

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

28/104/16

Westford

CLM.357

**Town/City:** Chelmsford

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 168 Main Street

**Historic Name:** William Woodward House

**Uses:** Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1879

**Source:** 1875 map of West Chelmsford and Tax Records

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival/Italianate

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

### Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Carriage house

### Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Unknown date: side addition, porch enclosure

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** .47 A

**Setting:** The house is located approximately 30' northeast from Main St. An asphalt drive is to the north of the house and leads to the garage. The flat grassy yard has a few mature trees. The surrounding area includes 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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

168 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.*

The two-story, ell-shaped house has a stone foundation, walls clad in wood clapboard with wood trim, and an asphalt-shingled roof with gable returns. The side gable wing of the house is slightly shorter than the front gable. There are two, brick, internal chimneys in the building – one in the center of the north slope of the front gable near the ridgeline and the other near the end of the ridgeline of the side gable. Windows throughout the building are historic, wood, two-over-two, double-hung windows. The primary (southwest) façade of the front gable is three bays wide with two single windows in the second story and the north bays of the first story. The main entry is in the south bay with a historic, wood paneled door and transom window sheltered by a flat roof, molded porch hood that features ornately scrolled brackets. The side gable is two bays wide with a single window in the north bay of the first story and a door in the south bay. Two small windows are located within the ell on the primary and southeast walls of the second story. An enclosed, one-story, two-bay wide porch is located along the ell wing. A one-story, flat roof addition is located on the southeast wall of the building. The addition has the same foundation as the rest of the house, and therefore, may be original to the building.

The carriage house is located to the northeast of the house. It has a stone foundation, clad in wood siding with wood trim, and a front gable roof with gable returns. A wood garage door is in the north bay and a hay loft opening is located below the gable peak. The carriage house is shown on the 1889 map of West Chelmsford.

The house is a good example of the Greek Revival style that retains all aspects of historic integrity.

## 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 is not shown on the 1875 map of West Chelmsford, but is present on the 1889 map of the area. Both maps show that the lot that includes buildings at 164, 168, and 170 Main Street were owned by the Woodward family. Oliver Woodward purchased the property from John N. Perry in 1874. The 1875 map of West Chelmsford shows Oliver Woodward as the owner of the lot at the northeast corner of Main Street and Wilson Lane. Chelmsford Town Tax records show that Oliver Woodward owned a dwelling house in 1879, so the house was built by that date. The 1880 Census list Woodward (1800-1885) living in Chelmsford and not working. Also living with Woodward was his wife Emerline (born ca. 1814 in Vermont), son William (1853-1888) and daughter-in-law 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. Arthur and Emma, and by 1953 just Emma, lived at 164 Main Street. The 1920 Census lists the Edwards living on Main Street with Arthur (born ca. 1885-1962) working as a foreman in the brass factory. Musician and son Sumner W. Edwards (1907-1991) and his wife Grace L. Edwards lived at 168 Main Street according to later directories. 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. The property remained in the Edwards family until 1999, marking the end of the 125-year ownership history of the Woodward/Edwards family.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

Chelmsford Tax Records. Archival record books available at the Chelmsford Town Offices.

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](http://www.lowelldeeds.com).

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



Carriage house at 168 Main Street, facing east. November 2015.

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**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 168 Main Street would be a contributing resource to that district as an example of residential architecture constructed during its period of significance that retains all historic integrity.