

(Attach photo here)

FORM B - BUILDING SURVEY

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

#201

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 Chelmsford

Street address 15 Adams Street Ave

Name Jonathan Larcom House

Use: original & present Residential

Present owner Harold B. Corson

Open to public no

Date @1850 Style Greek Revivalish

Source of date owner (see attached sheet)

Architect

OR part of Area #

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added new room left of front door - one story
Added after 1875

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Material Granite block

WALL COVER: Wood Clapboards Brick Stone Other

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

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

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed attachments only 1 story

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 PORTICO 2 pillars as support Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front side Ornament Engaged Columns at both ends, lintels over 2 windows
2-story, 3-window bay to right of front door

Entrance: Side Front Center Side Details: There is also a door on either side of ell and either side of shed

Windows: Spacing: Regular Irregular Identical Varied

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards engaged columns

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



6. Footage of structure from street 25
Property has 90 feet frontage on street

Recorder Janet Lombard

For Chelmsford Historical Commission

Photo # _____ Date 1-20 74

SEE REVERSE SIDE

1. Outbuildings no separate outbuildings - attached to main house
2. Landscape Features: Agriculture (Open) Wooded Garden: Formal (Informal)
Predominant features grassed and sloping down to stone wall along street
Landscape architect _____
3. Neighboring Structures
Style: Colonial Federal (Greek Revival) Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.
Venetian Gothic Mansard (Richardsonian) Modern (Post Colonial)
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)

The builder of this house, Jonathan Larcom, was important to the growth of Chelmsford, where he was a well-known carpenter, builder, and architect. His shop was at Putnam's mill, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of his home. A few of his many accomplishments were the Chelmsford Town Hall, the pews in All Saints Episcopal Church, and the extensive remodelling in 1880 of the house at 16 Parkhurst Road (survey #50). One of his sisters, Lucy Larcom, a Lowell mill girl, became a noted poet and writer but probably never lived in the house.

Following Jonathan Larcom's death, the house was sold in 1903 to Mary E. Hardy, whose grandson owns it today.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1856 Walling's County map
1875 Beer's Atlas
Chelmsford Eagle - Jan. 1, 1876, Dec. 12, 1877
Lowell Courier-Citizen - Aug. 19, 1910
Chelmsford Newsweekly - 1955
"Chelmsford Vital Records to 1850"
Waters, "History of Chelmsford, Mass."
Notebook of Miss Frances Andrews

RESTRICTIONS _____

Original Owner: Jonathan Larcom
Deed Information: Book Number 18 Page 399, Middlesex North Registry of Deeds
12/1/1851 Josiah K. Parkhurst to Jonathan Larcom: land only

15 Adams Street

Northern Middlesex Registry of Deeds

North:

Book 1015, pg. 207 9/15/ 1938

Harold B. Corson
from
Mary A. Hardy
1/2 acre

North:

Book 429, pg. 80 2/ 1/ 1907

Mary A. Hardy
from
Mary E. Hardy

North:

Book 358, pg. 193 10/10/ 1903

Mary E Hardy
from
Fred A. Larcom
John J. Harvey
George F. Stiles

North:

Book 347, pg. 475 9/ 6/ 1902

George F. Stiles
John J. Harvey
from
Hattie Byfield (Byfield
and Fred Larcom, heirs of
Jonathan Larcom)

North:

Book 18, pg. 399

South:

Book 675, pg. 266 12/1/ 1851

Jonathan Larcom
from
Josiah K. Parkhurst
(a tract of land).

Jonathan Larcom House
15 Adams Street

Compiled by Jane Drury
6/6/73

1831 map: no

1875 Beers Atlas: Larcom

May 1, 1972 owner: Harold B. Corson

1856 map: Larcom

Waters, pg. 807:

Joel Adams - "His office stood between his house (15 Bartlett St.) and what was later Jonathan Larcom's."

Waters, pg. 737: Forefathers' Cemetery

Jonathan Larcom, born Aug. 3, 1818, died Oct. 24, 1895.
Frank H. Larcom, died July 4, 1878. Age 30 yrs., 7 mos., 10 d.
Benj. F., son of Jona. and Harriet O. Larcom, April 23, 1846. Age 5 mos.

Waters, pg. 397:

"A Mr. Larcom and a Mr. Piper were toll-takers here" (Middlesex Turnpike toll-house at Golden Cove & Billerica Sts.)

Chelmsford Vital Records to 1850:

Births

Larcom, Franklin Hersey, s. Jonathan, carpenter, and Harriet, at Mill Row, Nov. 22, 1847.

Marriages

Larcom, Jonathan, and Harriott Obear, Mar. 30, 1841

Deaths

Larcom, Benjamin F., s. Jonathan and Harriett, pulmonary, Apr. 22, 1846, a. 5 y. (Gravestone record, Forefathers' Cemetery - Apr. 23, a. 5 m.).

Newsweekly (1955); Edgar Parkhurst

"Mr. Parkhurst, a son of the late Edwin King and Octavia (Larcom) Parkhurst, is a member of one of the town's oldest families..... His father was Chelmsford's first station agent and his uncle, Jonathan Larcom, built the present Town Hall. Lucy Larcom, noted poet and writer, was Mr. Parkhurst's aunt and he is now the proud owner of a copy of her book, Childhood Songs, inscribed to him and his sister, the late Wm. H. Hall of Littleton Rd."
Mrs.

Newsweekly (1955): Edgar Parkhurst

"Mr. Parkhurst, a son of the late Edwin King and Octavia (Larcom) Parkhurst, is a member of one of the town's oldest families..... His father was ~~one~~ Chelmsford's first station agent and his uncle, Jonathan Larcom, built the present Town Hall. Lucy Larcom, noted poet and writer, was Mr. Parkhurst's aunt and he is now the proud owner of a copy of her book, Childhood Songs, inscribed to him and his sister, Mrs. Wm. H. Hall of Littleton Rd."

Lowell Weekly Journal

April 21, 1893 - Of the five brothers and sisters, now living, of the sweet New England singer, the late Lucy Larcom, two have long been among the most highly esteemed and respected residents of this town, Mr. Jonathan Larcom, 75 years of age, and Mrs. Octavia L., wife of Mr. E.K. Parkhurst, and the youngest of the original family of eight, as indicated by her given name. In point of age she is next to Lucy, and, like her, she too had her experience in mill life in Lowell contemporaneously with her sister. In speaking of some of this gifted woman's traits, Mrs. Parkhurst says that she was a very pious child, being able to read her Bible with ease at the age of four years, a period when most little ones scarcely have begun their struggles with the alphabet. Not the least prominent of her characteristics was her fondness for children. That the poetic gift of the family was not confined to Lucy, may be inferred from her declaration that had her sister Emeline (Mrs. Spaulding, who died in California in July, 1892) cultivated this talent, which was hers in a large measure, she would have taken higher rank than her more famous sister. That Mrs. Spaulding was a gifted woman and the possessor of most winning traits of character is the universal testimony of those who best knew her.

The other surviving children of the family are Benjamin Larcom, over 80 years of age, and Lydia, wife of Hon. John I. Baker, of Beverley, and Mrs. Abby Haskell, Newburyport, all esteemed and honored in their respected communities.

Aug. 18, 1893 - Mrs. Jonathan Larcom was returning to her home Monday night from an observation of the Byfield fire, she fell down a steep bank in the darkness, and she was for a time unconscious; she was severely bruised but fortunately escaped more serious injuries.

Nov. 1, 1895 - Jonathan Larcom of Chelmsford died at his home on South street Thursday afternoon, 24th, at 5 o'clock, aged 77 years. He had been in declining health for the past two years but the immediate cause of death was a severe bronchial attack a few days prior to his decease. Mr. Larcom was born in Beverly but came to Chelmsford nearly 60 years ago, and learned the occupation of carpenter with Benjamin I. Ober, the father of Miss Harriet Ober, who afterwards became his wife. He was a brother of Miss Lucy Larcom, the poet. Deceased was a man of unpretentious ways, industrious habits, of sterling integrity of character, and universally respected and esteemed. It can safely be said that Jonathan Larcom had no enemies so kindly dispositioned was he and blessed with an abundance of that charity "which doth not behave itself unseemly, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil." Mr. Larcom leaves a widow and two children, Fred A. Larcom of Waltham and Mrs. John Byfield of Chelmsford. Of his eight brothers and sisters, but two of the former survive and one sister, Mrs. Edwin K. Parkhurst of Chelmsford.

15 Adams Ave.

Lowell Weekly Journal

Nov. 15, 1895 - J.B. Wiggin and family, formerly of this town, will soon return and occupy the Larcom house on South street.

July 10, 1896 - The Larcom house on South street is now occupied by W.H Mason and family of Lowell.

March 26, 1897 - Extensive repairs are in progress on the Larcom house on South street, preparatory to its occupancy by Mr. John Byfield and family.

Oct. 7, 1898 - Mrs. Harriet O. Larcom of Chelmsford, widow of Jonathan Larcom, died Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock at her home in South street, aged 82 years. She had been ill but a few days and the cause of death was fatty degeneration of the heart. Mrs. Larcom was a native and life-long resident of the town and the daughter of Benjamin I. Ober. She was a woman of kindly disposition who made the home circle her sphere of duty. She leaves a daughter, Mrs. John Byfield, of Chelmsford, with whom in her later years she made her home, and a son, Fred A. Larcom, of Waltham. She is also survived by two sisters, Mrs. Sarah Drew of Westford, the other a resident of Vermont. Funeral from her late home, Saturday afternoon at two o'clock.

Lowell Daily Courier

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 1903 - Mrs. Hardy having sold her residence on South Street has bought the property on the same street known as the Larcom place and now occupied by Mr. George P. Haley.

Lowell Daily Courier

Real Estate Transactions

Sept. 21, 1903 Mary E. Hardy to Charles H. Greenleaf land with buildings Boston Road \$1

Fred A. Larcom et al to Mary E. Hardy land with buildings Byam Road \$1

Sept. 21, 1903 - Mr. C. H. Greenleaf is to change his residence from Acton Street to the Hardy homestead in South Street opposite the Adams Library.

Lowell Courier-Citizen

Aug. 19, 1910 - The death of Mrs. Mary Hardy, the widow of the late James Hardy, removes from the town one of its oldest residents.

Mrs. Hardy was born in South Chelmsford 85 years ago. She married James Hardy and for many years lived in Lowell, moving to Chelmsford in 1893. The deceased was a member of the Central Congregational church and always retained a deep interest in its welfare.

For many years Mrs. Hardy had been in failing health but up to within a short time had taken an active interest in the affairs of the day. Besides two daughters, Miss Minnie Hardy and Mrs. Eva Corson, Mrs. Hardy left two brothers, a sister, Miss Sabrina Bancroft, and two grandchildren, Mrs. Roy Loring of Moultonville, N.H. and Harold Corson, who has made his home with his grandmother. The funeral will be held at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon from the family home on South street.

Nov. 2, 1910 - Charles E. Parkhurst is to occupy the Hardy house on South street during the winter, and moved in on Tuesday of this week.

July 31, 1911 - Rev. and Mrs. E.A. Rodman who have living at the Fletcher house on Centre street are to move into the Hardy house on the Boston road this week.

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.

Oct. 23, 1916 - In attempting to avert a collision shortly after 11 o'clock Saturday forenoon, a motorcycle ridden by Harold B. Corson struck an automobile near the Centre railroad crossing. The body of the automobile was dented and the mudguard damaged by the impact, while the forks on the motorcycle were bent. A quick application of the brakes by the driver of the automobile when the danger of a collision was apparent brought the machine to a stop so suddenly that Corson, who swung to the left to leave the roadway clear, was unable to avoid striking the car.



9/10/2004 F. Merriam