

FORM B - BUILDING SURVEY

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

1. Is this building historically significant to:
Town Commonwealth Nation

Building has historical connection with the following themes: (see also reverse side)

- Scholar
- Agriculture
- Art/Sculpture
- Education
- Government
- Literature
- Music
- Commerce/industry
- Science/invention
- Travel/communication
- Military Affairs
- Religion/philosophy
- Indians
- Other _____

Development of town/city

Architectural reason for inventorying:

2. Town Chilmark
 Street address Westford St at Forefathers Cemetery
 Name 1802 Brick School House
 Use: original & present school/storage
 Present owner Town of Chilmark
 Open to public no
 Date 1802
 Architect _____

OR part of Area # _____

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added unattached shut

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material granite blocks

WALL COVER: Wood clapboard lapped butt Brick Stone Other _____
with yard

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork _____

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate
new

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed _____

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 PORTICO _____ Balcony _____

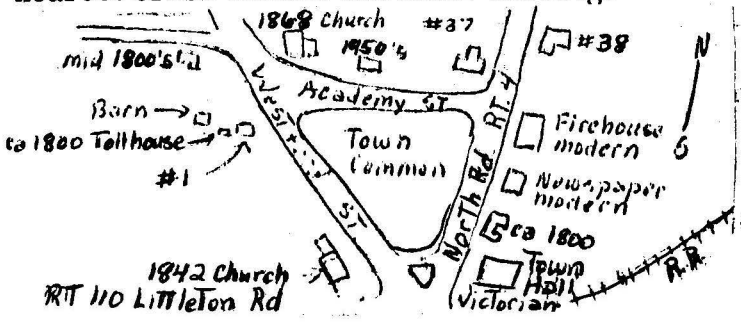
FACADE: Gable end: Front side Ornament _____

Entrance: Side Front Center/Side Details see condition altered

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 3 bay x 3 bay 12 over 12 pane

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards _____

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings



6. Footage of structure from street 30
Property has 40 feet frontage on street

Recorder Jane B. Deary
 For Chilmark Historical Commission
 Photo # 7-2A Date 2/5/73

SEE REVERSE SIDE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

1. Outbuildings milliner's Casal tallhouse is 2 1/2 feet behind the school

2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal
Predominant features: Forefathers' Cemetery
Landscape architect _____

3. Neighboring Structures
Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.
Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern

Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

See attached sheet

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

- Town Records of Chelmsford 1650-1750, pg. 237
- Waters' History of Chelmsford, Mass. (1917)
- 1831 map
- Allen's History of Chelmsford, Mass. (1820)

RESTRICTIONS _____

Original Owner: Town of Chelmsford
Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds

1802 Brick School House

Forefathers' Cemetery at Westford St.

Condition: altered.

The front facade has been greatly changed. When the building was used to store the Town horse-drawn hearse, the present large plain doorway was put in. The Commission hopes to restore the front to what it probably was originally. A window on each side of the doorway is now bricked in, but a sketch in Waters' History shows a small door with a window on each side.

Historic importance of site:

The original schoolhouse grant was dated November 28, 1718. "I William Fletcher do give the 3 rods and $\frac{1}{2}$ at one laid out at the north corner of the burying place on which the school house stands to them that built it: to them there heirs and assigns forever: and to that life forever."

According to Waters' History, in 1802 "a new brick schoolhouse took the place of the original structure at District #1, at the cost of \$500. This building is now (1917) used by the Town for a hearse-house in Forefathers' Cemetery. The district schools had some famous teachers, among whom was Willard Parker, afterwards the eminent physician of New York. He taught in the old brick schoolhouse in the winters of 1821, '22, and '23.He was one of the founders of the Academy of Medicine and at one time its president."

In later years the school was used for storage of various types, including the Town hearse, Historical Society artifacts, and presently the Park Department's equipment. The Chelmsford Historical Commission has asked that the school house be transferred to the Commission from the Park Department for use as an office and information booth during the Bi-Centennial celebration.

The brick used in this building was made locally, in East Chelmsford on what is now known as Brick Kiln Road.

From notebook of Miss Frances Andrews

Page 170:

William Fletcher gave 3 rods and a half of land for this first school house, which was completed on Nov. 28, 1718. This first building was burned and was replaced in 1802 by a brick building with wooden gables and a porch at the doorway.

In 1851 the old school house was abandoned and a new one erected on North Road almost opposite Academy Street on land adjoining that of James Emerson. The new one was dedicated Nov. 12, 1851. Was enlarged later. In 1934 it was condemned and torn down.

After 1851 the abandoned old brick school house was used by Miss Anna E. Hunt for her Bible classes. Later years (1900s) it has been used to keep the tools for taking care of the cemetery.

District #1 Schoolhouses
Westford St. at Forefathers' Cemetery

Compiled by J. Drury
2/5/73

1831 map: labeled school.

1875 Beers Atlas: building without label at Forefathers' Cemetery.
The school #1 is shown at 7 North Rd. (site of the firehouse in 1973).

Town Records of Chelmsford 1650 - 1750, pg. 237

Schoolhouse grant - Nov. 28, 1718. "I William Fletcher do give the 3 rods and $\frac{1}{2}$ at one laid out at the north corner of the burying ground place on which the school hous stands to them that built it: to them there heirs and assigns forever: and to that life for ever."

Waters, pg. 556:

"We have now come to an important event, the building of the first schoolhouse. In 1718, the Town granted three rods and a half of land for that purpose, at "the most easterly corner of the burying place." (Where the brick school was later built. The land was laid out to William Fletcher by the Town and by him given to the builders). The cost, about one hundred dollars, was made by subscription. The names of those citizens who contributed to this worthy project have been preserved in the record which reads as follows:

The names of those that built and finished the Schoole house And What Each man gave thereto

mr Stoddard	2: 0: 0	Nathall Butterfield	1: 0: 0
Moses Barron	1: 0: 0	Samll Barron	1: 0: 0
Josiah Fletcher	1: 0: 0	Benone Perham	1: 0: 0
Deacon Waring	1: 0: 0	Eben Parker	1: 0: 0
Eben Foster	1: 0: 0	John Burge	0: 10: 0
Edward Spaulding	1: 10: 0	Benj Parker	0: 10: 0
William Fletcher	1: 10: 0	Richard Stratton	1: 0: 0
John Bates	1: 0: 0	Joseph Foster	0: 15: 0
Stephen Pierce	1: 0: 0	Benjamin Adams	1: 0: 0
Moses Parker	1: 10: 0	Edward Foster	0: 15: 0
John Daues	0: 10: 0		

Waters, pg. 555:

"Mr. Nathaniel Prentice, of Cambridge, was the schoolmaster for the years 1718, 1719, and 1720. He graduated from Harvard College in 1714. He was afterwards the second minister of the church of Dunstable, where he labored until his death in 1737. The following is the language of the contract between Mr. Prentice and the Town:

Chelmsford September 22d 1719

The select men have agreed with mr Nathaniel Prentice of Cambridge to keep scoole in Chelmsford from the firs of october next ensuing the Date untill the firs Day of Aprill 1720 the above sd Nathaniel Prentice does oblige himself to keep scoole six hours every Day in sd term except it be Saturday Dayes which he is allowed for him self For which sd prentice is to have eighteen pounds. The name of Mr. Prentice is signed to this contract in a bold and graceful hand. There is no suggestion of Christmas Holidays in this agreement. The school, as we have seen, rotated between the four quarters of the Town."

Waters, pg. 556:

"Mr. Prentice was succeeded by Joseph Whipple, who taught from 1721 to 1724. A difference of opinion existed as to the merits of Mr. Whipple's teaching. It was settled by a Town meeting in 1724, which

'Voted that the Petition of Moses Parker and nine others freeholders who Petitioned that the Schoole master be Dismissed and a committee chose to Provide another in his Room be dismissed'.

Mr. Thomas Frink, of Sudbury, followed Whipple. He taught till 1727, when the Town paid John Spaulding 'to wait upon Mr. Frink home.'

Josiah Richardson and Isaac Richardson taught one year each. Joseph Lovett, two years, Jonathan Mills, one, and Samson Stoddard, five, ending in 1734. The latter was a son of Rev. Samson Stoddard, and graduated from Harvard College, in 1730. He became one of the leading men of the Town, was a colonel in the militia, and held many offices of trust. The Town of Stoddard, N.H. was named in his honor.

After Mr. Stoddard, no teacher remained longer than two years, until 1750, when Oliver Fletcher took charge of the schools and remained six years. He was a graduate of Harvard College of the class of 1735. He was a man of great worth of character. (Bridge refers to his death, which occurred in 1771, as a 'great loss.') Allen says of him: 'His piety and integrity gave him great ascendancy over his fellow-townsmen, and secured their esteem and confidence.' "

Waters, pg. 562:

"In 1801 a new schoolhouse was built in the 'Mill Row' District (No.4), costing \$310, and the following year a new brick schoolhouse took the place of the original structure at District No. 1, at a cost of \$500. This building is now used by the Town for a hearse-house in Forefathers' Cemetery.

The district schools had some famous teachers, among whom was Willard Parker, afterwards the eminent physician of New York. He taught in the old brick schoolhouse in the winters of 1821, '22 and '23. Dr. Parker was a descendant of one of the five brothers who came from Woburn and settled in Chelmsford in 1653. He graduated from Harvard College in 1826, studied medicine under the direction of Dr. John C. Warren, Professor of Surgery in Harvard University, and took his degree of M.D. in 1830. He was at once appointed Professor of Anatomy at the Medical School at Woodstock, Vt., and the same year, the same position at the Berkshire Medical Institution. His appointment to the chair of surgery at the same college soon followed. In 1836 he filled the chair of surgery at the Cincinnati Medical College. He soon after visited Europe and spent considerable time in the hospitals of London and Paris. Upon his return he was appointed to the chair of surgery in the College of Physicians in New York City, a position which he held for thirty years. He was one of the founders of the Academy of Medicine and at one time its president."

Two more paragraphs on Dr. Parker follow.

Waters, pg. 456:

"On a cold winter night the boys stuffed the schoolhouse chimney with hay, and poured water down upon it, which froze solid, so that it was impossible to have a fire the next morning.

The first thing a new schoolmaster had to do was show himself master of the biggest boys, which, sometimes, required a knock-down blow, resulting in universal respect for the schoolmaster. In such a tussle, one poor man had his long hair rubbed full of burrs."

Allen, pg. 35:

"We now come to a very important transaction, the building of the first Schoolhouse. Hitherto their schools had been kept in their dwelling houses. In 1718, Oct. 27, Wm. Fletcher gave and secured to the subscribers three rods and a half of land, abutted and bounded as follows Eastwardly at the most eastwardly corner of the burying ground, upon a stake and heap of stones; southwardly upon the burying place; west to a stake and heap of stones; on the northerly corner to a stake and heap of stones; and then to the bounds first mentioned. Signed: Ephraim Hildreth, John Wright, Jona. Bowers, Committee.

Nov. 28, 1718 - These presents declare that I, Wm. Fletcher, above said, do give the three rods and a half, above laid out at the northerly corner of the burying place, on which the school house stands, to them that built it; to them their heirs and assigns forever, and to that use forever.

This land was laid out on the right of Rev. Moses Fiske of Braintree, son of Rev. John Fiske of Chelmsford, and heir to his estate after the death of his brother John, who died childless."

Newsweekly 1955):

"In 1802, the familiar red brick school house still standing in Forefathers' Cemetery replaced the older one on that site. In 1801, another new brick building had been erected for school purposes on Mill Rd, it is now the home of J. Clark Osterhaus, a Chelmsford resident for 65 years. The brick for these buildings were made locally -- in East Chelmsford on what is now called Brick Kiln Road."

Lowell Weekly Journal

Aug. 13, 1886 - Satisfactory progress is being made upon the addition to the Centre school building. The plasterers began their work Tuesday morning, but it is hardly probable that the rooms will be ready for occupancy by the first of September. The addition of a bell tower is a great improvement, and here will be hung the old academy bell, so long silent, which will summon the children to school, as, more than a half century ago, it rang out a like message to their grandfathers and grandmothers when Ralph Waldo Emerson occupied the master's chair.

Lowell Courier - Citizen

May 28, 1908 - The above illustration shows Chelmsford's "Little Red School House" as it appears today (same as in 1974). It is constructed of brick with wooden gables and was built in 1802. For many years a porch sheltered the doorway that was changed and enlarged when its use as a school building was ended. School was probably held here for the last time early in 1851, for on Oct. 30 of that year a grand "tea party" was held in the "new school house," which is really the original part of the present school building, and the exercises of dedication occurred on Nov. 12, 1851. The abandoned school house was then made use of by the town as the hearse house as is known and used as such today.

An evening school in penmanship was at one time taught in the building during the winter by Dr. Samuel L. Dutton, now living on Westford Street. On the left is the old part of Forefathers' Cemetery in which are the graves of Revolutionary soldiers, early ministers of Chelmsford and some of the oldest remaining headstones. Among those living today who received their early education within the four brick walls of the school house are Miss Asenath Chamberlain, Mrs. Eliza J. Emerson, Mrs. Mary A. Day, Mrs. Julia E. Warren, Mrs. Martha J. Parkhurst, Mrs. C.H. Parkhurst, Mrs. Emma J. Hutchins, Mrs. Estelle S. Perham, Mrs. Martha E. Dadman, Mrs. Martha L. Emerson, Miss M.E. Richards, Miss Harriet Battles, S.W. Parkhurst, H.H. Emerson, J.P. Emerson, J. Adams Bartlett, E.R. Marshall, Charles W. Byam, all of Chelmsford; J. Richardson Fletcher, Lowell; Girard P. Dadman, Lowell; Milo J. Proctor, Boston; Joseph M. Fletcher, Boston; Rev. Geo. F. Satanton, Boston; Luke Bowers, Hannover, Mass.; Chas. Pierce, Springfield, Ohio; John Pierce, Maine; Albert Kemp, Carlisle; Mrs. Mary F. Thorning, Mrs. Mary J. Bailey, and Mrs. Jane Short of Lowell; Mrs. Ellen L. Comins, Glen Ridge, N.J.; Mrs. Juila M. Hutchins, Westford; Mrs. Maria Green, Somerville; Mrs. Marietta F. Spalding, Pasadena, Cal.; Miss Mary Bowers, Hanover, Mass.; Miss Maria L. Reed, Boston; Mrs. Carrie R. Howard, Malden; Miss Evelina M. Webster, Wakefield; Miss Emily C. Webster, Boston; Mrs. Sarah J. Drew, Westford; Mrs. S.E. Buckman, Greenwood, Mass.; Miss Faustina Spaulding, Portland, Oregon.



Town Given \$3000 Grant For 1802 Schoolhouse

Governor Michael Dukakis, with Communities and Development Secretary William Flynn, and Bicentennial Commission Director Edward McColgan announced that Chelmsford has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$3,000 for its Bicentennial project for the restoration of the 1802 Schoolhouse.

The announcement was made through the office of Representative Bruce N. Freeman (R) Chelmsford.

Chelmsford was among sixty-nine communities awarded matching grants totaling \$500,000, in the second round of the Bicentennial Community Grant Program. There was a total of ninety-nine different projects funded in this current round of grants. There will be three more rounds of grants in the Bicentennial Grant Program. Representative Freeman urges you to contact the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission for more information at 10 Tremont Street, Boston, Ma. 02108 - Tel. 727-5046.

Representative Freeman extends his congratulations to those persons responsible for the winning grant application. It is indeed a fitting tribute to our local commemoration of two hundred years as a nation.

Restoration Of Brick Schoolhouse

A matching grant of \$3,000, has been awarded the Chelmsford Revolutionary War Bicentennial Commission according to an announcement from William G. Flynn, Secretary of Communities and Development of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. One of ninety-nine awards made under the second round of the State Bicentennial Grants Program, this money is designated for work on the restoration of the Brick Schoolhouse in Forefathers' Burying Ground.

The one-room brick building was built in 1802 on the site of Chelmsford's first schoolhouse and history tells us that the bricks used in its construction were made in a kiln on what is now Brick Kiln Road in East Chelmsford. Classes were probably held here until the "yellow school" was opened across the Common where the Fire Station is today. This was in the 1850's.

The two windows in the front of the building were bricked-up and the entrance was enlarged so that the building could be used for "garaging" the horse drawn town hearse. In more recent times, it

has served as a shop by the Cemetary and later the Park Department.

Restoration will begin with the exterior to be followed later by work on the inside as additional funds become available. Included in the program are the installation of a doorway similar to what the original was believed to have looked like, reopening the front windows, relocating the chimney to its original central location, and replacing the existing asphalt shingles with fire-resistant wooden shingles.

A special committee has been appointed by the Bicentennial Commission to carry out the restoration work. It includes Walter R. Hedlund, chairman, Mrs. Paul F. McCarthy, Richard O. Lahue, Louis S. Kelly and Mrs. John C. Carragher.



Little Red School House

This 1802 schoolhouse, located just off the Chelmsford Common, served 49 years as a place of learning. It was later used as a storage shed for such practical

New England paraphernalia as cemetery lawn mowers and the town hearse. The schoolhouse's restoration should be completed by July 4 of this year, and will not

be unlike the buildings found at Sturbridge Village, a museum of New England life.

Renovations

Chelmsford getting a "new" school for a mere \$10,000 and a little work

By TOM BORDEN

Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD — Chelmsford will have a "new" school this year for the mere cost of \$10,000 — and if that figure sounds like it was pulled out of the past, well, that does have something to do with it.

The "new" school won't really be new, in fact it's 174 years old, which makes it the oldest, original, school building in Chelmsford. Situated just off Westford Street near the Forefathers' Cemetery, the little (27 feet by 30 feet) red brick schoolhouse with white trim has been the object of restoration efforts of the Chelmsford Historical Commission.

Between a Massachusetts Bicentennial

Commission matching grant of \$3,000 and a town commitment of \$2,900 for the building's one-room interior, 1802 School Restoration Committee chairman Richard O. Lahue Sr., predicts adequate funding to permit a July 4 premier of the current restorations.

Although most of the restoration steps have been contracted out, the committee's members have all put some of their spare time into working the old building into shape. LaHue, an industrial arts instructor or the Haverhill school system, devoted most of last summer to repairing odds and ends. Don Skelton, an Eagle Scout, broke up most of the cement floor inside the schoolhouse. Eventually, a wooden plank floor will be laid.

LAHUE AND HIS colleagues have made an extensive effort to render an accurate representation of the schoolhouse as it stood in 1802. To re-brick certain areas of the outside walls required a special brick size, as the original school bricks, which were made in East Chelmsford in the area of Brickkiln Rd., are smaller than today's standard brick size. A contractor was able to recover several hundred proper-sized bricks from the Scully Square area in Boston, where old buildings are being demolished.

Of course, the 1802 school house, which replaced an earlier school constructed in 1718, cost only \$500, but the historic commission's \$10,000 restoration efforts will offer considerably more modern features, such as a gas-fed warm air blower and an electrical lighting system.



THAT'S WHERE THE modernization ends, however, as the commission has kept the sturdy 10-inch by 10-inch beams that span the ceiling and intends to install wainscoting along the lower half of the interior walls. The commission hopes to arrange for a group of Nashoba Tech drafting students to visit Sturbridge Village, where they might render drawings of old school benches. From the drawings, Nashoba students might reconstruct a set of desks for the 1802 schoolhouse.

Perhaps the best part of the historic commission's restoration plans is that the building would be used once it's finally restored.

"The social studies department at the high school is considering teaching a daily class in the schoolhouse from time to time. The kids could spend one day learning in this school, and at the same time, get a taste of what it must have been like for school children then," explained Lahue.

Eventually, the schoolhouse might house the historic commission's central office. That's called finding a home in history.

The Chelmsford Bicentennial Commission



*cordially invites you
and your friends
to attend
The Official Re-Opening*

*of
Chelmsford's Oldest Remaining Schoolhouse
Built in 1802*

*A Restoration - Preservation Project
of the Town
in the Nation's Bicentennial Years
1975 - 1976*

*Forefather's Cemetery Chelmsford Center
Sunday, July 4, 1976 at 2:00 p.m.*



THE SUN, LOWELL, MASS., TUESDAY, JULY 6, 1976

1802 school house

Officials from Chelmsford in England and Ontario joined their Massachusetts counterparts at the dedication of the town's 1802 school

house during ceremonies Sunday. Top left to right, are, Mr. and Mrs. Sylio Mainville of Ontario, Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey How of England and Mr.

and Mrs. Esko Lasko of Ontario. Bottom, James Alden, left and Robert Alden right hoist the American flag at the start of the ceremonies.

Sun staff photo by Dick Oliver



LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE WILL LIVE AGAIN
...as Chelmsford second-graders attend classes there for the first time in 126 years.

Schoolhouse bell to ring again

By **CAROL KOPP**
Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD—The nine-year old students will file into their one-room schoolhouse, line up on severe wooden benches, and recite their lessons dutifully — and correctly, or the schoolmistress will be ready with the duncecap.

Next week, second graders from the Center School will learn about early New England families in the school their own ancestors attended — the newly renovated schoolhouse in Chelmsford Center.

Class reenactments of earlier periods of history are a regular part of the social studies program throughout the town's elementary schools, according to Department Coordinator Charles L. Mitsakos. "Field experience" days bring the students to historic landmarks in the town, including the Garrison House and the Barrett-Byam Homestead.

The trip to the schoolhouse is expected to lend a note of authenticity to the students' lessons on the lifestyles of earlier eras. Among the customs to be observed is an old-fashioned

bow to the teacher as she enters the classroom: in this case, elementary teachers Paula Leavett, Ruth Ann Stuart, Jane Washburn and Janet Katter.

Enough "primers" and writing slates have been collected to issue each child the proper educational tools, Leavett said. Teaching methods will revert back to the spelling bee.

But the aim of the program is totally modern: the teachers hope to show their pupils how the American family has "retained its cultural continuity while going through changes in family roles," Dr. Mitsakos said.

Another point already well made in trips to other Chelmsford historic sites is "the notion of community involvement" in the education of its children," Mitsakos said. Like the Garrison House and the Barrett-Byam Museum, the old schoolhouse is primarily a volunteer community effort.

The children will be the first to attend school in the building since about 1850, according to Audrey Carragher, chairman of the town Historic Commission and the committee that guided restoration of the schoolhouse.

The restoration began after voters approved a motion at the 1974 annual town meeting to raise \$3,000 for putting the "Little Red School House" back in its original state. The project was submitted by the Revolutionary War Bicentennial Celebration Commission.

With that, the town highway department vacated the premises it had long used as storage space for trucks.

With the use of the town-appropriated funds and a matching grant, the building was painted, its roof was replaced and huge doors, built to accommodate the highway trucks, were bricked up. The Chelmsford Society donated an old school bell, and other donations followed. The one-room school now has an authentic period teacher's desk and student benches copied from those at Sturbridge Village. More authentic touches are being sought, according to Carragher.

The renovators duplicated the style of an early 18th century school through the research of local historians, although the original records from construction of the building are lost.



Reliving the past

School for these Chelmsford second-graders wasn't much different yesterday except for the fact that they were following in the footsteps of the second-graders of more than a century ago. The newly-renovated old brick schoolhouse,

situated near the Unitarian Church in Chelmsford Center has become one of the town's most recently-revived historic buildings and will be used to teach students what class was like for their forebears.



Chelmsford
Newsweekly
Dec 9, 1976



STUDENTS from Miss Jane Washburn's second grade class at the Center School learned on Nov. 16 what education was like for Colonial children in Chelmsford. The children are learning about Colonial Times in the newly renovated 1802 School House across from the Chelmsford Common. (Photo by Tec Art)

CHELMSFORD NEWSWEEKLY, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1976



1802 SCHOOL HOUSE



OLD SCHOOLHOUSE RETURNED TO TOWN: After more than 100 years as a storehouse and utility building, the 1802 brick schoolhouse in Forefathers Cemetery has been restored and was presented to the Historical Commission on March 31. Here Richard O. Lahue, Sr., Restoration Committee chairman, presents the keys to the building to J. Perry Richardson, Historical Commission chairman. (Photo by Tec Art Photography)

1082 School House Returned To Town

A two year restoration and preservation project of the Chelmsford Bicentennial Commission came to the end on March 31, when Restoration Committee Chairman Richard O. Lahue, Sr. presented the keys to the new door of the 1802 schoolhouse to J. Perry Richardson, Chairman of the Chelmsford Historical Commission. The Historical Commission will be responsible for the use and maintenance of the historically important building, by direction of the Board of Selectmen.

The restoration was funded by a Town Meeting appropriation and a \$3,000 matching grant under the Bicentennial Community Grants Program of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as well as several private donations.

The building, constructed of brick manufactured in East

Chelmsford, was erected in 1802 on the site of the first Chelmsford schoolhouse (1718) and served pupils of the Center Area until 1851 when it was replaced by the "yellow schoolhouse", which was located where the Central Fire Station stands today. In the 1860's the old school was used to house the Town Hearse and became known as "The Hearse House".

Now, after serving the town as a store-house for over a hundred years, the building has been returned to its original service. In the fall of 1976 several groups of students from the Center School held classes in the restored schoolhouse as they relived the experiences of school children of 150 years ago. The School Department plans to hold similar classes in the future for students from the other schools in the town.



Westford Street • 1802 Brick Schoolhouse (date unknown)



Westford Street - 1802 Brick Schoolhouse



DISTRICT NO. 1
SCHOOL
BUILT IN 1802
BY THE
TOWN OF WESTFORD
MASS.

1802
WESTFORD
MASS.

Westford Street - 1802 Brick Schoolhouse

9/4/2004 F. Merriam



DISTRICT #11
SCHOOL
1802 BRICK SCHOOLHOUSE
1802 BRICK SCHOOLHOUSE
1802 BRICK SCHOOLHOUSE

Westford Street - 1802 Brick Schoolhouse

12/27/2004 F. Merriam



M. FARLIN MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Open Door
Nursery School



2 WESTFORD ST.

Westford Street - 1802 Brick Schoolhouse

12/27/2004 F. Merriam



**Forefathers
Burial
Grounds**

VISITING HOURS 8AM to 5PM
All Ingressors will be Prosecuted



Forefathers
Burial
Grounds
VISITING HOUR: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
All Hours of the Week!

DEPARTMENT OF
HERITAGE
AND
HISTORICAL
PRESERVATION
STATE OF VERMONT

Forefathers
Burying
Ground
1655



Westford Street - 1802 Brick Schoolhouse

12/27/2004 F. Merriam



Westford Street - 1802 Brick Schoolhouse at Forefathers Cemetery

10/18/2008 Don Miffitt