

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

35/142/3

Westford

CLM.401

Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 7 School Street

Historic Name: Chelmsford Company Housing

Uses: Present: single-family dwelling

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1910

Source: architectural features

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/vinyl

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
shed

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 2000 replacement siding and windows

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .65 A

Setting: The house is located approximately 20' southwest of School St south its intersection with Main St. The building is on a slight rise. The lot is flat and grassy with shrubs planted against the building. The surrounding area includes 19th and 20th c. residential, industrial, and commercial developments.

Locus Map



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

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

7 SCHOOL STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

CLM.401

 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 1.5-story house has a stone foundation, walls clad in replacement vinyl siding with vinyl trim, and an asphalt shingled front gable roof with gable returns. A brick internal chimney is located along the ridgeline near the front gable. Windows throughout the house are replacement, six-over-one and four-over-one, double-hung windows with false muntins. All windows feature decorative shutters. The primary (southeast) façade faces away from the street and a set of steps lead from the street to steps leading to the front door. The primary façade is three bays wide with single windows in the west bays and the main entry in the east bay. The main entry is sheltered by a one-bay flat roof porch that is supported by round columns. The half story of the façade includes two single windows. The northeast wall that faces School Street is five bays deep with single windows in the four outer bays. A bay window is in the center bay and is topped by a side gable dormer with gable returns and a single window.

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.

A building is present in this location on the 1856 map of the area as part of the mill company housing. The building, however, does not follow the layout of a mid-nineteenth century residential building, and therefore, this was likely constructed later. Features of the building that would not be found in a mid-nineteenth century residence include its orientation away from the street, cross gable roof, and the mid-elevation bay window.

Deed research to this particular house was inconclusive and it was not discovered when it was first sold into private residential ownership. In 1944 George (born ca. 1913) and Eleanor (born ca. 1911) Ricker purchased the property. The 1940 US Population Census lists the Rickers renting a property in Carlisle with George employed as a sawyer for a granite company. The 1950 city directory lists the Rickers at this address with George continuing to work as a sawyer. Eleanor Ricker was the last West Chelmsford Postmaster, having been appointed in 1958, and serving until that post office became subordinate to North Chelmsford in 1962. In 2011 the property was sold to current owner Henry E Lohmer.

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.

Hales, John G. *Plan of the Town of Chelmsford in the County of Middlesex*. Surveyed in 1831 by John G. Hales.

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

Middlesex North Registry of Deeds. www.lowelldeeds.com.

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

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