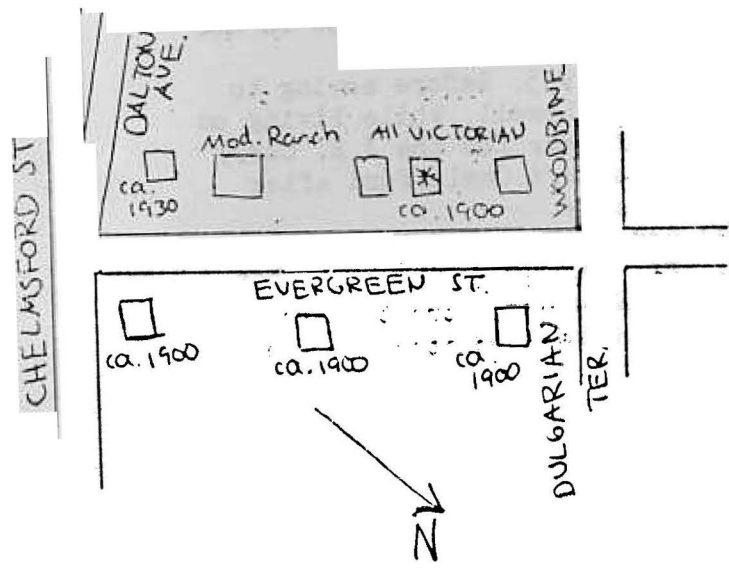




in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

1. Town Chelmsford
Address 14 Evergreen St.
Name John Knowlton House
Present use Residence

Present owner Ruth Delaney

3. Description
Date 1898

Source Tax Records, Deeds

Style Victorian

Architect John K. Knowlton

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features _____

Altered See Attached Date _____

Moved No Date _____

5. Lot size: 10,000 sq. ft.
One acre or less * Over one acre

Approximate frontage _____

Approximate distance of building from street
ca 19 ft.

6. Recorded by Meredith Yaucko es

Organization Chelmsford Hist. Comm.

Date June 22, 1992

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) John K. Knowlton

Original use Residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8 Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____*_*_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Three families have owned the house located on 14 Evergreen Street. Henry and Estella Perham first sold the Westland lot to John and Lavinia Knowlton in the February of 1897. Before building his house in Chelmsford, Mr. Knowlton and his wife lived in Lowell. Mr. Knowlton was a Civil War Veteran and also a co-founder of the Eastman & Knowlton Carpenters, Contractors, and Builders Co. located in Lowell. John Knowlton was a successful carpenter who built his own home at 14 Evergreen Street in 1898. Several neighbors' houses were also built by Mr. Knowlton. John Knowlton died of a number of ailments at the age of 91 on August 2, 1940. Lavinia died nearly ten years later on March 3, 1950 in her home on Evergreen Street. She lived to be 89 years old.

The Burke family purchased the house in 1955. Before moving to Chelmsford, William and Eileen Burke lived in Lowell. While living on Evergreen Street, William worked as a steamfitter for the J.E. Curry Company, Eileen was a housewife. The Burkes left Chelmsford after they sold the house to William and Ruth Delaney.

Mr. Delaney was a veteran of WWII and Korea. Later, he worked as an aircraft maintenance supervisor. Mr. Delaney died in October of 1986. Presently, Ruth Delaney lives on Evergreen Street. She works as an assessor, and she is also the Housing Trustee for the Garrison House in Chelmsford.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

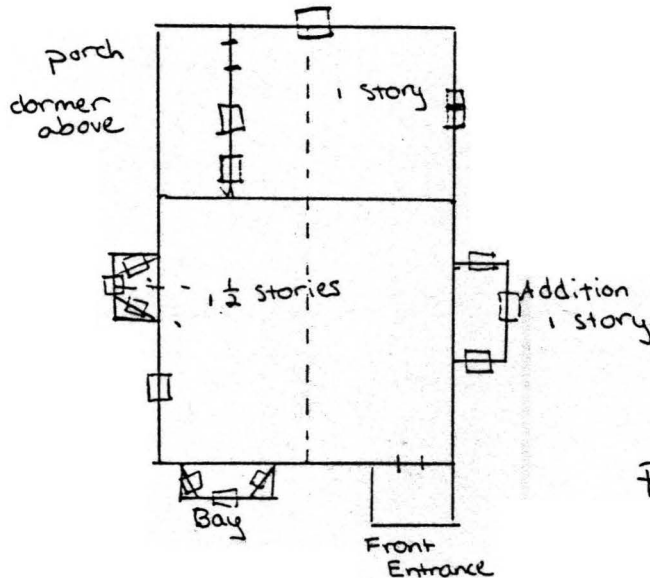
M. No. D. R. Deeds: Bk.1302 & 283
Tax/Land Valuation Records
Vital Records; Assessors' Records and Revaluation Card
Index to Deaths; 1940, 1950
Chelmsford Street Directories 1896, 1922, 1951
Pollard Library; Lowell Street Directories; 1949, 1892
Lowell Sun Newspaper Obituaries; 8/3/1940, 3/4/1950
Mrs. Ruth Delaney
Map of Henry S. Perham's April 1896 of Westlands
Plan Book 11, Plan 49

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
Property Name:	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below



Revaluation Card

- Early 1900's One story addition built on middle of right side of house
- 1950's Original side door located on right side near back of house removed
Door replaced by two 2/2 windows
- Late 1950's Original front wooden porch, steps, and posts replaced by concrete floor and steps
Original back porch, steps, posts, and guard rail replaced by concrete floor, steps, and metal and guard rail and posts
Wooden bulkhead with stone steps located at back of house was replaced by black metal bulkhead with concrete steps
- Foundation covered over by cement layer
- Early 1950's Newer 2/2 windows at right rear of house was replaced by 1/1 windows

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

14 Evergreen Street
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

Bk. 302, pg. 499	8/1/1955	William H. & Eileen B. Burke to William E. & Ruth K. Delaney land and buildings: west side Evergreen Street: Lots 48 & 68
Bk. 141, pg. 494	6/2/1950	Estate of Lavinia J. Knowlton to William H. & Eileen B. Burke \$5500 land and buildings: west side Evergreen Street: Lots 48 & 68
Bk. 353 pg. 166	4/4/1903	Henry S. & Estella S. Perham to John K. & Lavinia J. Knowlton land and buildings: west side Evergreen Street building restrictions through 1916
Bk. 283, pg. 233	2/10/1897	Henry S. & Estella S. Perham to John K. & Lavinia J. Knowlton land and buildings: west side Evergreen Street: Lot 48 - April, 1898 by Smith and Brooke Plan

Historical Significance - 4 Evergreen Street

Three families have owned the house located on 14 Evergreen Street. Henry and Estella Perham first sold the Westland lot to John and Lavinia Knowlton in the February of 1897. Before building his house in Chelmsford, Mr. Knowlton and his wife lived at 8 Read Street in Lowell. Born in Unity, Maine, John Knowlton was the son of Zina and Betsey Knowlton. Later, he was a Civil War Veteran and also a co-founder of the Eastman & Knowlton Carpenters, Contractors, and Builders Co. located at 37 Myrtle Street in Lowell. John Knowlton was a successful carpenter who built his own home at 4 Evergreen Street in 1898. Several neighbors' houses were also built by Mr. Knowlton.

Lavinia Knowlton, a housewife, was born in Maine as well. Little is known about her childhood. However, her maiden name was Harding and her mother's former name was Johnson. There is no evidence that Lavinia and her husband had children. John Knowlton died of a number of ailments at the age of 91 on August 2, 1940. Lavinia died nearly ten years later on March 3, 1950 in her home on Evergreen Street. She lived to be 89 years old.

The Burke family purchased the house in 1955. Before moving to Chelmsford, William and Eileen Burke lived on 42 Howard Road in Lowell. While living on Evergreen Street, William worked as a steamfitter for the J.E. Curry Company, and Eileen was a housewife. William was born in 1920 and Eileen was born in 1922. The Burkes left Chelmsford after they sold the house to William and Ruth Delaney in 1955.

The Delaneys had three children. William Delaney was a war veteran. Between 1935 and 1938 he trained with the U.S. Cavalry. William also fought in WWII and in the Korean War. Later, he worked as an aircraft maintenance supervisor. Mr. Delaney died in October of 1986. Presently, Ruth Delaney lives on Evergreen Street. She works as an assessor for St. Mary's Church in Chelmsford. Mrs. Delaney is also the Housing Trustee for the historical Garrison House.



FILE PHOTO

Ruth Delaney stands in front of the new elderly housing project behind the Senior Center, where a main road was named Delaney Terrace.

Honoring 'Mother Ruth'

By Sharon Flaherty Weitz
Staff Writer

Ruth Delaney will be remembered in many ways — as a mother, friend, neighbor, mentor and town activist. But to those who knew her best, she will be remembered especially as a woman who made a difference.

"Ruth was terrific," said Town Clerk Mary St. Hilaire. "She was a straight shooter; you always knew where you stood with her. Ruth was a dear friend of mine, going back more than 30 years. She lived her life to the fullest."

"Ruth was both soft-spoken and out-spoken," recalled former selectman Richard DeFreitas, who

grew up near Delaney's home in the Westlands section of Chelmsford. "If you needed her, she was always ready to listen and to help, but she was tough. She wasn't afraid of a fight. Single-handedly, Ruth Delaney forced the DeMoulas Corporation to dig up a parking lot they had paved on property that was zoned residential. At that time, Telemachus DeMoulas was quoted as saying 'I've defeated everyone, but I could never beat Ruth Delaney.'"

Delaney, 75, a 20-year member of the Chelmsford Housing Authority, died unexpectedly last Wednesday after her car was broadsided at the inter-

See **RUTH**, page 12

Independent 2/2/95

Tributes flow for Ruth Delaney

RUTH, from page 1
section of Chelmsford Street and Golden Cove Road. Delaney was on her way to work at St. Mary's Church rectory when the afternoon accident occurred. The driver of the second vehicle, 35-year-old Diane Krohn, of 7 Starlight Ave., Chelmsford, was charged with running a red light and motor vehicle homicide (misdemeanor), police said. Delaney was not wearing a seat belt and was thrown from her car as it spun out of control in the intersection, police said.

"We want it known that we consider it to have been an accident," said Delaney's daughter, Betty, who is Chelmsford's assistant town clerk. "My mother would not want us to remain upset or carry any bad feelings. We want Diane and everyone to realize that my brothers and I know it was an accident. My mother lived a good, full life and she enjoyed every moment. We are celebrating her life and not focusing on her death. We are not bitter."

Betty Delaney said she and her two brothers — Jim, who lives in South Carolina, and Billy, of Atkinson, N.H. — are grateful for the legacy their mother has left for Chelmsford.

"We are very proud of her accomplishments. We will always be reminded of her contributions to the town, from the elderly housing at Delaney Terrace, McFarlin Manor and the Chelmsford Arms to the whole Westlands neighborhood," Betty Delaney said. "We were just joking about how we were always known as Ruth's children, then in recent years people would say to my mother 'Oh, you're Betty's mother or

Jim's mother.' At the end, we became Ruth's children again. We have come full circle."

Ruth Delaney's children were touched by the outpouring of compassion and affection at the Saturday morning funeral. Hundreds of friends and relatives filled St. Mary's Church sharing memories of the woman many called 'Mother Ruth.'

"It was nice to know so many people cared," Betty Delaney said. "Even some of the tenants from the elderly housing complexes came. One woman came to me and said 'I never met your mother, but I thank her for my home.'"

"Ruth Delaney was the Rose Kennedy of Chelmsford," said Thomas Moran, recalling the days when he first became a Town Meeting representative and would call Delaney for advice and guidance. "She was never too busy for me. When Ruth Delaney stood up at Town Meeting, the vote would turn in her favor. But she would never use that power in a bad way."

DeFreitas remembered how the usually boisterous Town Meeting attendees would quiet as Delaney walked to the microphone. "There was total silence. The last time she stood before Town Meeting, she told representatives that as long as the owners of the Chelmsford Mall did the work they promised to do, then she was not against their request. That article passed, but if she had spoken against it, it would have gone down in flames."

Delaney was one of the principal backers of the Groton Road Senior Center in North Chelmsford. The main street into the elderly housing complex, Delaney Terrace, is named

after her. Housing Authority members sought special dispensation from the state to name the street after her, as that honor was traditionally reserved for the deceased.

"When (Housing Authority member) Bill Keohane told her it was named Delaney Terrace, Ruth said 'You can't do that, I'm not dead,'" said Authority member Lynn Marcella. "But it became her pride and joy. Ruth inspired people to help others and to become involved. She was the leader of our group — that's why we called her Mother Ruth. When Delaney Terrace was being built five years ago, she was 70 years old and she was out there week after week wearing her hard hat and walking through the mud in her boots. She never seemed to run out of energy."

In addition to her years on the Housing Authority, Delaney was a former elected assessor, Town Meeting representative, member of the Democratic Town Committee, delegate to Democratic State conventions and a tireless campaign worker for many elected officials.

Former selectman Dennis Ready called Delaney the "champion of the little people."

Recalling the one occasion on which he sought Delaney's wise counsel at 8:30 in the morning, DeFreitas said "She listened to me and advised me and then she told me never to call her before noon time again," he laughed.

At Delaney's funeral service, friends recalled her quick wit and quiet thunder. "There is no doubt, 'Mother Ruth' has already told the Almighty, 'I don't do meetings before noon,'" Keohane said.



14 Evergreen Street

8/8/2004 F. Merriam