

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

107-405-5	Westford		100
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Town Chelmsford

Place (neighborhood or village) South Chelmsford

## Photograph

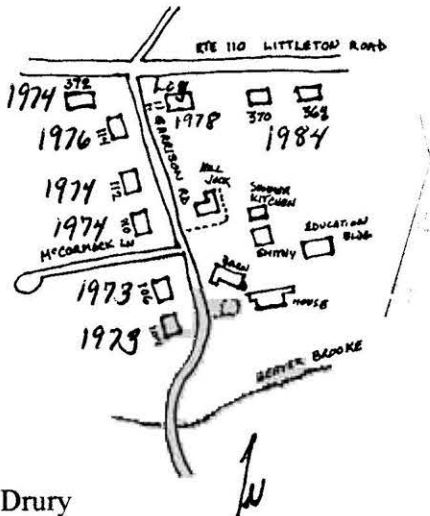
(3" x 3" or 3-1/2" x 5" black and white only) Label photo on back with town and property address. Record film roll and negative numbers here on the form. Staple photo to left side of form over this space. Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.

Roll Negative(s)

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## Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by Jane B. Drury

Organization for Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (month / year) February 2005

Address 105 Garrison Rd

Historic Name Garrison House

Uses: Present museum

Original residence

Date of Construction ca 1702

Source deeds, architecture  
 Dr. Abbott Cummings

Style/Form early Georgian leanto

Architect/Builder Peletiah Adams, owner

## Exterior Material:

Foundation granite blocks

Wall/Trim clapboards

Roof shingles

## Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Phineas Chamberlain blacksmith shop see continuation sheet

Hill Jock House inv. # 11, moved here 2004

Barn old

## Major Alterations (with dates)

Bevely jut added

main house, along the back, leanto added ca 1780s probably

leanto right rear of main house added ca 1820s probably

shingles replaced by clapboards 2005

see continuation sheet

Condition good

Moved  no  yes Date

Acreage 8.05 acres

Setting rural

## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *see continuation sheet*

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

In report dated June, 1978 by Susan Faxton, a student of Abbott Lowell Cummings, (and Dr. Cummings had also previously made an architectural visit) said, "The house was built after 1700. The title search and stylistic analysis firmly indicate the post-1700 date. I know Dr. Cummings feels as certain of that as I. If further title searching turns up a house on the site before 1700 (and there is no evidence so far there was such a house), we can say with certainty that it was not the present structure. Structurally it is evident that the lean-to was added after the main body of the house was built. Given this fact, the lean-to cannot be any earlier than the first quarter of the eighteenth century. Stylistically, the lean-to is much later. The fireplace and moulding details place it firmly in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. The title search suggests strongly that the lean-to was built by Joseph Heywood, either in 1784 when his father James, deeded half the house to him, or in 1788 when Joseph Married. At either time there would have been a definite need for two kitchens and additional space to accommodate two households, There is even a faint possibility that the lean-to was not added until after 1791 when James had died and Joseph and his mother were sharing the house. The two earlier dates seem the mostly likely. There is no shred of evidence to indicate a date for the lean-to any earlier than the 1780s.

Incidentally, the lean-too addition to the northeast of the house is even later. Structurally, it was added after the lean-to and stylistic evidence puts it in the 1820s, when the parlor was changed and the upstairs partitioning of the small bedroom was done. It is a fine, solid farm house with remarkably little change from its earliest days, rare in itself. It also has a fascinating sheathed room which makes it even more interesting and special."

Gunstock corner posts, wide boards in floors, doors & walls, some measuring 34 – 36" wide, with feathered edges. A Bevely jut is on the left side of the house, the large stone fireplace, and perhaps the last remaining huge, 12 ft. square stone center chimney in Chelmsford are only a few of the old architectural details in this house. The chimney rises in an open space in the middle of the house. The rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor "open on a sort of gallery in this space about the chimney, which here narrows to about half its lower dimensions.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

*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.*

The Old Chelmsford Garrison House was erected after 1700, probably ca 1702 – 1705. It is the oldest house in Chelmsford which remains relatively unchanged. It has been questioned whether this house was ever a garrison house, since the reference quoted by many was a list of such houses in 1691.

On April 16, 1702 Peletiah Adams, Sr. sold various lands, meadow and meadow to his sons Thomas and Peletiah, Jr. It was on this land that the house was erected. Pelatiah, Jr. and his wife, Lydia, had six children born, but three survived childhood, and one, also Lydia, died when she was 29 years old. Thomas and Judith, on the other hand, raised eight children. Whether both families lived in the house is not known. On May 28<sup>th</sup> 1728 Peletiah, Jr. sold his portion of the property for 560 pounds to his brother, Thomas Adams. Thomas Adams had been living in Dunstable since 1726, and he sold it the next day to Benjamin Heywood, a cooper then residing in Billerica, having moved there from Concord.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds No. Bk. 2, pg. 482; So. Bk. 29, pg. 10, 4/16/1702; Bk. 2. pg. 446, May 28, 1728  
Assessors' Records, including tax records; Building Inspector's records; Town Clerk's records  
Letter, Susan Faxton, Director Paul Creative Art Center UNH, June 21, 1978  
History of Chelmsford, by Rev. Wilson Waters, pub. 1917, pg. 134, 433  
Margaret Mills: 1977 conversation with J. Drury; visitor notes written by her  
Annual Report by President Allister MacDougall, May 20, 1970  
Letter, Dorothy McCormick to Margaret Mills, Nov. 10, 1970  
Robert Adam, Nov. 9, 1989  
Dana Gray, Paul Windt, 2005  
Mrs. Lavanie (Tougas) Simard, Nov. 24, 1970, Nov. 10, 1977  
1973 Garrison House Calendar

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.* Currently on National Register

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
CHELMSFORD

Property Address  
105 GARRISON RD

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

Area(s) Form No.

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## HISTORY

The early Heywoods were members of the church in the center of town, and at a meeting of the church held in December 1749 Benjamin was voted thanks for his present of two casks in which to transport wine. Benjamin and his wife Hannah had a family of eight children. He died in January 1763, aged 80 years. Architecture and title search suggests that the double kitchen leanto was probably added by Joseph Hayward, either in 1784 when his father, James, deeded half his house to him, or in 1788 when Joseph married. The leanto addition to the northeast side of the house was probably added during the 1820s, when two Haywood brothers, Joseph and Benjamin, and their families were sharing the dwelling.

Ownership of the old homestead remained in the Heywood/Haywood family until 1922, after five generations lived here. Adelia Heyward was still there in 1905, but by 1911/12 the house was empty. Adelia moved to California to be with her niece, and April 1926 had a stroke, soon took to her bed, and her health failed rapidly. By 1913/14 when Arthur Tougas and his wife Exida became tenants in this house, there were many cobwebs, especially upstairs. However, the Tougases weren't married until Nov. 3, 1915. Arthur worked in a Lowell Mill, and most of their eight grown children also worked in Lowell. Arthur & Exida wanted to purchase the property but were unable to. When Mrs. Levania (Tougas) Simard was a young girl (b. 1894), Mr. Edwin Clark, a local architect, drew a sketch of the old chimney for Mr. Waters, who was writing a town history. When standing next to the chimney, she could see down to the cellar from the 2nd floor. The hole was large, and her mother feared that she, Levania, would fall in when sleepwalking. Later Mr. McCormick filled much of it in with cement.

John and Sarah McCormick were the next owners of the property, first as tenants, but they bought it in 1922. Sarah came from Ireland to marry John McCormick in Lowell in Sept. 1915, and during the fall of 1916 went to the farm. He was a farmer and in later years had 10-15 cows, mostly Holsteins, 1 horse, and 500-800 chickens. There was granite fencing for a southern exposure exercise yard for the cattle. It was in the McCormicks' agreement with Miss Emaline Heywood that if Mr. McCormick cut and sold any of the wood on the property, the money must be applied to the mortgage held by Miss Heywood. The McCormicks did pay for the farm with the money from the sale of wood and apples from the orchard behind the house. The 1938 hurricane damaged or destroyed most of the fruit trees.

An arched tunnel probably still exists from the cellar, under the front lawn, to and through the stone wall a few feet in front of the house. It was built by the Heyward or Adams families. It was used to bring produce up into the house from the garden in front of the lawn. The garden was grown over by the early 1900s, when the Tougas lived in the house. The entrance was closed up by Mr. McCormick. He feared for the safety of children. Mr. McCormick died of a heart attack in 1941, but his wife stayed in the house until selling it in 1959 to Warren Lahue.

Several local citizens from Chelmsford and Westford, realizing the possible great loss if the old building was demolished, hastened to negotiate, and in 1961 formed a legally incorporated association to assume ownership and responsibility of the buildings and immediate land area donated by the Lahue Corporation in 1959. The present "Old Chelmsford Garrison House Association, Inc. now has as its prime motives preservation, education, and enjoyment by visitors.

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## Alterations

### Main House

Probably late 18<sup>th</sup> Century:

leanto added at rear of house, forming saltbox shape. It was made of 2 kitchens. Probably 1780s

Bevelly jut added: left side of lean-to, perhaps at the same time as the leanto was added.

1817

The cellar is divided into two sections, and ca 1914-15 there was no door between the two. In the cellar on the right side there is the date 1817 in old cement. Whether or not this date is correct, the right side appears to be the older of the two cellars.

Windows have been replaced over the years. On the second floor, above the main entrance, there has been a change in the construction of the window. The original window was much wider than the present one.

Stairway area to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor: front of house

door to left room: heart cut -out. Was there when Tougas family was there (1916 - 1939)

door to right room: can see pinholes where another heart was planned (can make out shape of a heart)

stairway: was open. remembered by Mrs. Levanie (Tougas) Simard; later filled in by the McCormicks to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor ceiling, so enclosed the 2 flights of stairs, with a door at the foot of stairs, with a door at the foot of the upper staircase. Open area also continued along side of the chimney toward the lean-to.

Next to the chimney one could see next to the chimney down to the cellar. McCormicks later filled it in with cement cement beside chimney in hall.

1959 - 1970

fireplaces opened up & restored by Enslie Mills

new stone hearth in Adams Room (1<sup>st</sup> floor, front right room) laid by Mr. Antonelli of Westford

paneling above and beside fireplace in Adams Room restored by Florian Wortowicz, Forge Village

Wall covering:

1915

sides were shingled; front had lapped clapboards

ca 1960

front clapboards were replaced with shingles to match the rest of the house

2005 south (front) and west side are now clapboard, pine, lapped joints, replacing shingles

The project began in 2002 and is estimated to end in 2006 with all four sides in clapboards.

When the former shingles were removed from the west side of the house, evidence of an former door was uncovered

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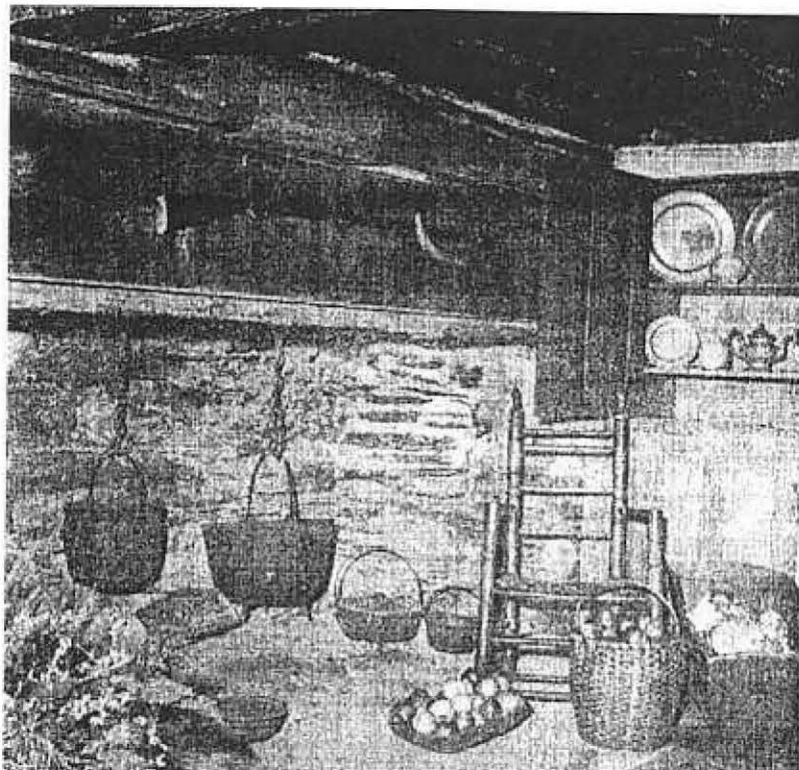
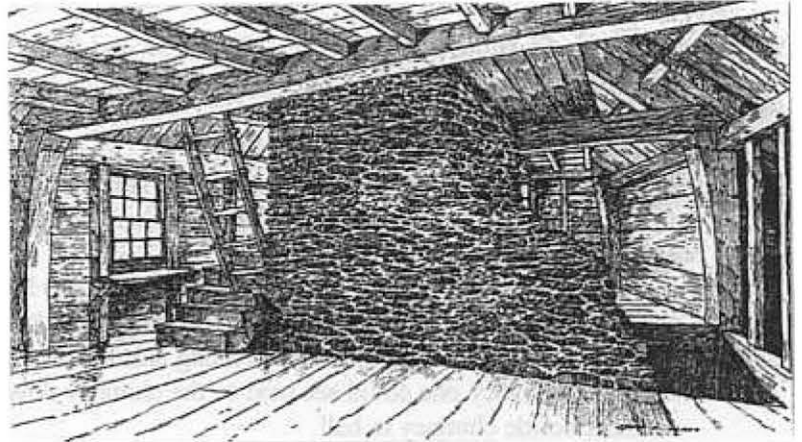
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## ARCHITECTURE

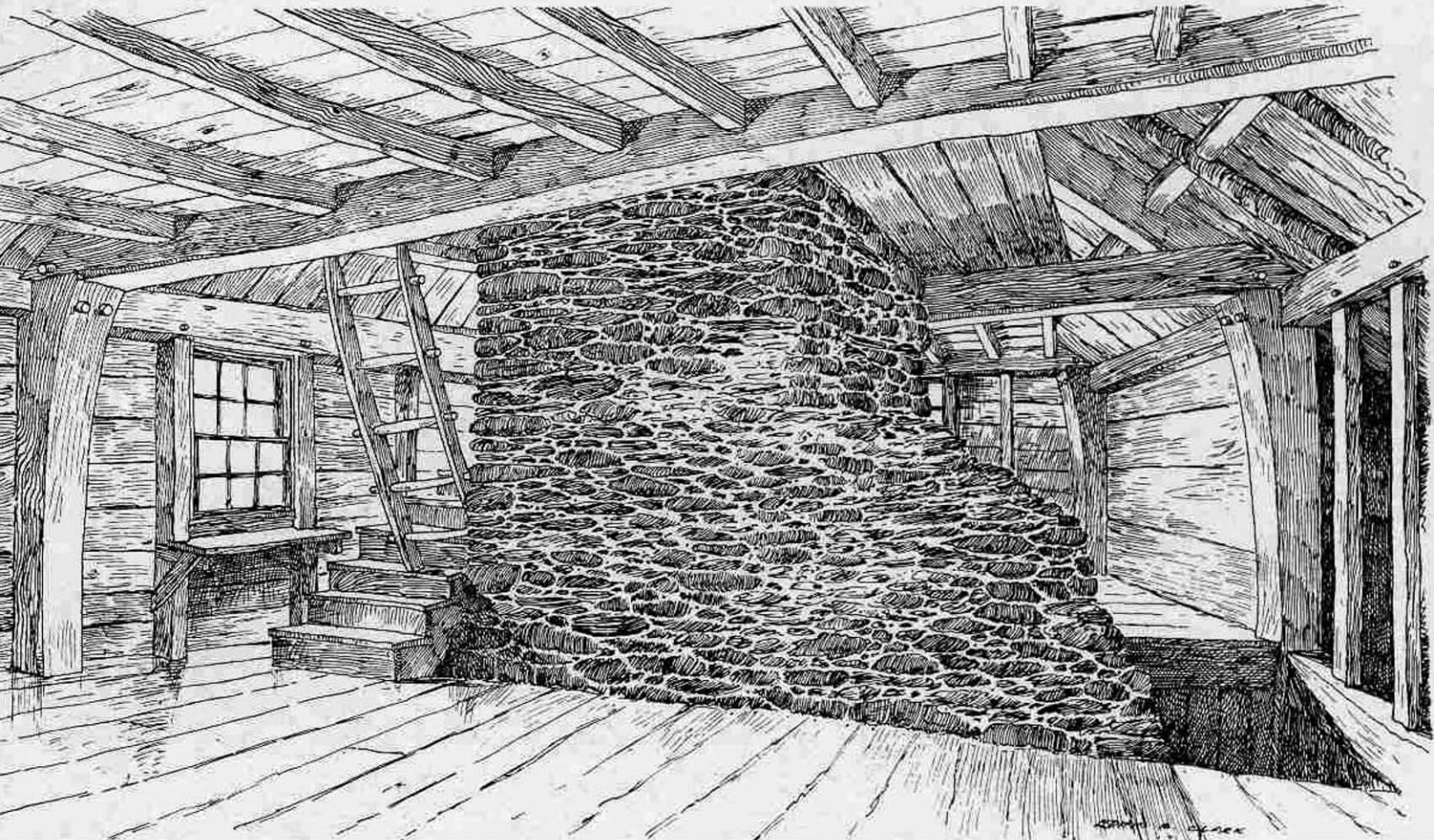
From Chelmsford Newsweekly 6/30/1960



Edwin Clark drew this for Rev. Waters History, pub. in 1917.  
Levanie Tougas watched him from her bedroom door.



One of lean-to kitchens



**Chimney passage, sketch from Waters' History of Chelmsford**

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**OUTBUILDINGS**

Barn  
Main Barn - board and batten, wood  
age: unknown. 1865 2 barns are listed in tax records, but only 1 in 1859. There was 1 barn listed 1849-59, none listed 1834-37, but 1 1824-27 (earliest tax records)  
Caretakers' apartment: right side  
1915 slaughter house (present caretakers' apartment) not there when Mrs. Simard was married 1959-70  
3 room apartment made from old slaughter house attached to barn  
native pine used; ca \$7,000 from Octavia Sweetser Fund  
There is a crawl space under the apartment, but no cellar under the main barn  
1969-70  
the old, so-called hired man's room, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> story of the barn was remodeled and added to the apartment  
2004 repairs & renovations

Hill Jock House  
April 2004 moved from 155 Boston Rd. to new foundation 28 ft. x 39 ft.  
clapboards, wood, butted joints 1<sup>st</sup> floor; lapped on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

"Summer Kitchen"  
Clapboard, wood, unknown joint method  
The "summer kitchen" was probably moved to this site a little later than the blacksmith shop. It is believed the same group of masons did chimneys for both buildings. It may have been a garage for an electric car in a previous life.

Craft Building  
Clapboards, wood, unknown joint method  
It was formerly the farm chicken coop, so it was built on site, probably in 1930s by Mr. McCormick  
Interior partially covered with wall-board donated by Mr. Mel. Work was done ca 1966, when the McCormick Craft Center was established.

Blacksmith Shop  
See separate continuation sheet

105 Garrison Road  
Middlesex County North District Registry Deeds

Reg. Bk. 64, pg. 215 Docket # 35858	12/29/1961	W.C. Lahue, Inc. to "Old Chelmsford" Garrison House Association $\frac{1}{4}$ part - Lot 3 & buildings
Reg. Bk. 64, pg. 201 Docket # 30192	12/26/1961	W.C. Lahue, Inc. owner Lots 1-19: 1959 plan
Book 1451, pg. 93	9/ 8/1959	Sarah McCormick to W.C. Lahue, Inc. 3 lots & buildings thereon 1. 9 acres, east side of West Chelmsford Road 2.15 acres, west side of road 3. 2 acres, west side of road Littleton Road
Book 928, pg. 403	5/ 8/1939	Doris Stevens, Lowell, to John & Sarah McCormick 4 lots & buildings thereon 1. 9 acres 2. 15 acres 3. 2 acres 4. 49 acres & 9 sq. rods Swamp Lot
Book 928, pg. 401	5/ 8/1939	John McCormick to Doris Stevens, Lowell 4 lots & buildings thereon 1. 9 acres, east side of West Chelmsford Road 2. 15 acres, west side of West Chelmsford Road 3. 2 acres, west side of Littleton Road 4. 49 acres & 9 sq. rods Swamp Lot
Book 660, pg. 344	1/14/1922	Eveline M. Heywood, Watsonville, California, to John McCormick 4 lots & buildings thereon 1. 9 acres, east side of West Chelmsford Road 2. 15 acres, west side of West Chelmsford Road 3. 2 acres, west side of Littleton Road 4. Swamp Lot - 49 acres & 9 sq. rods - Westford



Book 369, page 559 Correction Deedd	7/ 1/1897	Estate Esther Heywood; Newell Parker; Julia E. Richardson Statement: 75 acres & 9 rods, farm, contains 3 lots in Chelmsford 1 lot in Westford
Book 281, page 395	1/18/1897	Julia E. & Albert F. Richardson, Watson- ville, California, to Adelia E. Heywood \$240 1/5 part: 1. 9 acres, east side West Chelmsford Rd 2. 15 acres, west side West Chelmsford Rd 3. 2 acres, west side Littleton Rd. 4. 49 acres & 9 rods - Swamp Lot
Book 272, page 105	1/30/1896	Newell E. Parker to Adelia E. Heywood \$480 2/5 parts: 1. 9 acres, east side of West Chelmsford Rd. 2. 15 acres, west side West Chelmsford Rd 3. 2 acres, west side Littleton Rd. 4. 49 acres & 9 rods - Swamp Lot
Book 272, page 103	12/30/1895	Estate Esther Heywood to Newell E. Parker \$480 2/5 parts - land & house lately occupied by Esther Heywood 1. 9 acres, east side West Chelmsford Rd 2. 15 acres, west side West Chelmsford Rd 3. 2 acres, west side Littleton Rd. 4. 49 acres & 9 rods - Swamp Lot
Midd. Co. Probate Docket #34106	1862	Estate Benjamin Haywood to his 5 children
North: B. 14, pg. 263 South: B. 374, pg. 244	1/23/1834	Benjamin Heywood, yeoman, to Joseph Heywood, yeoman \$700 land & 1/2 part of House, barn, wood house, old shop 1. 3 acres & buildings - east side of rd 2. 1 acre - the close & garden, west side of road reserving - manure & personal estate
North: B. 14, pg. 260 South: B. 374, pg. 242	5/ 3/1828	Joseph Heywood, yeoman, to Benjamin Heywood, brother, yeoman \$700 most of Susannah Heywood's dower Pew #16 in Baptist Meeting House

Midd. Co. Probate Docket #10991	1805	Estate of Joseph Haywood to sons Joseph & Benjamin
Midd. Co. Probate Docket #10957	1791	Estate of James Haywood to son Joseph Haywood
North: Bk. 7, pg. 236 South: Bk.110. pg. 386	6/ 6/1784	James Haywood, cooper, to Joseph Haywood, yeoman 150 pounds $\frac{1}{2}$ part - all lands & buildings he owns in Chelmsford & Westford
Midd. Co. Probate Docket #10988	1760	Estate of Joseph Haywood
North: Bk. 2, pg. 470 South: Bk. 28, pg. 535	5/29/1728	Thomas Adams, husbandman, Dunstable, to Benjamin Heywood, cooper, Billerica 560 pounds land in Chelmsford 1. 9 acres house lot - east side little Tadmuck Highway 2. 5 acre pasture - west side little Tadmuck Highway 3. 30 acres - Chestnut Hill 4. 20 acres - upland & meadow 5. 4 acres - orcharding & woodland 6.     acres - west side little Tadmuck Highway 7. 2 acres - west side little Tadmuck Highway 8. 4 acres - Little Tadmuck 9. 8 acres - Providence (plus several more pieces)
North: Bk. 2, pg. 446 South: Bk.28, pg. 476	5/28/1728	Pelitetiah Adams, husbandman, to Thomas Adams, Dunstable, husbandman 560 pounds 9 acres house lot - east side little Tadmuck Highway (plus several more pieces)
North: Bk. 2, pg. 482 South: Bk.29, pg. 10	4/16/1702	Pelatiah Adams, Sr. to sons Thomas & Pelatiah, Jr. 1. 16 acres - east side of road 2. 4 acres 3. 3 acres - Little Tadmuck 4. $\frac{1}{3}$ part of 5 acres - Little Tadmuck 5. 4 acres - west side of road 6. $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres - Nonesuch 7. 3 acres - Providence (Westford) excepting - $\frac{1}{2}$ acre orchard to son Thomas

Rev. Ebenezer Bridge Diary

December 18, 1749 - The church mett and.....The Church chose Deacon Ephraim Spaulding to be a Trustee in the affair relating to Mr. Baxter's work given to the Church and Congregation by Mr. Holden of London, and voted that these books should be read in the intermission season if any were read in the meeting house according to the intent of the donor and desired that our Brethren Benj<sup>m</sup> Haywood, Jon<sup>a</sup> Minot, Dan<sup>ll</sup> Prockter, Eb<sup>z</sup> Harris & John Adams would in their turns read in those books - Also voted thanks to Benj<sup>a</sup> Haywood for his present of two casks to transport the wine in.

February 27, 1750/1 - Benjamin Haywood his wife sick & prayed with her.

October 28, 1753 - Baptized Benjamin the son of James & Sarah Haywood.

February 26, 1754 - Visited Capt, Chamberlain his daughter Jane sick. Benjamin Haywood his wife sick & Ebenezer Foster his wife sick & prayed with each - Also visited Aaron Chamberlain & James Haywood.

April 16, 1754 - Visited Ebenezer Foster his wife ill AM - Pm Visited Samuel Adams & his Mother - Benjamin Haywood his wife & daughter Sarah sick prayed with them - Dr. Tucker he and his child sick & prayed with them.

February 8, 1758 - Visited Benjamin Haywood dangerously ill, and prayed with him.

December 11, 1759 - Visited Andrew Betty - Samuel Adams, yet ill, & prayed with him - James Haywood his Father very infirm, lately bereaved of his son, & his daughter in law of her husband in the war & prayed with them.

February 29, 1760 - Toward night the wife of Samuel Adams came to me (Lieut. Minot came with her - her husband not well enough to come) and informed me of a difference between them ie her husband and she - and the wife of James Haywood - That they had taken proper steps to obtain satisfaction etc. but that she refused to give them, that which was though proper etc.....I advised them to compose their minds especially as the Sacrament of the Supper was so near and not to tarry away - and told them in a suitable time I would endeavor to bring them together again That which is most grievous to Mr. Adams & wife (as she told me) is that Mrs. Haywood told her that they were bringing up their children to lie and equivocate, as they themselves did - I desired Lieut. Minot to let Mrs. Haywood know, that I should be glad to see her on the morrow.

March 1, 1760 - Wrote sermons all day excepting time I took to discourse with James Haywood and wife who came to see me as I desired she would yesterday. She acknowledges she said that Adams and wife brought up their children to equivocate as they themselves did - but not to lie. Upon the whole I find there hath been fault both sides - Very foolish reflections etc. I advised her to go and acknowledge her fault in saying what she owns she did say, but she told me she had done so, but they were determined not to make up till she acknowledged that she said what she knows she did not say - So that as the Sacrament is to be on the morrow, I advised her as I did Mrs. Adams, to endeavor to compose their minds & to exercise charity toward one another - all of them to come to the Lords table under a humble sense of their failings & infirmities, and if the Lord gives opportunity, I would see them all together.

March 25, 1760 - PM Visited Samuell Adams & James Haywood & their wives who are at awful variance - Got them together discoursed with them etc. & at length they asked (mutually) forgiveness and professed to forgive one another - present: Lieut. Minot, Ensign Chamberlain, Henry Byam & Zach. Emmerly.

January 4, 1763 - Died Benjamin Haywood (AE 80)

January 18, 1770 - Baptized James son of James Haywood. It soon died.

June 27, 1770 - My wife and I dined at James Haywoods per invitation, with diverse neighbors. Spent PM there.

Februrary 23, 1771 - My wife and I rode out AM. I left her at the Wid<sup>o</sup> Hildreth's - and I visited the wife of Job Williams sick - and the wife of Zach<sup>n</sup> Willis of Westford, sick, both of them at the house of James Haywood prayed with them.

June 17, 1775 - A terrible day this! in relation to our army - in battle with our oppressors at Charlestown - The whole town on fire! The armies engaged on Bunker Hill - at night we saw the fire at Chelmsford - an express came from Billerica, and an alarm was fired here in the evening before morning arrived at Barrons, Francis Davidson & Benjamin Haywood of this town both wounded in the fight and brot news of the slaughter of diverse our people this way, tho of only Capt. Walker of this town.

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In 1691-92 there were 19 garrisons in Chelmsford to protect its people against the Indians. One of the houses in which these garrisons or groups of soldiers were stationed was the "Old Chelmsford" Garrison House.

This lovely old house is a practically-unspoiled museum piece, a rare example of where and how the common man and his family lived in the early days. Among its prominent features are the great central chimney built entirely of fieldstone, set on a 12-foot square base; an original fieldstone fireplace; a chamfered summer beam almost 17 inches wide; gunstock posts; 33-inch wide panelling; hand-split laths.



*The Great Stone Fireplace in the Adams Room*

The first owner of the site was Lt. Thomas Adams (1612-1688), one of the nine children of Henry, first American ancestor of the distinguished Adams family of Braintree. Lt. Thomas was an original petitioner for the grant of land for the town of Chelmsford and stayed here the rest of his life. Another brother, Joseph, remained in Braintree and was the ancestor of Presidents John and John Quincy Adams.

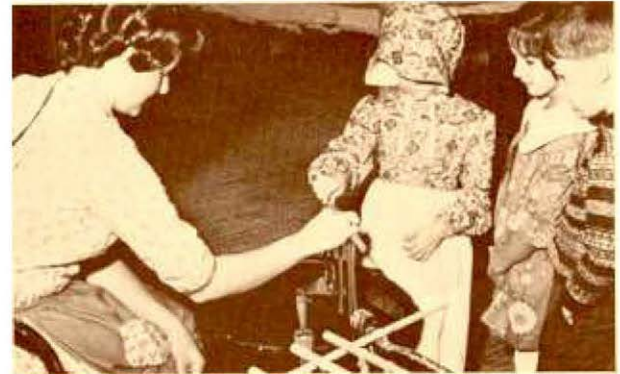
In 1683 Lt. Thomas conveyed to his son Pelatiah land identifiable as that surrounding the present Garrison House. In 1702 he and his wife deeded to their two sons, Thomas and Pelatiah, Jr. the same parcel of

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land and a house. The "saltbox" addition in the rear dates from this period, when the two brothers and their respective families shared the dwelling.

In 1728 Benjamin Heywood of Billerica acquired the property from the Adams family. His descendants owned the house until 1922, when it was sold to John and Sarah McCormick. The "Old Chelmsford" Garrison House Association was formed in 1959 to restore and preserve the house and to receive it as a gift from W. C. Lahue, Inc., the purchaser in that year from Mrs. McCormick.

Since the Association's formation donations of money, articles and labor have made possible great progress in the repair and restoration of the house and removal of much that impaired its authenticity. The



*Dipping Bayberry Candles*

barn has also been repaired, and its fascinating collection of old farm tools and vehicles has grown steadily.

In 1966 the McCormick Craft Center was established after renovation of a building formerly used as a henhouse. The Bartlett Educational Building was acquired as a gift from Miss Harriett M. Bartlett in 1969 and moved to its present site in the rear field.

Many interested groups and individuals have contributed in many ways to the work of restoration and to the Association's activities. The inauguration of field trips for second graders in 1969 increased awareness in the community of the role the Garrison House can play in making our heritage live for succeeding generations.

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*Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
Massachusetts Historical Commission



OLD CHELMSFORD GARRISON HOUSE COMPLEX

105 GARRISON ROAD, CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

was accepted on

MAY 8, 1973

for inclusion in the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register is the official list of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation, and includes districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology and culture. The National Register was established under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and is administered in Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

*Elizabeth Reed Amadon*

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

*Paul Gungor*

Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission



**CMFD-THE BYAM BLACKSMITH SHOP**, latest acquisition of the "Old Chelmsford" Garrison House, will be open for public inspection, along with the house and barn on the property, this Sunday afternoon, Sept. 24, from 2-5 p.m. Tours of the buildings and demonstrations of various crafts will be given.

## **Garrison House's Blacksmith Shop Open Sunday**

CMFD-The Village blacksmith, romanticized by Longfellow, has assumed mythical characteristics to many Americans. Nothing is mythical about the old Byam Blacksmith Shop, now located on the grounds of the "Old Chelmsford" Garrison House on Garrison Road. The shop, built in 1832 by Marcus Daniel Byam, will be open for inspection by the public for the first time on Sunday, September 24, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. as part of the annual fall Open House. Tours of the Garrison House and barn with its collection of old farm implements will be given throughout the afternoon.

The relocation of the Byam Shop from its original site on Maple Road in South Chelmsford to the grounds of the Garrison House took place a year ago. Restoration work, such as the rebuilding of the chimney, reshingling the roof and painting the exterior, has been accomplished through the CETA program.

Remounting of the giant bellows remains to be done before the forge will be operable for demonstrations of the blacksmith's craft. By mid-October when the Chelmsford Public Schools 8th grade program takes place, the forge should be ready. Students will have an opportunity to make simple hand wrought iron products, in addition to sharing other experiences of 18th century life, such as spinning, weaving, open fire cooking, and pottery making.

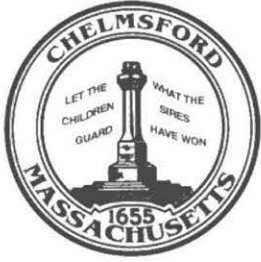
The September Open House has traditionally offered second graders and their parents an opportunity to preview the crafts demonstrated in the elementary school program. Candedipping, quilting and the making of soap and butter will be demonstrated on

Sunday by members of the Garrison House Association and Guild.

The blacksmith shop is the latest addition to the complex of buildings at the Garrison House, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The house, which dates to approximately 1685, fascinates students of early American architecture since most of its old features were unspoiled through the centuries. For even the casual visitor the notation of a debt in pounds and pence on the massive beams in the "hall" evokes a strong sense of colonial times.

Chelmsford  
Newsweekly  
Sep 21, 1978

*Chelmsford  
Sept.*



## HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CHELMSFORD, MA 01824

The Old Chelmsford Garrison House Association is responsible for maintaining one of Chelmsford's hidden jewels: The Garrison House itself with its herb garden, barn, the kitchen house, the Byam BlackSmith Shop, and the Craft House. This collection of historic buildings have been carefully preserved and thoughtfully maintained by the association since 1958. The Association has been very dedicated to educating people about colonial life. In 1969 the Association started an educational partnership with the Chelmsford public schools. All the second grade students visit the building and the grounds and participate with hands-on activities in the Craft House. The Garrison House Association demonstrates with living history. It's programs now include 'A Colonial Day' (open house) in September with numerous guests, spinners, weavers, musical instrument makers, beekeepers, colonial cooking, minutemen, red coats, colonial surgeon with tools, educational tours for children outside our community, colonial camp for children to learn more in depth about colonial crafts, food and lifestyle, and blacksmith gathering. On a regular schedule blacksmiths gather at the forge to teach and promote their art.

The Garrison House Association is an outstanding group of volunteers committed to preserving the properties and to educating particularly children. The Association has a wonderful way of making colonial days come to life. Without their program, history would be words on a page and fewer people would not think to ask why.

The Association works with numerous groups for preservation and education. It has a solid repore with the town and the school department. As with all nonprofit groups it seeks its operating expenses wherever it can. The town citizens support the Association school programs and fundraisers by providing volunteers and the Garden Club maintains the herb garden.

The Old Chelmsford Garrison House Association does not provide employment or revenue visable on the ledgers of the town books. The Associations profits are recorded by the town awareness of its sense of history and achievements. Without computers people are encouraged to think, explore and to experience our past.

LET THE CHILDREN GUARD WHAT THE SIRENS HAVE WON





## HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CHELMSFORD, MA 01824

Every so often in our community a preservation project is completed that tug at our heartstrings.

The recent restoration of the BlackSmith Shop on the grounds of the Nationally Registered Garrison House is such a project. The earliest documentation of the Byam BlackSmith Shop is in a deed of a land sale in 1825. Already the shop, located in South Chelmsford, was noted as being established and without the presence of a family home. The home was built within the year of the land sale. The BlackSmith Shop eventually closed, became a storage shed and in the 1950's was an antique shop owned by the same Byam family. Eventually in the mid 1970's the shop was given to the Garrison House Association to be part of the education program. In 1977, the Byam BlackSmith House made its trek down one of Chelmsford's Scenic Roads to its present location on the grounds of the Garrison House. The Garrison House Association restored the shop and opened it to visitors for tours and live demonstrations on September 21, 1978.

The Byam BlackSmith Shop has remained very much in its original condition. The roof rafters are charred and the heavy floorboards are well worn, two of its walls have long workbenches and are laden with year's worth of work tools. The forge in the center of the building, I am told, is verge unusual. Two years ago, the forge almost met its end as most do, by fire. Quick action by the caretaker and the local fire department saved the building and the artifacts within. Here begins the most recent chapter of this buildings story - The Garrison House Association lovingly and carefully restored the forge to its historically correct condition. It has been several years in the works but was completed this past fall.

The Association worked closely with several specialists, particularly Olde Sturbridge Village and Colonial Williamsburg. Both groups sited some of the extremely unusual features of the forge:

- 1) Supports for the forge are of wood not of the usual brick or rock,
- 2) The forge itself is an unusual shape - not just a six sided box but the sides and front of the fire box slant inwards,
- 3) It is a side blast forge, evident by old photographs.

Both Old Sturbridge Village and Colonial Williamsburg have noted the forge is one of two or three on the east coast. Once iron pot forges were invented the six sided boxes were replaced. We do not know how or why the Byam BlackSmith Forge was not updated.

LET THE CHILDREN GUARD WHAT THE SIRENS HAVE WON

Beside Old Hearth-stones by Abram English Brown  
1897

pg. 283:

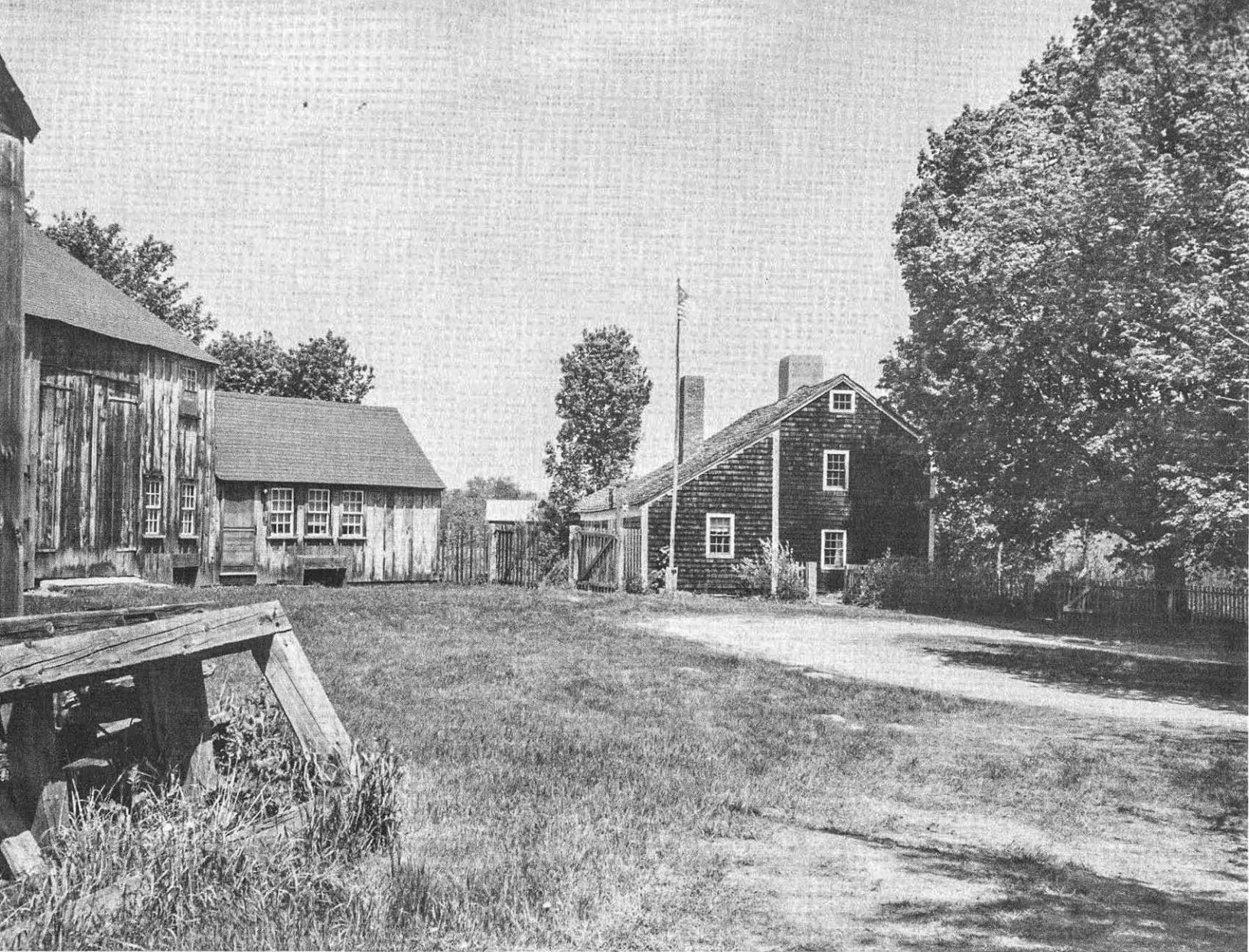
I was next conducted to the Hayward farm, where five generations of the family have flourished, Miss Adelia Hayward being the present owner. Miss Hayward said her great-grandfather came to this house in 1726. Here in the walls are unmistakable evidences of the garrison of the early wars, and the chimney of stone, such as the settlers agreed to build in the minister's house in 1654, is suggestive of a stronghold. There is a hollow passage-way by the side of the rough stone, allowing free passage from the bottom of the cellar to the chimney top. It was to be used for concealment, and for an outlook whereby to discern the approach of danger. This place, and all such in old houses, are always delightfully suggestive and interesting. Here the rude ladder, over which generations of Haywards have climbed, adds to the interest of the place. An aged neighbor is a frequent visitor at this house, who says her mother often told her that it is the place where the women went for safety when the Indians were out.

Old Garrison House — 1692

South Chelmsford, Mass.



Postcard courtesy of Paul Pettazoni



*Country Dooryard, Garrison House*

PAUL TURNBULL



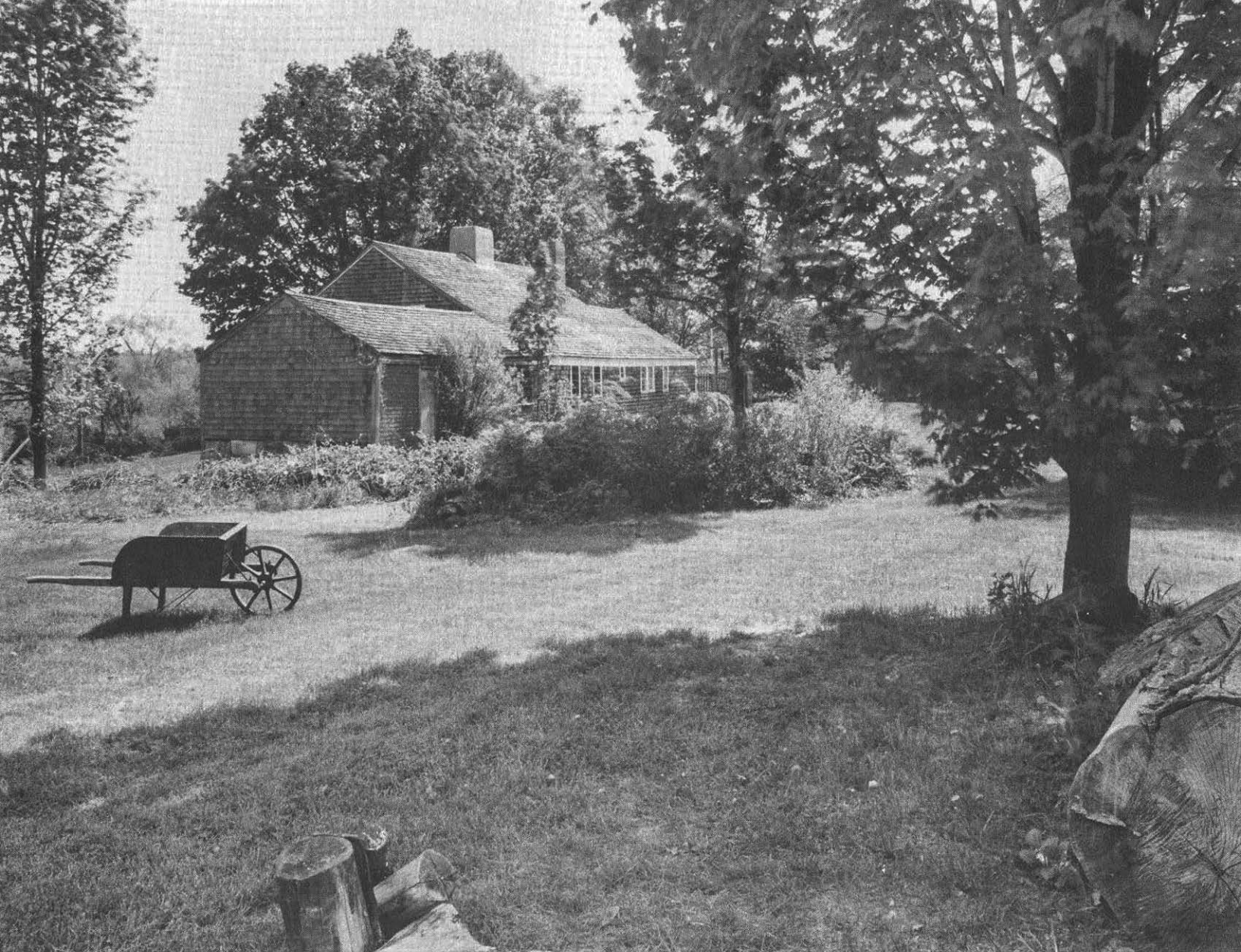
*The Well Sweep, Garrison House*

PAUL TURNBULL



*Salute to the Flag, Chelmsford Minutemen*

JANICE TURNBULL



*Harvest Time, Garrison House*

PAUL TURNBULL

HEYWARD

GARRISON HOUSE

1890







NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Old Chelmsford Garrison House  
Complex

was accepted on May 8, 1973

for inclusion in the

**NATIONAL REGISTER  
OF HISTORIC PLACES**



1000 Old State Road, New York, NY  
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