

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

28/104/26

Westford

CLM.362

Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 186-188 Main Street

Historic Name: J. B. Longley House

Uses: Present: multiple-family dwelling

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: between 1831 and 1856

Source: 1831 and 1856 maps of Chelmsford

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*):

Ca. 2000 replacement siding and sash

Ca. 1970 rear addition

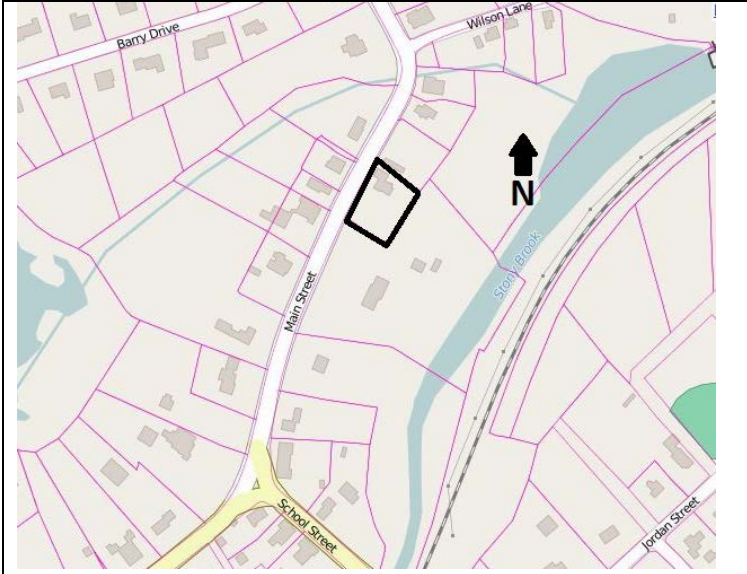
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .5 A

Setting: The house is located approximately 30' east of Main Street. Asphalt parking areas are located to the north and south of the building. The flat grassy lot includes mature trees and shrubs. 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

186-188 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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, L-shaped building 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 south slope of the front gable. Another internal brick chimney is located in the north slope of the rear addition. Most of the windows throughout the house are replacement, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows with false muntins. The front gable portion of the primary (west) façade is two bays wide with single windows in each bay on the first and second stories. The pediment half story has a single, curved, nine-pane window below the gable peak. The side gable portion of the primary facade includes single windows in the four bays of the second story. The first story includes entry doors for the individual units in the north and second from the south bays and single windows in the remaining three bays. A one-story porch within the L of the building features a flat roof and replacement railings and columns. The south wall of the side gable portion is one bay deep with an oriel window on the first story, a single window on the second story, and a historic, two-over-two, rounded sash window on the half-story. A one-story rear gable addition with a concrete block foundation is at the rear of the building.

The building 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 present on the 1856 map, therefore, it was constructed between these dates. J.B. Longley is listed as the owner of the building on the 1856 and 1875 maps of the area. Jonas B. Longley (ca. 1822-1879, born in Massachusetts) is listed in the 1850 US Population Census as living in Chelmsford and working as a scythe maker (he would have been employed at the Roby Manufacturing Company located to the south of this parcel). The 1870 census continues to list him in Chelmsford and working as a scythe maker. At this date those living in the household included wife Eliza (born ca. 1821 in Rhode Island), daughters Emily, Grace, and Clara (born between 1849 and 1857), eldest daughter Emma Spaulding (ca. 1846-1910), and her husband Frank Spaulding (born ca. 1844), a travelling salesman often working out of New York City. After Longley's death in 1879 the property was transferred to Frank Spaulding (sometimes spelled Spalding), who retained it through his death in 1904. In 1906 Spaulding's heirs granted their shares of the property to Lulu G. Johnson (ca. 1876-1957), a daughter of Frank and Emma. Johnson was married to Olin C. Johnson (born ca. 1871 in Vermont), who was a traveling salesman for a biscuit company. The Johnsons remained on Main Street until ca. 1919 when they relocated to Lowell. That August they sold the property to James Reid. Reid passed in December of 1919, so the property transferred to his heirs, including wife Margaret. The 1920 census lists Margaret (1852-1936, born in Scotland) living on Main Street with son George (ca. 1885-1956), daughters Margaret (born ca. 1888) and Esther (born ca. 1893) (all of the children were born in Massachusetts), and three boarders. At this date George was working as a tool sharpener in a granite quarry and Esther was a public school teacher. After Margaret's death in 1936, her children retained ownership of the property. It appears George was the only heir who lived at this address until his death in 1956. In 1962 the remaining heirs sold the property to Ralph and Harriette House. The Houses kept the property for only six months before selling it to Christine and Alfred Wilson; the property remains in the Wilson family currently.

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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.

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.



Side view of 186 Main Street, facing northeast. 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 186 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.