

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

35/157/1

Westford

Photograph



MA_Chelmsford_48_Davis_Rd_201909G_CHC_2023

Locus Map

See Attached

Town/City: Chelmsford

Place: *North Chelmsford*

Address: 48 Davis road

Historic Name: Albert H. Davis House

Uses: Present:

Original:

Date of Construction: 1907

Source: Deeds, Taxes and Resident Lists

Style/Form: Bungalow

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: field stone

Wall/Trim: wood

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Barn

Major Alterations (with dates): unavailable

Condition:

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .92 acres

Setting: Set away, slightly above a busy 2 lane cross road of mixed age and designed houses.

Recorded by: Linda V. Prescott

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date: June 2023

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TOWN

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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 This 34' x 40' single story bungalow is about 67' from the street and faces east. The roof is hipped shaped. The north, east and west facades have 2 window dormers center in the middle of the roof, windows are half the height of the first floor, all dormers have hip roofs. The dormer on the south side is 3 windows wide. All windows are 1/1, with mullion inserts in the top half. The roof has wide eaves with exposed rafter tails and has a wide flat belt wrapping around the house above the windows. The house sits on a fieldstone foundation.

The east façade has 4 cement stairs leading to the front door replacement with 4 vertical side glass panes on the top half and a flat wood panel on the bottom half. On the south side of the door is flat triple window. The side windows are narrower than the center window. The window starts from about 12" from the corner to about 18" from the door and are quite long. To the west of the door the stone foundation extends to about half the height of the exterior wall creating an enclosed porch. There are 4 casement windows inset in a wide flat frame. The window extends from about 6" from the door to the corner of the wall.

On the south façade about 20' front the north corner is an 18"x5" ell, single story with a hipped roof, directly under the dormer. The north side of the ell has a 6"x6" porch with a single column on the porch corner and a pair of casement windows on the main wall of the house. The southern part of the ell is enclosed with a window in the middle of the wall.

The west façade has a single window placed about 4" from the south corner. Looking to the north about 3" away is a pair of windows and about 18" north of the window is a single window.

The north façade starting with the easterly edge of the building is the enclosed porch with the windows from the corner 9' to the main body of the house About 2' front the porch windows is a 3 window full, bracket supported bay. The bay is 2.83" x 6". The bottom half of the bay is clapboard clad. South of the bay are a pair of windows.

The 576 square foot, 2 car garage is about 36' behind the house. It too has a hipped roof, corner posts topped with brackets. The 2 car garage door spans 3/4s of the garage width, leaving room for a replacement door with 2 vertical inset panels on the bottom and 9 pane glass window on the top.

The south façade has 4 evenly spaced windows. From the east corner to the west is a pair of 1/1s and the 2 equally spaced 12"x12" windows. The west side of the building has a window at each end. The north side again has a pair of windows and 2 smaller windows. The building has a small cupola on the peak. The building maybe the barn mentioned in the deeds.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In 1863, Chelmsford native and farmer, Henry P. Davis purchased about 62.75 acres (more or less) of farm land consisting of 3 parcels of land from John Reed, Joseph Reed and Clarria (?) Reed.(1) According to 1880 Federal Farm Census(2), Henry's farm where he raised his 4 children was very productive.(3.) On February 27, 1909, Henry died of old age at the age of 80 years leaving his farm to his 4 children (4) and on August 27, 1909, Albert H. Davis formally acquired all of the farm land from his siblings.(5)

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It was around this time, local real estate taxes indicate Albert built his home on the cross road between Westford Road at Schoolhouse, where he and his wife Ellen lived until 1921. (6) In her obit published in the Lowell Sun, Feb. 13, 1939, pg. 52, Ellen was a very active member of the Unitarian Church, dying at the age of 92. According to Albert's Masonic Membership Card, he died on Jan 1, 1944.

On May 28, 1921, Yngve and Olea Rosendale purchased the 3 acre lot the house sits on. (7) On Oct. 7, 1904, Yngve Nudius Rosendal, left Sweden his home, at the age of 19 aboard the "Calypso" with his family for Boston.(8) According to the 1910 Federal Census, the family made their way to Concord, New Hampshire where Yngve and his 2 sisters worked to support the family. Somewhere Yngve met the love of his life, Olea Kristofferson of Lynn. Olea's family had immigrated from Norway. They married in June 1919 and after a honeymoon to Niagara Falls and New York City, they took up residence in Lowell.(9) While living in Lowell they started their family, 2 boys and Yngve worked as a painter, first for the railroad and later for a contractor.(10) The Lowell Sun had printed several articles indicating the Rosendales were very involved with the Greater Lowell Swedish Community. Lowell has always been a city of immigrants, starting with the Irish who dug the cities canals, the Swedes and Norwegians who came to work the granite quarries and numerous others who took their turns working the cotton and wool mills of the area over time. Although Yngve and Olea become naturalized citizens by 1930 (11), they kept in touch with their ethnic past, they attended a Swedish church in Lowell, Yngve and Olea joined the Wallhalla Lodge 125 of America and the Scandinavian Fraternity of America. (12) When World War II called for enlistments, both of the Rosendale sons enlisted in the Army(13) even Yngue registered for the draft at the age of 57.(14) With family still in Norway and Sweden, those must have been a time of great concern. In August of 1960, the Rosendales sold the house, making them the longest homeowners, Yngve and Olea moved to Middlesex Street in Lowell. The Lowell Sun published Yngve's obit stating he had spent the last 25 years of his working life at the Southwell Combing Company in North Chelmsford.(15) Olea passed away in August 1972.

Since their passing, the house has changed hands several times.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1. North Middlesex Registry of deeds, BK 164/448
2. 1880 Federal non-Populated Census, pg. 2/3
3. 1880 Federal Census, Ancestry
4. Massachusetts death Records, Ancestry
5. North Middlesex Registry of Deeds, Bk 411/56
6. Chelmsford Real Estate Tax Records, 1907, pg. 24/14
7. North Middlesex Registry of Deeds, BK 643/296
8. Swedish Emigration records 1783-1951, Ancestry
9. Lowell Sun, July 1, 1919, NewspaperArchive.com
10. Federal Census 1930, 1940, Ancestry
11. 1930 Federal Census, Ancestry
12. Lowell Sun, Feb. 11, 1942, May 16, 1941
13. Lowell Sun, July 10, 1943, "They Give Their Blood For Heroes"
14. U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, Ancestry
15. Lowell Sun, July 27, 1973, NewspaperArchive.com
Fred Merriam, photographer

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Town of Chelmsford GIS Map



Albert Davis, date unknown, Ancestry.com

