

FORM B – BUILDING

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

103-412-2			
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: Chelmsford

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



View looking south.

Address: 14 Parker Rd.

Historic Name: Napoleon and Roselle Manseau House

Uses: Present: Vacant

Original: Single-family residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1912

Source: Deed

Style/Form: No style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Rubble stone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingle / Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Shed

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Asbestos shingles added mid-20th C and removed 2018. North porch enclosed with concrete block walls (mid-20th C). Casement window added mid-20th C.

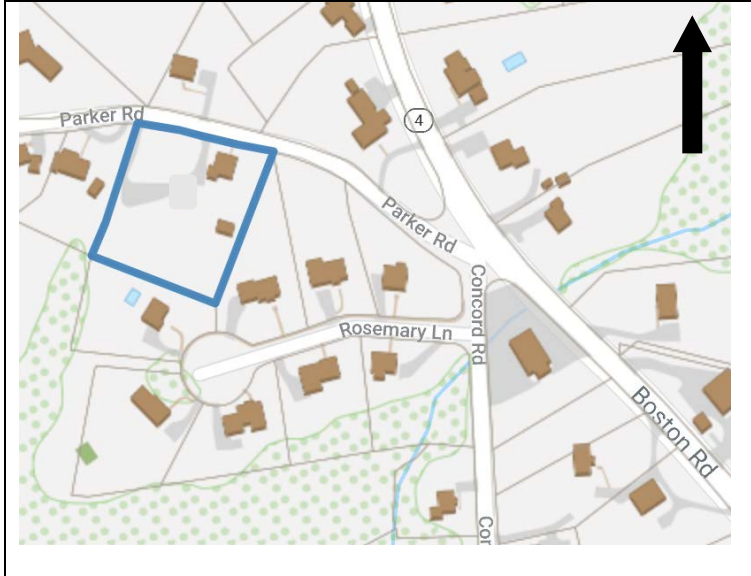
Condition: Poor

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 1.26 acres

Setting: Located on a wooded suburban street. Adjacent buildings are predominately single-family dwellings constructed in the mid-late 20th century.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Consultant

Date: October 30, 2018

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

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

14 Parker Road is a 2-½ story frame dwelling covered with wood shingles. The side-gabled roof has a shallow overhang at the north and south elevations; the gable ends are flush with the wall elevation. The building rests on a rubble stone foundation. A slender brick chimney rises from the ridge, slightly off center. The house is three bays wide and two bays deep. The entrance is located at the far west end of the first floor and contains a mid-20th century wood slab door with narrow horizontal lights. Windows have been removed. External metal-frame track storm windows remain in some locations. Window surrounds are flat wood boards with narrow, molded trim. A single window is centered in the gable peaks. An aluminum-frame casement window with two leaves of three lights each is centered on the first floor of the south elevation. Patched wood around the window indicates that the window was an alteration, likely around the time the asbestos siding was added.

An enclosed shed-roof porch extends along the width of the north (main) elevation. The porch rests on a poured concrete foundation; porch walls are constructed of concrete block with brick sills. A second enclosed shed-roof porch extends from the southwest corner of the house and rests on a poured concrete foundation. The interior walls are covered with wallboard, indicating that the building was used as an interior room, although the original tongue-and-groove exterior floor remains. Removal of the asbestos siding has revealed the thrifty construction materials used to construct this porch. This porch is sheathed with an assortment of salvaged materials including: 19th-century beaded baseboards on the porch's north elevation; bead-board paneling typically used for porch ceilings at the south end of the west elevation; and wood packing crates along the width of the west elevation. The packing crate boards include one board labeled as "United States Casting – Lowell, Mass." As these materials were likely never intended to be seen, removal of the asbestos siding was a fortuitous event for documentation purposes.

A narrow shed-roof projection extends from the eastern end of the south elevation. The projection shelters a bulkhead that leads to the basement. The projection is enclosed with an exterior vertical-board wood door and an interior paneled wood door with a large light in its top half.

A two-story shed located southeast of the house has an asphalt-shingle gambrel roof. The frame building is sheathed with salvaged materials. The west elevation contains a single door in the first floor, a large double-leaf door and two small window openings at the second floor. The south elevation contains a large sliding door suspended from an overhead metal track and a six-light, wood-frame fixed window.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Napoleon Manseau likely constructed the house on "the back road from Boston Road" circa 1912, the year in which he purchased the property.¹ Napoleon Manseau (1872-1937) and his wife, Rosella (or Rosalie) (1874-1934)² were both born in Quebec, Canada. The couple married in 1896 and emigrated to the United States in 1897. The couple had twelve children, ten of whom were alive in 1910. In 1910, the family lived in Chelmsford on Boston Road.³ By 1912, the family was living on Parker Road with their ten children. At the time of the 1920 census, Napoleon and Rosella Manseau lived here with their nine youngest children, who ranged in age from 5 years old to 23 years old. Napoleon Manseau worked as a farm hand and as a laborer at a

¹ Middlesex North Deed Book 572, p. 529.

² Findagrave.com Memorial #48695124.

³ United States Census, 1910.

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cartridge factory. Eldest son, Napoleon Manseau, Jr. and the three teenage children, Alice, Elsie, and Henry, were also working outside the home in 1920.

In 1939, Napoleon Manseau, Jr. (ca. 1896-1940) and his wife, Eva Manseau (ca. 1908-unk.), purchased the property and house from his parents' estate.⁴ Napoleon and Eva Manseau had been living in Lowell until that time. At the time of the 1940 census, the couple lived here with their six young children while Napoleon Manseau, Jr. worked as a laborer for the W.P.A. (Works Progress Administration). W.P.A. projects in Chelmsford included street widening, brush removal, expanding playground facilities, gypsy moth caterpillar removal, repair of school and municipal buildings, and sidewalk construction.⁵ Later that year, Napoleon Manseau died at Chelsea Naval Hospital in Chelsea, Massachusetts. Manseau had served in World War I and was given a military headstone at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Chelmsford.⁶

In 1942, Eva Manseau sold the property to John and Clarice Reiss of Lincoln, Massachusetts.⁷ John (Joao) Reiss (1905-1973)^{8,9} was born in the Azores of Portugal and emigrated to the United States at four years of age. Clarice Campbell Reiss (1907-2013) was born in Massachusetts. The couple wed in 1926 in Lexington, Massachusetts and had three sons and a daughter.¹⁰ John Reiss worked as a chauffeur and driver from the 1920s until at least the 1950s, as indicated by their marriage record and by city directories. In 1955, John Reiss worked as a truck driver, his son, James Reiss, was in the United States Air Force and his son, John H. Reiss, worked in a maintenance department.¹¹

The property was sold out of the family in 1990.

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⁴ Middlesex North Deed Book 925, p. 525.

⁵ Parkhurst, *History of Chelmsford 1910-1970*, pp. 69-70.

⁶ U.S. Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963. Ancestry.com.

⁷ Middlesex North Deed Book 974, p. 57.

⁸ Findagrave.com Memorial #18180388.

⁹ Massachusetts, State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1798-1950. Petition No. 172907. Jaoa Reiss. Ancestry.com.

¹⁰ United State Census, 1930. Lincoln, Massachusetts. Ancestry.com.

¹¹ "List of Men and Women Listed by Registrars of Voters." Town of Chelmsford, Mass. 1955.

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



East elevation. View looking west.



South elevation. View looking north.



West elevation. View looking east.

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Interior bulkhead door. South elevation.



Exterior bulkhead door. South elevation.

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Detail. Packing crate used for west porch siding.



Shed. North (left) and west elevations.



Shed. South elevation.