their immediate presence should he be traveling along the roads.

Having received word that the fellow might strike toward the North village and believing that he would come over the shortest route, the two men stationed themselves at Drumm Hill, which is located near the Princeton boulevard, just to the rear of the truant school. They had located themselves behind a clump of bushes and were in waiting less than 15 minutes when Kominski was seen coming over the hill. When he neared the two they suddenly appeared before him, one on each side, and when he was about to inquire the way to Nashua, Ryan closed in and secured a hammerlock hold on him from behind, while Vinal quickly placed the twisters about his wrists. He didn't attempt to resist arrest.

When the burglaries were put up to him he finally admitted them and was later identified by Chelmsford Centre people as the suspicious character who had been about the village all Friday.

A pair of shoes were found in his pockets, and these were later identified by Rep. Perham as his property. He was brought to Lowell in company with Officer Vinal and Mr. Ryan, and booked on a charge of breaking and entering and larceny.

When questioned how he happened to evade the Chelmsford officers, Kominski said that their approach while walking towards North Chelmsford was made known to him by the noise of their wagons. When he would hear them coming he would jump behind a stone wall or in a clump of bushes and remain there until they had passed. In this way he evaded them four different times.

Westford's town hall is shown minus its tower, which was blown across the street, damaging two houses, at the height of the hurricane.

Chelmsford

HOUSE DAMAGED

No Lights Cause Postponement of Town Meeting

(Special to The Sun)

CHELMSFORD, Sept. 23—The special town meeting scheduled to be held tonight at the Center town hall, for the purpose of considering the proposed addition to the high school, has been postponed, due to the lack of lighting facilities and travelling hazards. The meeting will take place in the near future, the date to be announced.

School sessions again were omitted today in town, but will be resumed on Monday providing that travel conditions are considered by the authorities to be sufficiently safe.

The work of clearing the streets and highways of fallen trees and debris is progressing favorably under the direction of Ancel E. Taylor, highway superintendent. The workers were kept busy all day yesterday removing the wreckage from the streets, and by nightfall all roads were at least passable. In several sections, large trees were uprooted, falling upon homes and causing considerable damage. These will be chopped up and removed as soon as possible. Among the major losses suffered here as a result of the storm was that of the Robin Hill observation tower which was destroyed Wednesday night, ripping out its cement foundation as it fell.

As a welcome aid to working crews and the hundreds of travelers who were stranded in town during the worst of the storm on Wednesday night, members of Chelmsford Grange gathered at the Center town hall and served hot coffee and sandwiches throughout the night. This service was deeply appreciated, particularly in view of the difficulties under which the committee worked. Master Ernest G. Byam and Lecturer Moses C. Wilson supervised the work.

Small damage was suffered at the several school buildings. At the high school one window was blown in and a small area of tar paper on the front roof was ripped off; two windows were also broken at the Highland Avenue school in North Chelmsford, and at the East Chelmsford school shingles were blown from the roof. A part of the damage has already been repaired, and the remainder will be attended to within a few days.

North Chelmsford residents whose



[Sun Staff Photo]

Literally cut in two is this house on the North road in Chelmsford, known as the Cahill place. An idea of the size of the tree is given by comparison with the girl standing alongside the upturned roots. The tree struck in the exact center of the house, crushing the roof and causing heavy damage.

homes are situated near the Merrimack river were in a sorry plight last night as the river rose steadily, covering the Tyngsboro road at one time under four feet of water. Traffic was directed through the Dunstable road, the main highway being closed from Vinal Square to Wood's corner. The depot was reported to be surrounded with water shortly after 9 p. m. with the railroad tracks covered in some sections. Some 10 families were obliged to leave their homes, and in several cases hens and other small livestock were drowned. The Southwell Wool Combing company as well as the Proctor Lumber company were surrounded by water.

Dr. Clarence E. Chaney, of Rangoon, Burma, will be the guest speaker at the morning service at the Central Baptist church on Sunday.

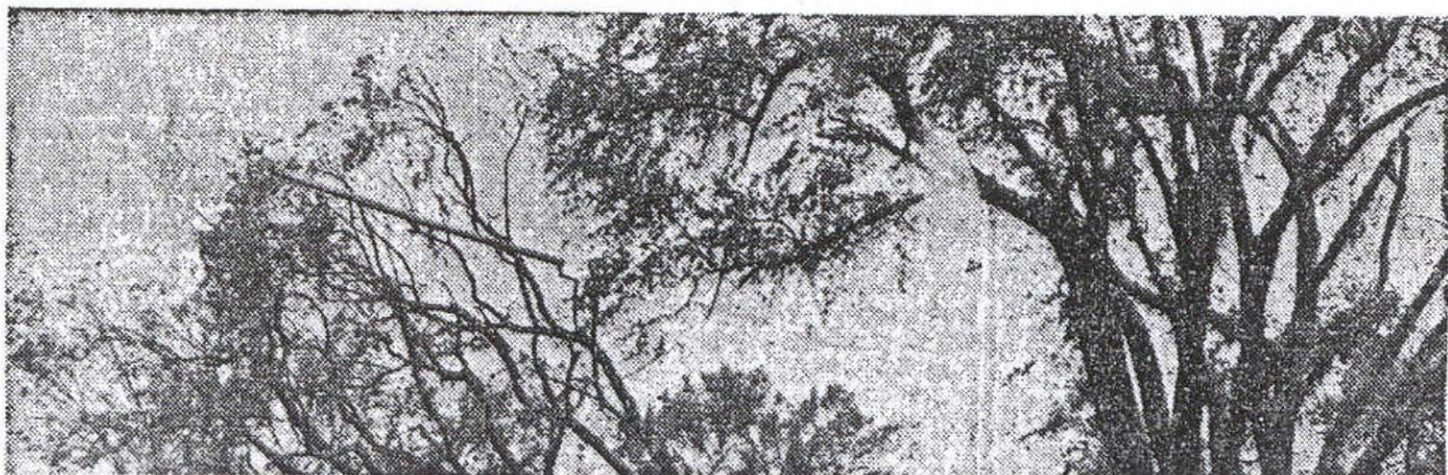
Dr. Chaney is field secretary of the 200,000 Baptists in Burma, and in that capacity has succeeded in promoting young native Christians to positions of leadership in the work there. While in Chelmsford, he will be the guest of Rev. Mr. and Mrs. William A. Van Arsdale.

The outing and cookout scheduled for tonight, at the Harold Parker state forest reservation in Andover, by the young people of the Central Baptist church, has been postponed.

AUTOMOBILE FIRE

Engine 2 and Chief Prescott responded on a telephone alarm at 10.04 a. m. today for an automobile fire at Westford and Walker streets. Damage was slight.

HISTORIC TREE TOPPLES





212 North Road

7/10/2005 F. Merriam



212

