

FORM B - BUILDING

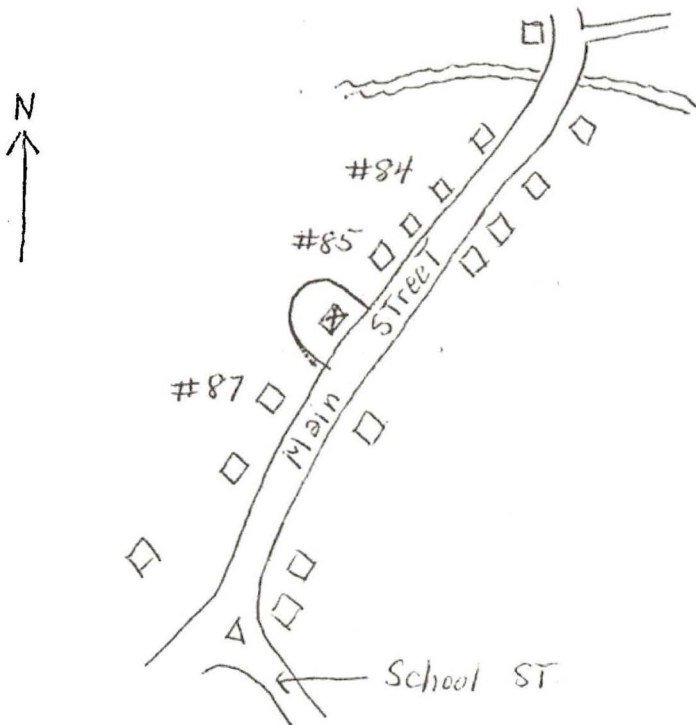
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
	86



town Chelmsford
 address 197 Main Street
 name J.N. Perry House
 present use residence - 2 family
 present owner Arthur & Gloria Patenaude
 description:
 date 1827
 source deeds, tax lists
 style post-Colonial

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

Architect _____
 Exterior wall fabric clapboard
 Outbuildings (describe) garage-small, at
 Other features _____

Altered see attached Date _____
 Moved no Date _____
 5. Lot size:
 19,400 sq. ft.
 One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 150 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street
42 feet

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury & Diane Fay
 Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission
 Date November 11, 1977

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) George S. Messenger

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| Aboriginal | _____ | Conservation | _____ | Recreation | _____ |
| Agricultural | _____ | Education | _____ | Religion | _____ |
| Architectural | _____ | Exploration/
settlement | _____ | Science/
invention | _____ |
| The Arts | _____ | Industry | _____ | Social/
humanitarian | _____ |
| Commerce | _____ | Military | _____ | Transportation | _____ |
| Communication | _____ | Political | _____ | | |
| Community development | <u>x</u> | | | | |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

West Chelmsford began as a village with the building in the 1820s of 4 houses on the west side of Main St. and a factory nearby. This is one of the houses.

In April 1827 George S. Messenger purchased from Deacon John Farwell 60 sq. rods of land, on which the house was built within the year. George and his brother Elias, who built the brick house nearby at 189 Main St., were employess of Farwell, who had come from Fitchburg shortly after 1820 and built a scythe factory on Stony Brook opposite the house. By 1840 George Messenger had returned to Fitchburg and sold the house to Deacon Farwell's son, Thomas T. Farwell.

From 1857 until 1905 the property was owned by John N. & Abbie Perry. John N. Perry was a storekeeper in West Chelmsford and also a selectman. His wife, Abbie, also inherited the old house at 55 Spaulding Rd. (#35). She died a widow while still residing at 197 Main St., and the house was sold out of the family.

From 1919 to 1946 it was owned by August P. Nelson, a stone cutter. The West Chelmsford-Westford area is widely known for its granite.

In 1977 the lot size and shape remains the same that it was in 1827, when the house was built, 60 sq. rods.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

1831, 1856 maps; 1875 Beers Atlas
Waters, History of Chelmsford, 1917
Chelmsford tax/real estate lists, 1827, 1828, 1834
Chelmsford Assessors' records
Chelmsford Directory: 1898/99, 1915/16, 1922
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds:
Bk.12,pg.338(1827), Bk.14,pg.465(1840); Bk.301,pg.538(1898); Bk.132,pg.224

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

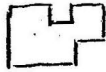
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Chelmsford	Form No: 86
Property Name: J.N. Perry House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

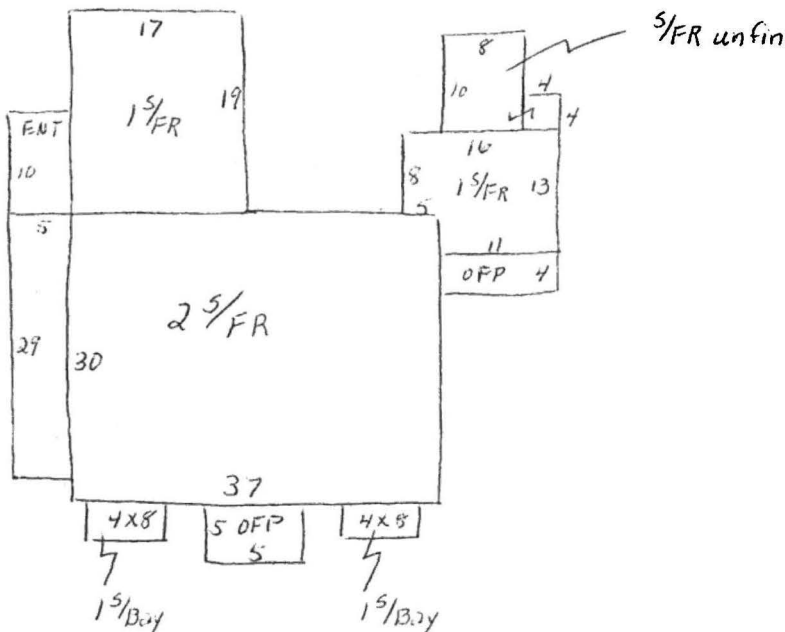
3. Altered

1875 Beers Atlas



enlarged, free-hand

12/2/1970 Revaluation Card:



Owner: Arthur Patenaude,
residence 199 Main St.
Fair condition in & out
Garage 1/FR 13x30
unattached
Dwelling 2 S/FR
2 family
Foundation: brick or stone
 $\frac{1}{2}$ basement
Clapboard walls
Gable roof, asphalt shingles
Framing: wood joists 3x4;
timber beams & cols.
Wood rafters
No. rooms: 1st-7, 2nd-5
Common floors
Fireplaces: 1

197 Main Street

North: Book 1135, pg. 294	3/13/1950	Arthur W. & Gloria M. Patenaude from William P. Spead, Jr. & Jane H. Spead 60 sq. rods land & buildings thereon
North: Book 1043, pg. 388	5/13/1946	William P. Spead, Jr. & Jane H. Spead from Ellen N. Lofstedt, married, of Brattleboro, Vt. 60 sq. rods land & buildings thereon title derived under will of father, August P. Nelson
North: Book 597, pg. 317	1/28/1919	August P. Nelson from James P. Emerson 60 sq. rods land & buildings thereon
North: Book 475, pg. 374	3/ 7/1905	James P. Emerson from George Spaulding, widower 60 sq. rods land & buildings thereon title derived under will of sister, Abby Perry
North: Book 14, pg. 156	10/13/1857	John N. Perry from Thomas T. Farwell, New London, N.H. \$1200 60 sq. rods land
North: Book 14, pg. 465 South: Book 397, pg. 139	8/13/1840	Thomas T. Farwell, scythe maker, from George S. Messinger, yeoman, Fitchburg \$300 60 sq. rods land
North: Book 12, pg. 338 South: Book 293, pg. 532	4/27/1827	George S. Messinger, yeoman, from John Farwell, gentleman \$40 60 sq. rods land

197 Main Street
Lowell Daily Courier

May 1, 1896 - One night the latter part of the week between the hour of eleven and twelve Mrs. Abby Perry and family were disturbed by unusual noises in the front of the house and glancing out of a window they observed two miscreants carrying off the large gate in the driveway. They sounded an alarm and the gate was quickly dropped in front of Mrs. Butterfield's premises and the marauder hastened away. In the morning it was discovered one of Capt. Roby's large gates had been roughly handled too.



197 Main Street



197-193 Main Street, taken in 1979





