

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

28/104/15

Westford

CLM.356

Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 164 Main Street

Historic Name: Woodward/Edwards House

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: between 1831 and 1856

Source: 1831 and 1856 maps

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/vinyl

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Unknown date: rear addition

Ca. 2000 replacement siding, windows, and porch materials

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .26 A

Setting: The house is located approximately 20' northeast from Main St. A stacked stone wall is along the front of the lot. An asphalt drive is to the north of the house and a path leads to the rear entrance. The flat grassy yard has a few mature trees. The surrounding area includes 19th and 20th c. residential development.

Locus Map



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

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

164 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CLM.356

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 1.5-story, ell-shaped house has a stone foundation, walls clad in replacement vinyl siding with vinyl trim, and an asphalt-shingled roof. An internal brick chimney is located within the ell of the building. Most windows throughout the house are one-over-one, double-hung windows with exterior storms that make it difficult to determine if the windows are historic or replacement. The primary (southwest) façade is four bays wide with a single (north) bay in the front gable portion of the ell. The next bay to the south is the entry door. Next to the door is a one-bay projection with replacement paired casement windows; this bay appears it may have historically part of the porch that was later enclosed. The southernmost bay includes a single window. A bay porch is located within the ell and features a replacement railing and support columns. The northwest wall of the main mass of the building is two bays deep. The first story includes a single window in the west bay and a replacement bay window in the east. An almost full-width shed dormer on the half story has three bays with square casement windows in the outer bays and an octagonal casement in the center. A one-story addition is located at the rear of the building.

The house is an 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 shown on the 1856 map of the area, therefore, it was constructed between these dates. The 1856 map lists T. Standing as the property owner, however, deed research traced the chain of ownership to 1847 when John Bremmen sold it to John Ackroyd, who retained the property until 1868. Research regarding Ackroyd revealed he died in 1848 (born 1798 in England) of "ship-fever," however, Ackroyd's widow Alice (born ca. 1811 in England) assumed ownership of the property before marrying Thomas Standing (born ca. 1810). Vital records list Standing as a finisher of flannels and was a widower in 1853 when Alice passed. The property passed to John and Alice Ackroyd's son George (born ca. 1844), who sold it to John N. Perry in 1868. The 1870 US Population Census lists Perry (born ca. 1821 in Maine) living in Chelmsford with wife Abigail (born ca. 1825 in Maine) and daughter Carrie (born ca. 1857 in Maine), At this date Perry was a retail store keeper with a combined real estate and personal value of \$17,000, which was among the highest in the area. Perry sold the property to Oliver Woodward in 1874. The 1875 map of West Chelmsford shows that Oliver Woodward owned the lot that would eventually include buildings at 164, 168, and 170 Main Street. The 1880 Census list Woodward (born ca. 1800 in Massachusetts, died 1885) living in Chelmsford and not working. Also living with Woodward was his wife Emerline (born ca. 1814 in Vermont), son and daughter-in-law William (1853-1888) and Louisa (1854-1905, née Jeffrey), as well as their daughter Emma (born ca. 1880-1976), At this date William was employed in the file shop. After Oliver's death, the property was granted to William; however, William died shortly thereafter in 1888 of typhoid fever. The property was granted to William's widow, and after her passing in 1905, the property was transferred to daughter Emma. Later that year Emma married Arthur Edwards. The 1920 Census lists the Edwards living on Main Street with Arthur (born ca. 1885-1962) working as a foreman in the brass factory; son Sumner (1907-1991) was also listed in the household. By 1930 Arthur was working as a moulder in a foundry and Sumner was no longer living at home. After his mother's death in 1976, the property was transferred to Sumner and his wife Grace. In 1977, the Edwards granted the property to son John W. and his wife Susan Edwards. They retained the property until 2004, marking the end of the 130-year ownership history of the Woodward/Edwards family.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

164 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	CLM.356
--	---------

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Beers, F.W. *County Atlas of Middlesex, Massachusetts*. J.B. Beers & Co., New York. 1875.

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

Geo. H. Walker & Co. *Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Geo. H. Walker & Co., Boston, MA. 1889.

Hales, John G. *Plan of the Town of Chelmsford in the County of Middlesex*. Surveyed in 1831 by John G. Hales.

Middlesex North Registry of Deeds. www.lowelldeeds.com.

Walling, Henry F. *Map of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Smith & Bumstead, Boston, MA. 1856.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

164 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	CLM.356
--	---------

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district
 Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: **A** **B** **C** **D**

Criteria Considerations: **A** **B** **C** **D** **E** **F** **G**

Statement of Significance

The area of West Chelmsford is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places as a locally significant historic district under Criterion A for the development of this area around the Roby Manufacturing Company and Chelmsford Woolen Mills as well as under Criterion C for its intact examples of mid-nineteenth through early twentieth century residential architecture. The boundary of the proposed district would include resources built during the period of significance along Main Street from approximately Loiselle Lane in the north to the Westford Town Line, as well as resources along School Street between Main Street and Graniteville Road. This building at 164 Main Street would be a contributing resource to that district as an example of residential architecture constructed during its period of significance that retains some historic integrity.