

In Area no.	Form no.
	39

1. Town Chelmsford

Address 33 North Road

Name William Fletcher House

Present use Religious education

building

Roman Catholic Archbishop

Present owner of Boston

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 7-11A

3. Description:

Date ca 1818

Source Deed, Bk. 10, pg. 123

Style Georgian

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric lapped clapboard
see attached

Outbuildings (describe) none: sheet

Other features mortise & tenon, pegged
construction, brick chimney arch
in basement.

see attached
Altered yes Date _____ sheets _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre 2.26

Approximate frontage 200 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

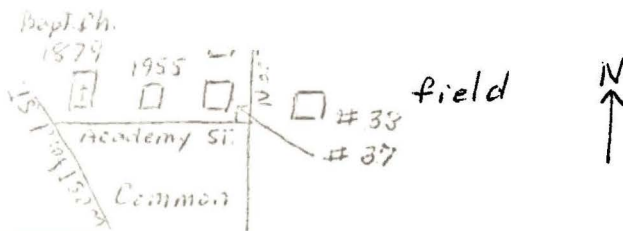
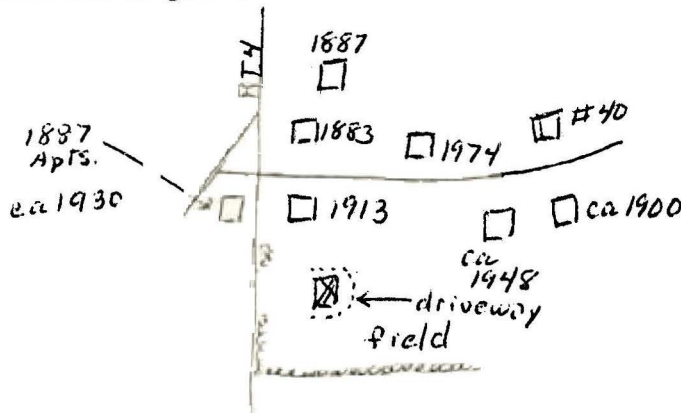
42 feet

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury

Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission

Date November 20, 1974

4 Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

7. Original owner (if known) probably "Captain" William Fletcher (B. 1754, d. 1845)

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates apartments: earlier than 1912 to 1965; religious education: 1965 to present time

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<u> </u>	Conservation		Recreation	<u> </u>
Agricultural	<u> x </u>	Education		Religion	<u> x </u>
Architectural	<u> </u>	Exploration/ settlement		Science/ invention	
The Arts	<u> </u>	Industry		Social/ humanitarian	
Commerce	<u> </u>	Military	<u> x </u>	Transportation	
Communication	<u> </u>	Political			
Community development	<u> x </u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

See attached sheet

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

1875 Beers Atlas
1831 map
"Chelmsford Vital Statistics to 1850"
Waters, "History of Chelmsford"
Edward H. Fletcher, "Fletcher Genealogy"
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds, Book 10, pg. 123
Mrs. Margaret Mills, former owner

Historical Significance:

This house was probably built by "Captain Billy" Fletcher for his son about 1817/18 on part of the land granted to the first William Fletcher about 1655. On June 17, 1818 "Capt. Billy" sold for \$400 to his son William, Jr. $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres "with a new dwelling house thereon." It is doubtful that "Captain Billy" ever lived in the house himself, as in 1803 he bought the Bates-Herrick house at the corner of Worthen and North roads, and is said to have lived there until his death in 1845 of old age (90 years), having lived the early part of his life on Crosby Lane.

"Captain Billy", a farmer, never actually held the rank of Captain, though he was a soldier in the Revolution. He was a member of Parker's company on April 19th, 1775 but evidently was among those who arrived after the retreat began. According to his own words written late in life, "We followed the enemy and came up with them somewhere in Lexington. Our company behaved as well as could be expected, all things considered. I was four times that day where the arrows of death flew thick. We followed the enemy more than half way over Charlestown Neck.....the enemy was then in plain view, rising Bunker's Hill. In 1825 at the age of 70, he was a trustee of the Chelmsford Classical School.

His son, William, Jr. (b. May 18, 1782) with his wife, Orpha Spaulding, was probably the first to actually live at 33 North Road. He was a farmer and apparently remained there until he died in 1846 of consumption (his wife having already died "very suddenly" in 1839).

His son, William 3rd (b. 1819), also lived in the house and married his first wife, Diantha Dustin, in 1845 the year before his father's death. He too was a farmer but was also active in civic affairs. He was a representative in the legislature in 1869 and probably was the same William Fletcher who was a selectman in 1855/6, a member of the committee in charge of erecting the Revolutionary Monument on the Center Common, and a trustee in 1859 of the Chelmsford Academy, which used the building which had been erected on Academy Street for the Chelmsford Classical School 34 years earlier. (and razed in 1955). In 1893 his widow and second wife, Eliza, deeded the property to his only grandson, William.

This William was the last Fletcher to own the house. He was born in 1872 in New Jersey, where his father died soon after. Perhaps he never lived in the house at all, as he was living in Newport, Maine in 1901, when he mortgaged the homestead, which mortgage was defaulted in 1912 and almost 100 years of Fletcher ownership came to an end. Furnishings and house were auctioned off that spring.

For more than 50 years the house then was rented for apartments (as it had been during at least some of the ownership of the last William Fletcher).

In 1965 the house was sold to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston and has since been used as a religious education building for St. Mary's Parish.

Outbuildings:

At the back of the house there was a very fine barn, in good condition. Most of it had never been clapboarded, and it had weathered to a very fine dark brown. After the house became a religious education building, it was realized that the barn would not be good from a liability standpoint, and so was demolished.

Northern Middlesex District Registry of Deeds

Book 1732, pg. 512	12/28/1965	Roman Catholic Archbishop from Margaret E. Mills (from the estate of Christina A. Robbins)
Book 728, pg. 118	9/8/1925	Christina A. Robbins from Herbert Ellis
Book 484, pg. 336	3/30/1912	Edward Robbins from Herbert Ellis
Book 484, pg. 233	3/30/1912	Herbert and Flossy Ellis from Rachel A. Parker (This was a mortgage sale due to the default of William Fletcher Edward F. Parker)
Book 336, pg. 144	10/1/1901	Edward F. Parker from William & Jennie Fletcher
Book 291, pg. 161	10/11/1897	William Fletcher from Eliza Fletcher
Book 250, pg. 200	12/14/1893	William Fletcher from Eliza Fletcher
Book 10, pg. 123 South:		
Book 227, pg. 13	6/17/1818	William Fletcher from William Fletcher

William Fletcher House
33 North Road

Excerpt from tape made by Margaret Mills 3/13/72
Transcribed by Jane Drury

"This was a William Fletcher house. If you go to the Registry of Deeds and look up this particular house, you find so many William Fetters, and they forgot to say 1, 2, or 3. When I tried to do it (my father having owned it, and I rented it 14 - 15 years before I sold it to the Archdiocis of Boston for St. Mary's Church); they are using it for educational classes now, but I have seen proposed building plans, and this house will probably be town-down. Originally Father Sullivan, with whom I did the business locally, was almost convinced that it might be a good idea to save the house and put up an ell shaped brick building for their educational building (the corner house was built by my father after World War 1 for purposes of renting; it is nothing worth saving). The house presently as we fixed it over in the sixties would rent three good apartments.

In the cellar, which is only under the south side of the house, there is a huge base for the chimney on that side, and to support the hearth upstairs there are two enormous pieces of granite under the arch; that is, the ceiling of the arch is granite. The archway is brick. They evidently put up this arch of brick and laid these big pieces of granite across to support this huge chimney. When we put in a central heating plant, we used the front portion of the arch to put the furnace into and ran the so-called smoke pipe up on the edge of the hearth, so that it actually came up into the front room in front of the fireplace, and then we ran it into the chimney. To camouflage this it was all very carefully -- well, we used all sorts of asbestos and fire resistant material around the pipe.

We didn't cut into the wall above the chimney, so to speak. Between this front fireplace and the one that backs up into it, which most recently would have been the parlor on the south side apartment, and the next room back (dining room) there is a very large fireplace in there - we had it all opened up, and there was probably a foot of air space between the back of one fireplace and the back of the other. I have been told that this allows for a warming space. If you came in the side entry, that hallway was somewhat warm, because there was space in back of that plaster where there was a heated protected area (no fire) - just the heat that came out a sort of a heat-o-later but there was no opening to it. This fireplace in the dining room had an interesting detail which we took out unfortunately. We were told that it was nothing but a repair, but when we went on to the north side in the room that would compare with this, there when we opened up the fireplace, there was the same stepped-up brick construction at the back of the fireplace from the hearth perhaps 10". The first course might have been 2 bricks wide, the next 1 brick wide, and the next a $\frac{1}{2}$ a brick wide as the fireplace tapers. Two reasons have been given: better draft; and they used to put things on the ledge - things they wanted to keep warm in back of the green logs that would have been at that portion of the fireplace.

On the north side, all the support for that great chimney is hidden in a wall space. It's there, but as part of the earth cellar that's underneath there. These chimneys go up, and in the olden days gave the four bedrooms upstairs fireplaces, some of which were opened up when we were redoing the house in the sixties. I think the property was transferred in 1965 or 1966 to the Archdiocis of Boston. There are some very nice wood-working details in the room, with some dados. On the north side of the front room we found evidence of so-called Indian shutters, which really isn't the correct name. They were shutters to keep out the cold. The runs were there but the shutters

were gone. However, when we were taking out some shelves in a more modern day china closet, I found I was painting the shutters, and they had cut them down to make shelves for the china closet. That's in the dining room on the north side. I put them right back where I found them.

There is not too much of interest on the second floor, but the Commission should make arrangements with somebody there at the church to take a flashlight and camera and go up to the third floor (attic). The door to it is out of the second floor, in the front square of the house. There on your right as you proceed up the stairs is a huge 12-14" square piece of timber which is like the trunk of a tree. As it goes to the peak of the roof, from it radiate out these other rafters in the shape of an umbrella or tree; to me, this is a roof-tree. As you look at the front of the house, you see evidence that some of the rafters were taken out in order to put in a sort of dormer or peaked window, which you see from the street. Probably it was a Victorian addition, as were the bay windows down on the first floor in the two front rooms - I wish I'd had the money to change those (Ted Emerson at 11 North Road took out the bay windows at that house and much improved it by putting in the original sized windows). Upstairs in the attic one can see the back roof which was originally over the house, still in there, and the roof of the ell is tied in to it. At one time the only way to get into the attic of the roof over the ell was to go up through a scuttle hole in what was then a kind of coal shed at the far back of the house, and it was fortunate that Ray Sargent was a young man on the Volunteer Fire Dept. and had lived in the house. When they got a call for a fire at the back, he knew exactly that he should take the hose in the back door, up through this shed, up through the scuttle-hole, and dampen it down. I give him credit for saving the whole of that house. In order to put insulation in the flooring over the ell and also the front, we did a lot of taking out of roof boards and shingles; it gives a very good space for firemen to get ~~at~~ to the ell from the main part of the house - they would have to crawl over the furling or the rafters still there and jump into the ell.

At the back of the house was a very fine barn. It was in very good condition, and most of it had never been clapboarded. It was beautifully weathered to a dark brown. When the Rev. Sullivan passed on and his replacement took over, he realized there would be a lot of young people using this educational building and that a barn would not be good from a liability standpoint, so the barn was taken down and nothing was saved from it."

222 April 19th, 1775

Mr. Perham left the following note:

"Wm. Fletcher went out on the 19th of April. By mistake his name is not on the Roll, which was not made out until 1776."

He was, later, in Ford's Company.

The family tradition repeats his words: "I was one of those who stepped over the body of the first British soldier killed at Concord Bridge." (Brown)

There is a William Fletcher, 3d, on the official list, who marched on the alarm of April 19th. There were several men of that name in Chelmsford.

William Fletcher of Parker's Company (Uncle Billy Fletcher, who lived in the old gambrel roof house recently demolished, which stood at North Square) wrote out, late in life, an account of his experience. Evidently he was one of the Chelmsford men who arrived later on the scene than others, as the retreat of the British had already begun. He says: "We followed the enemy and came up with them somewhere in Lexington. Our company behaved as well as could be expected, all things considered. I was four times that day where the arrows of death flew thick. We followed the enemy more than half way over Charlestown Neck.....the enemy was then in plain view, rising Bunker's Hill." He was 19 years of age when he enlisted.

Pg. 251 From a paper by Miss Josephine H. Earl

At the end of nine months' service of Capt. Ford's first company, another company of Chelmsford men, with Ford in command, was raised to reinforce the army at Cambridge. This company served from January to April, 1776, but with little fighting, and in April the soldiers returned to their farms. In connection with Capt. Ford's second company, I quote from a manuscript of Lawyer Corliss. "William Fletcher of Chelmsford was a member of Capt. Ford's 2d company at Cambridge. His son William told me that his father, then alive, told him that Washington planned an attack upon Boston in the night, to cross with boats and Capt. Ford was put in charge of a boat, but for some reason the expedition was given up."

319 Revolutionary Record

Fletcher, William. Capt. John Ford's Company, Col. Roberson's (Robinson's) Regt.; company receipt for wages from Feb. 5, 1776 to April 1, 1776, dated Chelmsford; also, Private, Capt. Ford's Co. of Volunteers, Col. Jonathan Reed's Regt.; enlisted Sept. 27, 1777; discharged Nov. 8, 1777; service, 1 mo., 13 days; company marched Sept. 30, 1777, to reinforce Northern Army; roll dated Chelmsford.

563 Chelmsford Classical School

The management was entrusted to the following Board of Trustees:

Abel Hunt, Rev. Wilkes Allen, Rev. Abiel Abbott, Samuel Bachelder, Oliver M. Whipple, Jonathan Perham, J.S.C. Knowlton, Capt. Josiah Fletcher, Sen., Dr. J.C. Dalton, Owen Emerson, Jr., Cranmore Wallace, Captain William Fletcher, Dr. J.O. Green, Dr. Rufus Wyman, Otis Adams, Joel Adams, Joseph Warren, Captain John Butterfield.

Although the Chelmsford Classical School had a brief existence the town has occasion to feel proud of its results. Probably at no other period have so many young men gone out from the schools of Chelmsford to gain distinction abroad and confer honor upon their native town.

Pg. 564 Chelmsford Classical School

The need of better educational advantages than were offered by the public schools led to a movement in 1859 for the establishment of a school of a higher grade. The use of the building erected for the Chelmsford Classical School, 34 years before, was obtained, and on Aug. 29, 1859, the "Chelmsford Academy" was opened. Albert Stickney, A.B., a graduate of Harvard University, was the principal. The trustees were: Levi Howard, M.D., William Fletcher, Dea. David Perham, Charles H. Dalton, Edward F. Richardson, Solomon E. Byam and Edwin H. Warren.

588 Chelmsford Monument Association

Mr. Charles H. Dalton of Boston, having suggested the idea of erecting a monument to the memory of the Revolutionary patriots of Chelmsford, the following gentlemen met at the house of Deacon Otis Adams, on the evening of Friday, March 25, 1859, to discuss the subject: Capt. Josiah Fletcher, Otis Adams, Dr. J.C. Bartlett, Gardner Fletcher, William Fletcher, E.K. Parkhurst, J. Richardson Fletcher, C.H. Dalton, and E.H. Warren.

Pg. 765 Civil List

William Fletcher, slectman - 1855, 1856.

Lowell Daily Courier

May 21, 1886 - Dea. Perham's new cottage near the Billerica road is to be occupied June 1, by C.A. Sylvander. At that time Rev. J.H. Vincent will change his abode to the vacant tenement in the double house of William Fletcher, esq., on North street. F.E. Nason will occupy the premises to be vacated by Mr. Vince

Dowell Weekly Journal

April 20, 1888

Chelmsford

The light-fingered gentry have again made their appearance in this village. Last Friday night the residences of D.A. Bussell, S.W. Thurlow, D.C. Perham, Wm. Fletcher, Rev. N.C. Saunders and Rev. J.H. Vincent were entered. The work evidently was that of professionals. At Mr. Perham's only a small sum of money was secured, as he was awakened in season to prevent a thorough examination of the premises. Mr. Bussell's house, where the greatest loss was sustained, is a double tenement occupied by himself and Mr. Thurlow. Entrance was effected through a window in the coal bin. Mr. Thurlow's loss was 10 silver teaspoons. The doors of Mr. Bussell's apartments, opening into the hall, were locked, but this proved but a slight impediment to the dexterous visitors. The lower rooms were thoroughly ransacked, and in addition to about \$12 in cash the following articles were taken: A pair of valuable gold bracelets, marked with the initials E.L.B., a gold chain, several breast pins and sleeve buttons, a gold-framed magnifying glass and a solid silver ladle, marked E.L.B. in old English letters. Several of these articles were gifts from valued friends and highly prized on account of their associations. The thieves evidently had planned to carry away the remaining silver, of which there was a considerable quantity, but an exclamation from Mr. Bussell, who was aroused by the light from the lantern flashing into his sleeping room, probably frightened the rogues away. His contribution to the general loss is about \$100. At Mr. Saunders's house the thieves were frightened away before they had time to levy on the personal effects of the occupants. Mr. Vincent, who occupies one of the tenements in Mr. Fletcher's double house, was relieved of a watch chain, while the wearing apparel of the family was thoroughly examined and left lying around without any systematic attempt at systematic arrangement. From Mr. Fletcher's side of the house several silver spoons were abstracted. Judging from the systematic raids made upon other towns, it may be reasonably assumed supposed that this visit is but a preliminary one, and it will be well to be on the lookout for another of these undesirable surprise parties.

Sept. 25, 1891

Chelmsford

Last week Mr. D.A. Bussell, who is an inmate of the insane asylum at Somerville, was attacked by severe illness and there are but slight prospects that he will rally.

Sept. 25, 1891

Chelmsford

The death of a townsman, Mr. D.A. Bussell, which occurred Thursday morning at the McLean asylum at Somerville, where he has been an inmate for the past seven months, had been anticipated for several days by his physician and family. About a week ago he was prostrated by a complication of diseases, from which his system was too enfeebled to rally. Mr. Bussell was about 71 years of age. he had resided here about 25 years, his former home having been in Eastport, Me., where he was for a long time engaged in business. He was a man of strict integrity, positive convictions, of quiet, undemonstrative ways and courteous bearing. He will be sadly missed by a large circle of friends and especially will his loss be felt in the pleasant home which he and his devoted wife have so long made the centre of a refined and cordial hospitality.

Lowell ~~Courier-Citizen~~ Weekly Journal

June 24, 1892 - Mr. William Fletcher, who for a year past has suffered from a brain disorder, has placed himself under the care of Dr. Cutter of Hollis, New Hampshire, and left for that town last Sunday.

Feb, 17, 1893 - Mr. William Fletcher, a well known and respected townsman, was last Saturday taken to the state insane hospital at Concord, N.H. Mr. Fletcher's mental powers have been gradually failing for the past two years, and his condition had become such that by the advice of his physician and many personal friends, his family with painful reluctance consented to his removal, recognizing the necessity of the step both for his care and their own security against irresponsible acts of personal violence.

June 30 , 1893 - Mr. and Mrs. D. Zevely arrived in town Saturday noon, called hither by the death of Mrs. Zevely's father, Mr. Wm. Fletcher.

June 30, 1893 - Mr. William Fletcher of this village, a native of the town, and in his earlier manhood a prominent and influential citizen, died Thursday night at Concord, N.H., at the state lunatic asylum, whither he was taken about four months ago for the treatment of a mental malady of several years' duration and of an incurable nature. The immediate cause of death was a shock to the system resulting from a fall, a week prior to decease, which occasioned a fracture of the hip. Mr. Fletcher was nearly 74 years of age, having been born July 10, 1819. He was the son of William and Orpha Fletcher, and a lineal descendant of William Fletcher, one of the first settlers of Chelmsford and a man conspicuous in town affairs. Deceased was a farmer by occupation, and all his life was passed in his native town, with the exception of 15 years in Washington as a clerk in the department of agriculture. He had also served the town as selectman and represented it in the popular branch of the legislature. He was a man of strict integrity, and a public-spirited citizen always to be relied upon for assistance in all measures for the public weal. In his early manhood, when in municipal affairs sectional feeling ran much higher than at the present day, he was a ready, forceible and logical speaker in the public town meetings, and the special champion of local interests. April 22, 1845, Mr. Fletcher was married to Miss Dianthan E. Dustin, who died in 1866. Of this union four children were born, of whom one is now living, Mrs. D. Zevely of Washington, D.C. A grandson also survives, William, son of the late Charles Fletcher. In 1871 Mr. Fletcher was united in marriage to Miss Eliza A. Warren of Chelmsford, who survives him, and who has most faithfully cared for him under circumstances peculiarly trying from the nature of his malady.

The funeral services were held at his late home Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. Granville Pierce officiating.....

Sept. 1, 1893 - The new post office appointee, W.H. Hill.....has secured as an assistant William Fletcher, a resident of the town, and a graduate of the Agricultural college at Amherst. Mr. Fletcher took a four years' course in chemistry, which will be a valuable aid to him in his additional duties as clerk in the drug store, where the post office will be located.

Lowell Daily Courier

Oct. 12, 1894 - Mr. Frank Scales of Lowell has hired and will soon occupy a part of the double tenement house of Mrs. Eliza A. Fletcher on North street. The present occupant, Mr. Brown, moves to the city.

ues. July 17, 1900 Chelmsford Disturbers

The trial of William Fletcher, Harry Ward, Jeremiah Coughlin, and Joseph Mason for breaking a church door in Chelmsford on the early morning of the 4th occupied the police court's attention for two hours yesterday morning.

Lawyer Burke brought the janitor of the church, Ferdinand Patten, as his first witness. By him he showed that Fletcher and Ward were recognized; he showed how the churchdoor was broken and the words and acts pertaining to the breaking. He then brought on Charles E. Holt, who testified as to Fletcher's whereabouts, also that he had not joined the crowd.

Lawyer Donahue then called up as his witnesses the remaining three of Mr. Burke's witnesses and the defendants. From Leslie R. Davis he learned that Fletcher had been with him until after the door was broken. From the remaining two, both town officers, he learned that Patten had spoken to them of recognizing a man with a hook on his arm, a fact which Patten had denied in his statement.

.....Joseph E. Mason stated he was not at the church, but about 1/8 of a mile away at the time.

Jeremiah A. Coughlin stated that he was not there but circumstances and other statements made it doubtful.

.....Fletcher and Ward and Coughlin were found guilty, and the first two were sentenced to pay \$10 fines, the last a \$5 fine. Mason was found not guilty.

The case was appealed to the higher court, to meet in October.

Monday, Sept. 21, 1903 - Frank Lane is now occupying the William Fletcher house in North Street and has let his Littleton Street house to a Mr. Linstad.

Feb. 14, 1909¹⁰ - Mr. & Mrs. Arthur E. Barton are occupying part of the William Fletcher house on Centre street.

Aug. 1, 1910 - Mr. & Mrs. Harold McQuarrie are occupying the upper tenement in the William Fletcher house in Centre street.

Oct. 24, 1910 - Mr. & Mrs. Arthur E. Barton have again taken up their residence in the Fletcher house on Centre street.

July 30, 1911 - Rev. & Mrs. E.A. Rodman who have been living at the Fletcher house on Centre street, are to move into the Hardy house on the Boston road this week.

Lowell Courier-Citizen

Josiah R. Fletcher (lived near Wilson St.)

Oct. 5, 1911 - Josiah R. Fletcher, well known to residents of Chelmsford, his former home, is in a serious condition at the Battles home in Lowell as a result of a shock affecting his-brain-base the base of his brain. Mr. Fletcher, who is in his 90th year, is the oldest charter member of Ladd and Whitney Post 185, G.A.R., and is probably one of the oldest Grand Army men in New England.

Nov. 29, 1911 - The death of Josiah Richardson Fletcher, a native and resident of Chelmsford for the greater part of his life, and one of the oldest Grand Army men in New England, occurred at the Battles Home in Lowell this morning, as the result of a shock with which he was stricken several weeks ago. He was in his 90th year, being born in Chelmsford in 1822, the son of Josiah Fletcher. At the time of his death he was the chaplain of Post 185, G.A.R., and its oldest member. Before the Civil War he was graduated from the Normal school at Bridgewater, and for a short time taught school. Finding that it did not agree with his health, he returned to his father's farm, where he was employed at the opening of the war. On September 9, 1862, he enlisted in Co. K, Sixth Regiment - nine months' volunteers. He was at that time chairman of selectmen and overseers of the poor of Chelmsford. He served his term of service, and after the war was employed for six years as a clerk in the treasury department at Washington. His grandfather, Josiah Fletcher, served as a soldier in the Revolution, and died in Chelmsford, aged 91. His granduncle, William Fletcher, was a soldier at Bunker Hill, and was 90 years old when he died. Another granduncle, Benjamin Fletcher, was a captain in the Revolution.

The funeral services will take place on Friday at 2 o'clock from the Battles Home. Burial will be in the family lot in Chelmsford.

Dec. 1, 1911 - The funeral of Josiah R. Fletcher was held this afternoon from the Battles Home at Lowell.....Among those present was Mr. Fletcher's only surviving relative his brother, Joseph M. Fletcher of Roxbury.....

William Fletcher House
33 North Road

Lowell Courier-Citizen

Mar. 19, 1912 - An auction sale is to be held on Friday at the William Fletcher place in Centre street, is advertised this morning by Auctioneer Edward J. Robbins.

Mar. 20, 1912^z- Several pieces of antique furniture will be found in the auction sale at the William Fletcher place in Centre street on Friday. The sale will be conducted by Auctioneer Edward J. Robbins.

Mar. 29, 1912 - In accordance with the expression of the voters at the annual town meeting, the selectmen will dispose of the horses, wagons, harnesses, etc. of the highway department, at a public auction to be held at the William Fletcher farm on the North road, April 4, at 1:30 P.M.

July 1, 1912 - Mr. & Mrs. C.H. Foster, who have been occupying the Fletcher house in North road, have removed to Lowell.

Sept. 23, 1912 - Michael McKennedy and family, who have for several years occupied a part of the Fletcher house on North road, are to remove the latter part of the month to a house owned by H.A. Vickery on the East Chelmsford road.

April 3, 1913 - Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Jorgenson are occupying the Sern tenement at the William Fletcher place on North street.

May 2, 1913 - Mr. & Mrs. C.E. Stanley are occupying a tenement in the Fletcher house in North street.

July 9, 1913 - Walter B. Bullock.....has returned to Chelmsford and has taken up residence in the north part of the William Fletcher house in North street.

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur E. Barton have again taken up their residence in the Fletcher house on Centre street.

Bates/Fletcher House Site (corner Worthen & North Rd.)

Sept. 4, 1914 - During the past week, the Captain William Fletcher house, situated on the North road and known as the oldest house in Chelmsford, has been demolished. It had no particular history attached to it, its destruction being distinction being that it was probably 250 years old and the oldest house in town retaining its original shape. While the exterior showed the effect of years, much of the lumber used in its construction was found in an excellent state of preservation and nearly "as good as new," better, in fact, than some that is used today.



33 North Road - History lost across the street

8/22/2004 F. Merriam



