

FORM B – BUILDING

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

67/ 168/ 5/ 1

Billerica

CLM.428

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

Town/City: Chelmsford

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



View looking north from Gorham Street.

Address: 4 Carlisle Street

Historic Name: Ebenezer and Esther Frost House

Uses: Present: Multiple-family dwelling

Original: Single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1766

Source: Marriage date

Style/Form: No style

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone; poured concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard, vinyl siding / wood and vinyl trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Commercial buildings (1956); Automotive repair building (1963)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): (All mid-20th C) Large ell added. Replacement windows and doors. Vinyl siding and trim.

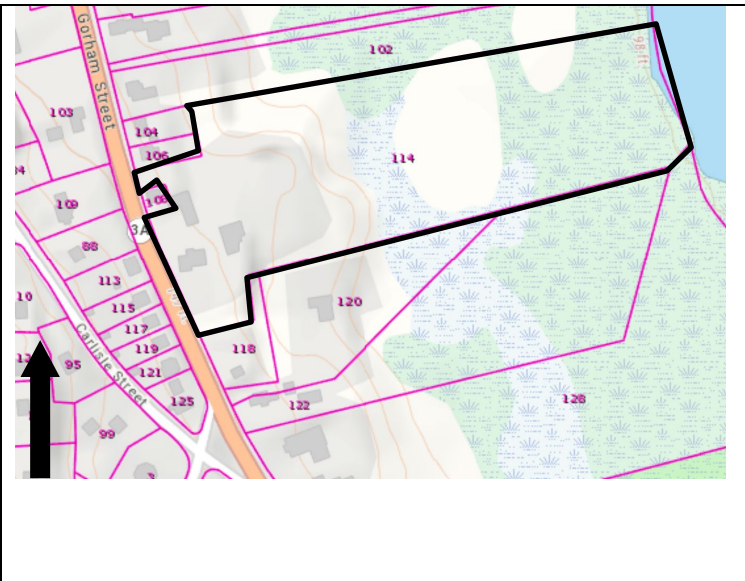
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 9.89 acres

Setting: Located in a neighborhood of small-scale commercial buildings and 19th- and early 20th-century residences.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Cons. for

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date: March 2022

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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.

The house at 114 Gorham Street is sited perpendicular to the street and was originally oriented toward the south. A grassy yard with mature trees is located south of the house. The area north of the house is paved with asphalt as a driveway and parking for businesses. The majority of the lot is wooded and slopes down toward the Concord River to the east.

The original house, the end that is closest to Gorham Street, appears to have been five bays wide with two ranks of closely-spaced bays flanking a center entrance. The north elevation features a saltbox roof with overhanging eaves and an interior brick chimney. A hipped-roof porch located at the west end of the façade was likely added in the late 19th century and enclosed during the mid-20th century. A bay window (now sheltered by a porch) was added to the east end of the rear elevation in the second half of the 19th century. The fenestration pattern of the original house has been altered and the windows replaced with vinyl sash and slider (?) windows.

In the mid-20th century, the house was extended to the north and east by a large addition that wraps around the northeast corner of the original house. The door and windows at the east end of the façade are part of this extension, as are the hipped and mansard roofs on the north and east elevations. The square sash windows and the front-gabled porches on the north and south elevations also date from the mid-20th century. The east end of the north elevation is of interest: at the first floor, windows are rectangular, which at the second floor, the are square. This may indicate that the second floor was added in the mid-20th century to a late 19th- or early 20th century 1 or 2-story addition.

The building's south elevation and the east end of the north elevation are covered with clapboards; the remaining elevations are covered with vinyl siding. Windows throughout have vinyl screw-on shutters.

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.

The house at 114 Gorham Street was likely constructed circa 1766. In that year, Ebenezer Frost, Jr. (ca. 1732-1812) married Esther Butterfield (ca. 1736-1824). In 1755, Ebenezer Frost, Jr. had purchased 40 acres of upland and meadow at Concord River Neck, as this area was called, from his father.¹ Around the time of his marriage, Ebenezer Frost, Jr. purchased an additional 130 acres at Concord River Neck.²

In 1793, Ebenezer, Jr. and Esther Frost sold their dwelling house and 125 acres in Lowell and Chelmsford to their sons Ebenezer III and Asa Frost.³ Ebenezer purchased the western half of the house and Asa purchased the eastern half of the small house; the remaining buildings and land were to be shared equally. The property was bounded to the east by the Concord River and to the west by the highway (*i.e.*, Carlisle Road -- Gorham Street north of the Carlisle Street intersection did not exist until 1840.⁴ Before 1840, a lane connected the house to Carlisle Street.)

¹ Middlesex Registry of Deeds Chelmsford Book 4, p. 548.

² Middlesex Registry of Deeds Chelmsford Book 6, p. 11.

³ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Chelmsford Book 7, pp. 425-428 and Lowell Book 3, p. 98 and p. 389.

⁴ Waters: 399.

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In 1802 and 1803, Asa Frost sold his half of the property to Caleb Whiting and Josiah Danforth of Boston. This consisted of 125 acres of land with the dwelling house and other buildings.⁵

In 1813, John Carlton, Jr., purchased at auction 225 acres in Chelmsford and Billerica from the estate of Josiah Danforth.⁶ The 1820 census indicates that Carlton lived in Chelmsford. John Carlton, Jr. (1761-1846)⁷ was born in Billerica. He married Sarah "Sally" Chase (ca. 1770-1825) in 1794. The couple had four children, including David Carlton (1795-1848)⁸ In 1831, John Carlton, Jr. sold half of a 173-acre parcel with buildings to his son, David Carlton.⁹ This parcel included "a small dwelling house ...being the same occupied by...David..."

In 1846, Albert Freeman Dyar (1803-1871)¹⁰ began purchasing property along the riverfront and, in 1848, purchased property from John Carlton, Jr.¹¹ By the end of his life, Dyar owned more than 45 acres along the Concord River.¹² Albert F. Dyar was married two times: to Mary Atherton in 1825 and to Arethusa Farwell in 1835. Prior to moving to Chelmsford, Albert F. Dyar had worked as a looking glass, *i.e.*, mirror, gilder in Lowell.¹³ Census records report that Albert F. Dyar worked as a farmer while living in Chelmsford. After his death, his son, George F. Dyar, inherited the property.

The property was divided in 1889 and sold out of the family. Lots 1 and 2, totaling 10.56 acres, became present-day 114 Gorham Street. Charles and Sarah Kappler appear to have owned the property from 1889 until 1913.¹⁴ At the time of the 1910 census, Charles worked as a farmer.

Francis and Catherine Loucraft purchased the property in 1921.¹⁵ Frank Loucraft operated a grocery store at 1750 Gorham Street, according to city directories from the 1920s-1930s. This address would be just over the municipal line in Lowell and in the path of Highway Route 495. The family owned the property until 1944.¹⁶

Wilfred and Anita Pare owned the property from 1947 to 1989.¹⁷ The 1955 Voters List indicates that Wilfred Pare was working as a store keeper at the time.

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⁵ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Lowell Book 4, p. 508 and Chelmsford Book 8, p. 259.

⁶ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Lowell Book 91, p. 469 and Chelmsford Book 8, p. 269.

⁷ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18168073/john-carlton>. Accessed Dec. 4, 2021.

⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18168068/david-carlton>. Accessed Dec. 5, 2021.

⁹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Chelmsford Book12, p. 530.

¹⁰ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/183313969/albert-freeman-dyar>. Accessed Dec. 4, 2021.

¹¹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 16, p. 479. Also, Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 17, p. 304. This 1850 mortgage deed makes reference to the house "in which said Dyar now resides."

¹² Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Grantee Index and Plan Book 6, Plan 7, 1889.

¹³ Lowell City Directory. 1837. Ancestry.com. Accessed Dec. 4, 2021.

¹⁴ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 514, p. 225.

¹⁵ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 646, p. 564.

¹⁶ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 1005, p. 542.

¹⁷ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 1080, p. 77 and Book 5109, p. 193.

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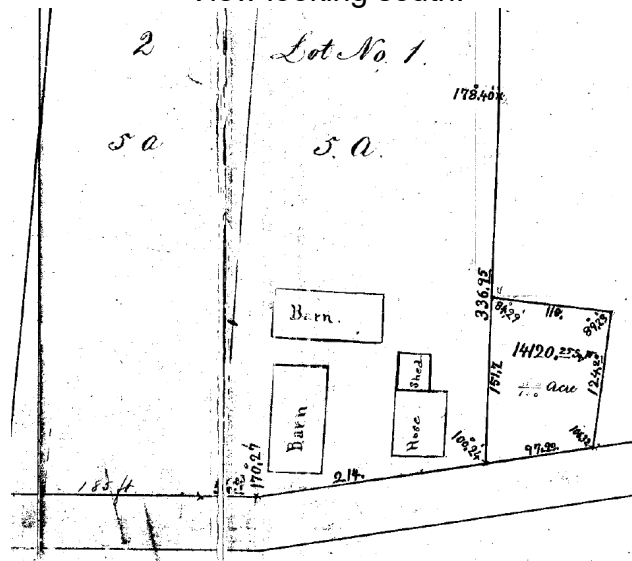
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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



View looking south.



← North

Detail of "Plan of Land Belonging to G.F. Dyar." 1889
Gorham Street at bottom of image. Barns demolished.
Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Plan Book 6, Plan 7.

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Source: Images of America: Chelmsford.

