

FORM B – BUILDING

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

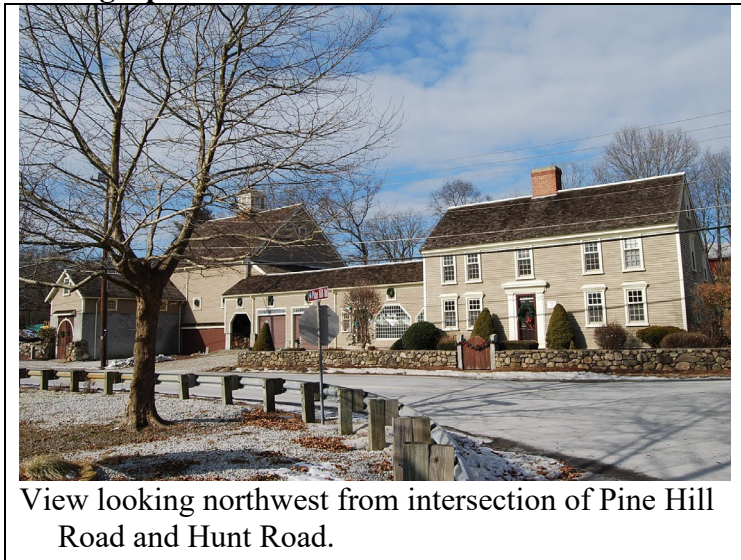
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: Chelmsford

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



Address: 143 Pine Hill Road

Historic Name: Chamberlain House

Uses: Present: Single-family dwelling

Original: Single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: circa 1760

Source: Waters: *History of Chelmsford*

Style/Form: Georgian

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, cut

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard / wood trim

Roof: Wood shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Sheds; barn; milk house; windmill; stone well curb.

Major Alterations (*with dates*): All buildings substantially restored beginning in the mid-1970s. Fenestration on east elevation of house re-arranged. Two-story porch at northeast corner of house removed.

Condition: Very Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 1.38 acres

Setting: Across the street to the south are located a retail nursery operation and Highway Route 495. Areas to the east and west are residential, with large lots. Agricultural fields and farm buildings are located to the north of the house.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Cons. for

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date: March 2022

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

143 PINE HILL RD

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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.

The house is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Pine Hill Road and Hunt Road. The lot that rises gently to the north. Separated from the roadway by a stone wall and shallow front yard, the house is oriented to the south and parallel to Pine Hill Road. The lot's east boundary is enclosed by a fence consisting of cut stone posts and wood rails. A series of lateral ells extends from the house's west elevation: a carriage shed, a barn, and a milkhouse. A short paving-stone driveway leads from Pine Hill Road to the shed ell. Gravel driveways lead from Pine Hill Road to the lower and upper levels of the barn.

The two-story frame house is nearly-symmetrical in plan, five bays wide and one bay deep with an additional bay within the saltbox extension to the rear (north). The building is clad with narrow wood clapboards and trimmed with cornerboards and a skirtboard. Two ranks of closely-spaced bays flank the façade's center entrance. The building rests on a fieldstone foundation and is capped with a side-gabled roof with shallow eaves. The house appears to have been constructed in two phases, as evidenced by the different distances between the west two bays and the center entrance and the two east bays and the center entrance. The two west window bays and the entrance bay were constructed first. The east two bays were added at a later date. A large interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap is centered on the roof ridge.

The center door, sheltered by a metal-frame storm door, features a pilastered surround with a molded cornice and dentil course. Windows throughout the house are 6/9 wood sash with cases that project from the façade (and likely added post-1970). On the façade, the second-story windows are tucked up against the plate with no crown. Throughout the remainder of the house, the windows are capped by a molded wood crown.

Attached to the house's west elevation is a carriage shed containing six bays (described from east to west): two infilled carriage bays, a doorway, two garage bays, and a storage bay. The two carriage bays feature canted corners and have been infilled with multi-light fixed windows. The third bay now contains a personnel door and a 6/9 sash window. The garage bays contain overhead doors topped with multi-light fixed transoms. The open storage bay has canted corners. The shed rests on a cut stone and a poured concrete foundation. A single, square, nine-light window is centered over each bay. The asymmetrical, side-gabled roof is covered with wood shingles.

A large barn is attached to the northwest corner of the carriage shed. The barn is covered with clapboards similar to those on the house and carriage shed. The gabled roof, which has only a very shallow overhang on the side elevations, is oriented east-west. A square-plan cupola contains 6/6 wood sash windows and is capped by a weathervane. The banked barn contains two large top-hung, vertical-board sliding doors at the lower level, which is accessed from the Pine Hill Road (south) elevation. The south elevation contains two 12-light windows at the upper level. The barn's upper level is accessed via a large vertical-board door centered on the west elevation. This banked entrance is flanked by personnel doors and 12-light windows on either side. The attic (loft) level contains a 12/12 sash window in the west gable peak.

A 1 ½-story ell is attached to the west end of the barn's south elevation, with its gable roof running perpendicular to that of the barn (e.g., north-south). Given the concrete (or parged masonry) walls, the building may have been used as a milkhouse. At the half-story, the building is of frame construction with 12-light wood-frame windows at the east and west elevations. A single, 8/12 wood sash window is centered in the south gable peak. A double-leaf, round-arch door is centered in the south elevation. The vertical-board door is fastened with metal strap hinges.

A metal windmill is located west of the barn above a fieldstone well curb. A second well curb, constructed of brick, is located approximately 10 feet north of the stone well curb.

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Interior inspections were beyond the scope of this survey, but a closer examination of surviving framing, floorplans, and interior features and finishes by an architectural historian with expertise in early Massachusetts building technology could provide additional insights into a likely original construction date and on the physical evolution of the building over time.

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.

143 Pine Hill Road is reported to have been constructed circa 1760 by a person with the surname Chamberlain.¹ This may have been Jacob Chamberlain (1726-1800),² who married Lydia Richardson in Chelmsford in 1761. In 1801, Jacob Chamberlain sold the "easterly half of a dwelling house with the easterly part of a barn...with a privilege round the barn fifteen feet adjoining the dwelling house estimated at ¼ acre" to David Dutton.³ The property remained in the Dutton family until 1974 – 173 years.⁴

David Dutton (1766-1850)⁵ worked as a cooper, according to the 1801 deed. The following year, Dutton married Hannah Wright of Westford. After David Dutton's death, the property passed to their son, Elbridge Dutton (1801-1879). Elbridge Dutton married Laura Maria Wright in 1840 and farmed the property. After Elbridge Dutton's death, the property passed to their son, Edwin Elbridge Dutton. Elbridge E. Dutton (1841-1901)⁶ and his wife, Carrie Ayer Dutton (1849-1927), were married in 1871 and had five children. Elbridge E. Dutton and his brother, Lewis Dutton, purchased a cider vinegar mill from David Perham in 1884 and operated it until they sold it in 1899 to H.C. Sweetster.⁷ Elbridge E. Dutton also farmed the land, as did his two younger sons. However, Dutton's two older sons chose employment away from the farm. The 1910 census notes that Charles Dutton worked as a draftsman in a civil engineer's office and Harvey worked as a clerk in civil service.

After their mother, Carrie Dutton's, death, Laura May Dutton (1882-1975)⁸ and LeRoy Dutton (1889-1965)⁹ acquired the property from their siblings.¹⁰ The 1930 census includes farmer LeRoy Dutton and his wife, Catherine, and Laura Dutton as residents of this house.

Charles and Jeanne Parlee purchased the house from Laura Dutton in 1974,¹¹ which, by that time, was in disrepair. Charles Parlee began restoring the house and outbuildings soon after purchase. The Parlees sold the property in 2014.¹²

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¹ Waters: 398.

² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18168093/jacob-chamberlin>. Accessed Feb. 4, 2022.

³ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 9, p. 3.

⁴ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 2129, p. 604.

⁵ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18168240/david-dutton>. Accessed Jan. 10, 2022.

⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18168242/edwin-elbridge-dutton>. Accessed Jan. 26, 2022.

⁷ Waters: 664.

⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18178168/laura-may-dutton>. Accessed Jan. 10, 2022.

⁹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18178169/leroy-elbridge-dutton>. Accessed Jan. 27, 2022.

¹⁰ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 772 p. 322.

¹¹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 2129, p. 604.

¹² Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 29915, p. 254.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



House, façade, view looking north. Shed ell at left.



House, east elevation. View looking west. Barn and windmill at right rear.



Shed ell, view looking north.



Shed ell, barn, and milk house, view looking northwest.

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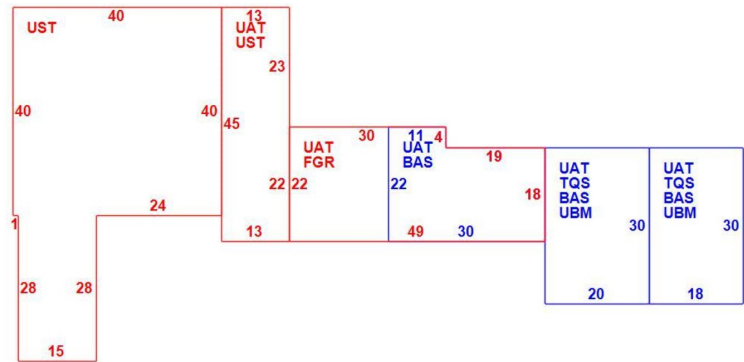
Milk house, view looking north.



Barn and milk house. View looking northeast.



Windmill and well curb, barn, milkhouse, shed ell, and house.
 View looking east along Pine Hill Road.



Undated photograph from *Images of America: Chelmsford*.
 Note two-story ell at rear of house and deteriorated condition of shed ell.