

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

72/320/3

Tyngsboro

307

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

Town Chelmsford

Place (neighborhood or village)

Chelmsford Center

Address 46 Westford St

Historic Name Henry B. Proctor House

Uses: Present residence

Original residence

Date of Construction 1884

Source tax records

Style/Form Victorian

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite slabs: main house, fieldstone inside  
 see continuation sheet

Wall/Trim clapboard

Roof ridge roof, gable at front

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

cabana/hen house: said to have been a chicken coop  
 shed: before 1942

Major Alterations (with dates)

barn: b. 1887 & later attached to house  
 stable: between barn & main house, b. after 1895, before 1942

see continuation sheet

Condition good

Moved  no  yes Date

Acreage 1.71 acres

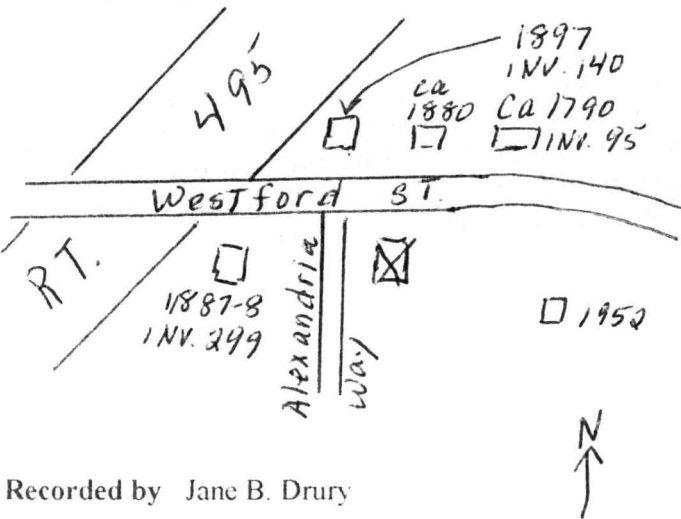
Setting Located on the south side of Westford St. . this house is bounded on the west by a line of fir trees, a new road, and then a house b. 1888 (inv. 299). On the north side are inventoried houses #140 & 93, separated by a house perhaps b. ca 1880. (See continuation sheet)



File: MA\_Chelmsford\_WestfordStreet\_46\_IMG\_3029  
 CD: CHC\_2006\_2\_11/24/06 FSM

## 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.



Recorded by Jane B. Drury

Organization for Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (month year) November 2006

## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION see continuation sheet

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

The residence at 46 Westford Street is similar to many other Victorian houses in Chelmsford. It is 2½ stories high, and has 3 bays across the front. It has 2 chimneys: a tall, narrow one is located just below the roof ridge on the right side, near the rear of the main house. The other is outside the left wall of the house.

### 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.

In Jan. 1884 Henry B. Proctor purchased 3¼ acres of land and hoped to build the house at 46 Westford St. "the coming season for his own occupancy and as a former resident of this village will be cordially welcomed to his early home." By May the dwelling had been started and was completed that year. Henry was a farmer, and the barn that is now connected to the rear of the house by a "stable" was erected for the Proctor family by Jasper Elliott during the summer of 1887. Hen houses were made behind the house in 1889. The Proctors had three children, Carrie, Emma and Ella. In December 1890 Carrie married Charles E. Bartlett, who lived on Bartlett St. The wedding would have taken place at 46 Westford St., but "on account of the critical illness of the bride's mother, who has long been an invalid, the marriage was solemnized at the new home of the couple." Within two weeks Mrs. "Proctor's condition was such Monday that it was feared that she might not rally, but Wednesday morning she was more comfortable." She died March 28, 1892, from "disease of the spleen & heart."

Unlike their sister, Emma and Ella Proctor never married. They lived in the house with their father until he died in 1901. In 1913, having disposed of the property, they moved to the "Hardy house, opposite Larcom Square on the Boston road" (Rt. 4). The new owner, Herbert F. Whipple and his wife Helen soon moved in to 46 Westford St. with their children. Herbert worked as a cashier at the Lowell Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Their married son, S. Foster Whipple and wife Abbie, resided with them. Foster was the advertising manager of the Lowell Courier-Citizen newspaper. James and John also lived here as children.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES see continuation sheet

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds, Bk. 164, pg. 371  
Chelmsford assessors' records, building inspector records, tax records; street directories; vital records  
Lowell newspapers: Jan. 4, 1884; Aug. 26, 1887; Jan. 2, 1891; Jan 9, 1891; Aug. 8, 1913  
Lowell Courier-Citizen: Aug. 11, 1913  
Margaret Mills: December 1977  
Mary Ellen Christopher: July 21, 2006  
Chelmsford Newsweekly: December 27, 1956  
Items from kitchen wall remodelling: ticket from 1914 for a Thanksgiving Dance in the town hall; ticket from 1914 for a Thanksgiving Dance in the town hall

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 46 WESTFORD ST.

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

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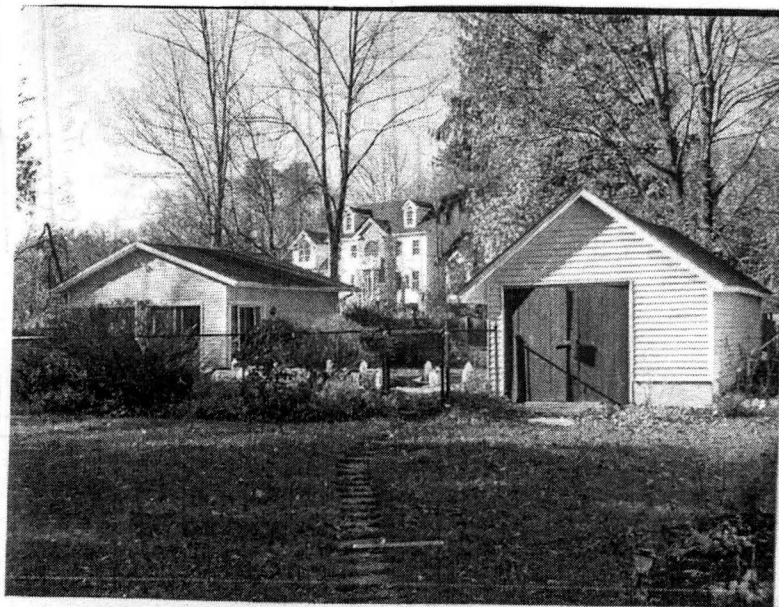
## HISTORY

In 1922 the Whipple family moved to Concord. Nellie Fletcher briefly resided here; she is said to have been quite a character. In 1923 the Davis family, Herbert, a farmer, and his wife Annie, moved in with two children. Herbert Hr. was a dentist before and after going into the Army. He and his wife Amy were living here in 1930/31, when he was again working as a dentist in Lowell. S. Foster Whipple and his wife Abbie were also living here then. He was the advertising manager for the Lowell Courier Citizen.

Ray and Adelaide Pike were the next to live here for any length of time. They moved here from Lowell in 1942. They were followed by Jasper Alden Wilcox and his wife Marion, who were here for about 30 years. The Wilcoxes purchased the property in August 1953 but sold it a few days later to Robert and Jean Devito. However, the Wilcox family remained in the house until 1982, when the Devito family moved in. Alden Wilcox was employed as an office manager, product cont. manager, executive, and finally as a plant manager. Robert Devito was a plant engineer. He and his wife had moved to Lunenburg by 2002.

## Setting

On the east side a paved drive semi circles the front of the house but also runs beside the east side of the house back to the rear of the barn. A low stone retaining wall is east of the driveway. A few trees are in the area beyond the wall and about a foot lower. Behind the house, on the south side, is a lawn going back to a shed and a pool on the southeast side of the property. A pool separates them. Many trees are at the rear of the property.



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Town  
CHELMSFORD

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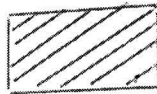
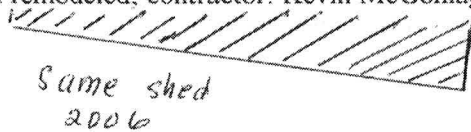
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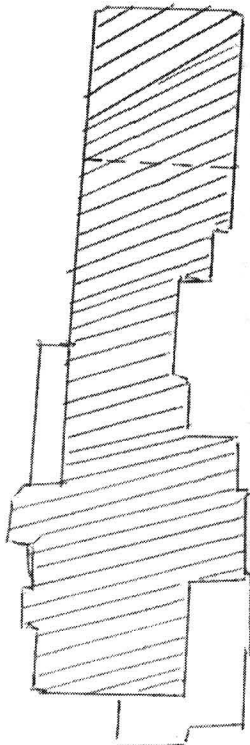
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## ALTERATIONS

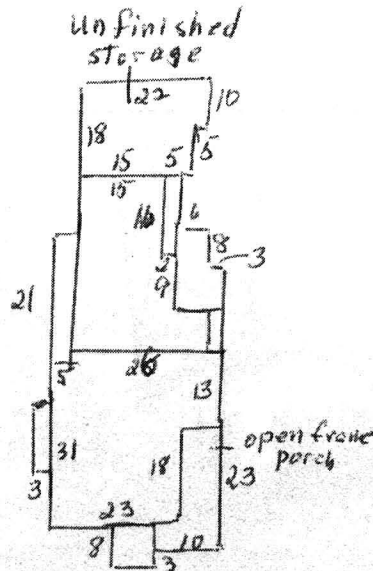
- 1887 barn built; was unattached at the time; now is attached to the rear of the house
- unknown termite damage fixed; basement floor raised & now main door opened only with difficulty
- 1913 ca water installed - 3<sup>rd</sup> house to receive it
- 1914 probably kitchen part & upstairs bathroom added
- before 1942 "stable man's room" added to rear of main house  
it is now part of the kitchen in the main house
- before 1942 stable built; now connects barn with "stable man's room"
- before 1942 exterior chimney added to left side of main house
- before 1959 evidence shows fire in barn (2<sup>d</sup> the 3<sup>rd</sup> stories), apparently jumped over stable to main house, where it was put out.
- unknown windows all replaced and aluminum trimmed. Largest windows are 6/1.
- 2003 kitchen & bath remodeled; contractor: Kevin McGoniagle, Kemco Const. Inc.



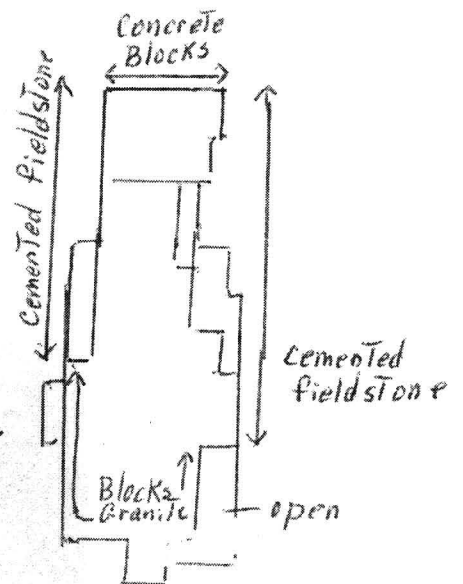
epicken coop 1942



June 1, 1942  
Plan BR. 65  
Plan 10



July 21, 2006  
Assessors' record



early July 2006  
Field visit

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

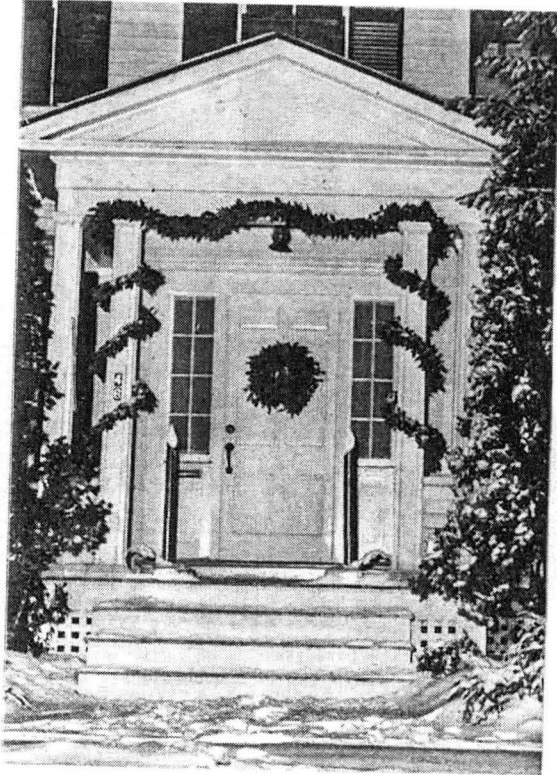
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1956

Early July 2006

Front, right side



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Early July 2006



LEFT side



Lowell newspapers, probably the Lowell Courier, Courier Citizen, Lowell Weekly

Jan. 4, 1884

Amos B. Adams has sold to H.B. Proctor of Lowell 3½ acres of land on Westford street nearly opposite the house of R.F. Emerson. Mr. Proctor will probably build the coming season for his own occupancy and as a former resident of this village will be cordially welcomed to his early home. This sale with that of the Metcalf property was effected through the agency of E.K. Parkhurst.

Aug. 26, 1887

Our carpenters have by no means been idle during the summer nor are they likely to be for some time to come. C.E. Parkhurst is finishing 3 cottages for M.C. Wilson, while A.W. Holt is completing a house for J. Elliott and has the following jobs booked for autumn: a house for Mrs. H. S. Perham on Littleton street, a barn for H.B. Proctor on Westford street, and a dwelling for Herbert Bearce at the North village. A Lowell contractor is building a house for J.E. Andrews, and W.B. Cotton is making preparations to build on the Acton road for his own occupancy.

Jan. 2, 1891

The marriage of Mr. Charles E. Bartlett, son of Mr. & Mrs. Chas. E.A. Bartlett, and Miss Carrie L. Proctor, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Henry B. Proctor, all well known residents of this village, took place Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. On account of the critical illness of the bride's mother, who has long been an invalid, the marriage, which otherwise would have taken place at the Proctor residence, was solemnized at the new home of the couple by Rev. J.A. Chase, pastor of the Unitarian society. The attendance was limited to near relatives and a few friends of the contracting parties.... They will at once commence house-keeping in their newly completed, convenient and tastefully furnished house....

Jan. 9, 1891

Mrs. H.B. Proctor's condition was such Monday that it was feared that she might not rally, but Wednesday morning she was more comfortable.

Aug. 8, 1913

Herbert F. Whipple, of the Lowell Mutual Fire Insurance Co., has purchased Proctor place on Westford street.

Lowell Courier-Citizen

Aug. 11, 1913

The Misses Emma and Ella Proctor, who have recently disposed of their property on Westford street, are occupying the Hardy house, opposite Larcom square on the Boston road.

Information from Margaret Mills, December 1977

The Proctor girls lived there.

Later Whipple.

James Whipple is of Marblehead; the obituary of his brother John is in the Newsweekly, ca 22 Nov. 1977

James & brother John lived at 46 Westford St. when they were children

Later Nellie Fletcher – weird woman, a character

46 Westford Street  
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

Compiled by J. Drury  
April 1975

Book 1232, Page 542	8/26/1953	Ray Pike, Jr. & Adelaide H. Pike to Jasper A. & Marion P. Wilcox 1.71 acres, with buildings thereon - Lot 1, Hanchett Plan
Book 978, Page 99	6/ 2/1942	Guy K. & Margaret Ruth Hanchett to Ray Pike, Jr. & Adelaide H. Pike, Lowell 1.71 acres, buildings thereon
Book 844, Page 436	5/21/1934	Edward P. Davis, Manchester, N.H.; Herbert E. Davis, Jr. & Amy Bent Davis to Guy K. & Margaret Ruth Hanchett, Westwood New Jersey. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, buildings thereon
Book <del>650</del> , Page <del>115</del> 591 695	11/ 1/1923	Eleanor L. Fletcher, Westford, to Edward P. Davis, Herbert E. Davis, Jr. & Amy Bent Davis. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, buildings thereon
Book 650, Page 115	9/16/1921	Helen S. Whipple to Eleanor L. Fletcher, Westford 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, buildings thereon
Book 650, Page 114	9/14/1921	Emma E. & Ella J. Proctor to Helen S. Whipple 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, buildings thereon Correction deed
Book 509, Page 76	8/ 6/1913	Emma E. & Ella J. Proctor to Helen S. Whipple 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, buildings thereon
Book 348, Page 40	10/ 6/1902	Charles E. & Carrie L. Bartlett to Emma E. & Ella J. Proctor 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, buildings thereon
Book 164, Page 371	1/ 2/1884	Amos B. Adams to Henry B. Proctor, Lowell 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres land
Book 137, Page 231	12/13/1879	David Perham to Amos B. Adams



Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

Bk. 17593, pg. 241	July 12, 2004	Stephen M. & Amanda D. Mantville to Joseph M. & Mary Ellen Christopher, 46 Westford St. \$585,000 1.71 acres & buildings thereon southwesterly side Westford St. Lot 1 on 1942 Hanchett plan, Bk. Plans 65, plan 10 same: 2002 deed, Bk. 13087, pg. 266
Bk. 13087, pg. 266	May 13, 2002	Robert V. & Jean M. DeVito, Lunenburg, to Amanda D. & Dstephen Mantville, 46 Westford St. 1.71 acres & buildings thereon southwesterly side Westford St. Lot 1 on 1942 Hanchett plan, Bk. Plans 65, plan 10 same: 1981 Wilcox deed, Bk. 2506, pg. 626
Bk. 2506, pg. 626	Aug. 26, 1953	Jasper A. & Marion P. Wilcox to Robert V. & Jean M. Devito, Chelmsford \$133,000 1.71 acres & buildings thereon southwesterly side Westford St. Lot 1 on 1942 Hanchett plan, Bk. Plans 65, plan 10 same: 1953 deed, Bk. 1232, pg. 542

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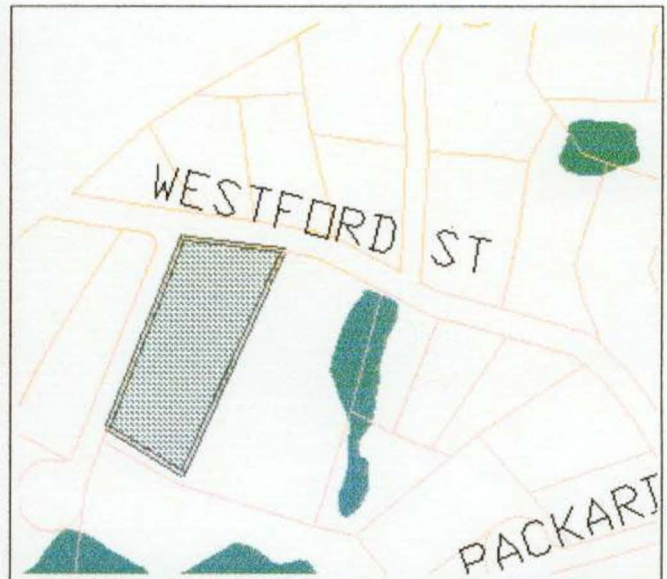
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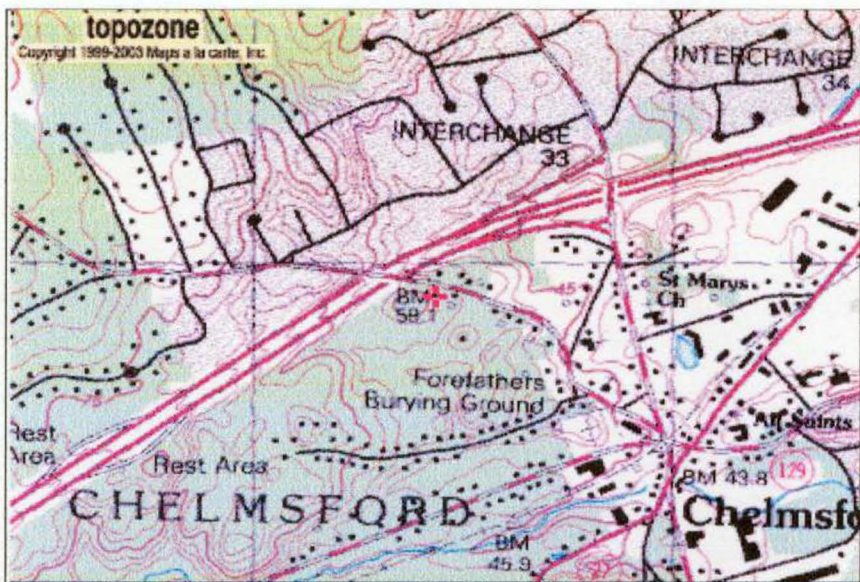
## Locational Information



46 Westford Street viewed from locallive.com



46 Westford Street from Town Assessor's Map



Topozone excerpt from Billerica USGS quadrangle.

Decimal coordinates as provided by Topozone: 42°36'10" N 71°21'34" W





46 Westford Street 11/24/2006 F. Merriam

