

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

36/121/25	Westford		CLM.410
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**Town/City:** Chelmsford

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 52 School Street

**Historic Name:** George C. Parker House

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

Original: single-family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** pre-1856

**Source:** 1856 map of Chelmsford

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/vinyl

Roof: asphalt shingle

### Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Detached garage

### Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Unknown date: dormer addition

Ca. 2000 replacement siding and windows

Ca. 2000 porch enclosure

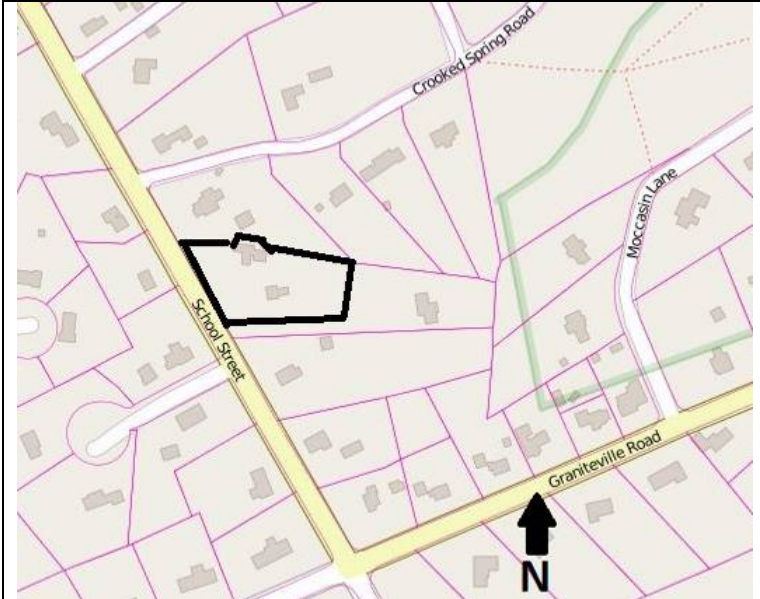
**Condition:** Fair

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

**Acreage:** .94 A

**Setting:** The house is located approximately 100' northeast of School St., but does not directly face the street. A U-shaped, asphalt drive leads to the house and detached garage. The lot is flat and grassy with mature trees along the perimeter. The surrounding 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

52 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 on the east side of School Street between Graniteville and Crooked Spring roads. It is a ca. 1850, upright and wing plan house. Built of wood frame construction it stands one and-a-half stories in height. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the exterior walls are covered with vinyl siding with vinyl trim. The original section of the building rests atop a stone foundation while at least part of the wing rests atop a concrete foundation. The primary (northwest) façade does not directly face School Street, which is unlike other houses on the street. The front-gabled, upright section of the house is divided into two bays on the first story and one in the half story above. A front door is located in the south bay. The front entrance is located in a front-gabled enclosure that protrudes from the façade; this enclosure appears to be a later alteration. The upright section features gable returns and an enclosed pediment over the front entrance. A roof dormer on the side of the upright section also features gable returns. Fenestration consists of six-over-six double-hung replacement windows. The wing, located to the south of the upright section of the house, stands one story in height and is divided three bays with a door located in the center bay. Modern bay windows are located on either side of the door. The wing appears to be recently expanded and/or remodeled.

A detached two-car garage is located to the south of the house. The garage appears to have a concrete foundation, walls clad in vinyl siding and an asphalt-shingled front gable roof with a center cupola.

The building is an altered 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.*

The house appears on the 1856 map of Chelmsford as owned by S. Napton. Little else is known about Samuel Napton, who lived in Chelmsford in 1855 according to the Massachusetts Vital Records, but died intestate in late 1855 or early 1856. Napton left a widow, Mary, as his only heir. She requested an administrator for his estate, so William Hamblett was appointed as such and the estate was probated in May 1856.

By 1875 G.C. Parker owned the property. The 1870 US Population Census lists George C. Parker (1829-1893, born in England) living in Chelmsford with wife Cornelia (1826-1888, born in Massachusetts), son Charles (born ca. 1857), and daughter Gertrude (born ca. 1860). At this date George was a dyer and Charles, at the age of 13, was employed in the woolen mill. In 1880 the family remained in Chelmsford, but at this date Charles was a grocer and Gertrude was working in the woolen mill. In 1905 William John Peel gained ownership of the property. The 1910 census lists Peel (born ca. 1870) on School Street with wife Anne (born ca. 1870), mother-in-law Mary Q. Vivian, and adopted son Arthur Peel; all of the family members were born in English Canada. In 1910 William was a highway laborer and Arthur was working in the woolen mill. In 1921 Peel sold the property to Lily and Clifford Herdman. The 1925 city directory lists the couple on School Street with Clifford employed as a metal worker. In 1929 they sold the property to Helena and Noble Charlton. The 1937 directory lists Noble living on School Street, but no occupation was given. In 1941 they sold the property to Henry and Eleanor Gray. The 1942 directory lists the couple at this address with Henry employed as a machinist. They retained the house until 1973; the property was sold four additional times after this date.

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## 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](http://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).

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



Garage, 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 52 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.