

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

28/104/17

Westford

CLM.358

Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 170-172 Main Street

Historic Name: William Woodward House

Uses: Present: multiple-family dwelling

Original: multiple-family dwelling

Date of Construction: between 1875 and 1889

Source: 1875 and 1889 maps of West Chelmsford

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: parged

Wall/Trim: brick veneer/vinyl siding

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Unknown date: rear addition with chimney

Ca. 1980 replacement siding and veneer

Ca. 1980 change in fenestration

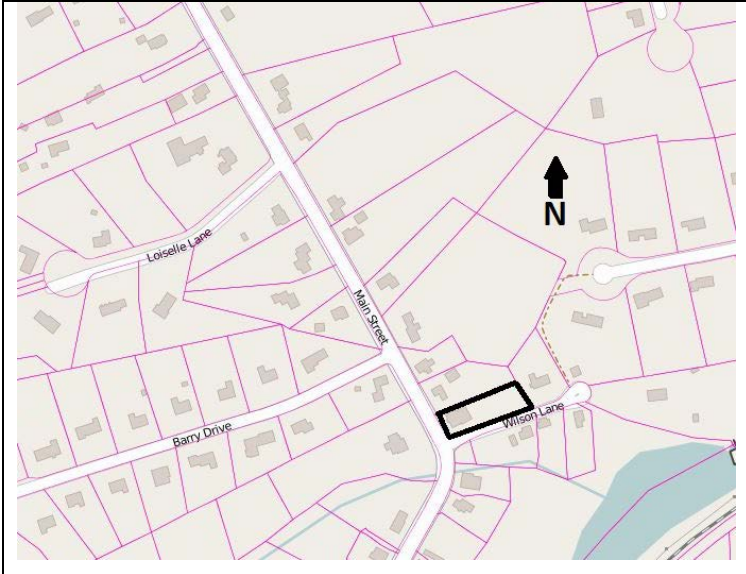
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .42 A

Setting: The building is located at the NE corner of Main St and Wilson Ln, approximately 25' east from the street. A drive off of Wilson is at the rear of the building. A low, concrete block is along the front and side of the lot and a guard rail is also along the front. The 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

170-172 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CLM.358

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 T-plan building has a foundation that is covered with painted parging, walls clad in replacement brick veneer and vinyl siding, and has an asphalt-shingled roof with gable returns. Two, internal, brick chimneys are located along the ridgeline of the roof near the north and south ends. Windows throughout the building are replacements and a combination of one-over-one, double-hung, sliding, and casement windows. The primary (west) façade is four, symmetrical bays wide with replacement windows in the outer bays and two entry doors that lead to the separate units in the inner bays. The façade is faced in brick veneer and the small size of the windows suggests the fenestration layout was altered during this change. The entry doors are sheltered by a two-bay wide porch hood that has a flat roof with scrolled brackets. The sides of the main mass of the building are two bays deep with replacement windows in each bay. The side walls are clad in replacement siding. The rear portion of the building is also clad in replacement siding and features a rear porch. A small addition is located on the south wall of the rear portion of the building. The addition is clad in replacement siding and features a brick, external chimney on its south wall.

The building is an altered example of a late nineteenth century two-family 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 is not shown on the 1875 map of West Chelmsford, but is present on the 1889 map of the area, therefore, it was constructed between these dates. The 1875 map 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 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 out of the family to Samuel L. Hutchins (the properties at 164 and 168 Main Street remained in the family until 2004 and 1999 respectively). Hutchins sold the property in 1906 to Alfred and Hanna Petterson. The Pettersons retained the property until 1910 and no further information was discovered about them. That year they sold the property to Carl Olsson (sometimes spelled Olson). Olsson (ca. 1847-1924) was born in Sweden and immigrated to the US in 1893. The 1912 city directory lists Olsson as a stone cutter living on Main Street along with son August, also a stone cutter. The 1920 US Population Census lists Olsson living on Main Street with wife Alma (born ca. 1859 in Sweden) and daughter Vera (born ca. 1898 in Massachusetts). The next family listed on the census is John Olson (born ca. 1896), his wife Stella (born ca. 1898), and daughter Etha (born ca. 1917). Since this building is a two-family dwelling, John's family was likely living in the other half of the house (no street addresses are provided). At this date John was working as a card stripper in the worsted mill. In 1922 Carl granted the property to John and Stella, who kept it until 1928. After five additional sales between 1928 and 1949, the property was purchased by Chester and Betty Lee Woodward in 1950, thus placing the property back into Woodward family ownership. The 1951 city directory lists Chester living at 170 Main and working for General Electric. Chester retained the property until 1971 and three other owners have purchased the property since that date.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

170-172 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	CLM.358
--	---------

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.

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

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

170-172 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

	CLM.358
--	---------

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 170 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.