

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13/21/8	Nashua South		CLM.347
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 25-27 Groton Road

Historic Name: James and Susan Whittemore House

Uses: Present: multiple-family dwelling

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: between 1831 and 1856

Source: 1831 and 1856 maps of Chelmsford

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Not determined

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 1990 bay window addition

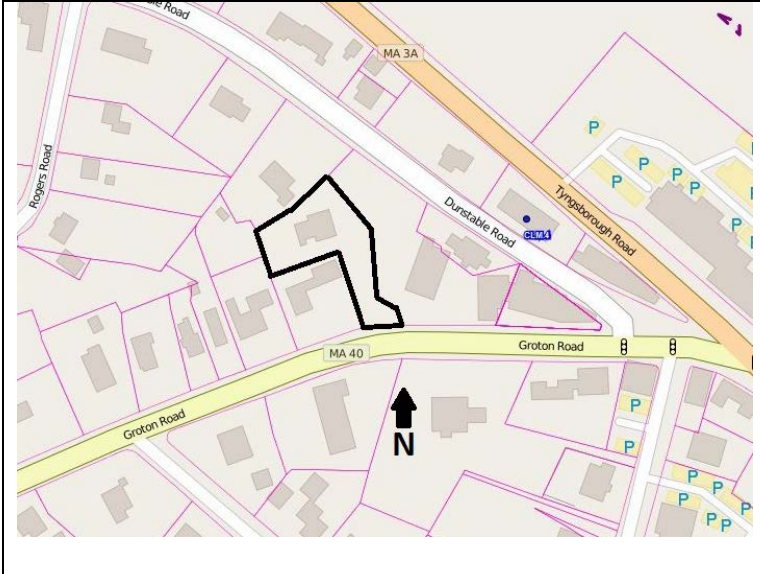
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .52 A

Setting: The building is located approximately 135' north of Groton Rd. via a private driveway, and therefore, is not fully visible from the street. The drive is lined with mature trees. The house sets on a slight rise and wood steps lead to the main entry. The surrounding area includes 19th and 20th c. residential and commercial developments.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Jennifer Burden, Gray & Pape, Inc.

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

25 GROTON ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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.

This building is located roughly 500 feet west of the Groton and Dunstable Road intersection. Built ca. 1840, this wood-frame house stands two stories in height. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the exterior walls are clad with wood clapboard with wood trim. The house rests atop a stone foundation. The footprint of the house consists of one large rectangle comprising the front portion of the house, with a smaller, rectangular-shaped wing extending from the rear or west side of the building. Both portions of the house are covered with hipped roofs. The primary (east) façade faces toward Dunstable Road. The façade is divided into four bays at the first story and six on the second story. The front entrance is located in the center of the facade. Fenestration throughout the house consists of six-over-six double-hung windows with simple, unadorned wood-frame surrounds. A one-story bay window addition is located to the right or north side of the front entrance. The sides of the front portion of the house extend two bays deep. The rear wing of the house extends an additional two bays deep and features a covered porch along the south side of the wing. Character defining features include engaged Doric columns at the corners of the house and pairs of small brackets spaced at wide intervals under the eaves of the roof.

The building is a slightly altered example of a mid-nineteenth century residence that retains historic integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association.

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 building does not appear on the 1831 map of Chelmsford, but is present on the 1856 map of North Chelmsford; therefore, the house was constructed between these dates. The original owner of the property appears to be James Whittemore (sometimes spelled Whittmore in certain records). The 1860 US Population Census lists James (1814-1882) living in Chelmsford with wife Susan (1819-1900), daughters Lydia (1843-1918) and Susan (1847-1933), and sons Floyer (born ca. 1859) and Howard (1860-1936). At this date James was a wheelwright. By 1870 Lydia married George E. Spaulding, a pattern maker, and they resided with the Whittemore family. In 1880 James and Susan continued to live with Floyer, then listed as a blacksmith, and Calvin H. (Howard), a peddler; the Spauldings relocated by this date. After James's death in 1882 Susan relocated to the house next to this at 31 Groton Road and by the mid-1890s moved in with Calvin. Floyer eventually opened Whittemore's Carriage Manufacturing and Paint Shop on North Road, approximately one mile from Chelmsford Center. The property remained in the Whittemore family until 1901 when Lydia Spaulding sold it to Charles J. Willsteed (1858-1931, born on the Isle of Jersey). The 1920 lists Willsteed living on Groton Road and working as an elevator operator in the worsted mill. At this date he was living with George and Louisa A. Marinel and their daughters Louisa M. and Edna. After Charles's death in 1931 his estate granted the property to the Trustees of the Congregational Church in North Chelmsford. The trustees retained ownership of the property until 1935 when they granted it to Louisa A., Louisa M., and Edna Marinel. The 1950 city directory lists both Louisas at this address with Louisa A. at home and Louisa M. as a housekeeper. Louisa A. died on 12/1/1952 and Louisa M. died on 11/7/1955, leaving Edna (née Marinel) Newhall as the sole owner of the property. Between 1955 and 1960 the property was transferred to Eric W. Babcock. Babcock retained the property until 1960, selling it to Loraine and Sigmund Lachut. Loraine Lachut retained the property until 1985, and since this date it has been under ownership of the Davis family.

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