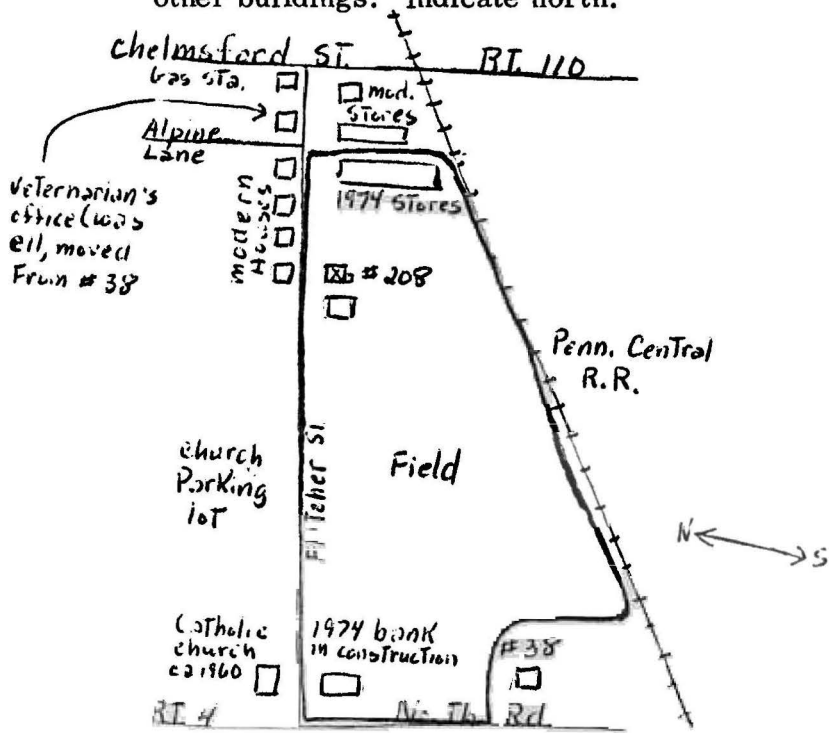


MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 8 - 13A

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



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

— Future shopping center

1. Town Chelmsford
Address 22 Fletcher Street
Name Charles Proctor House
Present use unoccupied residence

Present owner Bradford Emerson et al

3. Description:
Date Between 1831 & 1843
Source See Attached sheet

Style _____

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric butted clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features _____

Altered See attached sh. Date _____

Moved See attached sh. Date Dec. 1915

5. Lot size:
One acre or less X Over one acre _____
Approximate frontage 60 ft.
Approximate distance of building from street
30 ft.

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury
Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission
Date March 3, 1974

(over)

7 Original owner (if known) Jonas R. Proctor

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates residence

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	Conservation	Recreation
Agricultural	Education	Religion
Architectural	Exploration/ settlement	Science/ invention
The Arts	Industry <u>X</u>	Social/ humanitarian
Commerce	Military	Transportation
Communication	Political	
Community development <u>X</u>		

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

See attached sheet

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

Middlesex North District deeds, Book 11, pg. 220 & Book 15, pg. 370

1831 map

1856 Walling's County map

1875 Beer's Atlas

"Chelmsford Vital Statistics to 1850"

Waters, "History of Chelmsford"

Lowell Courier-Citizen: Dec. 1915, Jan. 1916, April 1916

"The Spalding Memorial: A Genealogical History of Edward Spalding", by Charles W. Spalding, 1897. 3/73

Charles Proctor House
22 Fletcher Street

Date source:

Deed book 11, pg. 220 6/25/1822 Roxana Hastings to Jonas R. Proctor,
garden plot.

Map of 1831 - no building

Waters, pg. 743 - Jonas R. Proctor died July 2, 1843.

Deed book 15, pg. 370 7/20/1844 Estate Jonas R. Proctor

Moved: From Central Square by Beaver Brook, in the center of town.

Dec. 28 - 30, 1915 The main house was moved to Fletcher St. by James
P. Emerson (survey #38)

Jan. 7, 1915⁶ The ell was moved by 4 horses to Fletcher St. in 1
morning with the help of sled runners beneath it.

Altered:

Remains of a chimney can be seen in the cellar in the middle of the
left wall. A very simple closed fireplace is in the room above, and
there never have been any fireplaces on the third floor, as the chimney
there is very small. It does not now extend through the roof.

The plumbing was installed after 1934. The present small chimney
(interior, right, rear) comes down through a closet on the 2nd floor
and ends in the bathroom (1st floor) about 6 ft. above the floor. A
kitchen stove flue enters it at this point. Hot air registers are in
the floors, but there is now no furnace.

Historical significance:

The house has been owned by only 2 families: the Proctors until 1898,
and the Emersons to the present time. In 1816 Jonas Proctor, a wheel-
wright, bought land for his shop over Beaver Brook in the center of
town. His sons Charles and Alfred were also wheelwrights. In 1822 he
bought land next door, where he built the house sometime between 1831
& 1843. In 1838 Charles married his first wife Genett, and perhaps it
was built for them at this time; Charles did live in it for many years.
A portion of a prose poem by J. Roland Parkhurst (survey #50), read in
1916, best describes Charles: "Among the grand old-timers who respond to
memory's call, our wheel-wright, Mr. Proctor, comes forward first of all.
A good & sterling citizen, he helped the town to grow; big-hearted, kind
& generous, a man one ought to know. His work was always thorough,
whate'er he undertook; his shop, a modest structure, was built above
the brook. And here he worked from day to day, was busy every hour; the
waters of the running brook supplied him well with power. Around his
door were oaken logs, farm wagons old and new, some being freshly
painted with the fashionable blue. I can hear his cordial greeting,
see the cheerful smile he wore in his shop, where white oak shavings
were strewn around the floor. He fashioned spokes and felloes with skill-
ful practiced hands, and his neighbor, Blacksmith Dadman (#89), supplied
the iron bands. Those neighbors worked together as neighbors always
should; one hammered out the iron, the other hewed the wood. And thus
their work ran smoothly from day to day until some hopeless wreck was
brought to tax their patience and their skill. I have heard their
conversation as they diagnosed a case, & have noted the expression on
each sympathetic face; then they like true mechanics & masters of their
craft, starlightened out the crooked axle & reduced the fractured shaft.

He labored for the farmers, their prosperity they shared, he built their sleds & wagons and their ruins he repaired. And while they kept him busy with their wants and their desires, he rang the bell on Sundays, swept the church & built the fires. Then when our worthy doctors failed to cure our pains and aches, we summoned Mr. Proctor to take care of their mistakes. His shop is now a dwelling and his house is moved away, but the brook keeps on flowing and his memory lives today."

Genett died in 1840, but in 1850 Charles married Harriet Parker. In 1880 Charles died, and in 1898 ~~their daughter~~^{his sister} Julia Spaulding sold the house to James P. Emerson (#38), who moved the house in 1915 to its present site on Fletcher Street, where it was rented out. In 1972 this and 5 other houses were sold to James' grandson, Bradford, who is building a shopping center. This house and the one next to it (24 Fletcher St. - ~~does not appear on the USGS map~~) will be demolished this spring or summer. The twin houses at 18 & 20 Fletcher St. and those at the corner of North & Fletcher Sts. were torn down in 1973. The last tenant at 22 Fletcher St. moved out Jan. 1974.

Charles Proctor House

22 Fletcher St.

N.M.D.R.of

North:

Book 15, pg. 370

7/20/1844

Floyer G. Kittridge

from

South:

Book 446, pg. 392

Charles Proctor (Admiral
for the estate of Jonas R.
Proctor)

North:

Book 11, pg. 220

6/25/1822

Jonas R. Proctor

from

South:

Book 243, Pg. 155

Roxana Hastings

(This was land only)

Charles Proctor House

Exerpts from Lowell Courier-Citizen

Dec. 28, 1915 - The Proctor house, next to the postoffice, about to give way for a modern commercial structure, began its journeyings today, being moved out into the street line.

Dec. 29, 1915 - The moving of the Proctor house from its original location next to the postoffice, up the hill in the square and across the Centre railroad crossing was accomplished to day without mishap. The forenoon was devoted to reaching the crown of the hill, and from there across the railroad tracks was easily done before the passenger train due at 3:30 arrived. Because of the storm, work was suspended after placing the building safely beyond the tracks, but tomorrow the journey will continue to the future location in Fletcher street.

Jan. 7, 1916 - The "L" of the Proctor house, left behind when the main building was moved last week, was taken to Fletcher street today. Being lighter, it was much easier handled when it had been moved into the roadway, several sets of sled runners being placed beneath it, four horses attached and before noon it had arrived at its destination.

April 5, 1916 - The men of the Unitarian Society had full sway at the supper and social held in the vestry last evening and right well did they prove that they were good providers and entertainers.....A prose poem written in reminiscent vein by J. Roland Parkhurst, relative to the removal from the centre of the village of the old Charles Proctor House, was read by A.H. Davis.

A CHELMSFORD PROSE POEM. (Read at the Unitarian church sociable, April 5, 1916).

My pet dog "Sam" approaches for his usual evening nap. He knows he's always welcome to a place upon my lap. Now he's settled down and quiet, the lamp is burning low; I am thinking, partly dreaming, of the days of long ago. And I can't begin to tell you of the pleasure that I find, as my boyhood days in Chelmsford are thus brought before my mind.

Among the grand old-timers who respond to memory's call, our wheelwright, Mr. Proctor, comes forward first of all. A good a sterling citizen, he helped the town to grow; big-hearted, kind and generous, a man one ought to know. His work was always thorough, whatever he undertook; his shop, a modest structure, was built above the brook. And here he worked from day to day, was busy every hour; the waters of the running brook supplied him well with power. Around his door were oaken logs, farm wagons old and new, some being freshly painted with the fashionable blue. I can hear his cordial greeting, see the cheerful smile he wore in his shop, where white oak shavings were strewn around the floor. He fashioned spokes and felloes with skillful, practiced hands, and his neighbor, Blacksmith Dadman, supplied the iron bands. Those neighbors worked together as neighbors always should; one hammered out the iron, the other hewed the wood. And thus their work ran smoothly from day to day until some hopeless wreck was brought to tax their patience and their skill. I have heard their conversation as they diagnosed a case, and have noted the expression on each sympathetic face; then they like true mechanics and masters of their craft, straightened out the crooked axle and reduced the fractured shaft. He labored for the farmers, their prosperity they shared, he built their sleds and wagons and their ruins he repaired. And while they kept him busy with their wants and their desires, he rang the bell on Sundays, swept the church and built the fires. Then when our worthy doctors failed to cure the pains and aches, we summoned Mr. Proctor to take care of their mistakes. His shop is now a dwelling and his house is moved away, but the brook still keeps on flowing and his memory lives today. He sleeps with the forefathers, where the elms their branches wave, and here they tell us angels guard the pathways to the grave.

And still my memory lingers, a moment now I stop, and take a look across the road to Mr. Dadman's shop. A youth is bending o'er the brook with fishing line and rod, a patient ox stands waiting while his mate is being shod. Now walking further up the street I come to Central Square; I see the boulders scattered round and briars growing there. The grass upon the roadside is trimmed by grazing cattle; no auto cars go swiftly by, I hear no lawn mowers rattle; no side-walks here, the broad highway is full of ruts and ridges; we were not enthusiastic in repairing roads and bridges.

'Twas a bright day for old Chelmsford when that devoted band, the "V.I.A" came forward with a helping hand. Their summons came each May-day; we responded to the call; I remember the good dinners they served us at the hall. Under their wise direction each did the best he could, and we worked for real pleasure and the joy of doing good.

Now while I sit here dreaming, "Sam," the sleepy little chap, has curled up like a kitten and is snoring on my lap. Thanks for your kind attention, and the patience you have shown. May all your dreams of other days be as pleasant as my own.

Chelmsford, Mass.

J.R.P.

Charles Proctor House

22 Fletcher Street

1831 map: no

1856 map: C. Proctor

1875 Beers Atlas: C. Proctor

Notebook of Miss Frances Andrews, pg. 132:

The old house of Charles Proctor stood next to the old Post Office - right hand side of Central Sq. Was moved to Fletcher St. in 1915. Has bay windows. Still standing in 1948.

"Chelmsford Vital Records to 1850":

pg. 126, Births:

Proctor, Charles, s. Jonas R. and Sybil, June 9, 1815

pg. 300, Marriages:

Proctor, Charles, and Genett Way, int. Feb. 17, 1838

Waters, "History of Chelmsford": Forefathers' Burying Ground

pg. 743: Proctor, Genett W., wife of Charles Proctor, Oct. 25, 1840
Age, 23 yrs.

pg. 745: Proctor, Charles, Sept. 29, 1880. Age 65 yrs., 3 mos., 20 d.

Waters, "History of Chelmsford": The Civil War

Pg. 368-9: The Soldiers' Aid Society collected considerable money, and made or furnished hundreds of articles for the soldiers.....The weekly meetings were held at the homes of the following ladies: Mrs. Dr. Bartlett, Mrs. Charles Proctor.....

Lowell Courier-Intitizer

Dec. 21, 1915 - One of the landmarks in the square is about to be removed by the march of progress. The Charles Proctor house, so-called, located next to the post office and owned by James P. Emerson is to be taken to Fletcher street and placed on a lot owned by him there. A foundation is now being made ready on the south side of the street. The route the building will travel is by the way of North road to Fletcher street. Upon the spot left vacant is to be erected an up-to-date garage and accessory shop, the garage of cement construction, complying with all the regulations for such a building, being at the rear. The front building will also be substantial and attractive. A driveway, whereby access may be had to the garage, will be made between the postoffice and the new building.

Dec. 27, 1915 - The Proctor house, next to the postoffice, about to give way for a modern commercial structure, began its journeyings today, being moved out to the street line.

Wheelwright Shop - Charles Proctor
Central Square

Chelmsford Newsweekly, 1955:

The wheelwright shop in this village has been hired by Warren Johnson, who takes possession this week. Mr. Johnson has worked 9 years at his trade in Boston and hopes to make a living by doing good work at reasonable prices.

Chas. S. Reed had sold to Mrs. Sarah L. Smith the wheelwright shop and land connected therewith. 1885, Nov.

Mr. David A. Polley, the blacksmith of the old stand, is ironing a stone jigger, the woodwork of which was made by Mr. Warren Johnson, the wheelwright, for Mr. R. Wilson Dax, one of our selectmen. 1886.

John Wozencroft has recently opened a blacksmith in the village. John's skill in his craft is well known, and, with a trio of blacksmiths and a wheelwright, it would seem that in this community there can be no excuse for loose shoes or rattling spokes. Nov. 1885.

22 Fletcher Street

Excerpt from tape made by Margaret Mills 3/13/72
Transcribed by Jane Drury

"This house used to sit where Godin's Store now is, down in Chelmsford Center between the gift shop (18 Central Sq.) and Garrison Realty (12 Central Sq.). This would be Ted's Father, Ralph, who became the first Ford dealer. He put up a cement block building where he took out this small house; it had bay windows in it, and I remember it going up over the railroad tracks and down to 22 Fletcher St.

So you see, we have three houses on Fletcher St. that have been moved by an Emerson at different periods. Concerning the Ford Agency and the building that Mr. Ralph Emerson used; this cement block building next to what is now the gift shop was really a garage. You went into the repair section by going around through Cushing Place, and the showroom was on the front. This was no doubt Emerson property, because where the gift shop is now for a long time was the Post Office, and who was the postmaster? Ralph Emerson. I'm not sure, but I think very soon after Ralph Emerson used it as a Ford agency, the store we all know not down on Boston Rd., the Purity, went into this cement building. When I first went to the Purity in the early 1950's, I went right there between the Garrison Realty and the gift shop. After that it became this 5 & 10 or variety type store that I have referred to as Godin's! (Purity moved to where Marshall's now is right on Boston Rd. across the street from the J. Adams Bartlett Hse., # 19. In the late 60's Purity moved to its present building behind Marshalls. However, at this time - Sept. 1972 - Marshalls is building a new building back of its present location, and will soon be next to Purity: J. Drury).



18 & 20 Fletcher Street "Twin Houses"

Mar 1, 1973



Looking toward 18-20 Fletcher Street fom Meeting House Road



22 Fletcher Street

Feb 1973




Fred C. Church
INSURANCE

Looking toward former 22 Fletcher Street

2/18/2006 F. Merriam





Looking toward former 24 Fletcher Street