

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

35/145/3	Westford		CLM.403
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Town/City: Chelmsford

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): West Chelmsford

Photograph



Address: 26 School Street

Historic Name: Joseph A. and Jane Parkhurst House

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1870

Source: 1856 and 1875 maps of Chelmsford ; architectural features

Style/Form: Stick

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood siding/wood

Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Barn

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 2.09 acres

Setting: The house is located on the east side of School St., approximately 50' from the road. The flat parcel features mature trees. A gravel drives on the south leads to the barn at the rear of the lot. The surrounding area includes 19th c. residential development. The West Chelmsford Cemetery is the east of the property.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Jennifer Burden, Gray & Pape, Inc.

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): February 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

CHELMSFORD

26 SCHOOL STREET

Area(s) Form No.

CLM.403

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 building is a 2.5-story residence designed in the Stick architectural style. The building has a stone foundation, walls clad in painted wood siding with wood trim, and a cross gable roof covered with slate shingles. An internal, brick chimney is centrally located within the cross gable of the ridgeline. Fenestration throughout the building consists of a combination of historic, wood, one-over-one and two-over-two, double-hung windows. The primary (west) façade is two bays wide with the main entry in the north bay and an enclosed projection in the south bay of the first story, a single window in the north bay and a paired window in the south bay of the second story, and a single window below the gable in the half story. Decorative features of the façade include scrolled bargeboard at the gable, ornamental scrolled brackets at the gable ends, friezeboard with a wood ornament at the gable peak, and cornerboards. The porch at the main entry is one-bay wide and features a flat, hipped roof hood with a central front gable peak that features bargeboard similar to that of the main gable peak of the house. The porch also has turned, wood columns and scrolled-sawn wood brackets, and scrolled-sawn spandrels. The scrolled-sawn railing of the porch features a quatrefoil pattern. The enclosed projection features the same type of roof and brackets as the porch as well as a wooden paneled base.

The north wall is three bays deep with the cross gable projection in the center bay. The south wall is four bays deep with the cross gable projection in the third bay from the west. A one-story, two-bay projection is located within the ell of the primary façade and south wall. Another one-story, one-bay projection is in the cross gable bay; both exhibit similar features as the one on the primary façade. A one-story, open porch is in the rear bay of the south wall. The porch has a shed roof supported by turned, wood columns and a raised wood floor.

The barn, which is located behind the house, has been converted into a three-vehicle garage and workshop. The 2.5-story barn, oriented north to south, has walls clad in wood siding with wood trim and a side gable roof with slate shingles. Three symmetrically placed, garage bays are on the first story of the west wall. The second story includes four, symmetrical, eight-pane casement windows. A one-story workshop is attached to the barn's north wall and features two door openings.

The house is an excellent example of the Stick architectural style and retains all aspects of historic integrity.

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.

The 1856 map of West Chelmsford does not show a building or owner's name at this location, but the 1875 map of the area shows J.A. Parkhurst owned the land and a house here. Based upon the Stick architectural style of the building and that is appears on the 1875 map, the building was likely constructed ca. 1870. The 1860 U.S. Population Census lists Joseph A. Parkhurst (1833-1905) living in West Chelmsford with his wife Jane (1840-1909) and working as a clerk. The 1865 Massachusetts State and 1870 U.S. census records list Parkhurst working as a sword maker in the scythe shop.

Parkhurst was likely working for the Roby, Sawyer & Company, later C. Roby & Company, which produced scythes in West Chelmsford in the mid-nineteenth century, military swords during the Civil War, and presentation swords after the war. Christopher Roby (1814-1897) was Joseph Parkhurst's uncle as Roby's sister Sally was Joseph's mother. Prior to the company's production of swords, it manufactured scythes that were often distributed to the Southern marketplace. At the outbreak of the U.S. Civil War, the company began making swords for the Union forces.

After Joseph's death in 1905, the property was transferred to Jane. When Jane died in 1909, the property was granted to Joseph's younger brother Alfred G. (1838-1913), who also owned the property to the south. Deed research did not discover who

Continuation sheet 1

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owned the property immediately after Alfred, but by 1920 it appears Laura and Bayard Dean were living on the property. The 1920 census lists them living on School Street. At this date, Bayard (1877-1971, born in Baltimore and dies in Lowell) was a draftsman for the railroad and Laura (1855-1951, née Andrus) was not employed. The couple married in 1911 and this was Bayard's second marriage. In 1920 the couple had three children under 10 years of age, and also living with them were Laura's mother Harriet Andrus (born ca. 1849, née Prescott) and Sarah Prescott (born ca. 1842), a lodger and possibly Harriet's sister. The Deans retained ownership of the property until 1949. Since then, the property has been sold an additional six times.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Beers, F.W. *County Atlas of Middlesex, Massachusetts*. New York: J.B. Beers & Co. 1875. Available from the Chelmsford Historical Commission map collection

Genealogical data from ancestry.com including U.S. and Massachusetts Population Schedules, Massachusetts City Directories, and Massachusetts Birth, Death, and Marriage Records

Geo. H. Walker & Co. *Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Geo. H. Walker & Co., Boston, MA. 1889.

Merriam, Fred. *Images of America: North and West Chelmsford*. Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, South Carolina. 2016.

Middlesex County Deed Records

Parkhurst, Eleanor. *History of Chelmsford 1910 – 1970*. Edited by Fred Merriam. Chelmsford: Chelmsford Historical Commission. 2011.

Walling, Henry. *Map of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Boston: Smith & Bumstead 1856. Available from the Chelmsford Historical Commission map collection.



Barn, facing northeast. November 2015.

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district
 Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: **A** **B** **C** **D**

Criteria Considerations: **A** **B** **C** **D** **E** **F** **G**

Statement of Significance

The area of West Chelmsford is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places as a locally significant historic district under Criterion A for the development of this area around the Roby Manufacturing Company and Chelmsford Woolen Mills as well as under Criterion C for its intact examples of mid-nineteenth through early twentieth century residential architecture. The boundary of the proposed district would include resources built during the period of significance along Main Street from approximately Loiselle Lane in the north to the Westford Town Line, as well as resources along School Street between Main Street and Graniteville Road. This building at 26 School Street would be a contributing resource to that district as an example of residential architecture constructed during its period of significance that retains most historic integrity.

The building could also be individually eligible at the local level under Criterion B for its association with Joseph Parkhurst, who through his familial connection with Christopher Roby, played a significant role in the operation of the C. Roby & Company and development of West Chelmsford. Finally, the building could be eligible for inclusion the National Register under Criterion C as an excellent example of the Stick architectural style that retains historic integrity.