

FORM B – BUILDING

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

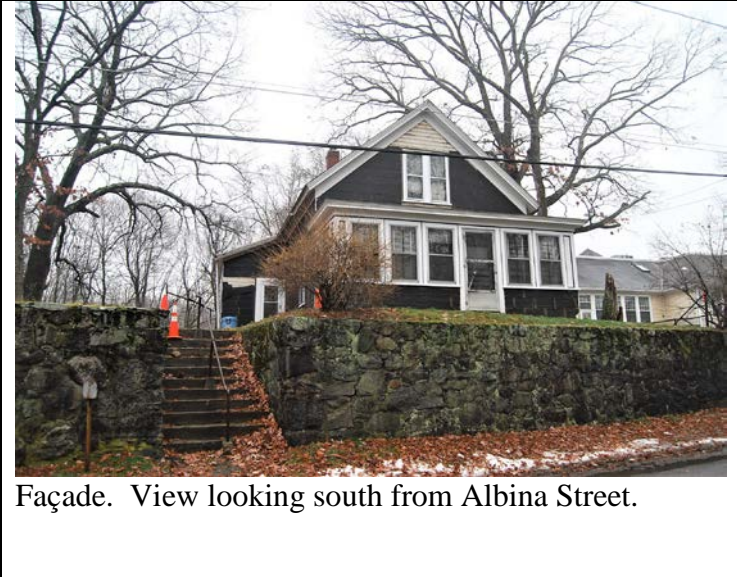
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 20 Albina Street

Historic Name: Bernard and Sarah McLaughlin House

Uses: Present: Single-family residence

Original: Single-family residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1922

Source: Deed

Style/Form: No style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, uncut

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard / Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Asbestos shingles applied over clapboard (Mid-20th C; removed 2018)

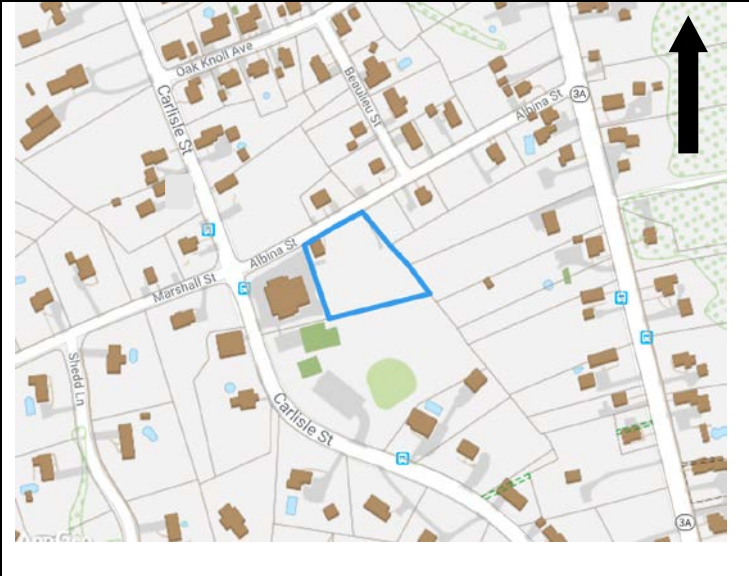
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.96

Setting: Located on a wooded suburban street. Single-family residences constructed during the first quarter of the 20th century through the mid-20th century are located to the north and east. An early 20th century school is located immediately to the west.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Consultant

Date: November 26, 2018

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

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

20 Albina Street is a 1 ½-story frame dwelling that rests on a fieldstone foundation. A large (approximately 8 feet high) fieldstone retaining wall extends the width of the lot frontage. Poured concrete steps with a pipe railing lead from the street to the east elevation of the house. The house is covered with novelty clapboard siding; asbestos siding was recently removed (tarpaper remains). The building measures 22 feet wide and 30 feet deep. The front-gabled roof has overhanging eaves; flushboards enclose the eaves. A wide fascia board encircles the building. A slender brick chimney rises from the east roof slope. 2-over-2 wood sash windows with external metal-frame storm windows are located throughout the house. The façade (north) elevation contains a pair of windows centered in the half story; a hipped-roof enclosed porch extends along the width of the façade. The porch is two bays deep (8 feet) and six bays wide. A paneled wood door with a light in the top half is located in the porch elevation. The door contains two rows of smaller rectangles and two rows of larger rectangles. (N.B. the doors are identical to those located at 86 School Street and 14 Parker Road.) A mid-20th-century aluminum storm door with a stylized tendril and bird motif is located atop the wood door.

The west elevation contains three bays; a square, fixed-light window is centered on the elevation. This Queen Anne-style window contains a square center light surrounded by small rectangular and square lights. The south elevation contains a pair of windows centered in the half story above two window bays at the first story. A shed-roof enclosure with a vertical-board door leads to the basement level. At the basement level are rectangular two-light and three-light windows with wood frames.

An enclosed porch measuring 11 feet by 6 feet is located at the southeast corner of the house and is flush with the south elevation. The porch has a shed roof and rests on a fieldstone foundation; the foundation is distinct from that of the main house, indicating that the porch was added at a later date. The porch is covered with novelty siding and contains a 2/2 wood frame window, a 6/6 wood frame window, and a 6/1 wood frame window. A metal storm door is located in the north elevation.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Albina Street was likely named for H. [Hannah] Albina Manning (ca. 1849-after 1910), who owned the property in the early 20th century. According to the 1880 census, H. Albina Manning, unmarried, had lived nearby on Carlisle Street with her parents, Theophilus and Hannah Shedd Manning.¹ The census notes that Theophilus Manning worked as a farmer. After her father's death, the property, which included the land that would become Albina Street, passed to H. Albina's brother, Walter T. Manning. In 1907, Walter T. Manning sold a portion of that land to H. Albina Manning.² By 1910, H. Albina Manning and her mother, Hannah, were living in Salem, Massachusetts.

In 1916, H. Albina Manning subdivided the property and sold lots for development. The proposed Albina Street was included on a subdivision plan for the property.³ The house at 20 Albina Street was likely constructed circa 1922. In that year, Bernard (1881-1945)⁴ and Sarah McLaughlin (1877-1965)⁵ purchased this lot of land on the proposed Albina Street.⁶ Bernard

¹ The 1889 Walker Map shows the location of the "T. Manning" house on what appears to be Carlisle Street.

² Middlesex North Deed Book 408, p. 376.

³ 1916 "Plan of Land in East Chelmsford, Mass. Belonging to H. Albina Manning... Surveyed by F.W. Huntington and Co., C.E., Additions 1917 by Smith and Brooks, C.E. Lowell, Mass." Recorded in Plan Book 34, Plan 83.

⁴ Findagrave.com Memorial #81562660.

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McLaughlin worked as a janitor at a public school.⁷ In 1924, Bernard and Sarah McLaughlin sold the lot and a house to Boleslaw and Theodora (Dora) Balkum of Lowell.⁸ The 1925 city directory includes William and Dora Balkum as residents of Albina Street.⁹ At that time, William Balkum was employed as a “shoe worker.”

By 1935, James Balkum (1914-1966)¹⁰ lived at 20 Albina Street with his wife Antoinette (or Annette) (ca. 1915-). At the time of the 1940 census, James Balkum was working as a laborer at a woolen mill; Antoinette Balkum was working as a “winder,” likely also at a mill. In 1946, James Balkum sold the house and property to Gardner and Irene Spaulding.¹¹

In 1955, Irene Spaulding Broadbent sold 20 Albina Street to Anthony and Marjorie E. Sousa.¹² Anthony Sousa (1922-2013) had married his wife, Marjorie (1924-1985), in 1948. At the time of the purchase, Anthony Sousa worked as a comber, likely in a textile mill.¹³ Anthony Sousa was a longtime resident of Chelmsford and was graduated from Chelmsford High School. Sousa served aboard the U.S.S. New Jersey during World War II. Sousa worked for many years as a truck driver and laborer for the Chelmsford Highway Department and retired in 1986.¹⁴ The Sousa estate sold the property in 2016.¹⁵

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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⁵ Findagrave.com Memorial #136037499.

⁶ Middlesex North Deed Book 667, p. 126.

⁷ United States Census, 1930. Ancestry.com.

⁸ Middlesex North Deed Book 711, p. 220.

⁹ Henry M. Meek, *The Lowell Suburban Directory of Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro and Westford.* Salem, Mass. 1925-1926. <https://archive.org/details/lowellsuburbandi1925henr/page/178>.

¹⁰ United States Social Security Death Index, Ancestry.com.

¹¹ Middlesex North Deed Book 1044, p. 264.

¹² Middlesex North Deed Book 1282, p. 466.

¹³ Chelmsford Registrars of Voters. 1955. Archive.org. <https://archive.org/details/listofmenwomenal1955chel>.

¹⁴ Findagrave.com Memorial #154120445.

¹⁵ Middlesex North Deed Book 30466, p. 14.

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Stairs to Albina Street.



Door on façade.

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Storm door.



Siding detail.

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North and west elevations. View looking southeast.



West and south elevations. View looking northeast.

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Door to basement level. South elevation.



South and east elevations. View looking northwest.