

FORM B - BUILDING

In Area no. Chelmsford Center	Form no. 271
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

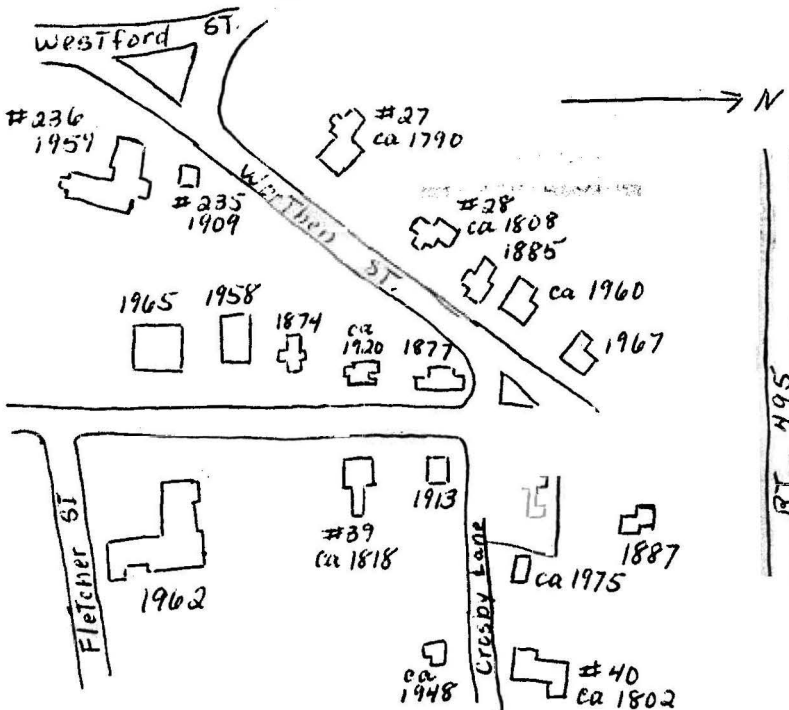
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1. Town Chelmsford
 Address 43 North Road
 Name Almon Holt House
 Present use residence
 Present owner Michael & Mary Slattery

3. Description:
 Date 1883
 Source Chelmsford Eagle, deeds
 Style _____
 Builder _____
 Architect Almon W. Holt

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



Exterior wall fabric clapboard
 Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features double brackets under eaves; wide, panelled cornerboards; heavy bracketed front entrance hood
 Altered see attached Date 1900, 1976
 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
 16,160 sq. ft.
 One acre or less x Over one acre
 Approximate frontage 110 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street
 ca 75 feet - Crosby Lane
 ca 35 feet - North Rd.

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

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury
 Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission
 Date March 5, 1980

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Almon W. Holt 1
 Original use residence
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

This house was built in 1883 by Almon H. Holt, a carpenter and building contractor, for his own occupancy. He also built many other buildings in Chelmsford and continued in this occupation until well into his 80s. In 1900 he spent some time in Boston constructing buildings.

Twice his young son, Charlie, nearly lost his eyesight through accidents. The first time was in 1887, when he and a friend were playing with gunpowder. Ten years later while he was helping build a house in West Chelmsford hot lead sprayed into his face. However, his eyesight remained good enough for him to become a clerk in later years.

A second son, Leon, while riding his bicycle in the barn, accidentally strangled himself on a rope used to tie the family horse. His defective vision may have contributed to the cause of the fatal accident.

A third son, Fred W. Holt, a civil engineer, sold the house in 1935.

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

Chelmsford Eagle: Dec. 15, 1883; Lowell Daily Courier: Oct. 7, 1903
 Lowell Weekly Journal: Oct. 22, 1897; Dec. 22, 1899; Feb. 16, 1900
 Notebook of Miss Frances Andrews
 Middlesex North Dist. Reg. Deeds: Bk. 161, pg. 241(1883); Bk. 859, pg.227(1935);
 Plan Bk. M, Plan 119
 1889 Atlas
 Chelmsford Assessors' Office: revaluation card
 Chelmsford Building Inspector's Office: Permit #281
 Mrs. Michael Slattery; Mr. Julian Zabierek

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Chelmsford	Form No: 271
Property Name: Almon Holt House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

3. Alterations:

1889 Atlas

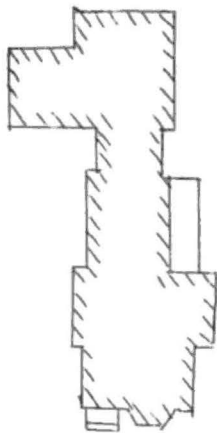


Lowell Weekly Journal, Dec. 22, 1899:

"Almon Holt is laying the foundation for an enlargement of his house in North street."

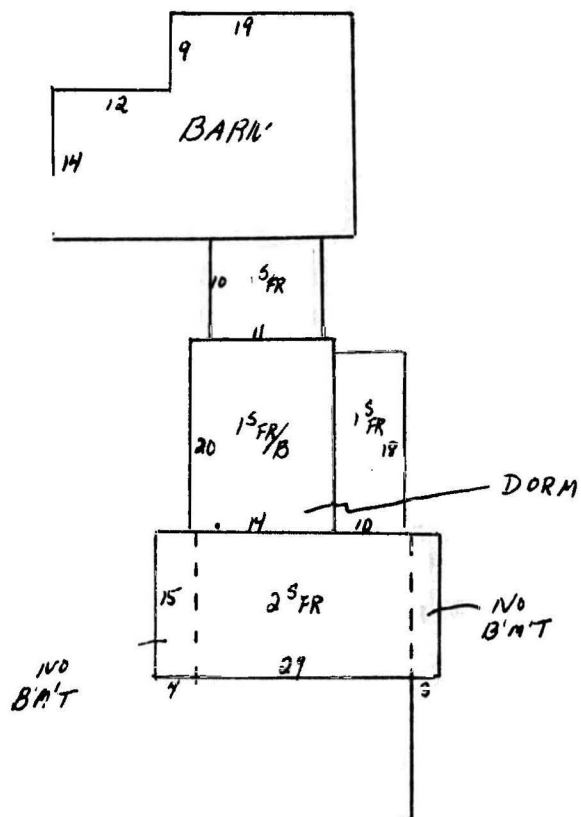
The present owner (March 1980) believes this enlargement may have been the front room of the house, first & second stories.

Plan Book M, Plan 119
1919
Scale: 1"=40'



Building Permit #281
11/17/1976
Contractor: T. James Tevlin
Open porch on right side
replaced with enclosed
area for kitchen

Revaluation Card
6/24/1971



Staple to Inventory form at bottom

43 North Road - Lot 69

1974 owner: Michael C. & Mary C. Slattery
16,160 sq. ft.

Built in 1883
First owner: Almon W. Holt
Builder: Almon W. Holt

Sources:

1. 1889 Atlas: A.W. Holt
1875 Atlas: no
2. Chelmsford Assessor's Office 10/3/1974
Plat 104, Block 31, Lot 69
1974 owner: Michael C. & Mary C. Slattery
1972 House & barn 16,160 sq. ft.
1966 House, barn, henhouse 16,160 sq. ft.
12/31/1965 deed, Book 1733, Page 308 title from Donald D. Osborn Jr. & Jacqueline D. Osborn. 16,160 sq. ft.
3. Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds
Book 1733, Pg. 308 12/21/1965 Michael C. & Mary C. Slattery from Donald D. Jr. & Jacqueline D. Osborn 16,160 sq. ft. & buildings
Book 1687, Pg. 491 3/ 9/1965 Donald D. Jr. & Jacqueline D. Osborn from David W. Sargent et ux 16,160 and buildings
Book 1525, Pg. 572 8/ 4/1961 David W. Sargent et ux from Gordon L. & Norma Ordway Welch 16,160 and buildings
Book 1196, Pg. 432 6/ 2/1952 Gordon L. & Norma Ordway Welch from Norma Ordway Welch 16,160 and buildings
Book 859, Pg. 227 2/12/1935 Jessie M. Wiggin from Fred W. Holt 16,160 and buildings
Book 248, Pg. 347 6/26/1893 Susie R. Holt from Ann E. Hutchins 1,435 sq. ft.
Book 161, Pg. 241 7/ 4/1883 Susan R. Holt from William Fletcher Land - 1/3 acre
4. "Chelmsford Eagle" - Dec. 15, 1883
A.W. Holt - new cottage built on land of William Fletcher.
5. Notebook of Miss Frances Andrews, pg. 104
Almon Holt - lived at corner of Crosby Lane and North Road. His house was built by himself, a carpenter.

Lowell Weekly Journal:

Oct. 28, 1887 - Mr. A.W. Holt's son Charlie, a lad of 6 or 7 years, severely burned his face Monday while playing with gun powder, and narrowly escaped losing his eyesight. A playmate also parted with a large portion of his eyebrows in the display of fireworks.

Oct. 22, 1897 - Charles Holt, son of A.W. Holt, contractor and builder, while at work upon a house at West Chelmsford Thursday, met with a painful accident. He was -lacing an iron rod in a stone in which molten lead had been poured, when an explosion took place and the lead was thrown into his face, severely injuring him. He was taken home and Dr. Chamberlain summoned. Pieces of lead were extracted from his face and at first it was thought that his sight might be seriously impaired if not destroyed, but indications are now that he will escape such a misfortune.

Oct. 22, 1897 - Charles Holt, whose eyes were so severely injured last week, as mentioned in this paper, is slowly improving.

Feb. 4, 1898 - Charles Holt of this village has entered the employ of the Thompson Hardware company (of Lowell).

Dec. 22, 1899 - A.W. Holt is laying the foundation for an enlargement of his house in North street.

Feb. 16, 1900 - Almon W. Holt, carpenter and builder, leaves this week for Boston, where he will for a time follow his occupation. The family ~~will~~ home will be retained in Chelmsford.

Lowell Daily Courier

October 7, 1903

Strangled

Chelmsford Boy Found Dead in Barn Hitching Rope Under Chin

Boy had Ridden Into Barn in His Bicycle and Accidentally Fallen Into Hanging Rope.

Leon, youngest son of Mr. & Mrs. Almon W. Holt, of North St., Chelmsford 16 years old, was found dead in the barn by his mother last evening about 6 o'clock. He evidently died of strangulation, as the noose of the rope which was used to tie the family horse while being groomed, and which hung over the floor, was found under his chin, while his feet rested on the floor. In the latter part of the afternoon, he had been in his house studying his lessons and later took a short ride on his bicycle, as was his practice. On returning he evidently rode into the barn, as when found the wheel was under him and it was with considerable difficulty that Mr. A.G. Green, a neighbor, who had been summoned extricated the lad's feet from the machine. All the members of the family were away at the time, the father being at work in the city. While the exact details may never be known, the accepted theory by the family is that Leon was riding back and forth in the barn, perhaps with a hold on the rope, and in some way slipped or lost control of the wheel and the rope caught under his chin, and when it became taut he was jerked backward and instantaneously lost consciousness, otherwise he could have freed himself with his hands. The boy had long suffered from defective vision and this may have contributed to the fatal result. Dr. Howard, who was summoned, said that clearly it was purely accidental.

Leon was a lad of good habits, popular with his associates, and his untimely end is a grievous blow to his family and a painful shock to the community.

CROSBY LN

1654
FIRST TOWN MEETING 

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