

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number  
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20/ 53/ 4 / /	Lowell, MA		
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**Town/City:** Chelmsford

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

Photograph



View looking northwest toward east elevation (facade) and south elevation (side). Northeast corner of garage visible at far left.

**Address:** 5 Walter G. Wiede Street

**Historic Name:** Emil and Johanna Nilsson House

**Uses:** Present: Single-family dwelling

Original: Single-family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1925

**Source:** Census, City Directory

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Not known / Emil Nilsson, likely

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard / Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Garage (ca. 1960)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): None

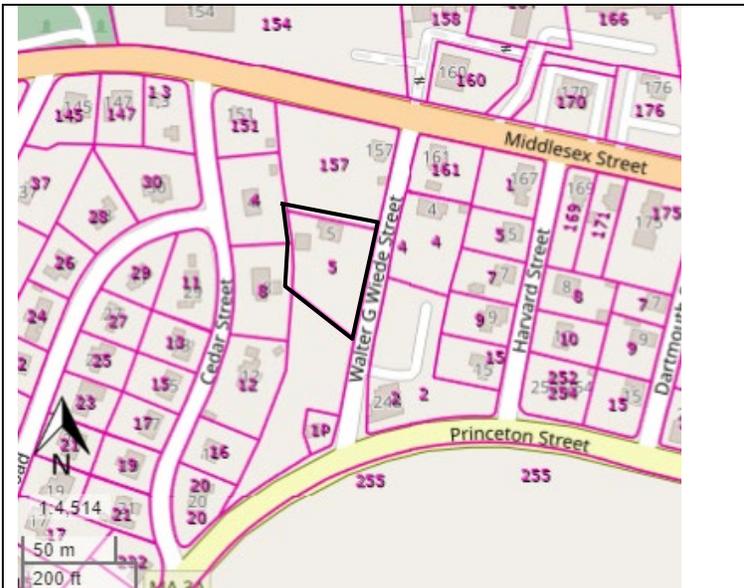
**Condition:** Fair

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

**Acreage:** 0.48

**Setting:** Located on a side street connecting two moderately-travelled state routes. Townhouses (ca. 2020-2024) are located immediately south of the house and across the street. Houses of similar size and age are located to the east. Small ranch-style dwellings (ca. 1960s-1970s) are located to the west.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Consultant

**Date:** August 2024

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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5 WALTER G. WIEDE 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.

The house at 5 Walter G. Wiede Street is oriented to the east, facing the street. The lot slopes down from west to east. A small lawn punctuated with mature trees is located near the house. A paved driveway leads from the street to a detached, two-car garage located near the southwest corner of the house.

The 1½-story building, while in poor condition, retains a high level of integrity. Rectangular in plan, the building rests on a rusticated concrete block foundation. Three three-light, wood frame windows punctuate the basement's side elevations. Windows throughout the remainder of the house are 2/1 wood sash with projecting frames. The flat surrounds are trimmed with backband moulding. The house is clad with wood clapboards and trimmed with cornerboards and a wide frieze.

The house is capped with a front-gabled roof with deep eaves. A slender brick chimney rises from the north roof slope. On the façade, the first story features a 1-story projection capped with a shallow-pitched roof and pent-roof parapet. Located in this projection is a center (main) entrance flanked by paired windows. Three brick steps topped with wrought iron railings lead to the entrance. The half-story contains two windows. The south (side) elevation contains two rectangular window bays. The north elevation contains three rectangular window bays. At the rear elevation, an off-center 5x1-bay projection, similar to that on the façade, is accessed by a wood deck. Basement access is sheltered by a clapboard-clad, shed-roof projection at the southwest corner of the house. A door is located in its west elevation and a six-light window is located in its south elevation.

The front-gabled garage is capped with a shallow-pitched, asphalt-shingled roof with deep eaves on the side elevations. The building is clad with clapboards and trimmed with cornerboards. Bead boards with scalloped ends, applied vertically, fill the east gable peak. An off-center, double-width overhead door is located in the east elevation. The paneled wood door contains a row of fixed lights. The north (side) elevation contains two 6-light, wood-frame windows. The south (side) elevation contains a paneled wood pedestrian door.

The modestly-scaled frame house is typical of those constructed in the 1920s.

## 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.

In 1920, Emil Nilsson purchased lots 20 and 21 along what was then called Yale Street.<sup>1</sup> Yale Street was part of a new subdivision located between Princeton Street and Middlesex Street.<sup>2</sup> Emil Alfred Nilsson (1885-1965)<sup>3</sup> likely constructed the house a few years later.<sup>4</sup> In 1925, Nilsson married Johanna Ida Guenther Wiede (1898-1942)<sup>5</sup> in Clinton, Massachusetts; it was a second marriage for both. Born in Sweden, Emil Nilsson came to the United States in 1913<sup>6</sup> and settled in Lowell. Census records and city directories note that Nilsson was employed as a foundry worker and as a carder in a woolen mill. The couple

<sup>1</sup> Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 632, p. 562.

<sup>2</sup> "Plan of Land in Chelmsford Belonging to M. A. Bean and Margaret A. Wright, August 1917." Filed June 27, 1919. Plan Book 36, Plan 31.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/198633277/emil\\_a\\_nilsson](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/198633277/emil_a_nilsson). Accessed August 20, 2024.

<sup>4</sup> Emil Nilsson constructed the house, per the obituary of his daughter, Elsa Edith (Nilsson) Stowell. *The Lowell Sun*. 18 December 2022.

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/198633293/johanna\\_i\\_nilsson](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/198633293/johanna_i_nilsson). Accessed August 26, 2024.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census, Lowell, Mass., 1920.

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lived here with their children: Walter G. Wiede, Johanna's son from a previous marriage; Emil Oscar Nilsson; and Elsa Edith Nilsson.

Walter Gottlieb Wiede (1919-1945)<sup>7</sup> worked as a finisher in a woolen mill at the time of the 1940 census. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on February 28, 1941.<sup>8</sup> Wiede married May Genevive Thomas in 1942. Staff Sergeant Walter G. Wiede served with the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division and was killed in action in Germany in January 1945. Wiede is buried in Epinal American Cemetery, Lorraine, France. After the death of her mother and step-brother, Elsa Edith Nilsson Stowell (1932-2022)<sup>9</sup> continued to live here with her father. Elsa Nilsson Stowell petitioned the town of Chelmsford to rename Yale Street after her step-brother, which came to be in 1948. Elsa Nilsson worked as a bookkeeper at Pratt & Forest lumber company in Lowell for eleven years, beginning after her high school graduation in 1949 and continuing until her marriage to Robert Stowell in 1960. Elsa and Robert Stowell lived here with their children until nearly the end of their lives. The property remained in the Stowell family until 2022.<sup>10</sup>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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<sup>7</sup> [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56376336/walter\\_gottlieb\\_wiede](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56376336/walter_gottlieb_wiede). Accessed August 20, 2024.

<sup>8</sup> "U.S., World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946." Ancestry.com.

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/255855145/elsa\\_edith\\_stowell](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/255855145/elsa_edith_stowell). Accessed August 20, 2024.

<sup>10</sup> Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 3824, p. 7.

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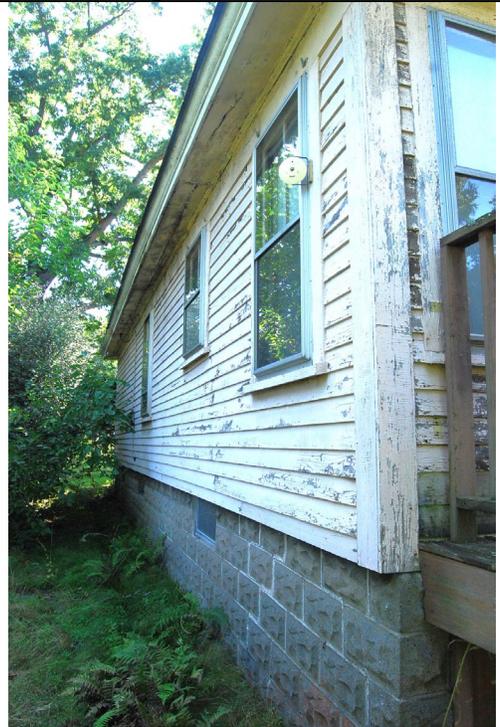
View looking north toward south (side) elevation.



View looking east toward rear (west) elevation. Garage partially visible at far right.



View looking northeast toward southwest corner of house.



View looking east along north elevation of house.

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View looking northwest toward garage.