

FORM B – BUILDING

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

124/468/7

Westford,
MA

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

Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Photo 1. View looking east from drive. Façade (southwest) and side (northwest, at left) elevations.

Address: 6 Second Lane

Historic Name: Robert S. and Doris A. Byam House

Uses: Present: Vacant

Original: Secondary Dwelling House

Date of Construction: 1940

Source: Assessor

Style/Form: Log Cabin

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles; logs; wood trim

Roof: Rolled composition roofing

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): None.

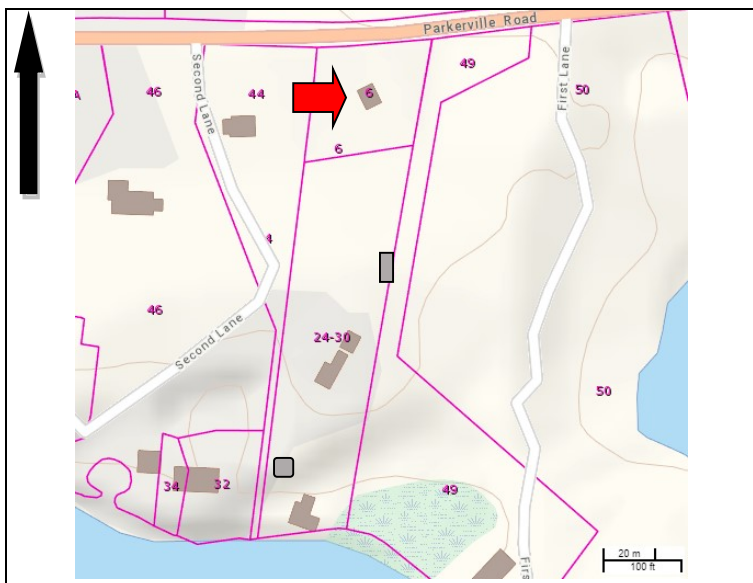
Condition: Poor

Moved: no yes Date:

Acreage: 0.52 acre

Setting: Located on a heavily wooded narrow drive at the corner of Parkerville Road and Second Lane. Surrounding dwellings consist of older, camp-style cottages and newer (late 20th C and early 21st C), year-round dwellings.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Consultant

Organization:

Date: August 2020

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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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.

6 Second Lane is a small cottage located at the intersection of Parkerville Road and Second Lane. A semicircular drive lined by a dry-laid stone wall leads from Second Lane to the southwest elevation. The cottage appears to have been constructed in several phases: 1) a 15'x15' log cabin, originally freestanding, at the south corner of the house; 2) a 25'x37' side-gabled addition attached to the east corner of the log cabin; and 3) an 8'x13' screened porch attached to the east corner of the addition. The house is reported to have a rolled composition roof; the roof is now covered with a tarp.

The log cabin block has a shallow, front-gabled roof with deep overhanging eaves and exposed log rafters. A large fieldstone exterior chimney dominates the southeast elevation. The chimney has a wide base of rounded fieldstones that tapers to flat fieldstones as it rises past the roofline. The cabin structure consists of interlocking logs, including the sill and rafters. The gable peak is covered with wood shingles. The façade (southwest elevation) contains a center door and one bay of paired wood-frame casement windows. The plank door contains a single light in the top quarter. The southeast elevation contains two bays of single windows, both of which are boarded up, located on either side of the chimney. The rear elevation contains a boarded-up window opening similar in size to the pair of casements on the façade. Window surrounds are minimal.

The large addition has a shallow side-gabled roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafters. The addition rests on a fieldstone foundation and is covered with wood shingles. Windows throughout the addition are 1/1, double-hung wood sash, with the exception of one window on the northwest (side) elevation that has been infilled with glass block. Flat wood surrounds frame the windows. The southwest elevation contains a small projection with a single bay of three windows; a wood-frame bay window is located between the projection and the log cabin. The wood-frame bay window contains 24 lights flanked by slender fixed 8-light panels.

The four-bay northwest elevation of the addition contains two pairs of windows at the east end and two single windows. The southeast elevation contains an exterior brick chimney at the west end, a pair of windows, a secondary, paneled wood door, and what appears to be an undercut porch at the east corner. The boarded-up undercut porch is constructed of logs below the window line with screens or windows above. The northeast elevation contains a full-width fieldstone wall with an integrated exterior stone chimney. The screened porch at the northeast corner of the house shelters a door located beside the stone wall.

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.

6 Second Lane was part originally part of a much larger, 16-acre parcel that was owned by the branch of the Byam family descended from Frank C. Byam (1848-1933).¹ Frank C. Byam was a farmer and the stationmaster at the South Chelmsford railroad station and lived at 19 Maple Road (also known as Red Wing Farm). In 1920, Frank C. Byam sold the 16-acre property to his daughter, Lucy, and her husband, Ray S. Byam, who had married in 1907.² Ray Byam was a member of another local branch of the Byam family.

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18163054>

² Middlesex North Deed Book 627, p. 515.

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In 1932, Lucy H. Byam Byam and Ray S. Byam, sold the lot (consisting of present-day 6 Second Lane and 24-30 Second Lane) to Ray's brother, Arnold A. Byam.³ Arnold A. Byam, Sr. (1882-1950)⁴ and his second wife, Amelia Marinel Byam (1890-1961), had 26 Second Lane constructed in 1932 as a summer residence; their primary residence was in Lowell. Arnold A. Byam, Sr. worked as a local insurance and real estate broker and served as a Lowell Alderman in 1910 and 1911. Arnold A. Byam, Sr., established Byam Brothers real estate and insurance with his brother, George, in 1906 and was active with the firm until his death.⁵

Arnold A. and Amelia Byam had seven children. In 1948, they sold the cabin at 6 Second Lane to their son, Robert Spaulding Byam (1921-1998)⁶ and his wife, Doris (1927-2005).⁷ Robert and Doris had married the year before. Robert S. Byam attended Duke University and became a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during World War II before returning home and marrying Doris. Robert S. Byam worked for the family business, Byam Brothers Insurance Agency, becoming vice-president before 1956 and president of the company before 1964. In 1948, the property would have contained only the log cabin. Use of such a small vacation cabin for a primary residence would not have been uncommon during the housing shortage that followed the end of World War II.

In 1956, Robert and Doris Byam sold 6 Second Lane to Robert's brother, Paul Byam (1917-1984).⁸ Paul also owned 24-30 Second Lane with two other siblings. By the late 1940s, brothers Paul and David Byam provided 26 Second Lane as their residence on the voter registration rolls. It is unclear whether they lived together at the house at 26 Second Lane, or separately in one of the cottages. Paul was a corporal in the U.S. Army during World War II and had worked at the Bon Marche department store in Lowell and as a real estate agent. Paul Byam later owned a music store.

6 Second Lane remains in the Byam family at the time of this documentation. The house has been vacant since at least 2016, according to assessor's records

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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³ Middlesex North Deed Book 810, p. 439.

⁴ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18163022>. Accessed July 8, 2020.

⁵ "A.A. Byam, Sr., Dies at 67," *The Lowell Sun*, Lowell Massachusetts, 25 Jan 1950.

⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/174857999>. Accessed August 3, 2020.

⁷ Middlesex North Deed Book 1107, p. 458.

⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18163114>. Accessed July 8, 2020.

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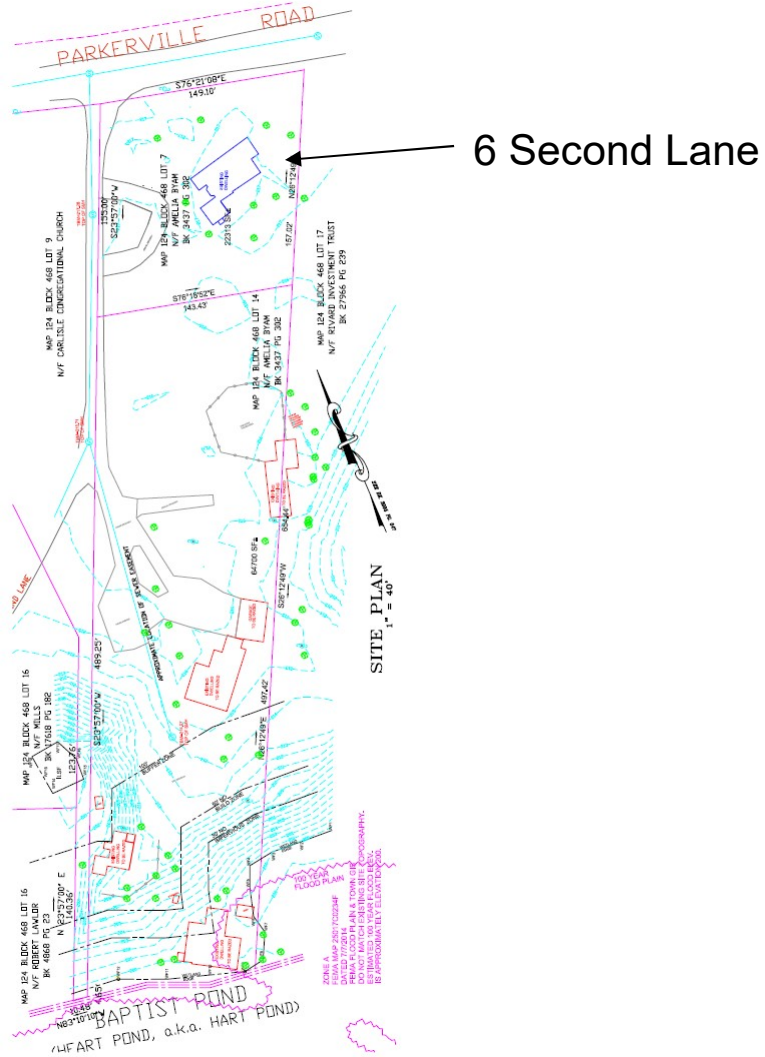
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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



Site Plan, June 2020. Prepared by H-Star Engineering, New Ipswich, NH.

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Photo 2. View looking north. Southwest and southeast elevations of log cabin block.



Photo 3. View looking northeast. Log cabin façade (southwest elevation). Bay window of large block visible at left, rear.



Photo 4. View looking southwest at rear elevation of log cabin. Addition partially visible at right.



Photo 5. View looking east. Northwest (side) elevation at left. Projection at center. Log cabin partially visible at right.

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Photo 6. View looking north at projection and bay window. Log cabin partially visible at right edge of photograph.



Photo 7. View looking north at southeast elevation of addition. Possible undercut porch at right.



Photo 8. View looking west at east end of addition. Undercut porch at left. Large chimney wall at center. Screened porch addition at right.



Photo 9. View looking southwest at stone wall with integrated chimney located at east end of addition. Screened porch partially visible at right.

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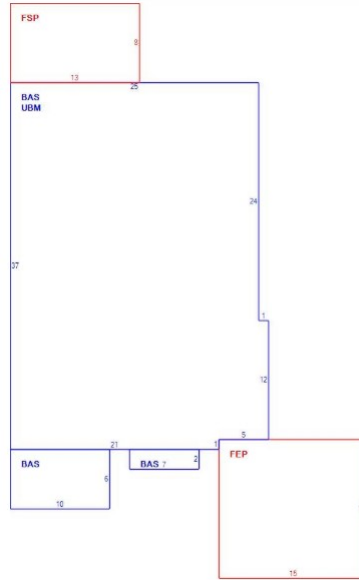
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Photo 10. View looking southwest at screened porch at northeast corner of house. Stone chimney at left.



Building footprint per Town Assessor. 1,007 square feet. Log cabin at lower right corner. Screened porch at upper left corner.

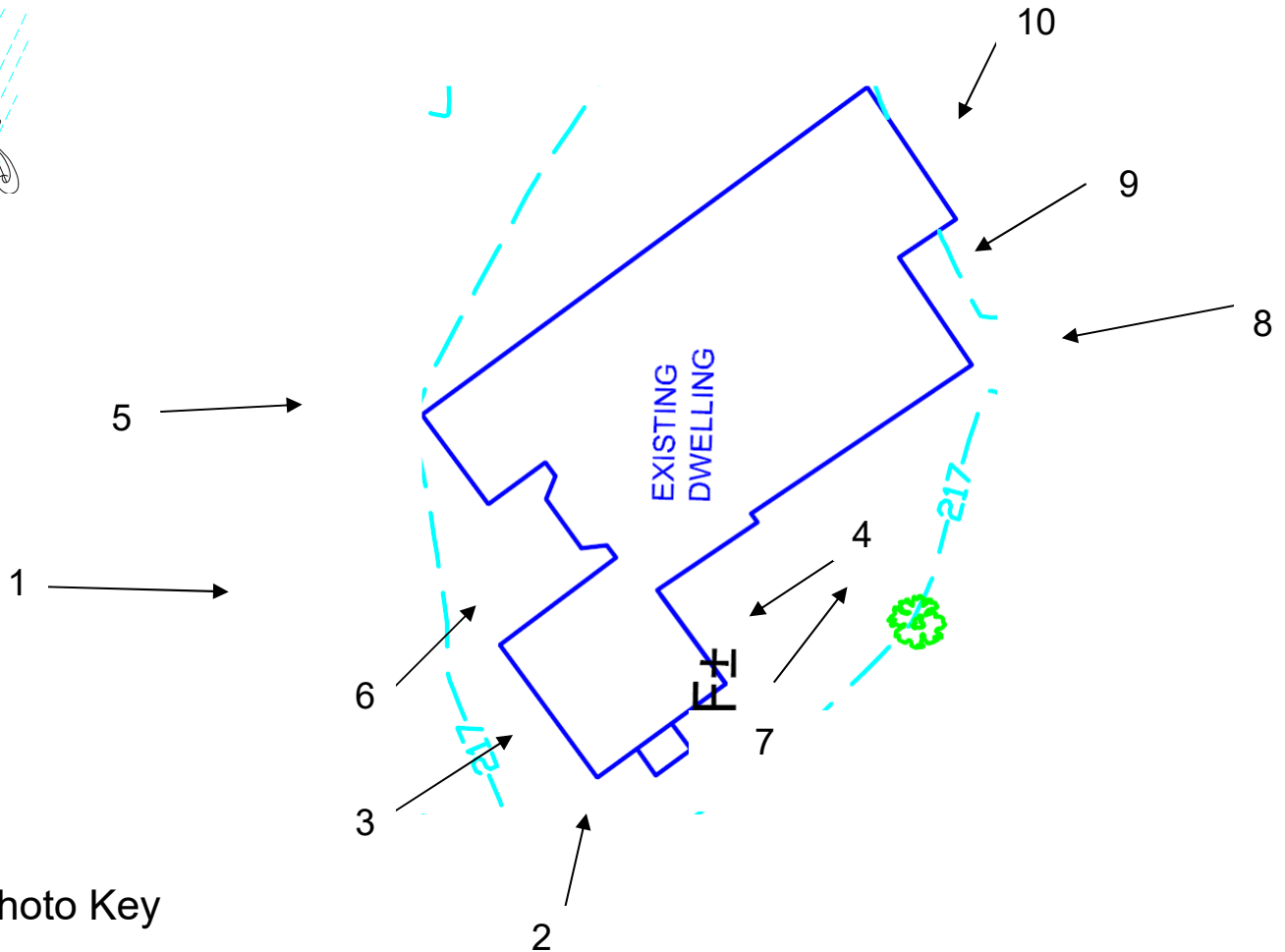


Photo Key

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6 Second Lane, as seen in undated Assessor's Photograph. View looking east.

