

photo here)

FORM B - BUILDING SURVEY

37

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

2. Town Chelmsford

Street address 1 Academy St/6 North Road

Name Winn/Emerson House

Use: original & present residence

Present owner Mrs. Priscilla E. Richardson

Open to public no

Date ca 1804 Style Georgian

Source of date see attached sheet

Architect _____

1. Is this building historically significant to:
Town _____ Commonwealth _____ Nation _____

Building has historical connection with the following themes: (see also reverse side)

- Scholar _____
- Agriculture _____
- Art/Sculpture _____
- Education _____
- Government _____
- Literature _____
- Music _____
- Commerce/industry _____
- Science/invention _____
- Travel/communication _____
- Military Affairs _____
- Religion/philosophy _____
- Indians _____
- Other _____

Development of town/city _____

Architectural reason for inventorying: _____

OR part of Area # _____

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added _____

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material granite block

WALL COVER: Wood clapboard butted _____ Brick Stone Other _____

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard _____

Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork _____

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed on north side, kitchens

1 west side-enclosed

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 1 east side-open, on ell PORTICO _____ Balcony _____

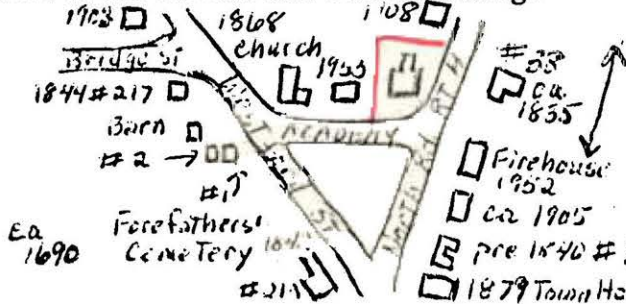
FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament _____

Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: see enclosed sheet

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 5x5 bay, 2/2 panes

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards _____

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings



6. Footage of structure from street 35 ft North Rd.

Property has 312 feet frontage on street

Lot size 0.62 acres

Recorder Jane B. Drury

For Chelmsford Historical Commission

Photo # _____ Date January 19, 1975

SEE REVERSE SIDE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

1. Outbuildings none

2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal
Predominant features field - west side
Landscape architect _____

3. Neighboring Structures
Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.
Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern Georgian
Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated



GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

See enclosed sheet

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

DeLand; "Dumb No Longer"
Waters, "History of Chelmsford"
Rev. Ebenezer Bridge, "Diary, 1749-1792"
1875 Beers Atlas
1856, 1831 maps
1955 "Chelmsford Newsweekly"
12/12/1877 "Chelmsford Eagle"
Adams family papers
Notebook of Miss Frances Andrews
William Fulton, occupant

Middlesex Probate Court:
Docket 7816 Wm. B. Fletcher,
guardianship
Docket 38871 Benjamin Fletcher
Docket 7955 William Fletcher,
will

RESTRICTIONS _____

Original Owner: Fletcher
Deed Information: Book Number 12 Page 11, North Middlesex Registry of Deeds
12 15

1 Academy Street
Winn House

Date:

The house was built by William Benjamin Fletcher or one of the other members of the Fletcher family, which in the early days of the town owned a large area just north of the meeting house (see #29, 16 Westford Street; #39, 33 North Road; #40, 14 Crosby Lane), on which the family built several houses. William Benjamin Fletcher inherited the land with a house in 1773 when his father, Benjamin (b. 1715/16; m. 1770; d. 1772), who died 4 months before his birth. Benjamin had inherited the same land and house in 1743/4 from his father, William. It is said that Benjamin lived in the Winn house, but perhaps he lived in the present ell or a house standing on the old foundation of the present ell at 1 Academy Street. He and his mother, who was living with him, were ill during much of the short period between his marriage and death, so it is unlikely that he would have built a large house. Benjamin's son, William Benjamin, was living in the present house in 1819, when he sold it to Josiah Fletcher, 3rd and Caleb Abbott. The architecture of the house is similar to two other Fletcher houses still standing in the area and built during the period of William Benjamin's ownership (14 Crosby Lane, ca 1802; 33 North Road, ca 1818). If William Benjamin Fletcher was the builder, he probably erected it about the time of his marriage in 1804.

Historical Significance:

Built by a member of the prominent Fletcher family, the first documented owner was William Benjamin Fletcher, who was residing in the house with his wife Rachel in 1819, when he sold it to Josiah Fletcher, 3rd and Caleb Abbott. On April 7, 1827 Josiah sold his interest in the house to Caleb, his brother-in-law, who owned the house for the next 25 years and kept a store in Chelmsford Center. Caleb's son, Josiah Gardner Abbott, was a State representative and senator, editor of the Lowell Advertiser, delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1853, and Judge of the Superior Court for Suffolk County. He is said to have been born in the house on Nov. 1, 1814, but, if so, it was during the time when the house was owned by his mother's family, the Fletchers.

Between 1849 and 1872 the house was owned by Deacon Otis Adams, a particularly well known figure in town, having been a school teacher in early years, a farmer, a leader in the Unitarian Church, and a prime mover in the erection of the Revolutionary Monument on the Center Common. It was the deacon who suggested putting on one side of the monument, "Let the children guard what their sires have won." This phrase has since become the town motto. From his first election in 1827 to his retirement in 1860, he served almost continuously in responsible positions of local government, including selectman. Deacon Otis Adams owned the house in 1866 when the Chelmsford School for the Deaf opened in its left-hand upper front room. This school was the first in the country to use only the pure oral method to teach the deaf. Miss Harriet B. Rogers was its principal. The school had great success, and deaf-mutes were taught to speak and to read from lips. One of the pupils was Mabel Hubbard, who married Alexander Graham Bell. From Mr. Bell's experiments in visualizing the vibrations of speech in order to enable deaf children to read speech from the graphic presentations of the inflections of the speaker's words, came the invention of the telephone. For a time the

Historical Significance(cont.):

school occupied the Classical Academy next door, and on October 1, 1867 it moved to Northampton, where it became the Clark School for the Deaf, Miss Rogers principal.

The four Winn sisters and their brother occupied the house during the latter part of the 19th century. They were active in the organization of the Central Congregational Church and gave the society part of their land on which to build a house of worship. Since 1908 the house has been owned by the Emerson family.

Altered

Unknown times:

Original ell (perhaps oldest part of the house) 3-4 shorter than present ell.

Second floor added to ell

Ell extended - once $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories, raised to 2 stories and a few feet added at the rear over the garage to make bedroom larger.

Porch (enclosed) added to west side of main house.

Front stairway - first floor to cellar removed.

first floor to second floor - new banister

Formation of 2 apartments (east & west) from one family house. Probably done after 1908 (sale of Winn estate) but before 1911 (Lowell Courier-Citizen, Apr. 12, 1911: mentions apartments).

Partition through ell to form two kitchens (& bedrooms)

Partitions at rear of ell to form two toilets.

Stairway to attic from rear room west side.

Partition of attic.

Dec. 12, 1877 - Chelmsford Eagle:

"The Misses Winn have added greatly to the appearance of their pleasant house by grading and otherwise improving the grounds upon the southerly and easterly sides of the house, and substituting a split stone curbing for the wooden fence which had outlived both its beauty and its usefulness. This is now one of the most attractive residences in the village."

1951:

Gable in roof over front door (Academy Street) removed.

French style window (2 doors opened out) at top of 1st story & under the gable was replaced by a single window.

1974:

Modillions removed from eaves

New butted clapboards on all but west side of main house, where old lapped clapboards remain nailed on with a diagonal design.

Heavy headers over first story windows of main house removed.

Heavy Victorian porticos over Academy St. and North Rd. entrances removed.

West side kitchen & toilet remodelled.

West side - interior paint & wallpaper.

Exterior paint.

Winn/Emerson House
1 Academy St. or 6 North Road

Middlesex Registry of Deeds:

North: Book 1423, Pg. 564	12/11/1958	Mabel F. Emerson to herself & Priscilla E. Richardson 0.62 acres
North: Book 948, Pg. 162	7/25/1940	Ralph W. Emerson to himself & his wife Mabel F. Emerson 0.62 acres
North: Book 428, Pg. 391	10/31/1908	Mary J. Winn estate (Frederick A.P. Fiske, executor) to James P. Emerson \$3,100
North: Book 84, Pg. 462	2/16/1872	Otis Adams to Marcia H.? Winn, Mary J. Winn, Sarah C. Winn, Eliza F. Winn 2 acres. \$1150 \$2500
North: Book 17, Pg. 179 South: Book 566, Pg. 138	3/20/1849	Jepthah Parker estate (Asa Hodgman 2 ^d , executor) to Otis Adams 2 acres. \$1150
North: Book 16, Pg. 155 South: Book 494, Pg. 189	4/ 1/1846	Caleb Abbott to Jepthah Parker 3 lots & buildings. \$2000
North: Book 12, Pg. 15 South: Book 273, Pg. 290	4/ 7/1827	Josiah Fletcher, ^{4th} Jr. to Caleb Abbott 3 acres
North: Book 12, Pg. 11 South: Book 273, Pg. 287	2/20/1819	William B. Fletcher to Caleb Abbott & Josiah Fletcher 3rd 4 acres

Middlesex Probate Court:

Docket # 38871	1773	Estate of Benjamin Fletcher to William Benjamin Fletcher, only heir 4 acres
Docket # 7955	1743	Will of William Fletcher to Benjamin Fletcher, son All lands & buildings except east side of dwelling house

Was the Winn House the old Stoddard House?

In 1866 David Perham bought the old Stoddard house at the corner of Westford and Academy Streets (Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds, Book 52, Page 538), either tore it down or moved it, and built the present Central Baptist Church in its place. Mr. William Fulton (1973 occupant of a Academy Street) theorized that Perham and Deacon Otis Adams (owner of 1 Academy Street in 1866) moved the house down to 1 Academy Street, replaced the central chimney with two side chimneys, and added it to the ell (which would have been already there as a small Fletcher house), the result being the house essentially as it is in 1975 (although occupied by one family rather than two).

Mr. Fulton's reasons:

1. Similarity of the houses in pictures.
2. Original timbers used in attic; second-hand timber used in cellar - as would have been the case if the house were moved.
3. Pegs in ceiling beams.
4. Wide 14" cellar ceiling beams, many rough hewn - by the time of Deacon Otis Adams timber was sawed, and the first large stand of trees was no longer available.
5. Mr. Fulton said there is a deed dated about 1813 which mentions a small building, which he believes was on 1 Academy Street and was the old ell. (This deed has not been located by J. Drury).
6. Storage area in chimney arch - contains shelves made out of well finished walnut and a "Christian" door (now laid horizontal and used as part of a wall enclosing the end of the arch) - he believed it to be from Col. Stoddard's front entry.
7. Unusual mortise in cellar - Mr. Fulton thought it was prepared for a ship by Col. Stoddard's lumber business in New Hampshire but used in his house instead.

Theory disputed by J. Drury:

1. David Perham bought the Stoddard house on October 17, 1866, 4½ months after June 1, 1866 when the Chelmsford School for the Deaf opened in the Winn House in the second floor left side (west) room (Waters, History of Chelmsford)
2. The Stoddard and Fletcher houses were built in a similar era (see deeds), so construction would be similar.
3. The Winn house is very similar to other old Fletcher houses in the area.
4. Adams family papers, including those of Deacon Otis Adams, make no mention of a house moving.
5. Second hand timbers were often used, and in the cellar looks would be less important than even in the attic.

Letter written by Dea. Otis Adams to his grandson, Amos B.

Windham, Vt.

Aug. 17th, 1877

Dear Amos,

I received yesterday yours of the first inst, and thought I must write immediately before you Backed (?) out of N.H. I have had no letter from C. but one from Carrie dated the 11th in which she stated how Herbert when you wanted him to go to the spring for you wanted (?) him to get some water from the spring for you you wanted some water the worst kind drink pump water then that is worse, smart boy he will have his now, they were all well. Had almost done haying had bad time to get it, here he have alm^ost had to dry it on the gridiron pretty good crop here. The state crops looked well especially grapes and Potatoes. Willie she said was driving the milk cart.

I am glad you are enjoying yourself for I suspect it will cost you dear. You will not get clear of the livery teams and all the calls of such gay company for any small sum especially with musicians. I hope you will shun wine and women.

I was through Plymouth once at the opening of the N.P.K. from Plymouth ~~from~~-Lebanon when the stockholders took a free ride and sat to on a seat next to Daniel Webster but caught none of his greatness that I am aware. This was before your day.

There has quite a number gone to the Centennial at Bennington from out here. It is a day to be kept in remembrance, it the battle gave a check to the progress of Burgoyne who was captured soon after. Your greatgrandfather was a volunteer with many others from C. and they took the old Briton as they called him. Let us appreciate their labours and offerings. I hope you will write soon on your return.

With affectionate regard
Your Grandfather
Otis Adams

Notes by J.B. Drury (1974):

Original letter owned at this time by a member of the Adams family. Herbert & William & Amos B. were sons of Otis Jr. & Caroline.

At the time of this letter Amos was in N.H. buying up land; at home - in Chelmsford he had a business cutting lumber and hauling wood and lumber to market.

Comments by Harriet Sturtevant, May 21, 1974

According to Aunt Belle (Emily) Adams, Harriet's mother's oldest sister, Deacon Otis Adams lived in the Winn House. When the committee to build the monument of the common (Rev. War monument), the Deacon suggested putting on it, "Let the children guard what their sires have won." This later became the town motto. J. Adams Bartlett told this to Uncle Eddie, who told Belle and Marion October 1937.

First School for the Deaf

Waters, pg. 582:

"1866, June 1, a school for the deaf was established in Chelmsford, of which Miss Harriet B. Rogers was made the principal and Miss Mary Byam, assistant. Only three pupils were enrolled on the first day, others were engaged to follow in a short time, one came in September and two in the following spring. This Chelmsford school was the first regularly organized school for the deaf in this country in which only the pure oral method was taught. The number of pupils was limited to seven. While Miss Rogers had eight pupils in the spring of 1867, only two were paying the full price, and Mr. Gardiner Greene Hubbard raised about a thousand dollars to help carry on the work, Mrs. Henry Lippitt, Mr. Talbot, Mr. Francis W. Bird, Mr. S.D. Warren and others subscribing. The Hon. Mr. Hubbard was of great assistance in many ways. The school owed its existence to him. Mrs. Mary Swift Lamson, a teacher of Laura Bridgman, lent her aid. The Chelmsford School became the nucleus of the Clark School at Northampton.

Several notices of the Chelmsford School appeared in the Boston papers. These notices led officials of institutions for the deaf, in other States, to visit the school to perceive how the seemingly impossible was brought about. Some thought the system was wasteful of time and money, but others highly appreciated the value of the new system of instruction, and gradually introduced it into their institutions; that is, the system of teaching only by articulation and lip-reading. This school had great success and deaf-mutes were taught to speak and articulate correctly and to read from the lips. The school was held at first in the left-hand upper front room of Deacon Otis Adams' house fronting on the Common, and later it was moved to the lower floor of the Academy, which adjoined it and which became the Baptist parsonage. Mr. John Clark of Northampton intimated that he would give \$50,000 to found a school for the deaf in that town, and in 1867, the organization of the corporation was completed. Miss Rogers was unanimously elected principal, and a cordial invitation was extended to the Chelmsford pupils to enter the new school. At first, says Mr. De Land, Miss Rogers hesitated to close the little pioneer school. She finally accepted, and left Chelmsford in August, and on October 1, 1867, formally opened the Clark School, with Miss Mary Byam as her assistant.

One of the pupils at Chelmsford was Theresa, daughter of the Hon. Lewis J. Dudley of Northampton. She was a deaf-mute, but learned to talk. Another pupil was Mabel, daughter of Mr. Hubbard. A third was Jeanie, daughter of Gov. Lippitt of Rhode Island. Roscoe Green was also a pupil of Miss Rogers. Mabel Hubbard became the wife of Alexander Graham Bell. It was from his experiments in visualizing the vibrations of speech in order to enable deaf children to read speech from the graphic presentations of the inflections and modulations of the speaker's words, that the invention of the telephone came about. (Dumb No Longer, De Land). "

Winn/Emerson House
6 North Rd.

Waters, pg. 569:

"The Hon. Josiah Gardner Abbott, LL.D. was born in Chelmsford, November 1, 1814, the son of Caleb and Mercy Abbott. She was the daughter of Josiah Fletcher. Caleb was the son of Caleb, son of Nathan, son of Timothy, son of Timothy, son of George, born in 1615, who came from Yorkshire, England, and was one of the first settlers of Andover.

In 1838, Josiah Gardner Abbott married Caroline Livermore, daughter of the Hon. Edward St. Loe Livermore. They had eleven children. Three of his sons served in the army during the Civil War, and two of them fell in battle.

He was born in what is known as the Wynn house opposite the Common, there, later, Deacon Otis Adams lived. His father kept a store in the village - Chelmsford Centre. He graduated at Harvard in 1832, and taught in the Fitchburg Academy. He studied law with Joel Adams, who had his office in Chelmsford; and with Nathaniel Wright of Lowell.

He was a member of the Legislature in 1837, and was State senator in 1842 and 1843. In 1840 he edited the Lowell Advertiser. In 1853, he was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, and two years later was made a Judge of the Superior Court for Suffolk County. In 1874, he was elected to the lower house of Congress. He was a man of great intellectual ability and of a kind heart.

He died in 1891, aged seventy-six years and seven months."

Waters: pg. 563:

"The following young-men distinguished men were among the pupils of Ralph Waldo Emerson (at the Classical School), or the teachers who immediately followed him: Judge Josiah G. Abbott, of Boston; Hon. Fletcher Abbott, Esq. who died in Toledo, Ohio; Morrill Wyman M.D., A.M., LL.D. who is still in the practice of his profession in Cambridge, Massachusetts; Professor Jeffries Wyman, M.D.; the late Benjamin P. Hunt, of Philadelphia, and the late Professor John Dalton, M.D. of New York, who gained a national reputation in his profession.

J.G. Abbott entered Harvard College at the age of thirteen. After completing his studies there he chose the profession of the law, in which he rapidly rose to distinction. He has also occupied many high positions of political honor, among them that of member of the United States Congress."

Waters, pg. 566:

"I think it was in the Autumn of 1825 that Mr. Emerson (Ralph Waldo) then a divinity student, went to Chelmsford to teach in the Academy. His younger brother, Robert Bulkeley Emerson, a good youth, but mentally deficient, was at work there on a farm at that time. Among Mr. Emerson's pupils were young Josiah Abbott and Benjamin Peter Hunt, a youth especially interesting to him, and with whom, although they seldom met, (for Mr. Hunt lived in Philadelphia), he always kept friendly relations.

A few years ago, upon request, Mr. Emerson's son, Edward Waldo Emerson, kindly supplied the writer (H.S. Perham) with the above."

Waters, pg. 723:

"Otis Adams, d. March 12, 1904. Age 78 yrs., 2 mos., 6 d.

"A number of Congregationalists met at the home of the Misses Winn in the Centre Village on Monday, January 26, 1876, and resolved that 'after careful thought and consideration, we, who are shut out of certain church privileges, do now deem it expedient to send for letters of dismission and recommendation to the several churches of which we are now members, for the purpose of forming ourselves into a church to be called the Central Congregational Church of Chelmsford.' Mr. George P. Winn was secretary. On request, the Baptists 'cheerfully granted' their place of worship for the use of the Congregationalists, when not occupied by themselves, on payment of expenses and two dollars each Sunday afternoon. On February 12, at the residence of Mrs. Edward Tufts, the organization was effected and articles of Faith and Covenant adopted. There were present Rev. C.D. Barrows, moderator, Mr. & Mrs. Sewall Parkhurst, Mr. & Mrs. M.L. Metcalf, F.W. Robinson, Captian Amos Adams Byam, Mary J. Winn, Eliza F. Winn, Martha Calhoun and Mrs. Tufts. Rev. Mr. Barrows, of Lowell, preached on Feb. 13, to about two hundred persons. Other Lowell ministers continued the preaching on Sunday afternoons. April 16, twenty people were recognized in forming the church.

An arrangement was made with the Congregationalists of Carlisle for the support of a minister, and the church was admitted to the Andover Conference on October 10.

By a new arrangement, the services began to be held in the First Congregational Church on Dec. 3, when Rev. Frank M. Sprague preached. He became the first pastor of the two churches, as above mentioned, and on Jan. 1, 1877, began his duties. Prayer meetings were held for a time in the schoolhouse in Chelmsford. May 31, 1879, the union with Carlisle was dissolved, and a return was made to the Baptist Church as the place of meeting. In September, Academy Street/6North Road to be held in the Town Hall.

The Act of Incorporation, Winn House, May 20, 1886. Shortly before this date, the Misses Winn and their brother had presented the Society with a lot of land in North Row (Centre street, near their home, on which to build a house of worship (address of the lot in 1973: 1 Worthen St.)."

1 Academy Street/6North Road
Winn House

Chelmsford Eagle, December 12, 1877:

Beginning at the head of North Row we observe that the Misses Winn have added greatly to the appearance of their pleasant house by grading and otherwise improving the grounds upon the southerly and easterly sides of the house, and substituting a split stone curbing for the wooden fence which had outlived both its beauty and its usefulness. This is now one of the most attractive residences in the village.

Wowell Weekly Journal

Jan. 1881 Death of an Old Resident

Deacon Otis Adams, who died at his residence in the westerly part of the town, Wednesday, 26th inst., at the advanced age of 82 years and 7 months, was for nearly forty years, prior to 1860, one of our most prominent and widely known public men. His official service began in 1827 when he was chosen constable, and in 1829 his name appears upon the town records as one of the board of selectmen, in which capacity he served the town for six years, and from the date of his first election until his final retirement about 1860, he filled almost continuously positions of responsibility in municipal service. He was a man of very decided convictions and great self-reliance. Truth compels us to say that while fearless in the expression of his opinions, his manner towards those who opposed him upon questions of public policy could not always be characterized as conciliatory.

In another field of labor Deacon Adams achieved an excellent reputation. Those who were school boys forty or more years ago, will testify that he was considered an efficient and successful teacher, having wielded the birchen sceptre for many years, not only in his own but in adjoining towns. At the time of his decease he was a member of the Unitarian society and for a long period one of its deacons, having succeeded in that capacity the late Joel Adams, esq. During the latter portion of his life he passed several years in Vermont, returning to his native place when it became evident that his physical and mental powers were surely failing. Deacon Adams was a man of strict integrity, and few of our townsmen have filled so many and so important positions of public trust. The funeral service will be held at the Unitarian church, Sunday afternoon, Jan. 30, at half-past two o'clock.

Lowell Daily Courier

Mar. 28, 1890 - Miss Marcia H. Winn, for several weeks quite ill with slow fever, was thought to be improving, but Tuesday a change occurred for the worse in the nature of an apoplectic stroke and at time of writing (Wednesday noon) she is in a very precarious condition.

April 24, 1891 - Sarah E. Winn died at her home in this village last Friday evening of paralysis, aged 68 years. Miss Winn was the daughter of the late John and Sarah W. Winn and was born in Salem where the family resided for many years. Deceased leaves three sisters and a brother, all residents of Chelmsford.

Aug. 4, 1908 - F.A.P. Fiske and family of Somerville are to spend the month of August at the Winn House in Centre street.

Nov. 5, 1908 - An attractive piece of property the Winn place on Centre street overlooking the common has lately been purchased by James P. Emerson. Centrally located and with good surroundings this is one of the desirable places about the Centre. Mr. Emerson contemplates several alterations and improvements about the building. The sale was made through Martin Robbins & Son.

May 30, 1909 - Curtis G. Hazen has sold to Henry Graham of Lowell his 50 acre farm on the Boston road and has purchased from Mrs. H.L. Fletcher her residence on Billerica street.

July 16, 1909 - Mrs. H.L. Fletcher is moving into the Winn house owned by J.P. Emerson on Centre street.

Aug. 4, 1909 - Miss Emma J. Perham is about to occupy rooms at the Winn house on Centre street.

Lowell Courier-Citizen

April 12, 1911 - Rev. and Mrs. E.A. Roadman are occupying during their week-end stays in town, the apartments of Miss Emma Perham in the Winn House. Miss Perham is at Sharon, for the present, with her neice, Miss Elsie Perham, whp teaches there.

June 9, 1912 - Mrs. H.L. Fletcher has removed from the Winn house in North street to the home of Mrs. W.R. Fowle in Billerica street.

Oct. 27, 1914 - Principal Charles A. Holbrook went afishing on Tuesday, hardly away from his dry front yard in North street, and caught a string of pickerel that would have repaid him for a tramp of several miles. The string counted out five, all good ones, and two of them were "whales" of pickerel for the place from which they came. One measured 17 inches and weighed a pound and a half, and the other was 15 inches long and weighed a pound. Where did he catch them? In the brook which parallels Fletcher street. That sounds fish all right, but not enough fer so for a pound and a half of pickerel, for there is no water there. Almost right; but there are always a few pools of water there in the brook course and in one of these pools, hardly more than 6 inches deep, Mr. Holbrook discovered most excellent fishing and landed the five in a very short time.

XII

By Eleanor Parkhurst



The Deacon Otis Adams house where the first school for the deaf was held, and the memorial boulder presented by Clarke School.

Chelmsford's School For the Deaf

Before Miss Rogers began her work with Fanny Cushing, a somewhat similar experiment was being tried in Boston, where in her own home, Mabel Hubbard, later to become Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell, was being taught by the oral method. Mabel had lost her hearing as a result of scarlet fever in the winter of 1862, when she was 4 years old, and her parents were told that she would soon become mute as well, since she could not hear speech and so would not be led to talk. After Mr. Hubbard's acquaintance with Horace Mann and Dr. Howe and their support of the German system, and Mabel's own progress under a private teacher had convinced him of the value of this method, he tried to learn what opportunities existed for teaching it on a wider scale in America. He realized that now only children of comparatively wealthy and progressive

parents could take advantage of the new system as yet, so he persuaded several other interested men to join him in asking the State of Massachusetts to incorporate a school where the oral method could be taught. The State would pay the school \$5000 yearly and the school would board and teach 30 children designated by the Governor. This bill was defeated primarily because its opponents favored the continued use of the sign language, but the evidence favoring the new method during the hearings had increased public interest greatly and thus Mrs. Cushing had come to seek a teacher of this method for her daughter, Fanny, and so, as we have seen, finally secured Miss Rogers.

Her success with Fanny so encouraged Miss Rogers that she thought of starting a school where several children could be taught together. Again quoting from her letter to Miss Yale: "I soon began

Continued on Page 11

Chelmsford History

Continued from Page 2
to wish for more pupils, but how to find them—I did not know. Teaching the deaf was so new a thing in America it would be no use to advertise for pupils as people would think it charlatany. At this time there was no recognized school for the deaf in America that had a teacher of articulation. Two or three of the oldest had made an effort some years before to teach a little articulation, but had abandoned the work as not worth the time and labor. Their efforts had been solely with semi-mutes. I thought if I could find someone who would examine Fanny and testify to the genuineness of my work, I could publish this testimony with an advertisement for pupils."

At first she met with little success in finding someone to furnish the testimonial she wished, but Mrs. Lamson, Laura Bridgman's teacher, now introduced her to Gardiner Greene Hubbard, Mabel's father, whose interest in furthering the teaching of the oral method had not ended with the defeat of this bill for a new state school for the deaf. Mr. Hubbard arranged a meeting of several prominent men at his home in November, 1865, and Miss Rogers demonstrated what progress Fanny had made with a year's instruction. Her listeners were so impressed that they drew up and signed this certificate:

"The subscribers have witnessed the examination of a child, nine years old, a deaf-mute under the instruction of Miss Harriet B. Rogers, who entirely substitutes the voice or articulation for the sign language. From the results of this experiment we feel authorized to recommend Miss Rogers and her method, and to encourage her in forming a class."

The following advertisement was also drawn up for a few newspapers:

"We ask the attention of those interested in the instruction of Deaf-mutes to the advertisement of Miss Harriet B. Rogers. We have heard of some wonderful stories of her success in teaching this class of unfortunates, stories which are so well authenticated as to command belief of them.

"Miss Rogers proposes to take a few deaf-mutes as pu-

pils, for instruction in articulation and reading from the lips, without the use of signs or the finger-language. The number is limited to seven, of whom seven are already engaged. * * * References were: Thomas Hill, D.D., President of Harvard College; S.G. Howe, M.D., Supt., Institution for the Blind; Edward N. Kirk, D.D.; John D. Philbrick, Supt., Public Schools; Henry M. Dexter, D.D.; James C. Dunn, Esq.; Gardiner G. Hubbard, Esq.; Lewis B. Munroe, Professor of Elocution; James Cushing, Esq.; Mrs. Edward Lamson, 5 Beacon Street.

Nearly seven months later (June, 1866) Miss Rogers opened the school in Chelmsford with three pupils in attendance and two more registered to come during the month. In the class of 8 that was 'the Chelmsford School' were 2 boys who were born without speech, a girl who was born deaf, 3 boys and 1 girl who had become deaf in early childhood. The expenses were paid from \$1000 raised by subscription by Mr. Hubbard, who had also made many new friends for the cause through his continuing efforts on behalf of the new method teaching. The building was a part of the home of Deacon Otis Adams, and Miss Rogers and Miss Byam were the teachers.

Miss Rogers wrote: 'I had known Miss Mary Saville Byam as an unusually good teacher of hearing children and had engaged her services on condition that a sufficient number of pupils could be found to warrant opening a school. While teaching Fanny I had heard much of the feeling in the old

institutions regarding the teaching of speech to the deaf—that it was a waste of time, children might learn to speak words and sentences parrot-like, that was about all that would be accomplished and it was a hindrance to mental development. Therefore our great object in the work at Chelmsford was to show that speech was not a hindrance to mental development, but rather a help, so we did not give as much time to obtaining distinct enunciation as we should otherwise have done. We gave words and sentences very soon that communication through speech might be opened between teachers and pupils and between the pupils themselves. * * * I chose Chelmsford as a location for the school as it was a quiet town, five miles from a railroad, where I thought I could work unobserved until the pupils had advanced far enough to show the public that articulation for the deaf was worth trying. We found we were not far enough away to be undisturbed. Although we were five miles from the cars and had only a covered wagon as a stage or express to Lowell, visitors found the way to us. Among them was Miss Eddy from the Wisconsin Institution, who became so much interested in the work and so enthusiastic that on her return she obtained permission to begin an articulation class. She did successful work as I know from observation.

Another visitor, a teacher, returning from a visit to the school, is reported to have said 'that while the oral method was directly against all reason, and in all pro-

bability would never succeed, still deafborn pupils were actually conversing intelligently in Miss Rogers' school' and so it would be wise to give the method a trial elsewhere. Meantime, Mr. John Clarke of Northampton had offered \$50,000 to establish a school for the deaf in that city. Mr. Hubbard and others asked the Legislature of 1866-7 to charter such a school and during the committee hearings on the bill, 'levees' were held on two successive days in Mrs. Lampson's Boston home at which Dr. Howe and Frank B. Sanborn of Concord presided and the children of the Chelmsford school demonstrated to the 70 guests how well they could read lips and speak. Soon after returning to Chelmsford, the pupils were invited to Boston again, to Mrs. Josiah Quincy's, for another demonstration before members of the legislature and other interested persons. Miss Rogers noted that 'The most telling thing at that levee was a conversation held by Miss Lippitt and Roscoe Greene who, in the summer before, could not read more than a dozen words from the lips. They carried on conversation with as much ease as if they were alone and it could be readily seen that they were understanding and enjoying each other as if they heard.'

Legislative discussion continued, public interest rose, and members of the committee visited both the Chelmsford and Hartford schools. A newspaper reporter wrote that Miss Rogers was 'a young woman of marked ability...who believes in her system and does not believe in failure . . . but it may be questioned whether the evidence yet produced warrants any radical change of method . . .'. Finally the committee reported favorably on the bill and, led by Lewis J. Dudley of Northampton, the fight to pass the bill was won. Mr. Dudley's only child was a deaf-mute who had been taught the sign-language at Hartford, and he had at first opposed the teaching of the oral method. Mrs. Dudley had tried to teach Theresa herself without the use of signs and with the aid of the manual alphabet and writing. The Dudley family visited the Chelmsford school, and Mrs. Dudley and Theresa stayed a few days

here in the home of Dr. John Call Bartlett who was much interested in the school's work. Miss Byam taught Theresa a few words and when she returned home, her father described his feelings as follows: 'She was sent to the school to learn to read the lips, and I had no more idea that she would learn to talk than that I should receive the gift of tongues! * * * Here was a lesson for a skeptic, and such I had been. I had almost ridiculed the idea of teaching a child born deaf to talk, and I had spoken in terms not over-respectful of certain men whom I regarded as visionary, utopian and wild. I ceased to be a skeptic, not to say a scoffer, and began to side with Providence. My daughter went on to talk. Where, for thirteen years, there had been perpetual silence, there is now perpetual music.'

So the organization of the Clarke School was accomplished. Mr. G. G. Hubbard became its first president, Miss Rogers its first principal and the oral method of instruction was adopted. Miss Rogers and Miss Byam left Chelmsford in August and the school in Northampton opened on Oct. 1, 1867. A report of the Board of State Charities (which had been much interested in the establishment of both schools) said in this year that 'The two acts of the last Legislature concerning the instruction of deaf-mutes are likely to do more to advance the interests of the class for whose benefit they were enacted than has yet been done or attempted in any part of the world.' Chil-

dren who were deaf-mutes were now placed on exactly the same footing as 'normal' children and could enter school at public expense as early as five years of age and continue for ten years.

Until her death in 1927, Miss Rogers maintained an interest in the work she had begun so well. She continued as principal until 1886, then resigned because of ill health. She studied institutions for the deaf-mute abroad in 1871—her first opportunity to study first-hand the oral method she so successfully established in America. At home in North Billerica, her keen sympathy and good judgment were frequently called upon in connection with many educational problems. In 1952, a bronze tablet was erected on Chelmsford's Center Common by the Clarke School Alumni Association commemorating the opening of 'the first school in America to successfully teach lip reading and speech to deaf children.' Mr. Ernest A. Pouliot, NEWSWEEKLY photographer, was, with Mrs. Lillian Pouliot of Lowell, co-chairman of the committee for this memorial. He and his wife, the former Irene G. Stockwell, are both graduates of Clarke School. At the time of this celebration, Miss Julia E. Laws of Bedford, also told of the connection of her mother, the late Mrs. Mary E. (Dutton) Laws who was living with Deacon Otis Adams' family at the time when Miss Rogers' pupils were studying there. Mrs. Laws was then about 16 years old and often spoke of playing with the small children of the school.

We wish to express our appreciation to Clarke School for the use of Miss Rogers' letter, never before published in this form.

Permission to quote from this article must be requested and secured in writing from the author.

The Adams Family

Chelmsford "Newsweekly" 1955

"The Adams family has long been prominent in Chelmsford affairs. Five members of its tenth generation are now living in town: Wm. E., E. Belle, M. Marion (for a number of years supervisor of music in the local schools and now teacher of grade 5, Center School), A. Louise (Mrs. Arthur W. House, South section) and Ruth E. (Mrs. H.M. Sturtevant, Center.) Others in the same family...great-grandchildren of Deacon Otis Adams and children of the late Amos B. and Hettie (Mellon) Adams....are Mrs. W.G. Bliss (Edith Adams) of Warren, Mass., and Adelbert B. Adams of Albany, N.Y. whose son, Carlton, is the only representative of the eleventh generation. Two other tenth generation descendants are Mrs. John C. Willard of Wethersfield, Conn., and Mrs. Robert Goodfellow of Chatham, Mass, daughters of the late Herbert C. Adams.

Deacon Otis Adams was a particularly well-known figure in town, having been a school teacher in his early years; a farmer; a prime mover in the erection of the Revolutionary Monument on the Center Common; the third owner of the house at 1 Academy Street where the School for the Deaf met and which is also known as the Winn House, (after its next owners); and a leader for many years in the Unitarian church.

This Adams family, which includes the North Chelmsford branch also, numbers among its illustrious members President John Adams and John Quincy Adams, and Charles Francis Adams, former minister to England. The line of descent come from Henry, who arrived in America in 1632, to Captain Samuel, Captain Joseph, Joseph, 'Mr.' Joseph, Deacon Otis, Otis, Jr. to Amos B. as mentioned above.

The first six generations of the family lived near the saw and grist mill now known as Russell's Mill. The original deed to Captain Samuel Adams from the town in 1656, granting him one tract of land in consideration of his 'erecting and maintaining a corn mill' for the use of the townspeople and another tract for erecting a sawmill for the same purpose, is still preserved and in the possession of Mrs. Ervin W. Sweetser. The late Mr. Sweetser, for many years town treasurer and tax collector, was related to the Adams family through his mother and his paternal grandmother.

Still another branch of the family includes, through the marriage (1834) of Maria Juliet Adams (daughter of Joel Adams) to the scholarly and competent physician, Dr. John Call Bartlett, their sons, Capt. Charles Edwin Adams Bartlett, George Henry and Joel Adams Bartlett and, in turn, the children of Capt. Bartlett: Harry, the late Charles E., and Clay C. Bartlett; and F.J. Adams Bartlett: Emma M. (the late Mrs. Paul Dutton), Mary B. (the widow of another prominent physician, Arthur G. Scoboria) and Bertha G. (Mrs. Earren Blaisdell of Belmont, Mass.)"

Winn/Emerson House
6 North Road

Copy of tape made by William Fulton 1/31/73
Transcribed by Jane Drury

".....I took the last two years at Andover, at Phillips Academy, and the next four at Tech at Boston, then all my business life was spent out in New York and New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. I went back here 3 or 4 times a year, sometimes more, so I was in contact with what was going on here and to know the people, until after I had so many birthdays they didn't want me anymore, and at that time I was at I.B.M. (International Business Machine) in their laboratory in Poughkeepsie. Maude and I, the nearest we could get to Poughkeepsie was Staatsburg.

I got back to Chelmsford in '46, and I lived about five years on Westford St. diagonally across from those spruce trees in front of Margaret's (Mills), then the people that were in here moved out and I grabbed it without getting in here at all (before moving in).

Mr. & Mrs. Emerson, that's Ralph and Mabel to me, they were my class mates here in high school; we graduated at the same time." (Drury): "Were you in the class that planted the beech tree?" (Fulton): "Yeah, I think I'm in there with a shovel in the picture. The beech tree wasn't any bigger around than my cane. It must have been in the right place. You plant a tree like that out there today, it would be gone tomorrow. The children wouldn't carry it away; they'd just pull it up!" (Drury): "Were you in your Senior year when you planted it?" (Fulton): "I think not. I think I was in my second year. Wait a minute; yes, because Mary Bartlett was in the picture, and she was in the class following me, and Margaret's (Mills) mother was in it, Christina Ashworth. Ed Robbins married Christina Ashworth, and Ed. was in the class with me, but Christina was following. And then there were two or three others there ahead of me. My sister was in there; she graduated two years before I did. I think it was probably about '92. (Mr. Fulton was born 1873, according to the 1972 List of Men & Women: Registrar of Voters list).

And so I didn't follow along very much with the current affairs all the time I left until 1946, when I came back. But Mrs. Fulton's father, he was of the (?) Machine Shop, called a foreman now, and he would go out to different cities where they sold them (?) machinery, whatever it was, and set up the machinery and so forth. They moved out here about 1890, so I knew her when she was in school here, but she was just a little brat! Yep, three years makes a lot of difference at that age. I had an early start on going to school, and consequently I was close to the youngest in class. There was another chap, Harry Dutton, he was practically the same age."

(Drury): "Mr. Arnold Perham was a little bit younger, wasn't he?" (Fulton): "Arnold Perham was the son of Ed Perham up on North Rd. He was (?) runt; he was quite a little younger. He was down in the intermediate school and I was already to get out of grammar school. There were just four grades; they were all in one building, four rooms. There were three classes in each room. And it was a three year high school course.

Schools. Ayah. You know where the corner of Davis and Locke Rds. are? Garvey lived there (3 Locke Rd.). That's where the #2 school was, that I went to. It was there. I think part of the school might be"

(Drury): "Was his house made from the school?" (Fulton): "Oh no, it was very much larger than the school was. The school was just one room. But those

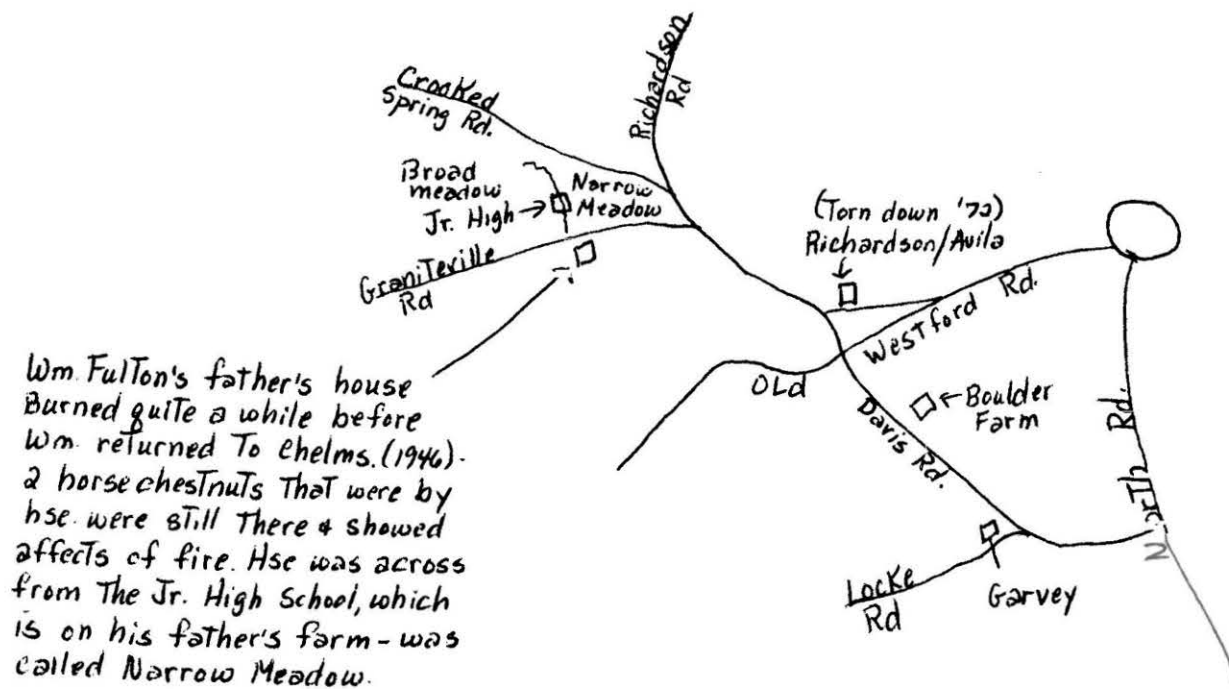
big maples in front of there were there then in that corner.

I lived down the hill down at the four corners where Old Westford Rd. crosses Davis Rd., and Davis Rd. continues and swings to the left there. Wait a minute. Old Westford Rd. divides in that triangle down further toward the exit....." (Drury): "Your boyhood was spent right on Graniteville Rd. then, sort of, really across from where the new Junior High is?" (Fulton): "Yes. That was a new road (Graniteville Rd.). Instead of going up to Cold Spring Rd., this was a new road, comparatively, to west Chelmsford. It (Graniteville Rd.) went right through Father's land, and there was an underpass there so the cattle could go down. My father owned that land the Junior High is on, yes. We called it Narrow Meadow. The brook went right through it. Go over the brook, it went on down, and became Broad Meadow, and that bordered on Cold Spring Rd.

Boulder Farm was on the right hand side of Davis Rd., between Garveys' and Old Westford Rd. It was the only house there. It was on the other side of the road from Garveys'. Yup.

One of the Davis (some hesitation here) family were our near neighbors.

In my day Ed, or Edward, Richardson lived there (Avila House on Graniteville Rd., torn down in 1972 for the new High School). There must have been a tremendous grant of land given to the Richardsons way back. I've got a lot of the history in notes.



My father died in January the year after I was born in August. I never knew him at all. In fact, I don't think my name was William Howard. I really don't. I was born in Foxcroft, Maine. It was in Foxcroft on one side of the road and Dover on the other; now it's all one municipality. There were five children, with three different wives, and all the children were living. Mother's sister was the second wife, so there was one child by the first wife, two by the second - my aunt - oh, I get people all fouled up trying to figure out the genealogy. And then they tell the story that Father was getting down to North Bradford where her father lived, wanted to go her to go up there and take care of the children; the old guy wouldn't let her go unless she married him! They were married the next day, something like that. They had those five children - at that time there were three, and

Gertrude came along in a couple of years, and I came along a couple of years later. Then he died, so Mother divided up the family; the three oldest ones, one by the first wife and the two by the second wife, went to Grandfather Fulton. My sister Gertrude went the Dickens gone up to Aroostook with an aunt, Aunt Lizzie, and I stayed with Grandfather Kingsbury there. Hah! Did I learn things there! Mother's two young brothers, they taught me to swear, and they'd leave hard cider around where I could find it, and Grandfather let me puff on his pipe, and all that business."

(Drury): "Why don't you think that your name was William Howard?"

(Fulton): "Oh, because my half brother's name, Charlie, by his second wife, was Charles Sumner Fulton. Sumner was in the Civil War. Some official. Now there was a family legend: there was this period before Mother came to Lowell; my sister came along, and I'd be sitting on the floor. She'd tip my head and roll me over and say, 'That Webbie, he tipped right over.' Now Webbie (Mr. Fulton may have said 'Webster' here) is a pretty good shot at Webster - tying up my Dad's interest in politics! And I'm not registered in Foxcroft. This time I took a job at I.B.M. I had to get my birth certificate and couldn't get it. I wasn't registered. My sister and uncle took an oath, and I got some kind of a ticket. But I think if they'd looked up under Webster, they might have found me. Now what has that got to do with Chelmsford history!

(Discussing the picture in Waters' History, pg. 624, of the Stoddard House, Classical School, and the Rev. War monument):

There's the Stoddard House, that's where the Baptist Church is now. And here's the monument. Now, that nails it down. That's a photograph; that isn't a hand drawn thing. Nobody could get detail in like that - that's a photograph. It was just after the Civil War, when that fellow chap following the troops taking pictures, what was his name? Well anyway, this was just long enough after that so that the art of taking ~~pictures~~ photographs was spreading around. Now then, that's the Stoddard House; just has one chimney on it. It's got two windows, a door, and two windows, just like the outside of this house." (Drury): "Of ~~that~~ course, that is a common -" (Fulton): "Yes, but there are a lot of things that aren't common that I'll show you down stairs. Now, when I came here, this house had a double door in it, instead of the single door. And that window was a French window, ~~ah~~ doors, two doors opened out, there was a square outside, well, anyway, it was rounded like that (motion), and a gable up there. Well, for some reason or other, Mabel (Emerson) didn't like it, and, of course, it cost money to make the changes she made here. She had a gable taken off and restored back to a straight line; that would be - we came here - in 1951. You see there is no gable on that house (Stoddard). The French doors on the side there, on top of the stairs, they were taken out and a single window put in there. It looks like that. That would suggest that they (the two houses) look so much alike, when I happened to run across the picture in there. In the book it tells about Stoddard having a huge acreage of lumber up in New Hampshire, so that would account for some of the ~~panaling~~ in here. Those panels under the wallpaper - 30" boards, thereabout - one piece of wood. When Mabel had the gable taken off, they had to break into the second floor there, same thing, one single wide board. I've seen 'em. Now that only came from virgin lumber. By perhaps 1867 there wasn't a stick here, an acre, that hadn't been cut. It had to be burned for firewood, burned in a lime kiln, burned to heat oil. Everything was second growth. They didn't have any 30 inch lumber to cut. Except that Stoddard might float it down from New Hampshire. So, I think that this house, at the time they built the Baptist Church, was taken apart it's all pegged stuff, and this is where Otis Adams comes into the ~~picture~~ act. The book tells about Judge Abbott being born here. Now I know doggone

well he wasn't. I went down to the Lowell Registry of Deeds, and I found that in December 1813, Caleb Abbott and either Josiah or Joseph Fletcher, I've forgotten which, loaned the sum to Mr. Lang of \$800 for three months. If he didn't pay it, this document gave full title and interest to the land beginning overlooking the Common, or cemetery, I guess it started up at that spot, to the Great Rock, and thence back to the Common and up what is now Academy St. The Great Rock: you know where Worthen St. and North Rd. have that little three cornered park? Three nice big spruce/fir trees. Well, that used to be a ledge up there."

Tape ran out.

Mr. Fulton went on to mention that the deed included a building on the property, which he thinks was the present cellarless kitchen and not the Stoddard house, which, he said was on different land.

The Lowell Sun Jan 9, 1974

William H. Fulton

... aged 95 years

CHELMSFORD — William H. Fulton, 95, of 1 Academy St., died unexpectedly yesterday morning. He was born in Dover Foxcroft, Me., Aug. 5, 1878, the son of the late William and Rachel (Kingsbury) Fulton, but had lived in the Albany, N.Y. area for half a century before establishing his residence in Chelmsford 30 years ago. Mr. Fulton attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he was graduated with the Class of 1900, with a degree in Engineering. By 1926, he held more than 60 Patents, of Electrical nature and also in 1926 he invented the "Arcoil" oil burner and had a book published on that item. Mr. Fulton was associated with the I.B.M. Company for many years, having retired in 1945. He is survived by two nieces, Mrs. Karlene MacKissock of Chelmsford and Mrs. Leo Daly (Ann) of Westford; and four nephews, Douglas MacKissock of Little Falls, Minn., Sgi. Robert MacKissock, of El Paso, Texas; Robert Ludwig of Kennebunk, Me.; and Alan Ludwig of Chelmsford. Mr. Fulton was active in Masonry, having been a 32 degree Mason and was a past President of the Chelmsford Historical Society.



*Harriet Burbank Rogers,
America's pioneer Oral Teacher*



6 North Road on right



1 Academy Street, 6 North Road, 1905

Courtesy of Chelmsford Historical Society, Index # bbh348



6 North Road, 1907



View on Center Street, Chelmsford Center, Mass.

6 North Road on far right

Postcard courtesy of Paul Pettazoni



6 North Road behind Revolutionary War Monument, c. 1976





