

FORM B - BUILDING

In Area no.	Form no.
	66

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



1. Town Chelmsford
 Address 195 Robin Hill Road
 Name Eli P. Parker House
 Present use residence
single family
 Present owner William W. Riley

3. Description:
 Date ca 1840
Real estate valuation lists
 Source Deeds; Mrs. Grace Harris

Style Federal
 Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features Wide boards in area
between house & attached barn

1 working fireplace - rear chimney

Altered see attached Date 1902-03

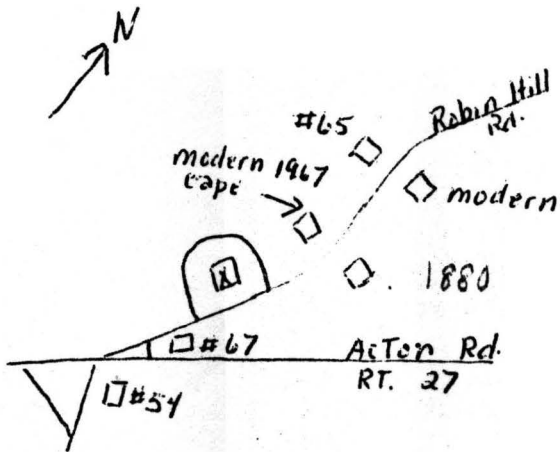
Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
40,000 sq. ft.
 One acre or less x Over one acre
 Approximate frontage 164.23 feet

Approximate distance of building from street
ca 25 feet

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury
 Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission
 Date December 29, 1977

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. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Eli Packard Parker (b. ca 1848 - d. 1898)
 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)

Eli P. Parker (also known as Packard Parker), a housewright and carpenter, probably purchased the land in South Chelmsford in Feb. 1836 from Jephtha Parker. He first built a workshop, where the "children on their way home from school would stop by to chat and watch him work." In Jan. 1840 he married Nancy B. Pierce; he probably built the house about this time. Eli P. and Nancy remained in the house until his death in 1898, when ownership passed to son Newell E. Parker, who died just 2 years later. Newell E. was a selectman from 1891 through 1896 and was a carpenter like his father; he increased by 1 story the old houses at 11 Maple Rd. (#69) and 305 Acton Rd. (#67). The property remained under Parker ownership until 1964.

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

1831, 1856, 1875, 1889 maps & atlases
 Mrs. Grace Byam Parker Harris (b. 1874, wife of builder's grandson)
 Mrs. Harriet Parkhurst Battles (bp. 1818, lived at 147 Robin Hill Rd. (#104))
 Bradley R. Parker (great-great-grandson of builder)
 Chelmsford Assessors' records, tax/real estate valuation lists
 Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds: B.13,p.426; B.318,p.550;
 Plan B. 104, plan 144
 Chelmsford Directory: 1898, 1915/16, 1922

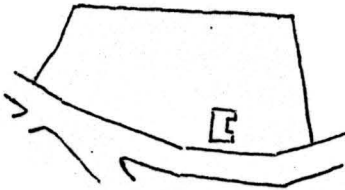
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Chelmsford	Form No: 66
Property Name: Eli P. Parker House	

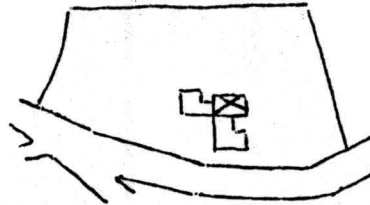
Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

3. Altered

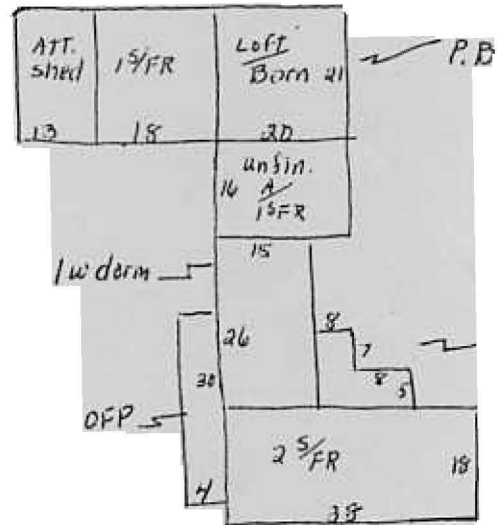
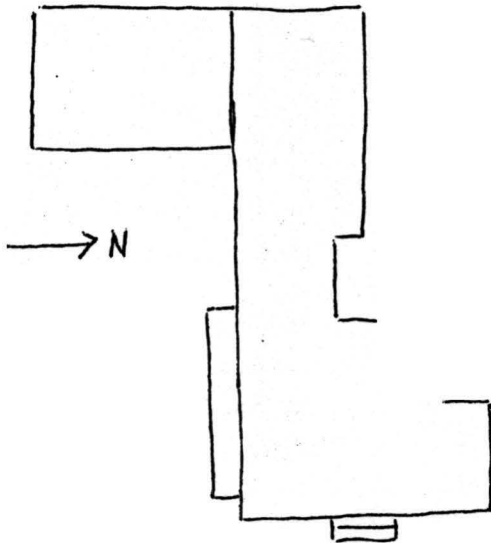
1875 Beers Atlas



1889 Atlas



Revaluation card
1971



Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Chelmsford	Form No: 66
Property Name: Eli P. Parker House	

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

3. Altered

1. Bradley R. Parker:

1902 & 1903 - first extensive changes

Barn was once larger

Major changes have taken place since 1964 (but no building permits have been issued, & these are required for "structural changes")

2. Mrs. Grace Byam Parker Harris (1874 - 1974):

"Since 1964 changes have been made, and as a lady remarked who as a child used to come there often to play, it can't be imagined what the pretty and neat Packard Parker place looked like."

"The front part was built with the extra large double door opening - each door had very pretty glass panels in the upper half. The glass panels having been made in the glass factory of Chelmsford (1977 - Middlesex Village, Lowell). These doors opened wide on to very pretty long cut stone steps, down the walk to the gate, for there was a fence made of up & down narrow slats to each corner of the house painted white as was the house. The barn & carriage house have been changed, and the original house changed. In fact, there has been a change of grounds & house every few years."

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

195 Robin Hill Road
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

Book 1775, pg. 513	11/10/1966	Paula Olsen to William H. & Dorothy A. Riley Lot A - 40,000 sq. ft. & buildings thereon
Book 1640, pg. 152	3/11/1964	Royce M. & Madge B. Parker to G. Gordon & Paula Olsen land & buildings
Book 1393, pg. 500	6/26/1947	Grace M. Harris (Grace E.M. Parker) to Royce M. & Madge B. Parker 1.5 acres & buildings thereon
Book 590, pg. 431	5/15/1918	Edgar R. Parker, Denver, Col., to Grace E.M. Parker, Denver, Col. 2 acres & buildings thereon
Book 340, pg. 476	3/ 1/1902 Correction Deed (for Bk.318,p.549)	Charles W. Parker, Boston, to Edgar R. Parker & Emma R. George 2 acres & buildings thereon $\frac{1}{2}$ part
Book 318, pg. 550	11/12/1898	Newell E. Parker to Charles W. Parker, Boston 2 acres & buildings thereon $\frac{1}{2}$ part of homestead of father, Eli P. Parker.
Book 318, pg. 549	7/8/1898	Charles W. Parker, Boston, to Newell E. Parker $\frac{1}{2}$ of Eli P. Parker's estate

Lowell Daily Courier

July 1, 1903

South Chelmsford

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. George P. Mansfield, a quiet but pretty home wedding was held Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock when their daughter, Grace Elma, was united in marriage to Edgar Royce Parker. The couple will make their home in the village.

195 Robin Hill Road

1831 map: no
1856 map: E.P. Parker
1875 Beers Atlas: E.P. Parker
1889 map: E.P. Parker

Letter from Mrs. Grace Harris, age 97, March 1972:

The Packard Parker house in South village - history

The young man Packard Parker, by trade a carpenter, bought a tract of land on Robin's Hill Rd. in the village 1836. He first built a work shop - where he could come every day to work. It was said that children on way home from school would stop by to chat and watch Packard work. Later he built a barn and house: the front part was built with the extra large double door opening - each door had a very pretty glass panels in upper half. The glass panels having been made in the glass factory of Chelmsford. These doors opened wide on to very pretty long cut stone steps, down the walk out the gate, for there was a fence made of up & down narrow slats to each corner of the house painted white as was the house. The barn and carriage house have been changed, and the original house changed. In fact, there has been a change of grounds and house every few years. In 1964 the great grandson living there sold. Since then changes have been made so it can't be imagined what the pretty and neat Packard Parker place looked like. As a lady remarked who as a child used to come there often to play with the children.

Once a visitor remarked about the very wide boards in a shedway and closet. There was a large and pretty hood over the front door.

Notes added by Mrs. Harris' grandson, Bradley R. Parker:

1. Packard Parker's full name was Eli Packard Parker. He died in 1898, aged 86, in the house.
2. Married Nancy B. Pierce in 1840.
2. Other owners (of the same family) were Newell E. Parker (1841-1900), Edgar R. Parker (1871-1918), and Royce M. Parker (1904-).
3. The first extensive changes were made in 1902 and 1903.
4. Other major changes have taken place since 1964.
5. The wide boards are found in the toilet area between house and barn.
6. Barn was once larger. Windmill was in field.

Letter from Mrs. Grace Harris, March 30, 1972:

I was thinking I'd write you about that story of the children stopping at Packard Parker's - is not a story I heard but was told me by Mrs. Harriet Parkhurst Battles, who was one of the children. She was daughter of Rev. John Parkhurst and lived at the house now owned by Mr. Henry Pontefract on Robin Hill Road (147 Robin Hill Rd.), and came from the brick school house on roctor Rd. now where Forrest Philbrook now lives. So you see that it is not a hand down but a new 1900+ story. Mrs. Battles was 90 yrs. old and of course an old woman. I've forgotten when she died so could not pin point the date of telling it to me. I wanted to write this before but shortened it for history by sayng "it is said."

"Chelmsford Vital Statistics to 1850"

Parkhurst, Harriot Lucretia, dau. John and Surviah, bp. Nov. 21, 1818.



