

FORM B - BUILDING

In Area no.	Form no.
	215

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston



1. Town Chelmsford  
 Address 12 Stedman Street  
 Name Golden Cove School  
 Present use office-school lunch program

Present owner Town of Chelmsford

3. Description:

Date 1896

Source deed, town reports

Style \_\_\_\_\_

Architect Merrill & Cutler

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Builder - A. W. Holt

Altered \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

21,775 sq. ft.  
 One acre or less x Over one acre

Approximate frontage 167.5 feet

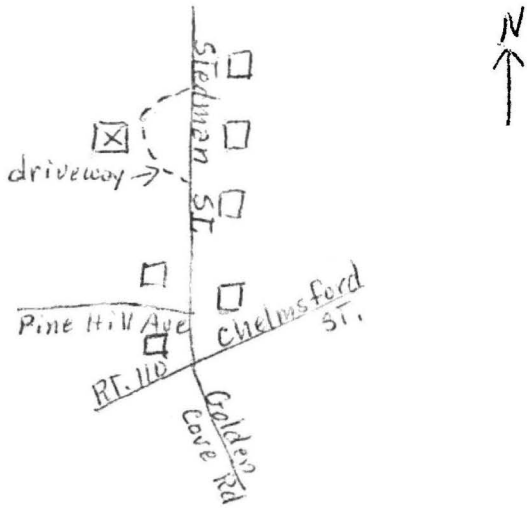
Approximate distance of building from street  
ca 55 feet

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury

Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission

Date November 20, 1976

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE  
 USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_  
 MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Inhabitants of Town of Chelmsford

Original use school

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Westlands Improve. Assoc. 1920s to 1960 (ca)  
School sessions ca 1940 for ca 1 year

8. Themes (check as many as applicable) Catechism classes, St. Mary's Church -late 1940s  
Classes for special children ca 1960 to 1974  
Office school lunch program 1975 to present

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	<u>x</u>	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		_____
Community development	<u>x</u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This school was built in 1896 because of the development of the Westlands section of Chelmsford, at a cost of \$1799.71, including land but excluding \$180.45 for furniture. The first year there were 34 pupils enrolled in the 4 lower grades under 1 teacher.

By 1919 the school had become very crowded, with the first 2 grades being taught in the morning and the 3 & 4th grades in the afternoon, and about 60 pupils were sent to the Center School. By 1921 only grades 1 & 2 could be housed at "Cove" School, and a new school on Dalton Rd. was being constructed.

After the old school closed, it was used by the Westlands Improvement Association as a meeting place. This group was very active, being instrumental in obtaining improved railroad crossings, a 2nd story addition & new lawn to the Westlands School (which took the place of the Golden Cove School), etc.

The building has 2 stories and a cellar, but only the first floor was used as a 1 room school. However, about 1950 the St. Mary's Church held catechism classes in the building, and the 2nd floor was used at that time.

From about 1960 to 1974 the school system held classes for special children there, and in 1975 & 1976 it is used as an office for the school lunch program.

About 1940 school sessions were again held for about a year in the Golden Cove School while an addition was built on the Westlands School.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

Bk. 278, pg. 550; July 14, 1896 J.M. Fletcher to Inhabitants Town of Chelmsford

Chelmsford Assessors' Office records

Chelmsford Newsweekly, 1955

Mrs. Mary St. Hilaire, town clerk

Westlands Improvement Association records - Chelmsford Historical Society

Records of Superintendent of Schools

Annual town reports - 1897, 1898, 1919, 1920, 1921

Golden Cove School House Lot

Fletcher to Town of Chelmsford

July 14, 1896

"I Joseph M. Fletcher of Chelmsford in the County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts in consideration of \$300 paid by the Inhabitants of the Town of Chelmsford in said County and State.....a certain piece of land in Chelmsford laying on the westerly side of the Old Middlesex Road and northerly from Golden Cove Bounding and described as follows: Beginning at a stone bound at the northeast corner of land of James Stearns; thence southerly by the westerly line of the Old Middlesex Road 167.56 feet to a stone bound; thence westerly at a right angle by other land of the grantor 74.39 feet to land of James Stearns; thence easterly by said Stearns land 202.7 feet to a stone bound at the point of beginning. Containing  $\frac{1}{2}$  acres....."

And for the consideration paid, I Harriet A. Fletcher wife of Joseph M. Fletcher....."

Book 278, page 550

July 14, 1896 Signed  
August 26, 1896 Recorded

Lowell Daily Courier

Friday July 24, 1896 - R.W. Dix is putting in the foundation for the Golden Cove schoolhouse. Why the building was located at the westerly side of the territory to be accommodated and so far from the present and prospective population is a problem difficult of solution to the general public.

Thursday August 6, 1896 - Carpenters are putting up the frame of the Golden Cove schoolhouse.

Lowell Weekly Journal

July 3, 1896 - Tuesday evening the town committee on construction of a school house at "Golden Cove" met and opened the bids for the same.... The contract was awarded to Almon W. Holt (\$1084).....

Oct. 23, 1896 - The school sessions at the new Golden Cove schoolhouse began Monday morning with 33 pupils, a larger number than anticipated. The seating capacity of the building is 50 and the indications are that it will soon be reached.

Dec. 19, 1903 - There was a pleasing progame of Christmas exercises Friday afternoon at the Golden cove school, of which Miss Harriet M. Hall is the popular teacher. The pupils took part as follows:

Song "Santa Claus" school;

Recitation, Rennie Perry;

Happy Christmas, Ruth Farr, Bertha Wing, Lottie Cheney, Blanche Leighton, Marietta Gale, Dorothy Hall, Fred McKinley, John Conington, James Fox.

Dialogue, Raymond Chandler, Eddie Fox, May Long, Blanche Leighton.

Christmas Aerostic, 9 children

Dialogue

Songs, the school

Jack Frost

The First Christmas Gift

Song, Lottie Cheney, Marietta Gale, Bertha Wing, Blanche Leighton

At the close of the exercises there was a distribution of gifts from a Christmas tree.

Golden Cove School  
12 Stedman Street

Information from Chelmsford Assessors' Office, Oct. 7, 1976:

Owner: Westlands Improvement Association, Inc.

Exempt property

1972 Hall	\$12,500	21,775 sq. ft.	\$2500	\$15,000
1971 Hall	2,500	21,775 sq. ft.	500	3,000

1897 Report of Selectmen for Year ending Feb. 28, 1897

School Building and Lot at Golden Cove:

J. M. Fletcher, land	\$ 300.00
A. W. Holt, building	1087.00
R. W. Dix, cellar	100.00
Fuller-Warren W. & V., furnaces, etc.	260.00
Merrill & Cutler, architects	25.00
Samuel Hagerman, labor & supplies	26.24
N.Y., N.H. & Hartford, express	<u>1.47</u>
	\$ 1799.71

Incidentals - all schools, included:

Robertson & Co., desks & chairs, Cove School	\$ 22.95
J. L. Hammett Co., desks, Cove School	82.50
H. R. Hodson, express on cabinet from No. 7 to Cove School	75.00

Fuel

Golden Cove School, Harry L. Parkhurst, coal	\$ 35.50
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Care of school buildings

Golden Cove, John P. Eaton, care	\$ 13.50
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Teaching

Golden Cove, Isa M. James, 18 weeks	\$ 144.00
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1897 Annual Report of School Committee for year of 1896-7

"Golden Cove

The number of pupils found at the opening of this school was a surprise to most parties concerned. 34 pupils in the 4 lower grades makes a good school, and it is probable that there will soon be enough sothat the 4th grade can come to the Center. The distance is short for the older ones to walk, hence this is practically a part of the graded school system of the Center."

Golden Cove

Teacher: Isa M. James

Grades:

1	15 pupils	grades 5 - 11: no pupils
2	8 "	
3	5 "	
4	5 "	
	<u>33 pupils</u>	

1898 Annual Report of School Committe for year 1897-8

".....The new buildings at Golden Cove and Chelmsford Center are substantial and practical buildings for school purposes. The Fuller-Warren furnanes have not proven such large consumers of fuel as was

anticipated.....

The other school buildings are fair with one exception - school house No. 5 is unworthy of the Town of Chelmsford."

1898 Selectmen's report for year ending Feb. 28, 1898

H. R. Hodson, teaming teacher's desk from District 7 to Cove	\$ .50
Fuel: Golden Cove, Harry L. Parkhurst, coal	94.79
" " " E. L. Russell, 1 cord wood & kindlings	4.30
Care: " " Arthur Hill, care	25.50
Teacher " " Hattie M. Hall, 35 weeks, 25 pupils	280.00

1919 Report of Superintendent of Schools, for year ending Dec. 31, 1919

"The Congestion at the Westlands

For two successive years I have called the attention of the citizens through this report, to the congested conditions at the Westlands. Today the situation is more acute than ever, and demands immediate attention. We are facing a problem of trying to house more than 100 children next September, with no accommodations for many of them. At the Centre School there are upward of 60 who belong to this district and at least a dozen more who will have to be transferred next fall if the entering class is as large as we anticipate. We cannot accommodate these children at the Centre School.

At the present time we have two teachers at work at Golden Cove. One takes grades 1 and 2 in the morning and the other has the 3rd and 4th grades in the afternoon. Each teacher gives three hours of work to the school. This is satisfactory only as it eliminates disciplinary troubles; but I am afraid that it is going to be very apparent that the pupils are not getting the full amount of work needed if we keep this schedule another year.

Therefore, I ask your immediate attention to this matter, citizens, so that we may have a four - room building ready for occupancy next fall.

Teachers:

Helen A. Brady	\$240.00
Marion C. Bradley (substitute)	395.00
Glice M. Flynn	90.00
	\$725.00

1920 Report of Superintendent of Schools, for year ending Dec. 31, 1920

Teachers:

Golden Cove	1 -12	Marion C. Bradley	\$800
" "	3 - 4	Helen A. Brady	360

1921 Report of Superintendent of Schools, for year ending Dec. 31, 1921

Teachers:

Golden Cove	1 - 2	Marion C. Bradley	
Town Hall	6-- 7	H. Jean Rafuse	Schools in Center, Highland West, South have their own grade 6)

1922 Report of Superintendent of Schools for year ending Dec. 31, 1922

Teachers:

Westlands	7-8	H. Jean Rafuse
"	5-6	Vera Rafuse
"	3-4	Mayme Trefry
	1-2	Marion C. Bradley

Conversation with Mrs. Edward Hoyt, Rainbow Ave., Oct. 7, 1976:

Mrs. Hoyt was the secretary of the Westlands Improvement Association, and her husband was its president for many years. It was probably about 1929 when the W.I.A. was formed and met at the Golden Cove School; monthly meetings. The association was very active until television became popular, and meeting attendance dwindled. The record books are now with the Historical Society. It was disbanded about 1963-4.

The W.I.A. was instrumental in getting door to door mail in the Westlands improved railroad crossings, addition to the Westlands School, which was originally only a 1 story, 4 room brick building; a second story was added, providing 4 more rooms. The W.I.A. ran lawn parties to finance a new lawn for the Westlands School, the grounds of which had been a mud puddle whenever it rained.

Conversation with Mrs. Mary St. Hilaire, Oct. 7, 1976:

The Golden Cove School has 2 floors plus a cellar. St. Mary's Church held catechism classes there in the late 1940s before the new church was built.

Her brother was in the first grade during the year of 1940-1, when Golden Cove School was reopened for about a year, while an addition was put on the Westlands School.

Conversation with Mrs. David McAndrews, Oct. 7, 1976:

Mrs. McAndrew is the secretary to Supt. of Schools Rivard.

Classes for special children were held at the Golden Cove School from about 1959 to 1974. In 1975 & 1976 the school is being used as an office for the school lunch program. David Walker was the teacher for the classes for special children.

Golden Cove School  
Stedman Street

1856 map: no  
1875 Beers Atlas: no

Town Clerk's Records, Year 1896, pg. 379:

"Took up Article 26. (School house and lot at 'Golden Cove'), The Selectmen reported in favor of purchasing land and building a schoolhouse as indicated in said article. Wilbur A. Cheney moved to raise and appropriate \$300 for the purchase of land and \$2000 for a schoolhouse. E. H. Shaw moved an amendment which was adopted that the sum of \$1500 be substituted which would include purchase of lot and erection of schoolhouse. The motion as amended was then carried. Voted that the moderator appoint a committee of three to carry out the provisions of the vote, and Samuel Hagerman, John P. Eaton and Joseph E. Warren were appointed said committee."

Chelmsford Directory, 1915-16:

Hagerman, Samuel C., carpenter, house Golden Cove road near R.R. crossing.

Chelmsford Newsweekly, 1955:

Picture.

"Westlands Improvement Association clubhouse located on Stedman Street. Originally the school for the Westlands."

Information from Chelmsford Assessors' Records, Oct. 7, 1976:

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**12 Stedman Street - Golden Cove School**



