

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

35/149/10	Westford		CLM.406
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**Town/City:** Chelmsford

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 41 School Street

**Historic Name:** John Dunn House

**Uses:** Present: single-family dwelling

Original: single-family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1877

**Source:** 1875 map of West Chelmsford and Town Tax Records

**Style/Form:** Italianate

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

## Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/vinyl

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** none

## Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 1970 ell extension, dormer additions, garage addition

Ca. 1980 porch enclosure

Ca. 2000 replacement siding and windows

Ca. 2000 rear additions

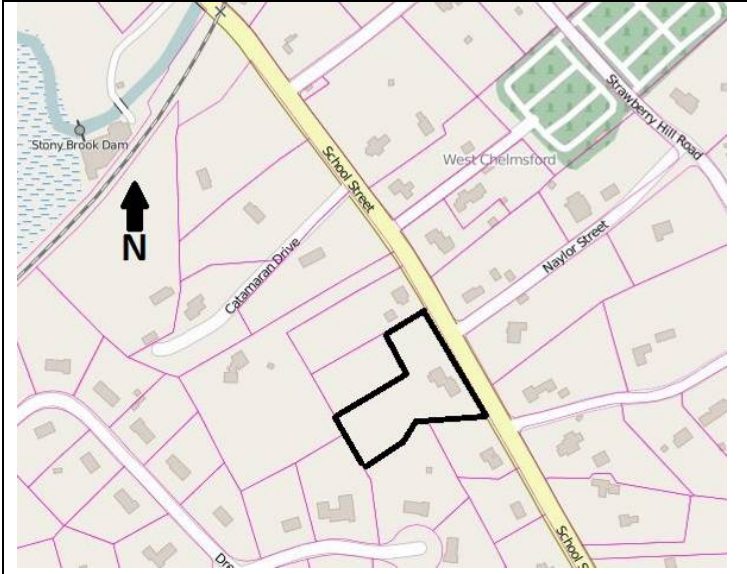
**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.43 acres

**Setting:** The house is located approximately 45' southwest of School St. An asphalt drive leads to the attached garage. A brick path leads from the street to the main entry. An in-ground pool is behind the house. The lot is flat and grassy around the house with heavily wooded areas farther out. The area includes 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> c. residential development.

## Locus Map



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

**Organization:** Chelmsford Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): June 2016

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

41 SCHOOL STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CLM.406

 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.

This building is located on the west side of School Street, south of Catamaran Drive. It is a ca. 1880, wood frame, one and-a-half story upright and wing house. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the exterior walls are covered with vinyl siding with vinyl trim. The original portions of the house rest atop a stone foundation. The primary (northeast) façade, which faces School Street, is divided into six bays. The front-gabled, upright portion of the house is divided into three bays on the first story, with the front entrance located in the first bay on the north side of the façade. The door features Classical style sidelights and transom that is surmounted by a small, flat Classical porch roof. The gable features Gothic Revival style barge boards and Greek Revival gable returns. Fenestration consists of one-over-one, double-hung replacement windows. The wing, which extends northward from the upright segment of the house, features an enclosed porch addition and a pair of gabled wall dormers on the second story. A two-story attached garage addition is located at the north end of the wing. The dormers and garage addition feature gable returns.

The house is an altered example of a late nineteenth century residence that retains historic integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association.

## 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 house does not appear on the 1875 map of West Chelmsford, but is present on the 1889 map of the area. Town Tax records indicate a dwelling was located on the property in 1877. The original owner of the house was John Dunn. Dunn (born 1815 in Ireland and immigrated to the US in 1843) is listed in the 1900 US Population Census as residing in Chelmsford with daughters Mary (born 1859) and Lizzie (born 1872) and two boarders Sarah Dunn (born 1865) and Matthew Dunn (born 1868). Presumably, Sarah and Matthew Dunn were related to John, Mary, and Lizzie, but that relationship is not provided in the census record. The 1900-1901 city directory further notes the Dunn house was located across School Street from the school shown on the 1875 and 1889 maps. By 1937 ownership of the property transferred to Elizabeth (Lizzie) Dunn. In 1937 she sold the property to Charles Fletcher. Fletcher retained the property for approximately six months before selling it to Marion Brown. The 1940 census lists Marion (1901-1975) living on School Street with husband Carroll (ca. 1902-1947, born in Canada) and son Dean (born ca. 1928). The 1942 directory lists Carroll as the proprietor of the Middlesex Village Motor Company. After Marion's death, the property was transferred to William T. Brown, who is the current owner. The property, therefore, has only been occupied by two families over the course of its history thus far.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Beers, F.W. *County Atlas of Middlesex, Massachusetts*. J.B. Beers & Co., New York. 1875.

Chelmsford Tax Records. Archival record books available at the Chelmsford Town Offices.

Genealogical research, including U.S. and Massachusetts census records; birth, marriage, and death records; and city directory records from ancestry.com.

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 North Registry of Deeds. [www.lowelldeeds.com](http://www.lowelldeeds.com).

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41 SCHOOL STREET

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Area(s) Form No.

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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 42 School Street would be a contributing resource to that district as an example of residential architecture constructed during its period of significance that retains some historic integrity.