

FORM B – BUILDING

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

93/380/1	Billerica		302
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town Chelmsford

Place (neighborhood or village)

Chelmsford Center

Address 84 High Street

Historic Name Ephraim Elliott/Cashin House

Uses: Present residence

Original residence

Date of Construction 1881

Source tax records

Style/Form

Architect/Builder unknown

ST owner was Ephraim Elliott

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite block

Wall/Trim clapboard

Roof ridge, going front to rear

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

garage at rear: 1927 converted from shed b. 1925/6
 shed at rear

Major Alterations (with dates)

1925 barn moved to #90 High St.
 see attached

Condition excellent

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 123710 sq. ft.

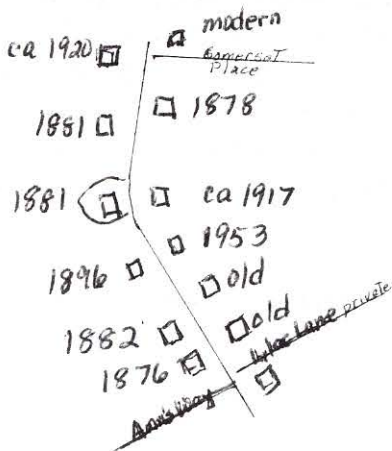
Setting

wooded on rear & left sides. Reservoir Lane is left boundary.
 driveways (3) and a few trees on right side.
 stonewall along road
 surrounded by residences mostly similar or older ages



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) January 2006

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *see continuation sheet*

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

This dwelling at 84 High St. is one of three built for Jasper Elliott and his brother Ephraim and sister Sarah Elliott. 66 High St. was Jasper's house, 72 High St. was Sarah's house; and 84 High St. was Ephraim's house. Originally they had similar architectural designs with similar floor plans. However, the attached barn at 84 High St. was at the right rear of the main house, while the other two houses have the barn attached to the rear. They are of a simple design, commonly found in Chelmsford, with the ridge roof going front to back.

However, the residence at 84 High St. was considerably changed in 1938, and its taxable value increased from \$2650 to \$9500. The main entrance at the front was replaced by a chimney and a new entrance made at the middle of the right side of the main house. The rear section also had many changes. The barn had already been removed during the 1920s to be converted to a residence at 90 High St.

See the attached sheets.

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.

A native of Thornton, NH, in 1862 Ephraim Elliott enlisted into military service as a private. He and his wife Carrie moved to Chelmsford from Lowell, where for several years he was a "member of the firm of Elliott & Smith, manufacturers of milled machine screws." In May 1881 Ephraim Elliott purchased the land at 84 High St. from Edwin K. Parkhurst. One year later a house and barn had been erected there.

Ephraim Elliott, an ingenious mechanic, "secured a patent in 1888 for a wheel hoe, which he also denominated 'a pulverizer and weed-destroyer,' and it well deserves the title. This is the fourth valuable patent that Mr. Elliott has taken out." In 1889 he moved the "manufacture of his recently patented garden wheel hoe" to the 2nd story of E. R. Marshall's shop on Warren Ave., which building was demolished in 2003. During a thunder shower on Aug. 13, 1897 "a bolt struck the house of Ephraim Elliott, in High street, cavorting around the rooms on both the first and second floors and running up a bill for damages which will probably amount to several hundred dollars. Mr. Elliott was about ten feet from the path of the intruder and sustained no injury beyond being slightly dazed for a moment. Mrs. Elliott chanced to be in the barn at the time and was not affected by the bolt."

After being confined to his house about two months, Ephraim Elliott died in his home on March 2, 1900, aged 67 years, following many years suffering from asthma. "This combined with heart trouble was the cause of death."

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Records of Assessors, Building Inspector, Town Clerk
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds: 1881, Bk. 145, pg. 280 Edwin K. Parkhurst to Ephraim Elliott
Lowell Weekly Journal: Jan. 26, 1889; Lowell Courier: Aug. 13, 1897, Feb. 21, 1900, Mar. 2, 1900
Lowell Sunday Sun: Oct. 7, 1962
Mrs. Charles Cashin, Jr. (Valerie): Dec. 10, 2005
History of Chelmsford by Rev. Wilson Waters, 1917, pg. 598

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
CHELMSFORD

Property Address
84 HIGH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
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History

Ephraim Elliott's widow, Carrie, stayed in the house for about a year after his death. In 1911 she moved to Billerica Street and sold the 84 High Street property to Justin Moore, then of Somerville. A year later she moved to Sheffield, VT. Justin Moore purchased the house for occupancy and also bought 3½ adjoining acres. He "at once remodelled the house, installing all modern conveniences. The property consisted of a well built 8-room house, barn and hen-house, and about 6 acres of land, upon which there was an excellent orchard." In addition to farming the land, he worked as a travelling salesman out of Boston but later as a clerk in Lowell. In 1913 the Center Water District was formed, using water from a "never ending spring" off High Street, beyond 84 High St. Justin L. Moore gave the water district the right to lay the main under his land. See attached pictures. He sold the house in 1918, but he and his wife, Etta, continued to live there. He became active in local affairs, and in 1921 and 1922 he served as Chelmsford's town clerk and accountant. At the end of that year he and Etta left town and the owner, William E. & Rena B. Livingston, moved in from Lowell. In 1923 the Livingstons sold the property, but they too continued to live there another year or so. Apparently that new owner never resided there. In 1924 Franklin & Dillie Bassett purchased the property and were living there with their son Franklin, Jr., apparently at the same time as the Livingstons. Franklin Bassett, Sr., ran his plumbing and heating out of Lowell, however. After Francis and Addie Clark of Medford bought the property in 1927, they did live at 84 High Street for the next ten years, before moving to San Mateo, FL. in 1937. The current owners have resided in the house since then. In 1938 the house was considerably changed, and the main entrance was moved to the original right side of the building. See attached pictures. There was a small "camp" located up the hill behind the house at the rear of the lot. It was used by a member of the family as a "camp" until it was converted to a house. It and another building located near by are now numbered 86 and 88 High St.

Alterations

- 1897 "A bolt struck the house of Ephraim Elliott, in High street, cavorting around the rooms on both the first and second floors and running up a bill for damages which will probably amount to several hundred dollars."
- 1911 house interior remodeled, installing all modern conveniences
- 1925 attached barn moved to #90 High St.
- 1938 many changes to house, including moving the main front entrance to the original right side of the building dormers were added, and the rear of the house greatly changed.
see attached pictures

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
CHELMSFORD

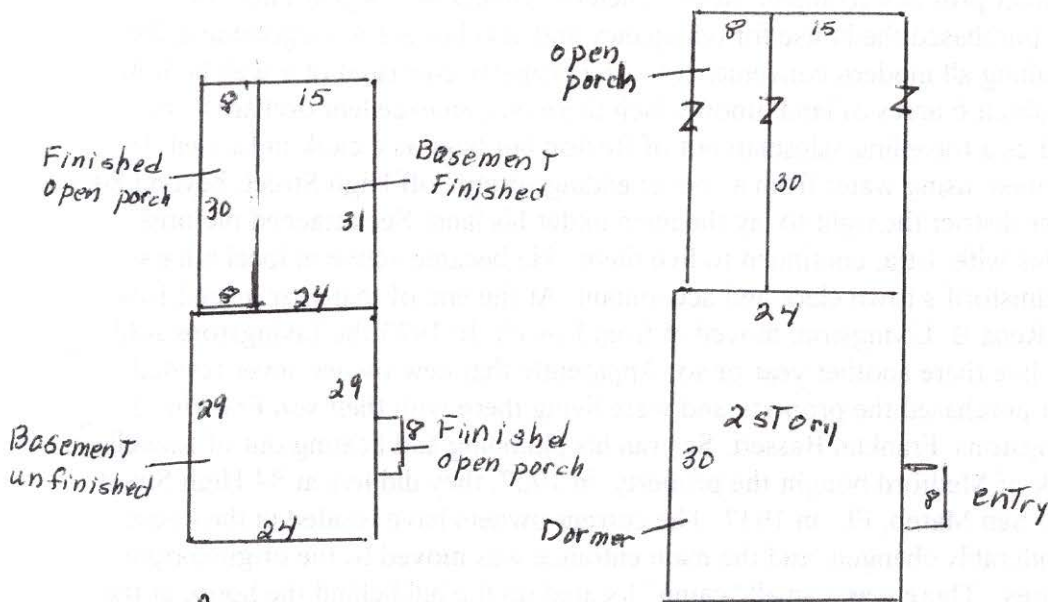
Property Address
84 HIGH STREET

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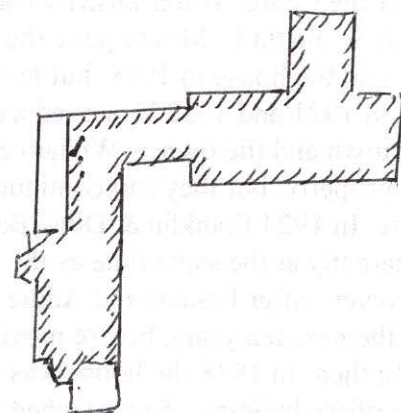
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Alterations



Assessors'
Dec. 2005

Assessors'
May 1971



Sept. 13, 1921
Survey for Livingston

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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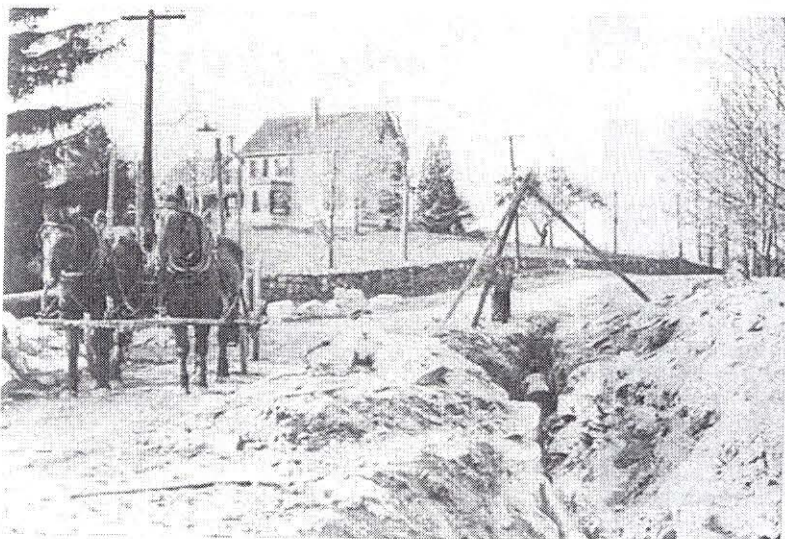
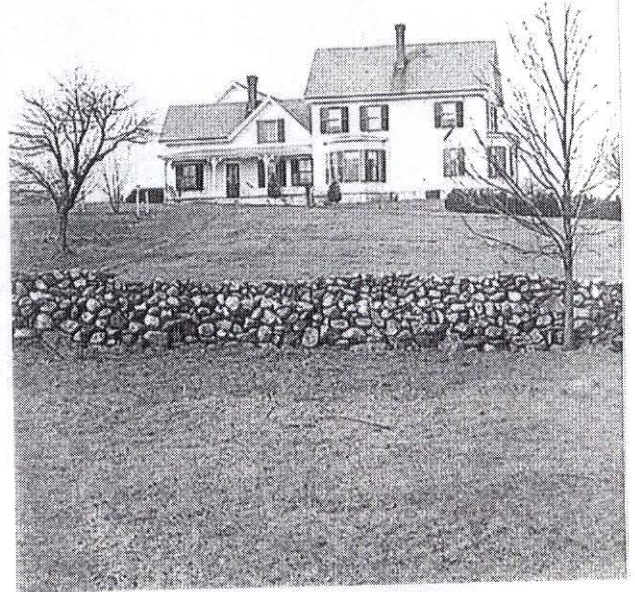
Town
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Property Address
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*Late 1890s To
early 1900s*



Nov. 1913

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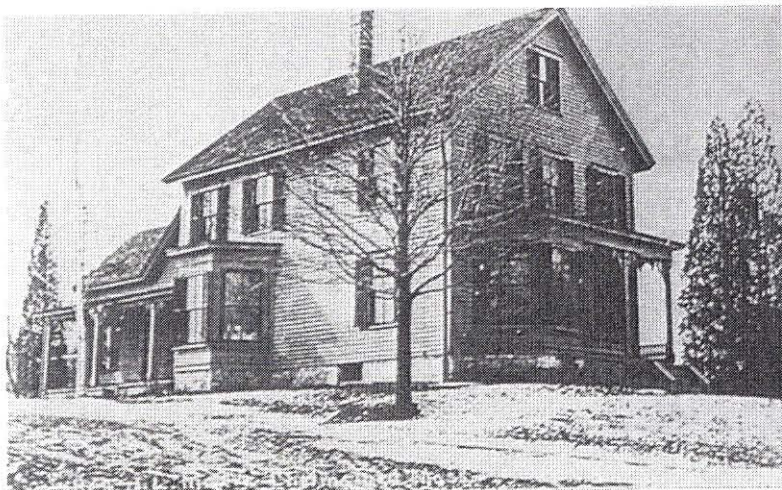


*Left side +
Original front side*

ca 2000



Early 1900s



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Area(s) Form No.

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Left side

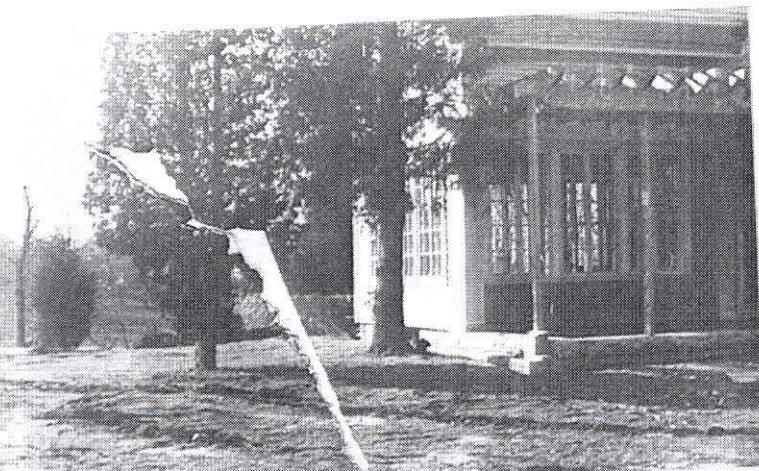
ca 2000



Pre-1938



1939



1938

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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*Rear + right
sides*

Area(s) Form No.

ea 2000

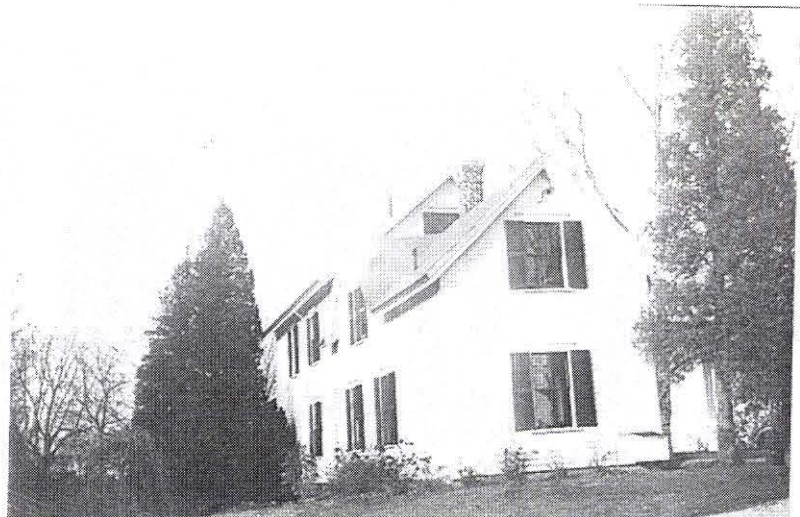
1938 or 39



1938

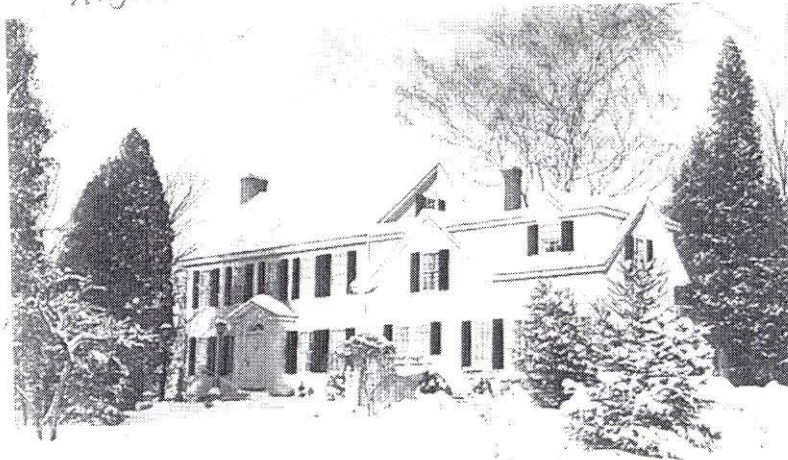


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1938

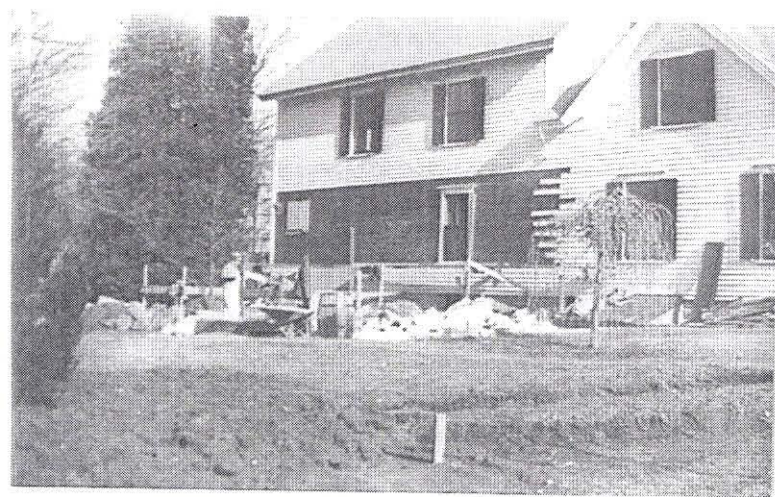
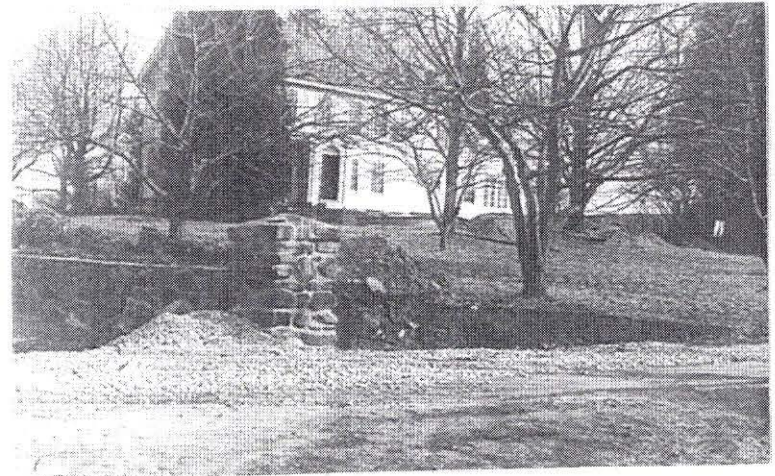
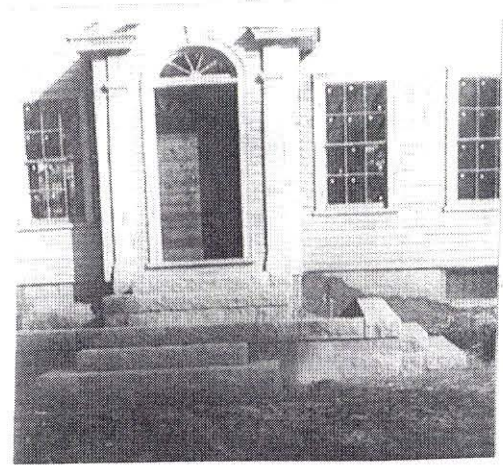
High side



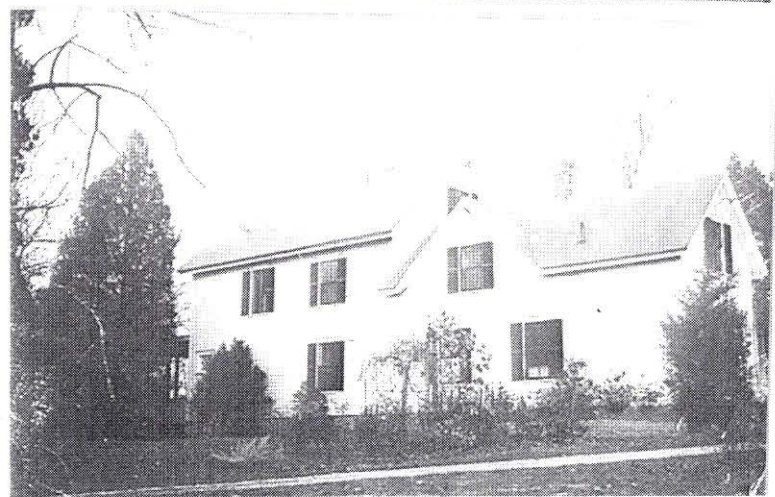
ca 2000

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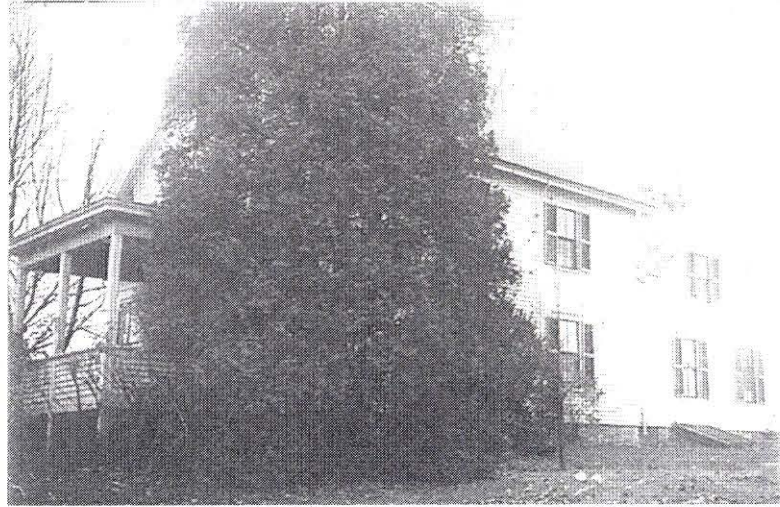
main
entrance
1938 or 39



1938



Pre
1938



84 High Street
Middlesex North District Registry Deeds

- Bk. 2069, pg. 44 6/ 7/1973 Constance L. Hazeltine to
Henry A. & Eleanor M. Gray
\$42,000
5.34 acres & buildings thereon
Lots 1 & 2 - plan Bk. 50, plan 37 (1921)
Excluding - land in Bk. 1737, pg. 157
- Bk. 2069, pg. 43 10/16/1972 Paula J. D'Alba to
Constance L. Hazeltine
5.34 acres & buildings thereon
Lots 1 & 2 - plan Bk. 50, plan 37 (1921)
Excluding - land in Bk. 1737, pg. 157
 $\frac{1}{2}$ portion
- Bk. 2035, Pg. 251 9/21/1972 Charles L. Cashin, Jr. to
Paula D'Alba, 174 Central St., Lowell
5.34 acres & buildings thereon
Lots 1 & 2 - plan Bk. 50, plan 37 (1921)
Excluding - land in Bk. 1737, pg. 157
 $\frac{1}{2}$ portion
- Middlesex Probate
Docket #442766 Estate of Irene E. Cashin to
Charles L. Cashin, Jr. & Constance Hazeltine
- Middlesex Probate
Docket #422933 1963 Estate of Luther C. Cashin
- Bk. 1005, pg. 595 4/27/1944 Rose E. Macauley, Lowell, to
C. Luther & Irene G. Cashin
5.34 acres & buildings thereon
Lots 1 & 2 - pl. Bk. 50, plan 37 (1921)
- Bk. 1005, pg. 594 4/27/1944 Irene G. Cashin to
Rose E. Macauley, Lowell
5.34 acres & buildings thereon
Lots 1 & 2 - plan Bk. 50, Plan 37 (1921)
- Bk. 903, pg. 317 8/27/1937 Francis R. Clark, San Mateo, Florida, to
Irene G. Cashin, Lowell
5.34 acres & buildings thereon
Lots 1 & 2, pl. Bk. 50, plan 37 (1921)
- Bk. 715, pg. 79 11/13/1924 John O. & Gerda M. Pearson to
Dillie B. Bassett, Lowell
5.34 acres & buildings thereon
Lots 1 & 2 - plan Bk. 50, plan 37 (1921)
- Bk. 748, pg. 430 8/20/1927 Dillie B. Bassett to
Francis R. Clark, Medford
5.34 acres & buildings thereon
Lots 1 & 2 - plan Bk. 50, plan 37 (1921)

- Bk. 686, pg. 468 7/18/1923 William & Rena B. Livingston, Lowell, to
John O. & Gerda M. Pearson, Lowell
5.34 acres & buildings thereon
Lots 1 & 2 - plan Bk. 50, plan 37 (1921)
- Bk. 588, pg. 67 5/31/1918 Justin L. Moore to
William & Rena B. Livingston, Lowell
2 lots:
1. 6 acres & buildings thereon
2. 3 acres
- Bk. 476, pg. 548 10/21/1911 Carrie A. Elliott, widow, to
Justin L. Moore
6 acres & buildings thereon
- Bk. 145, pg. 280 5/10/1881 Edwin K. Parkhurst to
Ephraim Elliott, Lowell
\$1200
land

Valerie Cashin: 256-2509

Nov. 30, 1977

ca 1912

House is in background of picture in 1955 Newsweek: laying pipes, horses, etc.

JBD – I think it much more likely to be #66 High St.

1937 – house very much remodeled by Cashin. The cellar is the same.

She has pictures before, during and after remodeling.

Grays – Valerie's parents

Constance Hazeltine: Charlie Jr.'s sister

Dec. 10, 2005

Her mother is Eleanor Gray, no relation to Fanita Gray at 66 High St.

Eleanor is living with them. When Charlie was in aviation, they put into a deed her right to live there for the rest of her life.

Her -laws (Charlie Cashin, Sr.) in 1936 bought the house and took it almost down to the ground. The basement is original.

She has many pictures, including 1 taken before it was changed.

Foundation: fieldstone

No structural changes since 1936.

3 houses in area have similar floor plans (she has been in all of them)

#66 High St., #84 High St. originally; #72 High St.

added comment by J.B. Drury:

#66 b. 1876 for Jasper Elliott

#84 b. 1881 for Ephraim Elliott

#72 b. 1882 for Mr/Mrs. Enos Hanson, sister of the above 2 Elliott brothers

#84 High St. – was a camp for Charlie Cashin, Sr. Probably only 50-60 years old.

Chelmsford Tax/real estate valuation lists:

1881, May 1

Elliott, Ephraim – not listed

Parkhurst, Edwin K.

no buildings, but in pencil:

set 2 acres to Enos Hanson

set 6 acres to Ephraim Elliott

1882, May 1

Elliott, Ephraim

1 dwelling house	\$1500	Home improved land	6 A.	\$ 600
1 barn	400			

New Hampshire Enlistments – internet

Ephraim Elliott, Thornton, Priv age 39, enlisted

9/9/62

Lowell Weekly Journal

Sept. 7, 1888 – Mr. Ephraim Elliott, an ingenious mechanic, has just secured a patent for a ^{wheel} ~~wheel~~ hoe, which he also denominates “a pulverizer and weed-destroyer,” and it well deserves the title. This is the fourth valuable patent that Mr. Elliott has taken out.

Jan. 26, 1889 – E.R. Marshall, whose place of business is on South street, has removed the greater part of his machinery from the second to the first floor, which he will hereafter occupy with increased facilities for furnishing patrons with boxes, window frames and almost everything supplied by wood-working machinery. The second story will be occupied in part by Mr. Ephraim Elliott for the manufacture of his recently patented garden wheel hoe.

Lowell Courier

Aug. 13, 1897 – At the Centre and South villages of Chelmsford during the thundershower of Monday afternoon, the electric fluid put in some pretty effective work. A bolt struck the house of Ephraim Elliott, in High street, cavorting around the rooms on both the first and second floors and running up a bill for damages which will probably amount to several hundred dollars. Mr. Elliott was about ten feet from the path of the intruder and sustained no injury beyond being slightly dazed for a moment. Mrs. Elliott chanced to be in the barn at the time and was not affected by the bolt. The windmill of S. W. Parkhurst, whose premises are near Mr. Elliott's, was struck and a part of the chain melted and the woodwork of the tank slightly splintered.

At the South village the house and barn of Emile Paignon, tenanted by Harvey W. Barnes, were struck, set on fire and burned to the ground.....

Feb. 21, 1900 – Ephraim Elliott of High street is having a hard fight with his old enemy, asthma. he has been confined to his home six weeks.

March 2, 1900 – Ephraim Elliott of Chelmsford died at his home in High street Tuesday night at 12 o'clock, aged 67 years. For many years he had been a sufferer from asthma and this combined with heart trouble was the cause of death. He had been confined to the house about two months, but a day or two before his decease his condition had apparently improved so his departure came as a great shock to his devoted wife. Mr. Elliott had lived in Chelmsford over 18 years, going from Lowell where for several years he was a member of the firm of Elliott & Smith, manufacturers of milled machine screws. He possessed much mechanical ability and was the patentee of several valuable inventions. His native place was Thornton, New Hampshire. Besides his wife he leaves as nearest relatives a brother, Jasper Elliott, and a sister, Mrs. Wilson Kimball, both of Chelmsford, and a brother Edmund of Rochester, Minn.

Mr. Elliott had long been a member of two fraternal organizations, Pentucket lodge, F.A.M. and Oberlin lodge I.O.O.F. He was a thoroughly upright man, and a good citizen, a kind neighbor, and his pleasant, genial qualities made warm friends of all acquaintances, who will deeply sympathize with the sorrowing wife in her great bereavement.

Oct. 25, 1911 – The sale has recently been completed by Byam Bros. of Lowell for Mrs. Ephraim Elliott, of her attractive property in High street to Justin Moore of Somerville, who has also purchased of J.N. Whitcomb 3½ acres of adjoining land. Mr. Moore buys for occupancy and will commence at once remodelling the house, installing all modern conveniences. The property consists of a well built, 8-room house, barn and hen-house, and about 6 acres of land, upon which there is an excellent orchard.

Sept. 23, 1912 – Mrs. Ephraim Elliott, who has since the sale of her property on High street occupied a part of the Parker house on Billerica street, is to leave this week for Sheffield, Vermont, where she will make her home.

Sept. 20 (no year) – Mrs. Ephraim Elliott, for many years a resident of Chelmsford, living in High street, is very ill at her home in Sheffield.

Feb. 9, 1914.

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Mr. J. L. Moore,
Chelmsford, Mass.

Dear Sir;

Your letter of even date is received and contents noted.

We very much appreciate your placing your property in our hands for sale. We shall be very glad indeed to do the best we can to locate a customer for it.

However, it is with genuine regret we learn of your determination to dispose of your property, especially so as we interpret this may mean that you will not only dispose of the same but will remove from the town. If this be so we hope that something may occur in the near future that will alter your determination.

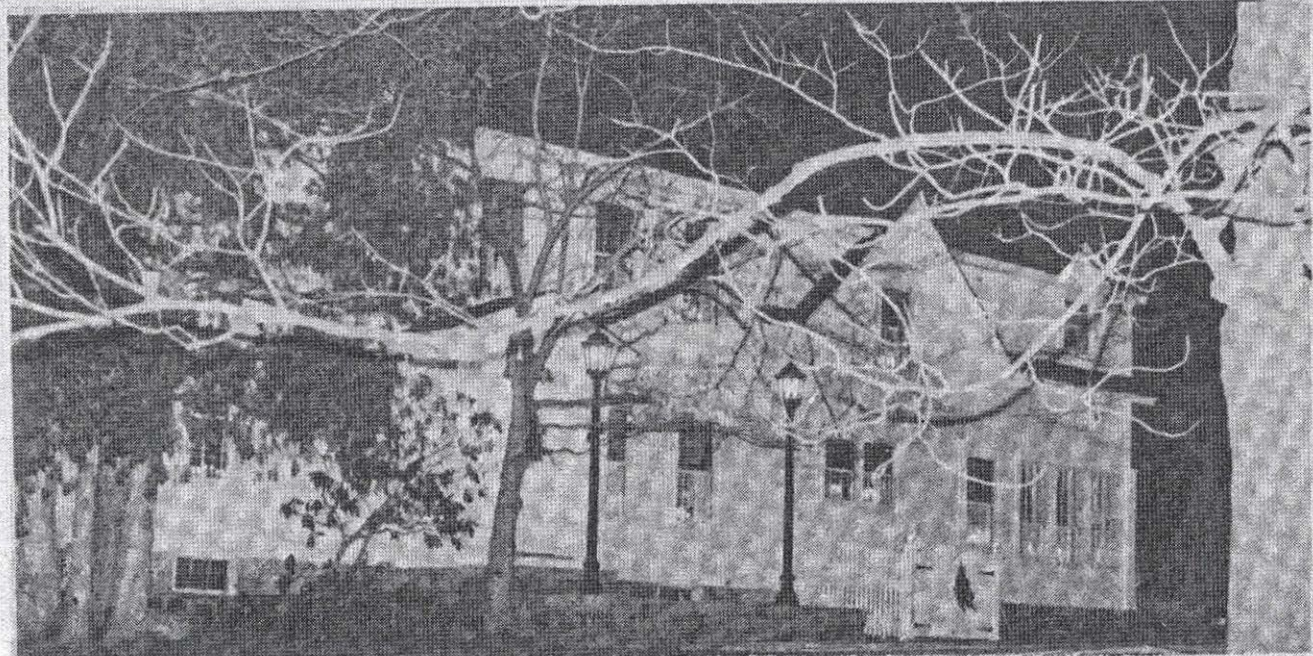
One can easily see that the care of a farm and also the work attending it added to the already performed day's work in business is most too much for any man.

As stated above we are glad of the opportunity to try to place your property in the market, but we would be much better pleased should you write us that you are also in the market for some neat, snug little home in our village.

Very truly yours,

HEE/CLC

Herbert Ellis



CHARLES L. CASHIN, JR. HOME, 84 High Street (Photo by Regina Linsley)



84 High Street



84 High Street

Willis B. Parkhurst Photo



84 High Street c. 1890-1910

Willis B. Parkhurst Photo





