

FORM B – BUILDING

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

36/121/21

Westford

CLM.409

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

Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 48 School Street

Historic Name: George F. Snow House

Uses: Present: single-family dwelling

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1871

Source: Deed research

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Carriage house

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 1970 rear addition

Ca. 2000 replacement siding and windows

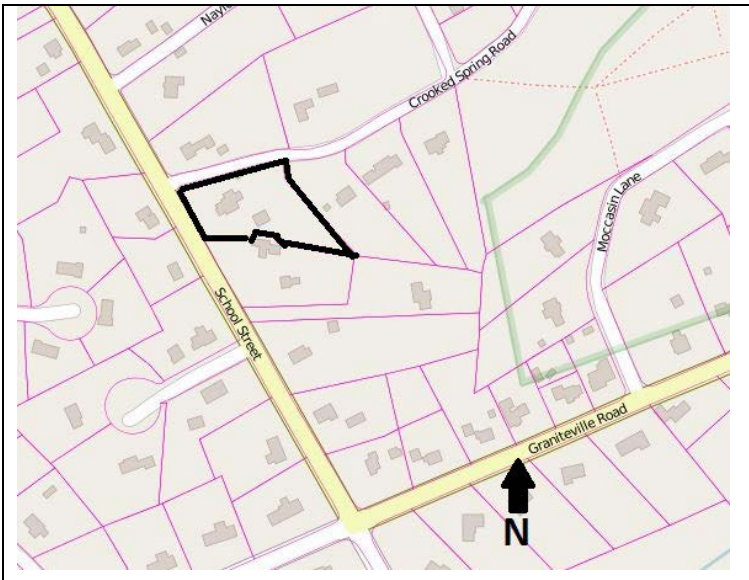
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 1.14 acres

Setting: The house is located approximately 65' northeast of School St. The lot sits higher than the road and a stone retaining wall is along the front of the parcel. An asphalt drive south of the house leads to the carriage house and connects to Crooked Spring Rd. to the rear. The 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

48 SCHOOL

STREET

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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 on the southeast corner of School Street and Crooked Spring Road. It is a ca. 1871, 2.5-story, wood frame, cross-gabled house. The house follows an asymmetric plan with the primary (southwest) façade facing School Street. The primary roof structure is hipped, but there are four short cross gables, located one per each side of the house. Each of the gables form an enclosed pediment. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the exterior walls are covered with replacement vinyl siding with wood trim. The building rests atop a stone foundation. The primary façade is divided into two bays, with the front entrance located in the north bay. The entrance is located in the ell of the cross gable. It features a porch that extends one bay in width. The porch is covered with a front-gabled roof and is embellished with turned spindles and narrow, turned columns. The primary façade includes a narrow window that is oriented at a 45-degree angle at the southwest corner of the house. This window could be considered a half bay on the primary façade. Fenestration on the primary facade and the side walls consist of replacement, one-over-one, double-hung windows. A one-story addition is located at the rear of the building.

A two-story carriage house is located to the southeast of the house. The building has a front gable roof and appears to be clad in wood siding. It sits atop a stone foundation. The building has a carriage opening at the northwest corner with a modern garage door. Fenestration consists of replacement one-over-one double-hung windows.

The building 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.

Deed research traced the ownership history of the property 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 map, 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. The 1889 map of West Chelmsford lists William Russell as the owner of the property. Russell is listed in the 1880 US Population Census with other known owners of properties on School Street, so he likely purchased the property in the late 1870s. The census record lists Russell (born ca. 1824 in Ireland) living with wife Margaret (born ca. 1827 in Ireland), sons William and Thomas P. (born ca. 1860 and 1862), and daughters Catherine L. and Frances E. (born ca. 1864 and 1867). At this date William, Sr. was a farm laborer, William, Jr. worked in the file shop, and Thomas and Catherine worked in the woolen mill.

Deed research was inconclusive for the property, but George Snow (1841-1914), who resided at 44 School Street, acquired the property before 1905. That year Snow transferred ownership to his son Frederic A. Snow (1878-1947). George 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 1910 census lists both branches of the Snow family living on School Street. Living with Frederic were his wife Esther T. (1878-1967) and son Perry T. (born ca. 1907). At this date Frederic was listed as an office bookkeeper. The 1940 census lists the Snows continuing to reside on School Street with sons Perry 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 Frederic's death in

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1947, Esther, Perry, and Stanley inherited the property. The 1949 city directory lists Perry and his wife Helen C. at this address. In 1964 they sold the property to Eldred Field and John Leggat, who retained the property for 18 months. In 1965 they sold the property to Joseph L. Marcotte, who kept ownership of the property until 2012. The property most recently sold in 2015.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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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.

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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 48 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.

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Carriage house, facing northeast. November 2015.



Undated photograph of 48 School Street showing fishscale shingle detail in the pediment and history two-over-one windows. (Chelmsford Public Library.)