

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

28/104/23	Westford		CLM.359
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**Town/City:** Chelmsford

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 176-178 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Hiscox File Company Housing

**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:**

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: brick veneer/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

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

Ca. 2000 replacement windows and siding

Ca. 2000 rear deck installations

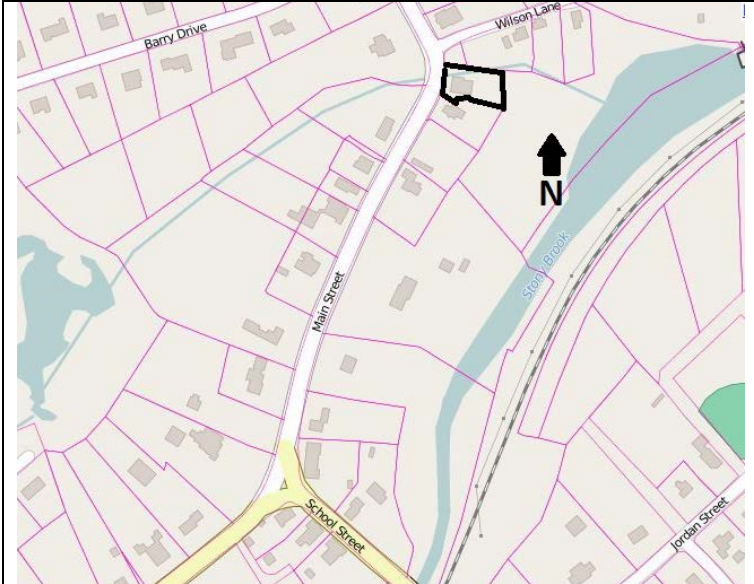
**Condition:** Fair

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

**Acreage:** .37 A

**Setting:** The building is located approximately 25' west of Main St, south of Wilson Ln. An asphalt drive along the north side of the building leads to a rear parking area. A few mature trees are in from the building. 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

176-178 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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 2.5-story, U-plan building has a stone foundation, walls clad in replacement brick veneer, and an asphalt-shingled side gable roof with gable returns. Two, internal, brick chimneys are located along the ridgeline of the main mass of the building near the gable ends. Most of the windows throughout the building are replacement, one-over-one, double-hung windows. The primary (west) façade is symmetrically six bays wide. Single windows are located in all bays of the second story and the outer four bays of the first story. The inner bays of the first story include two, historic, wood and glass entry doors that lead to individual units. The doorway has a wood surround topped with a bracketed cornice. An unadorned, wood friezeboard runs the width of the façade. The side walls of the main building mass are three bays deep with single windows in each bay; the half story walls have two bays with single, historic, two-over-two and six-over-six, double-hung windows.

The two rear projections of the building that make up the U-plan are three bays deep and have rear gabled roofs. The projections are clad in replacement siding and also feature replacement windows. Two-story, modern wood decks are located at the rear of the projections.

The building is an altered example of a late nineteenth century multiple-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 does not appear on the 1875 map of West Chelmsford, but is present on the 1889 map of the area. The building, therefore, was constructed between these dates. In 1875 Nathaniel J.N. Bacheller and Andrew J. Hiscox purchased the property from Jonas C. Butterfield, who owned the building immediately to the south (now 182 Main Street). Hiscox was the proprietor of the Hiscox File Company that assumed operation of the former Roby Manufacturing Company, and Bacheller was a printer and one of the proprietors of the *Morning Mail* based in Lowell. The multiple-unit building was likely constructed to house workers at the Hiscox File Company located nearby on Main Street. The Hiscox File Company was in operation from 1865 until ca. 1888, and the building was constructed during this period. Hiscox died in 1893 and it appears his half interest in the property went to Bacheller. Bacheller passed in February 1895 and the property was granted to his daughter Carrie Elizabeth Bacheller. In March 1895 Carrie sold the property to Peter Johnson. No further information was discovered about Johnson, who is not listed in the 1900 city directory. Johnson sold the property in 1902 to Lars Petterson (sometimes spelled Peterson). The 1912 city directory lists Peterson as L. Adolph living on Main Street and working as a stone cutter. The 1920 US Population Census lists Peterson living on Dunstable Road in Chelmsford, therefore he did not live at this address on Main Street. The census shows that Peterson was born ca. 1856 in Sweden, immigrated to the US in 1893, and became a naturalized citizen in 1900. His wife Augusta was born ca. 1868 in Sweden, immigrated to the US in 1900, and became a naturalized citizen the following year. Living with them in 1920 were four children born between 1901 and 1911 in Massachusetts: Carl, Helga, Harry, and Ebba. When Lars died in 1925, the property passed to Augusta, who added the children to the deed in 1944. During this period the family continued to be listed at the Dunstable Road address, so this property must have solely served as rental units. A search of the 1942 city directory found the following tenants at 176 and 178 Main: the Gordon family at 176 - Adam Gordon working for the WPA, Evelyn Gordon a housewife, and Evelyn Gordon a student; and two single women at 178 - Florence Eanes a housewife and Anna Lundburg a domestic servant originally from Sweden. In 1953 the heirs of Lars Peterson sold the property to Thyra Hudgings (1885-1969, born in Sweden). The 1955 city directory lists Hudgings living on Main Street and employed at the Westford Nursing Home. She sold the property in 1956 and the property experienced three short periods of ownership between 1957 and 1970.

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

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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 176-178 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.