

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

23/ 92/ 8/ /

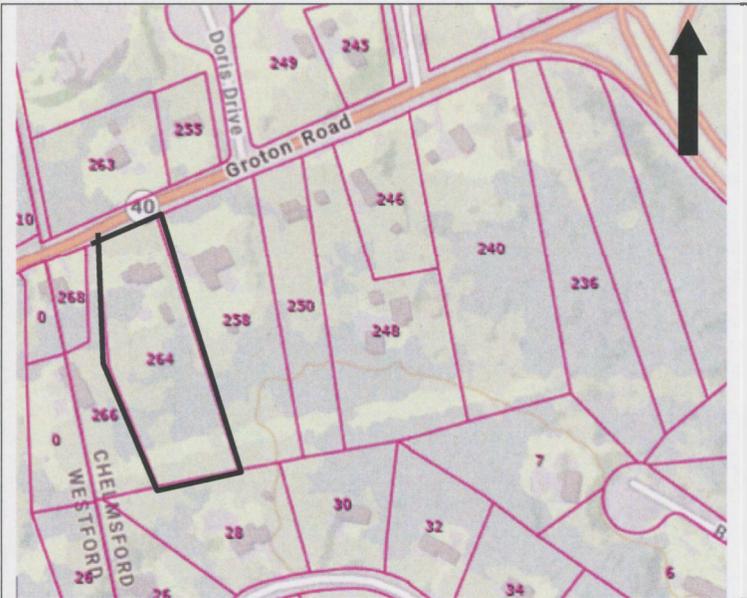
Nashua
South,
NH

Photograph



View looking southwest toward facade.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy E. Spies, Historic Preservation Consultant

Date: December 2022

Town/City: Chelmsford

Place: (neighborhood or village): North Chelmsford

Address: 264 Groton Road

Historic Name: Samuel and Lillian Farrow House

Uses: Present: Vacant

Original: Single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: circa 1911

Source: Deed; City directory

Style/Form: No style

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, Cut

Wall/Trim: Vinyl siding over wood clapboard / Vinyl Trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Garage

Major Alterations (with dates): Garage added (last Q 20th C); Porch added, vinyl siding, vinyl windows and metal door at rear (late 20th C or early 21st C)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes Date:

Acreage: 1.81

Setting: Located on a suburban street near entrance to interstate highway right-of-way and granite quarry. Small houses to the north and west date from the early 20th century to mid-20th century and are located close to the roadway. New townhouses are under construction to the east.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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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.

Located on a level lot, the house is oriented to the north. The 1-story frame house is located at the north end of the lot near the street. The area around the house is covered with lawn; the remainder of the lot is wooded. An asphalt-paved driveway leads from the street to a front-gabled garage attached to the house's east elevation. The house rests on an uncoursed, roughly-squared, cut stone foundation with grapevine pointing. The main block has a side-gabled roof with overhanging eaves and gable-end cornice returns. An off-center, interior brick chimney is located on the south roof slope near the roof ridge. The main block is three bays wide with center door. (The off-center fenestration arrangement may indicate that the façade originally contained five bays.) A single sash window is located in the north end of the main block's east elevation. A single sash window is centered the west gable peak; a pair of sash windows are centered in the east gable peak. The paneled wood door contains a rolled-glass light in the top half. A gable dormer is centered on the north roof slope. A hipped-roof porch supported by square-section posts extends the width of the façade. The porch is constructed of pressure-treated dimensional lumber with a tongue-and-groove composite decking floor.

The house was expanded with the addition of a 1-story, gable ell at the main block's west elevation. The ell's banked foundation is constructed of uncoursed cut stone with grapevine pointing. A single sash window is centered on the north elevation; the west elevation contains two sash windows. A three-light, wood-frame hopper window is located in the north and south basement elevations. A small, shed-roof projection is attached to the west end of the rear (south elevation) of the main block. The projection rests on an uncoursed ashlar foundation. The projection contains a single, square window in its west elevation and two sash windows, one square and one rectangular, on its south elevation. A shelter for the basement entrance was added to the west elevation after the construction of the ell. The shelter has brick walls; the north wall is faced with granite paving stones and rough pointing. The shelter's west elevation and shallow gable roof are faced with vinyl siding over tongue-and-groove bead boards. A random-coursed ashlar retaining wall attached to the shelter's south wall extends along the ell's west elevation to the southwest corner of the house. Windows throughout the house are vinyl sash with internal faux 2/2 muntins.

A late 20th-century or early 21st-century garage addition is attached to the east elevation of the main block and wraps around the east end of the rear elevation. This addition rests on a poured concrete foundation. The addition's rear elevation contains a pressed-panel metal door with nine lights in the top half and five casement windows. A deck constructed of pressure-treated wood is connected to the addition. The addition's north elevation – a recessed section between the garage and main block – contains a pressed-panel metal door. The garage ell contains an overhead wood vehicle door in the north and south elevations.

A detached garage is located southeast of the house. The garage rests on an uncoursed, roughly-cut stone foundation and is capped with a gable roof with overhanging eaves. The garage is sheathed with wood shingles (on the side elevations) and clapboards (on the north elevation) over tongue-and-groove wood bead boards. A vehicle opening fills the north elevation. A single 2/2 wood-frame window is located in the east elevation. The garage was expanded by approximately 1/3 its size in the late 20th or early 21st century. The expansion rests on a concrete block foundation and is sheathed with plywood. A side-hung, full-light, metal door is located in the south end of the east elevation.

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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.

264 Groton Road was likely constructed circa 1911, the year in which Samuel Farrow purchased a 6-acre parcel of land here.¹ Samuel Thomas Farrow (1871-1931)² was born in New Brunswick, Canada and emigrated in 1887. Samuel Farrow was living in Chelmsford by the time of the 1900 census. In 1909, widower Samuel Farrow married Lillian C. Hogle (1874-1959).³ The 1915 city directory places Samuel Farrow, a "quarryman," at this location. Farrow likely worked at Fletcher Granite across the street, as did many of his neighbors along Groton Road. City directories and census records note that Farrow held several positions at the quarry, including working as a rigger, as a paving stone cutter, and as a supervisor.⁴ Fletcher Granite was founded in 1881 by Herbert E. Fletcher. By 1950, the quarry employed 600 men. Fletcher's "Chelmsford White" and "Chelmsford Gray" granite was used at Quincy Market, the Newport, Rhode Island bridge, the Verrazano Narrow Bridge in New York City, among many other locations. Lillian Farrow worked in a worsted mill.

After Samuel Farrow's death, Lillian Farrow continued to live at 264 Groton Road through the time of the 1940 census. It appears that she initially rented the house to Lennart and Lorraine Leedberg, who are noted as residents of 264 Groton Road in the 1942 city directory. In 1943, the couple purchased the house from Lillian Farrow.⁵ Lennart Leedberg (1913-1983)⁶ was one of twelve children of Swedish immigrants Oscar and Ingeborg Leedberg who had lived at 234 Groton Street since 1919. In 1936, Lennart and Lorraine (1919-2000)⁷ were married and the couple had a house constructed at 236 Groton Road. (Neither 234 or 236 Groton Road is still standing.) Lennart Leedberg, along with his father Oscar and several of his brothers, also worked at the Fletcher quarry.⁸ Lennart Leedberg worked as a driller, according to the 1940 census. In the 1950s, Lennart and Lorraine Leedberg both worked at the Abbot Worsted Mill in Westford. Lorraine Leedberg's estate sold the property in 2001.⁹

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¹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 467, p. 177.

² Findagrave.com Memorial #18166832. Accessed Dec. 1, 2022.

³ Findagrave.com Memorial #18166831. Accessed Dec. 1, 2022.

⁴ Ancestry.com. WWI Draft Registration cards. Accessed Dec. 1, 2022.

⁵ Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Book 994, p. 209.

⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18165120>. Dec. 1, 2022.

⁷ Findagrave.com Memorial #18165122. Accessed Dec. 1, 2022.

⁸ Ancestry.com. WWI Draft Registration cards. Accessed Dec. 7, 2022.

⁹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 1185, p. 232.

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



View looking south toward façade. Garage addition visible at left. The recessed door at left is part of the garage addition.



View looking southeast toward façade. Note different manners of masonry construction among the main block, ell and shelter.



Façade door.



View looking southeast toward façade. Removal of porch post provides view of clapboard underneath the vinyl siding. Joint in stone foundation identifies that the west ell was added after the construction of the main block.

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View looking east toward basement entrance.



View looking east toward bead board ceiling of basement entrance. Note brick walls.



View looking north-northeast toward west ell and basement entrance. The small window at right is the west elevation of the small, shed-roof projection attached to rear elevation.



View looking northeast toward rear elevation. The two windows at left are located in the rear elevation of the small, shed-roof projection.

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View looking northwest toward rear elevation. Collapsed porch at center by rear doorway. The casement windows and door are part of the garage addition.



View looking southeast toward north (left) and west (right) elevations.



View looking northwest toward east elevation (right) and south elevation (left) of garage.



Garage interior showing bead board walls.