

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

17/84/4	Nashua South, NH		
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Town/City: Chelmsford

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): North Chelmsford

Photograph



Façade and east elevation. View looking northwest.

Address: 231 Groton Road

Historic Name: Charles and Amanda Hamel House

Uses: Present: Single-family dwelling

Original: Single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: circa 1917

Source: Deed; city directory

Style/Form: No style

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Cut Stone

Wall/Trim: aluminum siding / aluminum trim / wood trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Frame garage (2nd Q 20th C and expanded post-1958); pre-fabricated shed (late 20th C)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Siding; Vinyl replacement windows (late 20th C); porches enclosed.

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.5

Setting: Located on a suburban street across from the highway entrance and exit ramp. Small houses to the east and west date from the early 20th century to mid-20th century and are located close to the roadway.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Consultant

Date: April 7, 2021.

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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.

231 Groton Road is a 1½-story frame dwelling located at the south edge of the lot close to the road. A low, fieldstone wall separates the house from the roadway, which is reached by a short flight of poured concrete steps. An asphalt-paved driveway leads from Groton Road past the east elevation of the house to a single-car garage. The front-gabled house faces south. A slender, interior brick chimney rises from the west roof slope.

The house consists of a 1½-story main block and a 1-story rear ell that rest on a cut granite foundation with grapevine pointing. The façade contains three windows and a centered entrance at the first floor and two windows at the second floor. The entrance contains a paneled wood door with an oval light in the top half. A small, shed-roof porch, later enclosed, is attached to the east end of the façade, covering the entrance and one window bay. This porch rests on a cut granite foundation as well. The rear ell is one bay deep and one bay wide and is capped by an asymmetrical gable roof.

The west elevation contains two large and one small sash windows at the first floor. A shed-roof enclosed porch at the northeast corner of the main block connects the house and ell and contains a secondary entrance. The east elevation of the enclosed porch contains a fixed 12-light wood-frame window. 1/1 vinyl sash and slider replacement windows flanked by screw-on vinyl shutters are located throughout the remainder of the house.

The gable-front garage is one bay wide and faces south. The garage has no door. The garage is sheathed with wood clapboards and rests on a concrete block foundation. The garage was extended northward by the approximate length of an automobile at some time after 1958. Windows are vinyl sash replacements.

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.

In 1917, Charles and Amanda Hamel of Lowell purchased 24 acres of land and made Groton Road their residence.¹ Charles William Hamel (1875-1935) married Amanda Hebert (ca. 1872-1956) in Lowell on Christmas Day, 1900. Charles Hamel worked as the chief engineer at Middlesex Milk in Lowell.²

In 1919, Elgin J. Bill (1872-1949)³ and his wife, Leslie Bill (1885-1966),⁴ purchased 24 acres of land from Charles and Amanda Hamel, including an unspecified number of buildings, on Groton Road.⁵ Born in Vermont, Elgin Bill served in the Spanish American War as a member of the hospital corps. Leslie Farrington Bill was born in Nova Scotia and immigrated at the age of 11. At the time they purchased the property in Chelmsford, Elgin Bill was working as an assembler in a machine shop. He also worked as a salesman.⁶ The couple wed in Lowell in 1905 and had four children. By the time of the 1930 census, Elgin was the proprietor of an automobile service and filling station.

¹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 581, p. 96.

² United States World War I Draft Card. Ancestry.com. Accessed April 11, 2021.

³ Findagrave.com. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/215818896/elgin-j.-bill>. Accessed April 9, 2021.

⁴ Findagrave.com. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/141212853/leslie-bill>. Accessed April 9, 2021.

⁵ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 599, page 541. It is unclear which of the houses was used as the Bill primary residence.

⁶ U.S. Mason Membership Cards. Ancestry.com. Accessed April 9, 2021.

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Arthur and Janey Audy owned the house from 1946.⁷ City directories indicate that Arthur Audy worked as an "operator," (i.e., the operator of factory machinery). Edward and Beatrice Moulton owned the house from 1952 to 1968.⁸ Edward Moulton worked as a machinist. The 1959 city directory notes that he was employed as a toolmaker for Raytheon in Newton.

Byron and Priscilla Zakos owned the house from 1973 to 1985.⁹ Byron Zakos worked as a truck driver and Priscilla worked as a waitress.

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⁷ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 1049, page 425.

⁸ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 1197, page 74, and Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 1848, page 730.

⁹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 2078, page 177, and Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 3026, page 304.

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



West elevation (left) and south façade (right). View looking north.



West elevation. View looking east.

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Rear (north) elevation. View looking south. Garage at left.

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Façade entrance, now inside enclosed porch.

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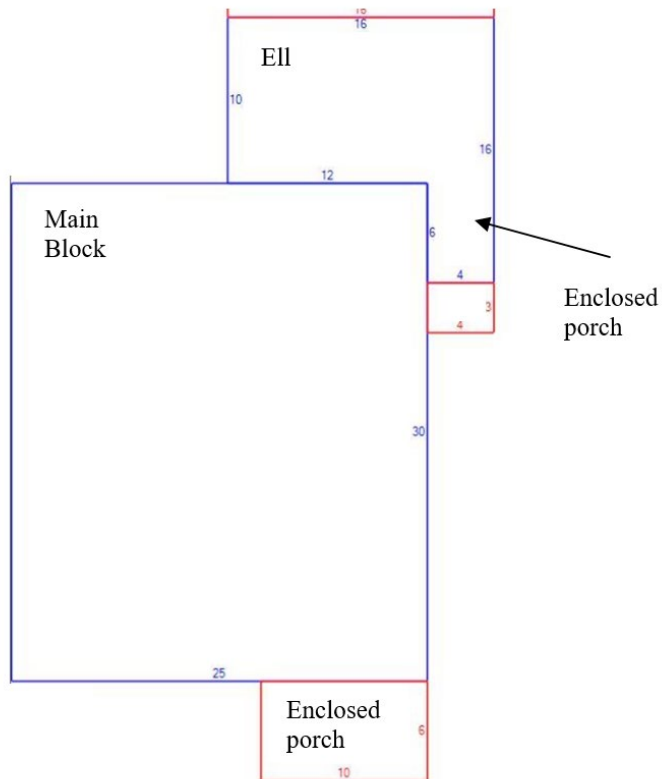
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Garage. East elevation.



EII

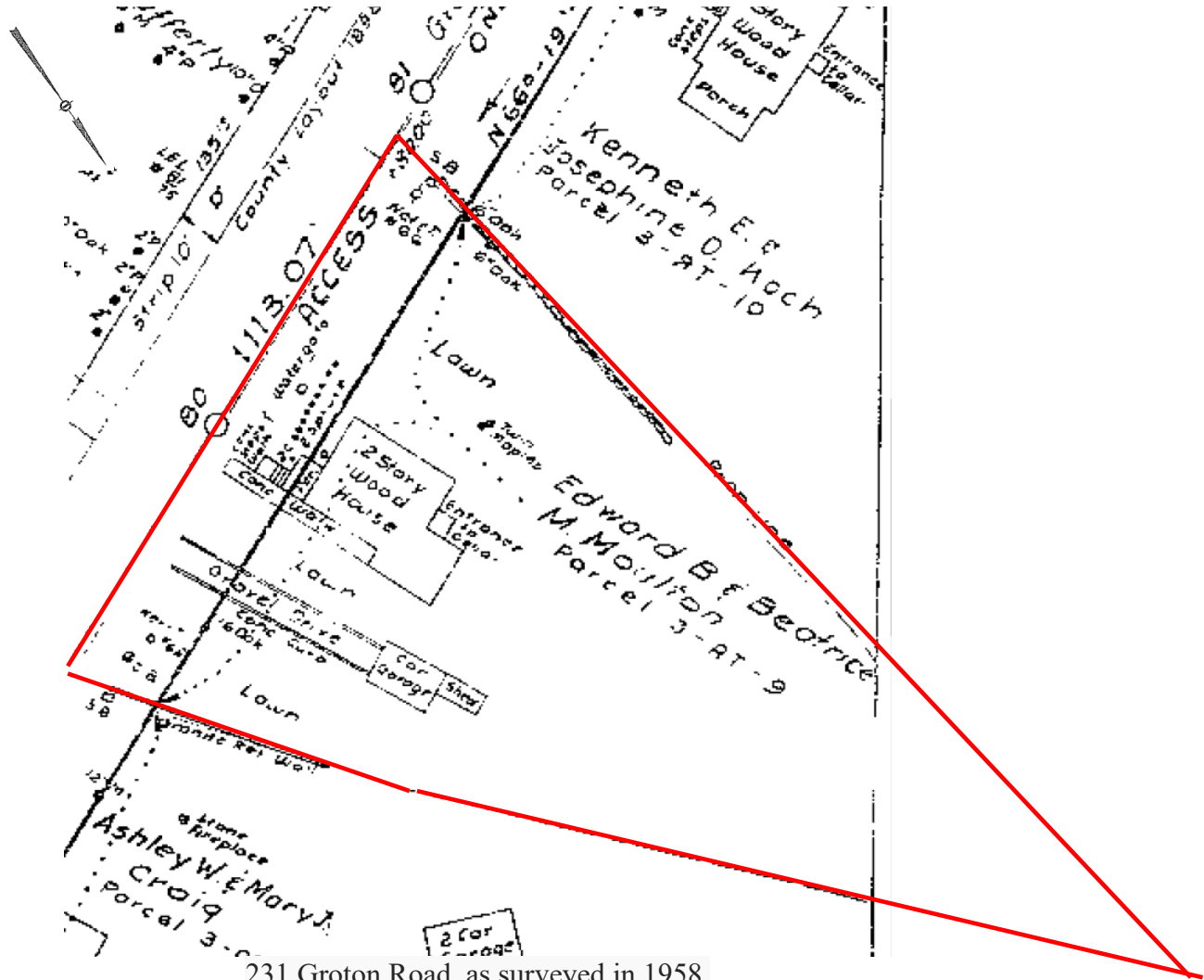
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231 Groton Road, as surveyed in 1958.
(Middlesex North Registry of Deeds. Plan Book M, Plan 539, Sheet 9.
Order of Taking. Route 3 Alignment, Chelmsford.)