

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

28/104/4

Westford

CLM.350

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

**Town/City:** Chelmsford

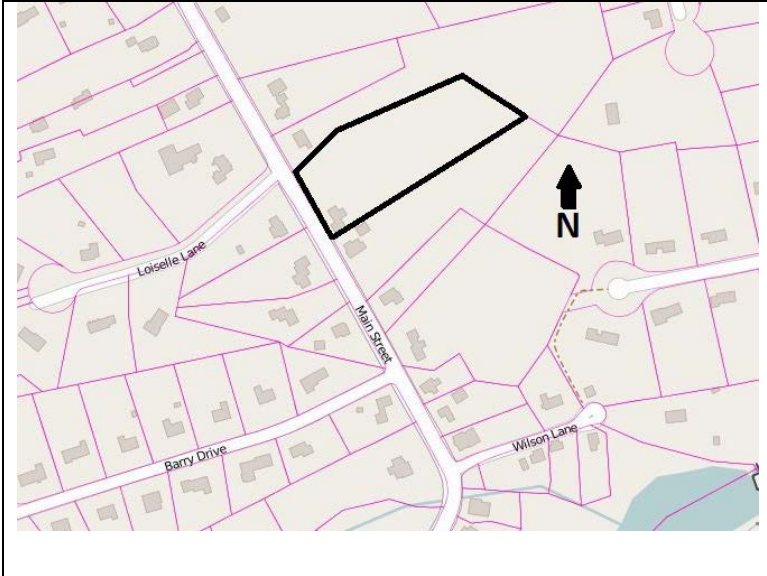
**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): West Chelmsford

## Photograph



**Address:** 146 Main Street  
**Historic Name:** Mary J. Coburn House  
**Uses:** Present: single-family dwelling  
Original: single-family dwelling  
**Date of Construction:** pre-1938  
**Source:** Deed research  
**Style/Form:** Craftsman/bungalow  
**Architect/Builder:** unknown  
**Exterior Material:**  
Foundation: concrete  
Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/vinyl  
Roof: asphalt shingle

## Locus Map



**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
Not determined

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):  
Unknown dates – side additions  
Ca. 2000 replacement siding and windows, porch enclosure

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** 2.5 acres

**Setting:** The building is located approximately 20' northeast of Main St. A wide drive is located in front of the wings. The lot is mostly flat and grassy in the rear and surrounded by mature trees. A picket fence is along the front of the parcel. The surrounding area is characterized by 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> c. residential development.

**Recorded by:** Jennifer Burden, Gray & Pape, Inc.  
**Organization:** Chelmsford Historical Commission  
**Date** (*month / year*): June 2016

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

146 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CLM.350

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 two-story building has a concrete foundation, walls clad in replacement vinyl siding with vinyl trim, and a steeply-pitched side gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney with a concrete cap is centrally located on the rear slope of the roof. Windows throughout the building are a mix of replacement, one-over-one, double-hung windows (some feature false muntins) and casement windows with false muntins. The main mass of the house is three bays wide. The primary (southwest) façade features a triple, one-over-one, double-hung window in the north bay that wraps around to the northwest wall, a replacement entry door in the center bay, and a triple set of casement windows in the south bay. A two-bay, shed roof dormer is centrally located on the second story of the primary façade and features a pair of double-hung windows in each bay. The southeast wall of the main mass of the house is three bays deep with single windows in each bay. There are two wings on the northwest wall. The first is two stories tall, but shorter than the main portion of the house, with a side gable roof, and clad in vertical replacement siding on the first story and replacement horizontal siding on the second. The wing features almost full-width shed dormers on the primary and rear walls. The dormers have one bay of triple windows with decorative shutters. The primary façade of the wing is two bays wide with an entry in the south bay and a bay window in the north. The other wing is one story tall with a side gable roof and is clad in horizontal replacement siding. Its primary façade is the northwest wall, which is three bays wide with single windows in the north and center bays and an entry door in the south bay. A two bay wide porch shelters the entry. The southwest wall is one bay deep and features a triple casement window with decorative shutters.

The building is an altered example of an early twentieth century house 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.*

This property was once part of the six-acre lot that included 148 Main Street. The two properties have the same ownership history through the 1940s when Norman and Bertha Howard assumed ownership of both properties (the Howards lived in 148 Main Street). Research did not discover when the house was constructed, but it is extant on the 1938 aerial map of the area. Between 1928 and 1946 Mary J. Coburn (born ca. 1869) owned the property, and therefore, may have been the first resident of the house. The 1930 U.S. Population Census lists Coburn living on Main Street (the street number is not provided) with daughter Bertha M. Seymour (born ca. 1894), who was a clerk at a dry goods store. At this date Mary is listed as a widow and was not employed. In the 1930s Bertha was remarried to Norman Howard. By 1946, while under the Howards' ownership, Elizabeth and George Boyce rented the property. The Boyces lived in Lexington the previous year and in 1946 George was listed as a consulting engineer and Elizabeth was a clerk. In 1948 the Howards sold the property to Cedric and Jeanette Smith. The 1950 city directory lists the Smiths at this address with Cedric as an assistant supervisor and Jeanette as a housewife. In 1955 the Smiths sold the property to Joseph C. Demers, who retains ownership of the property.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Genealogical research, including U.S. and Massachusetts census records; birth, marriage, and death records; and city directory records from ancestry.com.

Historic Aerials of Chelmsford. [www.historicaerials.com](http://www.historicaerials.com).

Middlesex North Registry of Deeds. [www.lowelldeeds.com](http://www.lowelldeeds.com).