

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number **72-308-10** USGS Quad **Billerica** Area(s) Form Number **140**

Town **Chelmsford**

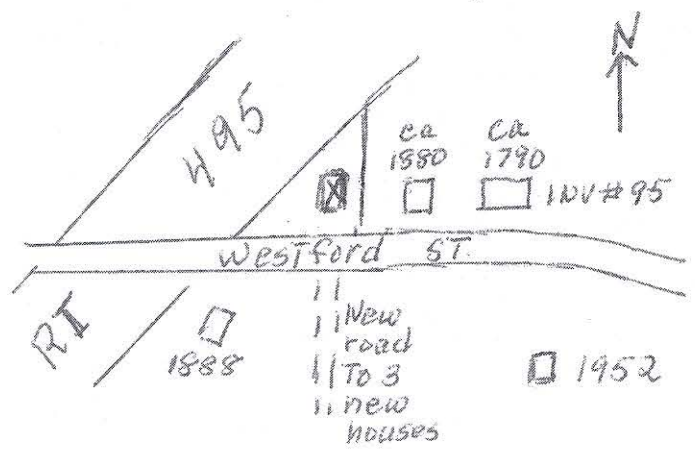
Place (neighborhood or village)
Chelmsford Center



Address **45 Westford Street**
 Historic Name **Walter Perham House**
 Present residence
 Original residence
 Year of Construction **1897**
 Source **Lowell Weekly Journal**
 Style/Form **Colonial Revival**
 Architect/Builder **Charles E. Parkhurst**
 Prior Material:
 Foundation **poured concrete**
 Wall/Trim **wood clapboard**
 Roof **slate**
 Outbuildings/Secondary Structures
shed

Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Major Alterations (with dates)
SEE continuation sheets

Condition **excellent**

Moved no yes Date **fall 1959**

Acreage **13,016 sq. ft.**

Setting **This house is located between Westford Rd. in the front, and Rt. 495 at its rear. Located on land which was part of the very old Henry Perham homestead & cider mill property, 45 Westford St. was moved forward & the H. Perham buildings were torn down when Rt. 495 was built.**

Recorded by **Jane B. Drury**

Organization **for Chelmsford Historical Commission**

Date (month / year) **August 2005**

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION see continuation sheet

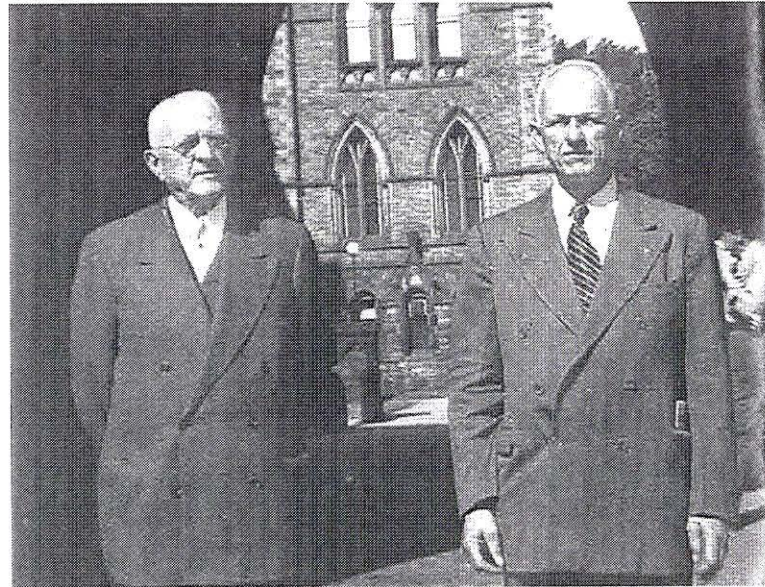
Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

This Colonial Revival dwelling resembles the house across the street at 54 Westford St., built in 1887, in their original architecture. This house is the slightly plainer of the two, having plain corner boards, rather than quoins. However this house has a mixture of Federal & Georgian styles, which the other house has more Georgian elements. A fan shaped window decorates the pediment above the front entrance. Until sometime after 1982 the roof of the front porch at 45 Westford St. was topped by a decorative railing. The roofs of both houses are hipped and topped with a flat deck which were originally surrounded by a balustrade. Both houses were built for relatively well-to-do families.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE see continuation sheet

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.

By July 2, 1897 R.W. Dix was digging the cellar for Walter Perham's new house at 45 Westford St.. A month later the new dwelling was up and boarded in. "It will be a commodious and well arranged structure and occupies a very eligible location on Westford street." The house was custom built by Charles E. Parkhurst, under Grace Perham's specifications, which included beautiful interior woodwork. It was built on the southern portion of property of his father, Henry S. Perham. After working a short time in the Boston area, in 1892, Walter had resigned as salesman for a "wholesale confectionery house in Cambridge, to accept a more lucrative position offered him by his father, H. S. Perham, in connection with his extensive cider vinegar manufactory." He eventually took over as proprietor of that business, which had been in the Perham family for a number of generations. In addition, since 1899 he conducted a funeral home here. He claimed that it was nothing out of ordinary for him to don his overalls and work all day in the cider mill and then rush out during the night on an emergency call in his role as undertaker. When preparing the graves, he would use the wagon pictured below and which he kept at "the farm." The fancy wagon, used for the funeral the next day, was kept at the discontinued 1802 Schoolhouse. In 1901 telephone poles were erected as far as his house.



BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES see continuation sheet

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds, Bk. 390, pg. 40, May 3, 1906

Lowell Weekly Journal: Feb. 6, 1891; Aug. 14, 1891; Aug. 12, 1892; Apr. 16, 1897; July 2, 1897; Aug. 6, 1897

Lowell Daily Courier: Dec. 18, 1903

Mr. & Mrs. Sinai Simard: Nov. 10, 1977

Marguerite Perham: Feb. 18, 1977

Walter Perham Sidney Perham
see 79 Perham Sidney as 54
1979 in
Ontario, Canada

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
CHELMSFORD

Property Address
45 WESTFORD ST.

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

Area(s) Form No.

REFERENCES

Street directories

Chelmsford Assessors' records; Town Clerk's records; Building Inspector's records

Lowell Sun: undated picture taken by Sidney Perham; retirement of Walter Perham as moderator 1946?

Lowell Sun: obituary May 17, 1948; advertisement Jan. 20, 1985

Obituaries: Walter Perham, Newsweekly May 1, 1958; Lowell Sun Apr. 29, 1958 Lowell Sun May 17, 1948

Unlabeled newspaper, 12, 1899; 50th wedding anniversary; Jan. 23, 1939;

Chelmsford Newsweekly; Chelmsford Newsweekly: Feb. 23, 1956; 1958; Mar. 21, 1971; Dec. 21, 1978; Jan. 18, 1962.

Maureen Biggar: ca 1980

Nancy Clark: Jan. 27, 1979

HISTORY

Walter Perham took an active interest in town and state governments. For over 30 years he was the Town Moderator; he served as a selectman and was on the water commissioners' board. He was elected to the Massachusetts Senate for eight years and was also a member of the Governor's Council and House of Representatives.

Grace's father, John Craige, soon moved into the new house at 45 Westford St. with Walter & Grace. He remained here until his death in 1906. The Perhams had two children, Sidney & Esther. Esther married and moved out of town, but Sidney stayed with his parents and grandfather in 45 Westford St. Born in Lowell, Grace became active in civic affairs and taught in Lowell before her marriage in 1889 to Walter and moving to Chelmsford. She was a member of the Chelmsford Historical Society and was one of the organizers of the Lowell Council of Girl Scouts. She a president of the Middlesex Women's Club, a director of the Massachusetts State Federation of Women's clubs, and was president of the Chelmsford Garden Club. She died in 1948, and Walter died in 1953, leaving the house to Sidney and Esther.

Sidney C. Perham and his wife Marguerite lived here throughout their married lives. He was a veteran of the 1st World War, having enlisted in the Army Medical Corps and was stationed in France during that conflict. Sidney was a licensed insurance broker and also carried on the funeral business which had been founded by his father. He served as Postmaster during the last eight years of his life. However, people that knew him report that he was somewhat eccentric. The septic waste from the house ran out on the ground toward the vinegar works. He knew the house would soon be moved closer to Westford Street out of the path of Rt. 495, so he was able to persuade the State to build a new septic tank. Believing he wouldn't be staying in the house after it was moved, he had the new tank paved over for a driveway! However, on Jan. 17, 1962 he was stricken with a heart attack at his office and died later that day at the hospital. Sidney was the executor of his father's still unsettled estate, and he, Sidney, died without any will. His sister, Esther, and his widow, Marguerite, were left to sort it out, and then Esther died, leaving in all in Marguerite's hands.

Grace Perham, Walter's wife, was known for her beautiful flower garden and its pretty lily pool, located behind the house. However, they were in the path of 495 and were destroyed when the house was moved in 1965.

Esther and Marguerite Perham sold 45 Westford Street in May 1963 to John and Joan Biggar, and it was they who took down the balustrade at the top of the house, as it was in very poor condition and not considered worth fixing. John Biggar was a post office worker and probably had known Sidney Perham through their work. In 1985 the estate of Joan Biggar/Jangraw/Bolvig sold the property to the present owners, Kevin & Patricia Murphy. In 1992 they received a business certificate to conduct the Cambridge Abrasive Supply & Equipment Co. at the house.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

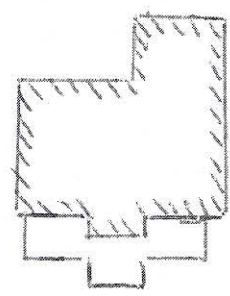
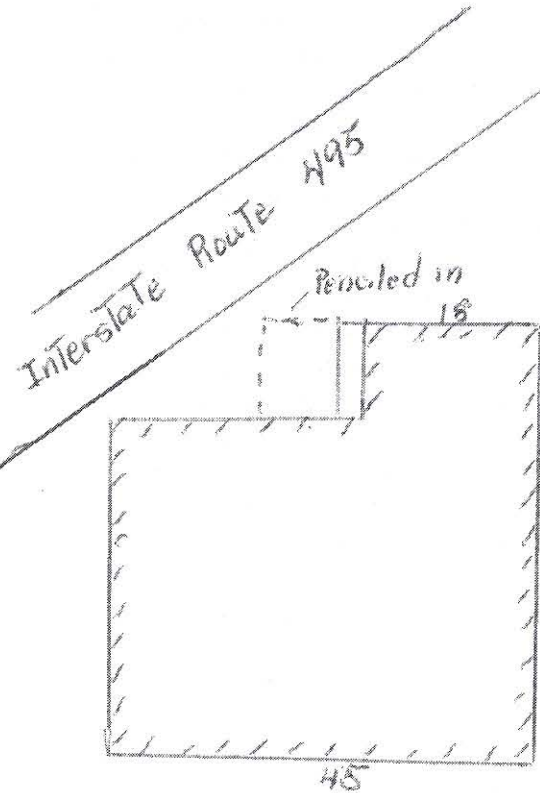
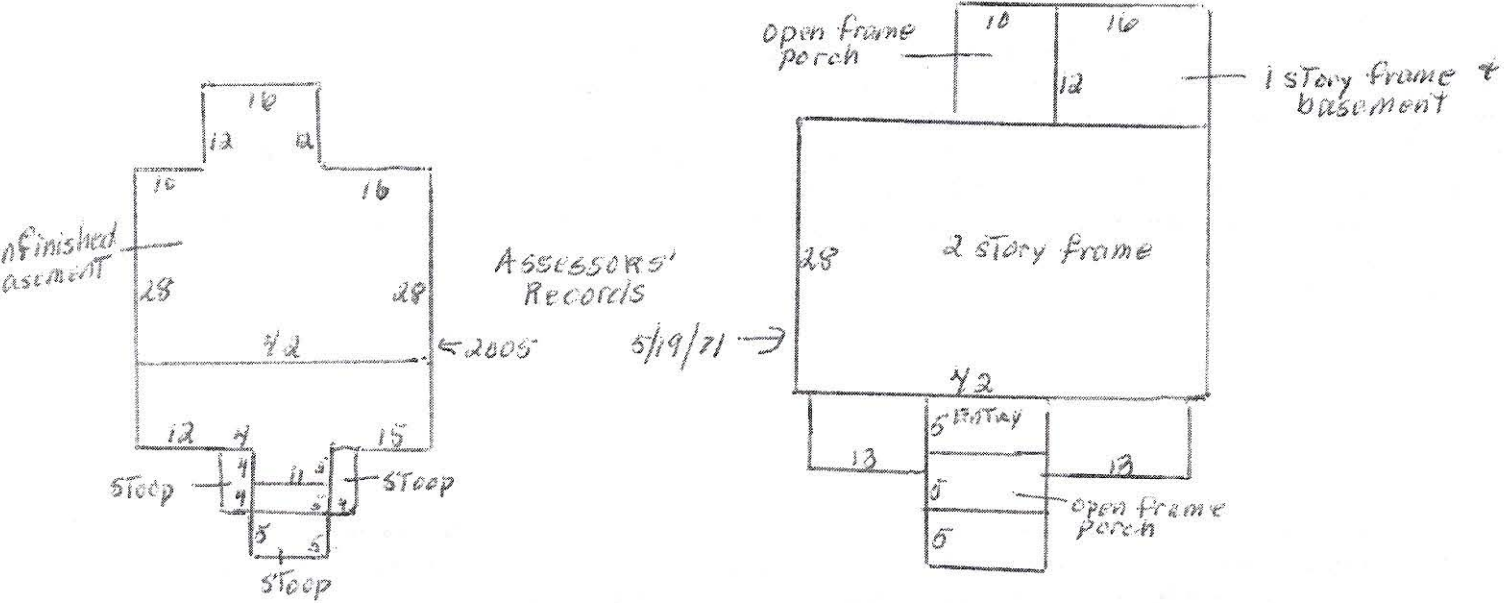
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ALTERATIONS



Plan Book 95
Plan 103A
June 4, 1963

Plan Book M
Plan 76
1917

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ALTERATIONS

fall 1959

house & garage moved nearer to Westford St., out of path of proposed Rt. 495; new poured concrete foundation about the same time: high stone wall removed when Westford St. was raised

1961

attached garage added

1964

kitchen remodeled: cabinets built in
new stall shower & bath: 1st floor
new 3 pes. Bath: 2nd floor

ca 1980

balustrade at top of roof removed due to poor condition
ceilings lowered

1988 see plans

28' x 12' addition:

foundation: concrete block 12"
roof: pitched, fiberglass shingle
extra bath, laundry, mud room from rear shed
crawl space converted to full cellar
porch removed

side entrance to porch probably made about this time, but possibly ca 1980

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ca 1905



1979



1982

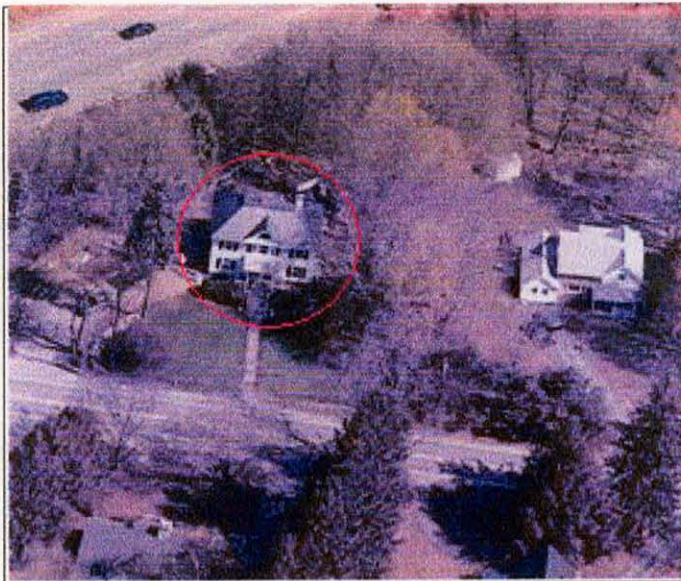
INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET CHELMS FORD 45 WESTFORD ST.

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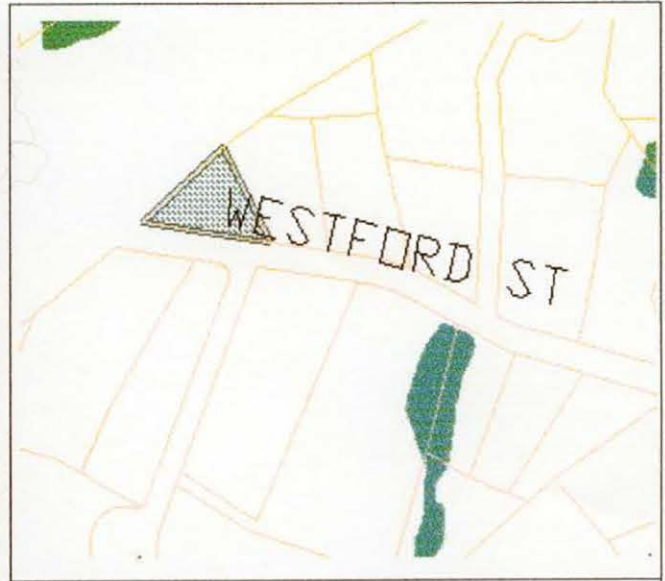
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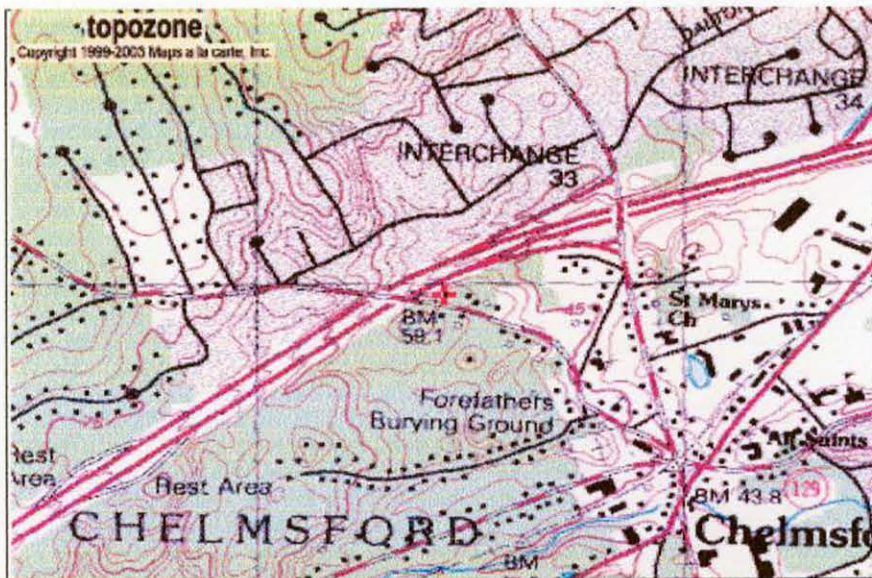
Locational Information



45 Westford Street viewed from local live.com



45 Westford Street from assessor's map



Topozone excerpt from Billerica USGS quadrangle.

Decimal coordinates as provided by Topozone: 42°36'02" N 71°21'33" W

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds,

Bk. 3079, pg. 37	June 13, 1985	Estate of Joan E. Bolvig, Maureen A. Biggar & Robt. F. Kierce, executors, to Kevin M. & Patricia A. Murphy \$140,000 13,016 sq. ft & buildings 1963 Perham & Curtis Plan bk. 98, plan 103A Joan E. Bolvig died Oct. 3, 1984 same: 1980 O'Regan deed bk. 2429, pg. 725
Middlesex Probate Docket #SP5709 E	May 31, 1985	Estate of Joan E. Bolvig
Bk. 2429, pg. 725	July 23, 1980	Jean A. O'Regan to Joan E. Bolvig, 45 Westford St. \$1 13,016 sq. ft & buildings 1963 Perham & Curtis Plan bk. 98, plan 103A same: Bolvig deed to O'Regan of even date
Bk. 2429, pg. 724	July 23, 1980	Joan E. Bolvig, formerly Joan E. Jangraw, unmarried, to Jean A. O'Regan, 14 Dominic Drive \$1 13,016 sq. ft & buildings 1963 Perham & Curtis Plan bk. 98, plan 103A same: 1973 Svenson deed, bk. 2087, pg. 640
Bk. 2087, pg. 640	Oct. 1, 1973	Nancy M. Svenson tp Joan E. Jangraw, 45 Westford St. \$1 13,016 sq. ft & buildings 1963 Perham & Curtis Plan bk. 98, plan 103A same: Jangraw deed of even date
Bk. 2087, pg. 640	Oct. 1, 1973	Joan E. Jangraw, formerly Joan E. Biggar to Nancy M. Svenson, 50 Stedman St. \$1 13,016 sq. ft & buildings 1963 Perham & Curtis Plan bk. 98, plan 103A same: 1970 Biggar deed, bk. 1960, pg. 83 also: 1963 Perham & Curtis deed, bk. 1600, pg. 524
Bk. 1960, pg. 83	Oct. 21, 1970	John W. Biggar to Joan E. Biggar, 45 Westford St. balance of mortgage 13,016 sq. ft & buildings 1963 Perham & Curtis Plan bk. 98, plan 103A same: 1963 Perham & Curtis deed, bk. 1600, pg. 524 subject: mortgage to Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank
Bk. 1600, pg. 525	May 16, 1963	Marguerite E. Perham & Esther G. Curtis, administratrices, to John W. & Joan E. Biggar 13,016 sq. ft & buildings 1963 Perham & Curtis Plan bk. 98, plan 103A same: portion of 1 st parcel, 1942 Perham deed, Bk. 986, pg. 297

Middlesex Probate
Docket #.

Estate of Walter Perham

Bk. 986, pg. 297	Dec. 14, 1942	Doris Stevens, Lowell, to Walter & Grace Craige Perham 6 parcels of land: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 12 acres & buildings2. Farm Pasture: vacant land3. Pine Hill Lot: woodland4. 20,000 sq. ft. & buildings: north side Westford Rd.5. 2 lot in Westlands6. land: Perham & Brooks St. same: Perham deed of even date
Bk. 986, pg. 295	Dec. 14, 1942	Walter & Grace Craige Perham to Doris Stevens, Lowell 6 parcels of land: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 12 acres & buildings2. Farm Pasture: vacant land same: 1st & 2nd lots, 1906 Perham deed, Bk. 390, pg. 40; except portion of 2nd lot sold to Karl M. Perham et ux3. Pine Hill Lot: woodland same: 1933 Perham deed, bk.680, pg. 4974. 20,000 sq. ft. & buildings: north side Westford Rd. same: 1897 Perham deed, bk. 305, pg. 4665. 2 lots in Westlands: Lots 197 & 198 on Plan bk. 42, plan 28 same: 1932 Perham deed, Bk. 821, pg. 5926. 64,189 sq. ft: Perham & Brooks St.: Lot 23 Plan Bk. 5, plan 19 same: 1937 Perham deed, Bk. 900, pg. 65 by Town of Chelmsford Tax Collector
Bk. 390, pg. 40	May 3, 1906	Estelle S. Perham to Walter Perham 2 lots

Maureen Biggar - ca 1980?

balustrade was in poor condition: it either broke or fell down.
wasn't worth fixing

Marguerite Perham, Feb. 18, 1977

1948 Grace died, leaving it to Walter
1953 Walter died, willing it to Sidney & Esther
1962 Sidney died
1963 deed from Sidney's estate. He didn't leave a will; estate was a mess as a result.
1965 Esther died

House custom built, according to Grace's specifications.

beautiful interior woodwork job

Walter & Grace moved out of old farm house to there; Sidney there after house was built

Structural changes – interior by Biggars

ceilings lowered

extra bath made from the shed

Beautiful gardens before Rt. 495. Little land left now.

high stone wall – went when road was raised & 495 came

Balustrade: probably there when Margurite was there.

Walter left a will, Sidney the executor, but the estate couldn't be settled because of the 495 mess. Then Sidney died, leaving no will, and Esther & Margurite both in the middle of the mess, and Esther left Margurite with it after she died!

Chelmsford Newsweekly: advertisement, Feb. 23, 1956

PERHAM

FUNERALS

45 Westford St.

CHELMSFORD

GL 3-3441

Mr. & Sinai Simard: Nov. 10, 1977

Picture of 1st undertaker's wagon: given by Sinai Simard to Margaret Mills, given to Jane Drury

Walter Perham's wagon: he used it to take the box to the cemetery at right (in picture)

then the box was ready for the casket, for the next day's funeral

Were wooden boxes (no cement ones) – casket put in the wooden box

The plain wagon showed in the picture was kept at "the farm" (Walter Perham's) but

the fancy wagon was kept at the 1802 schoolhouse

"Past Glimpses of Westford St." by Arnold Perham

.....The next house in No. 45 built by Walter Perham about 1895 on a portion of the old Perham homestead land; just beyond Walter's house stood the old Perham home which was recently razed for the new highway.

Lowell Weekly Journal

Feb. 6, 1891 – Walter Perham this week entered the employ of Howard W. Spurr & Co., wholesale grocers of Boston.

Aug. 14, 1891 – Walter Perham has entered the employ of O.B. Ranlett, grocer, Dutton Street, Lowell.

Aug. 12, 1892 – Walter C. Perham has resigned his situation as salesman in a wholesale confectionery house in Cambridge, to accept a more lucrative position offered him by his father, H. S. Perham, in connection with his extensive cider vinegar manufactory in this village.

April 16, 1897 – Walter Perham will build this season on Westford street, near the old Perham homestead, a house for his own occupancy.

July 2, 1897 – R. W. Dix is at work upon the cellar for Walter Perham's new house in Westford street which will be built by Charles E. Parkhurst.

Aug. 6, 1897 – Walter Perham's new dwelling is up and boarded in. It will be a commodious and well arranged structure and occupies a very eligible location on Westford street.

Lowell Daily Courier

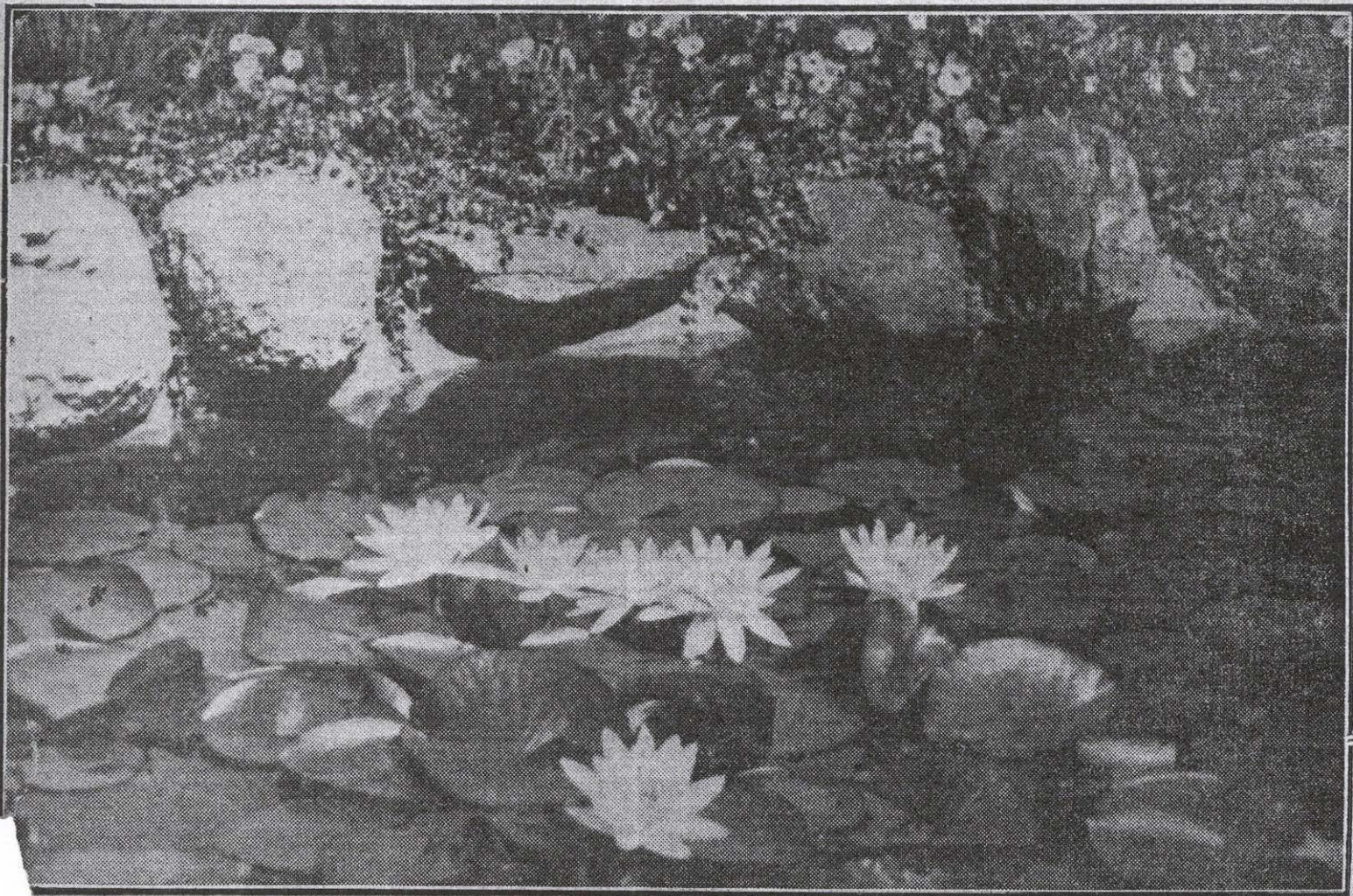
December 18, 1903 – The selectmen gave a public hearing last evening on the petition of the New England Telephone & Telegraph Co. to erect poles and wires in Westford street from Lowell street to the house of Walter Perham. There were no remonstrants and the selectmen voted to grant the petition.

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Quiet in a Garden Pool: Another Prize Photograph



lilies, sun-baked rocks, worn petunias and myrtle are the elements that go into every picture of a garden. The prize winner in class

D of the Courier-Citizen's photography contest conducted in conjunction with David C. Donaldson. The picture was taken by Sidney Perha

garden in Chelmsford with an ordinary Kodak. Under the contest rules, class D comprised "still life and nature, architecture, interiors, subjects, curios, cut flowers or

any still life object in artistic arrangement, or any nature subject, exteriors of homes, churches, schools, offices, fountains

Chelmsford, Mass.,

To **WALTER PERHAM,** *Dr.*

Complete Funeral Service

SINCE 1899

45 WESTFORD STREET

Funeral of.....

Chelmsford Newsweekly: advertisement, Feb. 23, 1956

PERHAM

FUNERALS

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Chelmsford Official Says Previous Experience Asset

Walter Perham, Moderator at Town Meetings for Past 23 Years, Believes Good Government Depends on Interest of Residents

Jan 23, 1939



Walter Perham, town moderator of Chelmsford for the past 23 years, is shown with the gavel fashioned from the historic Washington Elm, Cambridge, which he presented to the town in 1925. It is used at all town meetings.

"This is one of the few political offices," said Moderator Walter Perham of Chelmsford, in a recent interview when he outlined his views as to the conduct of the office, gained through the experience of years, "which neither the salary nor the duties of the office attract much competition."

The conduct of affairs on town meeting day at Chelmsford for the past 53 years has been in the hands of but two men, the incumbent, Walter Perham, a lifelong resident, serving for 23 years with credit to himself and honor to the town. In addition, he has served the town in numerous positions of responsibility: as chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor; town auditor; treasurer of the sinking fund commission; chairman of the Board of Water Commissioners; former member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives; the Senate, where he was a member of the rules committee; and the Governor's Council. Close attention to the best interest of the town, has always been his watchword and this he carries with him in the performance of his duties as moderator.

Previous Experience Asset

In his reminiscing, Mr. Perham said: "My experience as moderator in Chelmsford has covered the past 23 years of continuous service at the behest of the townspeople who, with perhaps a few rare exceptions, have been most considerate of the rulings of the chair. The duty has been a pleasant one and the business prescribed in the warrant has usually proceeded with harmony and despatch. It inevitably occurs at times, that someone on the floor has a different idea of correct procedure from that of the chair and on a few occasions an appeal from rulings has been put before the meeting without disastrous effect. Experience in the Massachusetts House and Senate has been very helpful in conducting the meetings of the town. Each of these aforesaid bodies is governed by special rules of order, which conform in most respects, but not in their entirety.

"A moderator, under the general law, is not confined to any special rules of order. Perhaps the best guide is an application of ordinary common sense and an effort to arrive at the will of a

majority of the voters present at any given meeting. When a tense situation arises, as it frequently does, it is helpful if some member on the floor or perhaps the chair, can bridge that narrow gap from the sublime to the ridiculous and thereby clear the air. If real argument or logic is lacking, ridicule often serves as an effective weapon.

\$30 Tax Rate.

"Commensurate with the growth of the town, the voting list having expanded from 1097 in 1916 to 4006 in 1938, new and modern school buildings, fire apparatus, road machinery etc., have been provided without pushing the tax rate to excessive figures, the present rate being \$30 per \$1000. This reflects most commendable discretion on the part of the voters in town meeting, where all appropriations are made. The budget expenses and the requests of the various articles in the warrant are carefully analyzed prior to the meeting by the selectmen and Finance board with a view to economy and efficiency in our town government.

"Chelmsford has been served in the chair for the past 53 years by but two moderators, the late J. Adams Bartlett, who served with efficiency and diplomacy for 30 years prior to his voluntary retirement in 1915, and myself. The town has at least possessed the advantage of experience in the office. After 25 years of service, in 1910, Mr. Bartlett was presented a silver loving cup by the Board of Selectmen, Messrs. Eben T. Adams, Wilbur E. Lapham, John J. Dunn, D. Frank Small and Charles F. Devine.

"Balloting for town officers takes place in each of the six precincts of the town, one week prior to the annual business meeting. Of late the proportion of women who attend and take part in town meetings, shows a noticeable increase. Their presence and activities exert a wholesome influence on the proceedings.

Historic Gavel Used.

"In 1925 it was my privilege to present to the town for use at future meetings, a gavel fashioned of wood from the historic Washington Elm, Cambridge, and so inscribed. This was accepted on behalf of the town by the chairman of the Board of Selectmen, the late George W. Day. It is kept in custody of the town clerk and used at all town meetings. Repeated admonition from the chair, with the gavel, reminds one of the doctor who had a pet duck, but he kept saying quack, quack, and he had to get rid of him. Good government depends upon the interest and activity of the citizens of the town, into whose hands the responsibility is vested. A moderator is entrusted with the duty of conducting town meetings in an orderly, impartial and expeditious manner.

"The town warrant constitutes the order of the day and all business is confined to the specifications therein. It is the duty of the chair to avoid divergence from these matters. It is my hope that I may have contributed at least

May 23, 1944



attendance record.

Fifty Years Wed

Hon. and Mrs. Walter Perham were honored Sunday at a reception held at their home on their 50th wedding anniversary, and during the afternoon and evening more than 250 friends called to congratulate the couple. Among those attending were friends from Chelmsford, Lawrence, which was Mrs. Perham's former home city; Lowell, Westford, Haverhill, Needham, Swampscott, Wakefield and New York. Two of the wedding party of 50 years ago and several of Mrs. Perham's classmates were in attendance.

The house was decorated with roses and the couple was assisted in receiving their guests by their son, Sidney C. Perham; their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stange Curtiss of Crestwood, N. Y., and their grandchildren, Virginia Grace and Mary Elizabeth Curtiss.

Mrs. George W. Day assisted in the entertaining, with Mrs. Harold Clayton, Mrs. Leonard C. Dursthoff, Mrs. Wendell P. Harvey, Mrs. Charles A. Mahoney, Mrs. Walter H. Redley, Mrs. Carlton Lombard and Mrs. Tennyson W. Simpson. Mrs. Perham's wedding gown and a piece of her wedding cake attracted considerable interest.

Mr. and Mrs. Perham received many gifts, among them an anniversary book containing 336 signatures and inscribed in tribute to the couple.

OBSERVE 50TH WEDDING IN CHELMSFORD—Shown above are Mr. and Mrs. Walter Perham, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Sunday at their home, 45 Westford street, Chelmsford Center. Mr. Perham is a well known manufacturer.

Retires After 30 Years As Chelmsford Moderator

Hon. Walter Perham Held Many Town
And State Offices—Still Active at 75

By C. D. Harrington

CHELMSFORD—Thirty-one years ago this month, a tall, lean and bronzed figure with a sprinkling of gray above the temples, diffidently rapped the gavel that opened the annual town meeting and, in a deep voice with a definite Yankee twang, declared: "The meeting will now come to order."

For 30 consecutive years, come hail, snow, rain or hurricane, the same figure occupied the same position and became so expert in the handling of town meetings that even the most daring politico in the town hesitated to question his rulings.

Firm and fair, he held sway while the voters debated and decided the course of the town, and it was his inborn sense of humor oftentimes that prevented serious clashes as the various interests fought out the battle of words that preceded the official votes on some of the most vital matters in town affairs.

This year, just before town meeting, this fixture in town government—a bit grayer, but otherwise little changed in appearance Hon. Walter Perham—decided it was time for a younger man to wield the gavel and he quietly retired from office.

So it was that at the annual town meeting early this week, there was a new man in his place on the stage of the high school auditorium—John C. Monahan—and no one wished the newcomer more success than his predecessor.

Long Civic Career

With his retirement as moderator, Walter Perham brought to an end a civic career that had extended over a period of 54 years and which had brought him honor after honor at the hands of the voters of the town, representative and senatorial districts and the councillor district.

But retirement from municipal affairs didn't mean that this familiar figure had decided that it was time to quit all his activities, despite his 75 years, for he still is actively engaged in the cider and vinegar business, and may be seen about the mill in his overalls almost any day during the season, nor has he given up the undertaking business which he has conducted for nearly half a century. He just wanted some younger man to take over and for this reason refused to seek the reelection which had become almost automatic during the preceding score or more of years.

Mr. Perham was just a gangling youth of about 21—six feet plus in height and physically as hard as the rocks of the Chelmsford hills—when he first took public office as a precinct warden. That was about 54 years ago, when the town's population was less than a third of what it is now and when many of the present residential sections were farms or forest land.

From this humble start in town affairs, Mr. Perham rose through the ranks of town auditor, assessor and other offices to chairman of the board of selectmen—the highest office which the town government can give.

Held State Offices

During these years he was active in Republican affairs not only in the town, but in the county and state, and, after completing his term as selectman, he was honored

with the election to the office of representative, serving in the lower branch of the General Court in 1922 and 1923.

When the next election came around, Mr. Perham was elevated to the office of state senator, winning the first "honorable" of the two to which he legally is entitled. He served as senator for six years and then went on to win election to the governor's executive council, winning his second "honorable" in this manner.

His Republican conferees added to his laurels in 1932 by sending him to the Republican National convention, which nominated Herbert Hoover for president.

A few of the important committee posts he held during his time on Beacon Hill include, member of the rules committee, which controls the business of the house; chairman of the committee on state administration, chairman of the committee on election laws and chairman of the committee on public health.

That's enough for the officeholder and now for the man himself.

Of Old Yankee Stock

Walter Perham is a descendant of early settlers of Massachusetts Bay colony, for on his mother's side he traces his American ancestry back to Richard Brackett, who arrived on the forest-covered shores with Gov. Winthrop in 1630. The name Perham also can be found far back in the history of the colony, and some of his ancestors have resided in Chelmsford since 1664, just nine years after the town was founded.

His great-great-grandfather, Sam Perham, responded with the Minutemen and also served as a member of the Provincial congress in 1774.

All-Round Athlete

As a young man, Mr. Perham resided in Cambridge for a few years and he worked out at the YMCA there to keep in condition. He did it well, apparently, for at the end of the season the "Y" held an indoor meet and he walked home with the all-round athlete's prize.

His father, Henry S. Perham, established a worth-while record in town affairs, so it was inherent for Walter to follow along the same path. His father also was town historian, and Walter's keen mind provides a mental history of the town from his own observation and from the stories told by his ancestors and passed down from generation to generation.

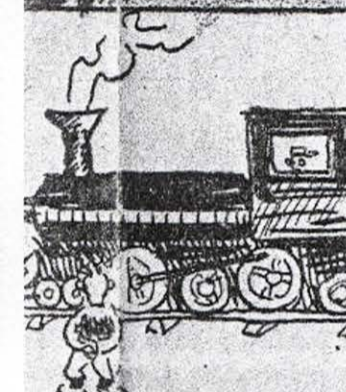
Mr. Perham and his wife and son, Sidney, live in the "new Perham" house on Westford street, which he built some 50 years ago. The "old Perham" house, nearby, a landmark in town, was built in 1770 and it still stands, sturdy as the oaks that were cut to provide its timbers. He also has a daughter, Mrs. Robert S. Curtiss of New York, whose husband is vice-president of the Hudson and Manhattan railroad.

Among the organizations to which Mr. Perham belongs are the Sons of the American Revolution, the Governor and Company of Massachusetts Bay, whose membership is open to those who trace their ancestry to settlers in the

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Mrs. Grace Perham Dies, Aged 80

(1948)

CHELMSFORD — Mrs. Grace (Craig) Perham, a resident of Chelmsford for over half a century, and making her home at 45 Westford street, in this town died yesterday at the Lowell General hospital, aged 80 years. Mrs. Perham was born in Lawrence, the daughter of John G. and Mary (Glidden) Craig. In 1894, she married Walter Perham, who survives her, and May 23 of this year would have marked the 54th anniversary of their wedding.

Besides her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Robert S. Curtiss of Crestwood, N. Y.; a son, Sidney C. Perham of Chelmsford; and two granddaughters, Miss Virginia C. Curtiss and Miss Mary E. Curtiss, both of Crestwood, N. Y.

Mrs. Perham was active in civic affairs, having held membership in the Chelmsford Historical society together with having been one of the organizers of Lowell Council, Girl Scouts of America. She was a past president of the Middlesex Women's club, a former director of the Massachusetts State Federation of Women's clubs, and a former president of the Chelmsford Garden club.

Upon completion of her education in the Lawrence schools, Mrs. Perham matriculated at the Training school for teachers in Lawrence, and prior to her marriage, taught in the public schools of her native city. Mrs. Perham was an active member of the Unitarian church of Chelmsford, and was a former president, and currently vice president of the Women's Alliance of that church.

April 29, Walter Perham of 45 Westford street. Private funeral services will be held at the Perham funeral home at the convenience of the family. There will be no calling hours. Interment at Forefather's cemetery, Chelmsford.

EX-Senator Perham Dies

4-29-58

CHELMSFORD — Walter Perham, 87, of 45 Westford street, Chelmsford, died Tuesday at his home. He was the widower of Grace (Craig) Perham. His survivors include a son, Sidney C. Perham, postmaster of Chelmsford; a daughter, Mrs. Robert S. Curtiss of New York; two granddaughters, Mrs. George



Walter Perham

Limpede and Miss Mary Elizabeth Curtiss, both of New York; one niece, Mrs. Estelle Roberts of Scotia, New York, and a grandniece, Mrs. Amos West, of California.

He was born in Salem, N. H., the son of Henry S. and Estelle (Kittredge) Perham, but lived most of his life in Chelmsford where he took an active interest in town and state government. For over 30 years he served the town of Chelmsford as moderator, was a former member of the board of selectmen and also served on the water commissioners board. He served in the Massachusetts state senate for eight years, also was a member of the governor's council and house of representatives.

Mr. Perham was a member of the Unitarian church of Chelmsford for which he also served many years as moderator.

He was a member of Troop F Cavalry, Mass. Volunteer Militia.

He was affiliated with William North lodge, AF and AM, chapter, Council and Commandery and Aleppo Order of the Shrine.

He had conducted a funeral home in the town of Chelmsford

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Selectmen Proclaim Jaycee Week January 21-28

The Chelmsford Jaycees, now in their fourth year of operation, have had a history of many successful civic projects. Although a small organization, this young, aggressive group has won and held the recognition of the town. In its first year of operation it captured the One Year Milestone award, a trophy presented by the Massachusetts Junior Chamber of Commerce to the outstanding new club of the year. The Chelmsford Jaycees have also received two Founders' Plaques from the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce for bringing the Jaycee movement to Ayer in 1960 and to Dracut in 1961.

From the beginning the Chelmsford Jaycees have actively organized and sponsored many major civic activities. They have presented three minstrel shows using talent from the town of Chelmsford. Annually they have run a fishing derby for all children in the town from the age of six to 12. They have conducted three teenage Road-e-os, and a campaign to get out the vote in the last national election. They have erected a home basement fallout shelter demonstrating how it should be built and stocked. The Jaycees have sponsored two boys to attend Boys' State, a leadership discussion group in state government. They contributed up to \$200.00 annually to the town of Chelmsford Scholarship Fund, Inc.

For car owners, they have sold safety flare kits and first aid kits to raise money to support their community projects.

Each Christmas, the Jaycees have sponsored Santa's arrival in Chelmsford coincident with the lighting of the Christmas tree in Central Square. They have also played Santa Claus to many town children by delivering Christmas presents to them at their homes.

Their most recent project has been the forums on town government, which are held in the Center Town Hall and open to the public.

These are a few of the major projects which round out a full

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Sidney C. Perham Local Postmaster Dies Suddenly



SIDNEY C. PERHAM

Sidney C. Perham, 45 Westford St., Chelmsford, United States Post Master in Chelmsford for the past 8 years was stricken yesterday morning at his office and past away at the Lowell General Hospital where he was moved by ambulance.

He made his home at 45 Westford St. Chelmsford and was the husband of the former Marguerite E. Hoar who survives him.

Mr. Perham was born in this town, the son of the late Walter and Grace (Graige) Perham and had made his home all of his life here. Before assuming the Postmastership he was well known locally as a Funeral Director having

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\$351,617.82 Free Cash Certified Towards 1962 Rate

Notice has just been received by Town Treasurer Walter R. Wilkins, Jr. from Herman B. Dine, State Director of Accounts that the sum of \$351,617.82 has been certified as "Free Cash". At least part of this amount will probably be voted by the March Town Meeting to reduce the 1962 tax rate. A recommendation on this matter is made to the Town Meeting annually by the Finance Committee.

Personnel Board Recommends Hikes In Salaries, Wages

The Personnel Board, in a copy of its annual report presented to the Selectmen recently, is presenting for the consideration of the March town meeting a recommendation that vacations for town employees be based on length of service, that sick leave be cumulative to 60 days at the rate of 10 days annually, and that working hours for the police remain at 40 hours while for the firemen it would be cut from 48 to 44 hours. The major changes in wages and salaries also recommended in the report include:

Increases of \$200 for Senior Clerks; \$150 for Junior Clerks; \$350 for the Town Accountant; change from \$1.65 an hour for part-time and Planning Board clerk to \$1.70; increase for Cemetery Attendant from \$2.04 per

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DPW Refuses Bid For Traffic Signals; Urges Better Lighting

The Department of Public Works in reply to a request from the Selectmen in November, has just completed a traffic survey in the Golden Cove road-Stedman street-Chelmsford Street area and recommends that the town install better street lighting there instead of having the State erect a traffic control signal.

The survey showed a total of 7,697 vehicles using this intersection during an 11-hour period at the end of November, with peak traffic occurring between 4:40 and 5:30 P.M. The traffic count did not, in the DPW's opinion, warrant a "pre-timed traffic control signal" at this point.

The accident history of this intersection for the past 2 years taken from local police records showed 4 intersectional accidents -- 3 of which were rear-end collisions, and 1 in overtaking and passing. Of the 3 accidents occurring in the vicinity of the intersection, 1 was a rear-end collision.

POSTMASTER DIES

Continued from page 1

carried on the business which has been founded by his father. The Perham family also operated a Cider Mill in this community for many years. Mr. Perham was also a licensed insurance broker having been associated with the David F. Cadell Agency in Lowell. A veteran of World War I, Mr. Perham enlisted in the Army Medical Corp and during that conflict had been stationed at a base in France.

Besides his wife he is survived by his sister, Mrs. Robert S. Curtiss, of Yonkers, New York, and two nieces Mrs. George Limpede also of Yonkers, and Mrs. Donald Collier, of LaGrangeville, New York.

Mr. Perham was a member of the First Parish Unitarian Church Chelmsford, was former member of the Standing Committee of that church and had at one time served as president of the Men's Club of the parish. He was a past Commander of Chelmsford Post 212 American Legion and was a 7th Degree member of Chelmsford Grange No. 244. Following his early education in the Chelmsford

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schools, he graduated from Lowell High School and matriculated at Tufts College from which he received his B.A. Degree with the class of 1919. Mr. Perham was a past President of the Lowell Tufts College Club. He was a member of the William North Lodge AF & AM and was a 32nd Degree Mason having been affiliated with the Scottish Rite Bodies locally and Massachusetts Consistory in Boston. He also held membership in the Aleppo Temple, Order of Mystic Shrine. Mr. Perham was also affiliated with the Post Masters Association and was a member of the National Funeral Directors Association as well as the Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association.

Private funeral services will be held at the Morse Funeral Home, 122 Princeton Blvd., Lowell, Friday afternoon.



45 Westford Street

2006 W. Drury



45 Westford Street

1/27/2006 F. Merriam



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