

FORM B – BUILDING

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

36/154/4

Westford

CLM.407

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

Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 44 School Street

Historic Name: Frederick and Esther Snow House

Uses: Present: single-family dwelling

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: between 1856 and 1875

Source: 1856 and 1875 maps of West Chelmsford

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Carriage house

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 1980 enclosed porch, shed roof dormer addition

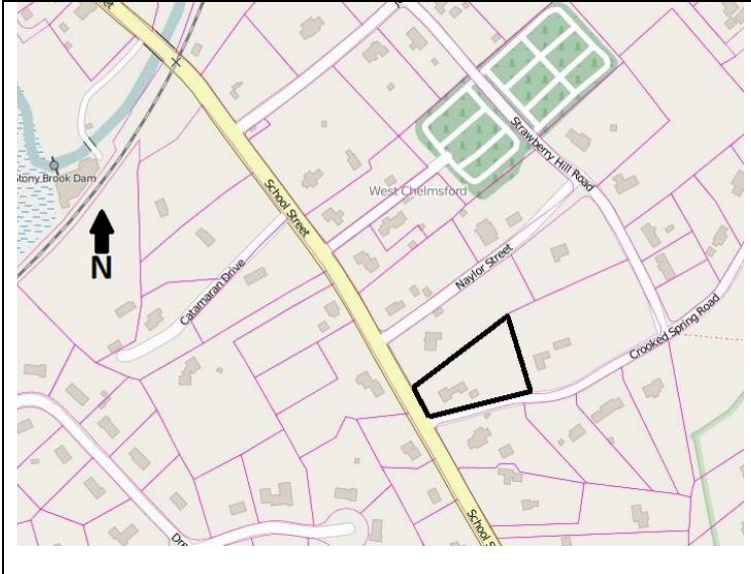
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 1.05 A

Setting: The house is at the NE corner of School St and Crooked Spring Rd, approximately 55' east of School St. A small carriage house is to the east of the house. An in-ground pool is behind the house. The lot is mostly flat and grassy with mature trees. The surrounding area includes 19th and 20th 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

44 SCHOOL STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.

This building is located at the northeast corner of School Street and Crooked Spring Road. Built ca. 1860, it is a one and-a-half story front-gable wood frame house. The roof of the house is covered with asphalt shingles and the exterior walls are clad with clapboard. The house rests atop a stone foundation. The primary (east) façade, which faces School Street, is divided into three bays. There is a pair of two-over-two double-hung windows in the gable at the upper half story. The front entrance is located in the first bay on the south side of the façade. An enclosed, wrap-around porch addition covers the south bay, and extends around the south side of the house. The enclosed porch extends the full length of the south side of the house. A large shed dormer addition rests atop the full length of the covered porch. Fenestration in the dormer addition consists of eight-over-two windows. A one-story gabled addition extends from the rear end of the house. It connects to a one-and-a-half story, front-gabled carriage house which appears to have been converted into a garage. The addition between the front portion of the house and the carriage house, or garage, includes a pedestrian door in the center of the south side and a pair of two-over-two windows, located on either side of the door. The carriage house features a pair of six-over-six double-hung windows located in the center of the gable. The gable features gable returns. A large wood sliding door is located on the west side of the carriage house.

A one-and-a-half story, front-gable carriage house is located just east of the house. It is built of wood frame construction. There is a six-over-six double-hung window in the center of the gable and a large wood, sliding door on the north half of the primary façade. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the exterior walls are clad with clapboard. The building is very similar in appearance to the carriage house or garage that is attached to the house.

The building is a fair example of a mid-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.

Deed research traced the ownership history of the building to 1871 when George Wheeler purchased the lot from John Farrar, who owned much of the land in this area. The building is not on the 1856, but is present on the 1875 map; therefore, it appears Wheeler constructed the house shortly after his purchase. No further information was discovered about Wheeler. He appears to have died soon after his purchase because the 1875 map lists Mrs. George Wheeler as its owner, suggesting she was then the head of the household. Deed research from here is spotty as this lot may have been included with the house next door at 48 School Street. Research shows that George Franklin Snow (1841-1914) lived in the 48 School Street property. Snow is listed in the 1880 US Population Census living in Chelmsford with wife Abby (née Long, 1852-1936), daughter Charlotte (1876-1941), son Frederick (1878-1947), and mother-in-law Lucy Long (born ca. 1820). At this date George was a trader in grain. Snow was very involved with the Chelmsford community, serving as a selectman, superintendent of schools, forest fire ward, town auditor, trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church, justice of the peace, and a member of the committee of appropriations. The 1889 map of West Chelmsford lists G. Swan as the property's owner. This appears to be an error as no records for G. Swan were discovered and the surnames are close enough in length and spelling to be a mistake. In 1905 George Snow granted the property to his son Frederick, who resided at this address. The 1910 census lists Frederick on School Street at this date with wife Esther and son Perry; Frederick was an office bookkeeper at this date. The 1940 census lists the Snows continuing to reside on School Street with sons Perry (born ca. 1907) and Stanley (born ca. 1911). In 1940 Frederic continued to work as a public account and Perry followed in his footsteps; Stanley was a bank clerk. After Frederick's death in 1947, Esther, Perry, and Stanley inherited the property. The property remained in the Snow family until 1968 when Esther's estate sold the property Doris

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Area(s) Form No.

CLM.407

and Robert Conway. The sale marked the end of the 87-year ownership history of the Snow Family. The Conway family retains ownership of the property currently.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

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.

North Registry of Deeds. www.lowelldeeds.com.

Walling, Henry F. *Map of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Smith & Bumstead, Boston, MA. 1856.



Garage at 44 School Street, 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 44 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.