

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13/19/17	Nashua South	G	CLM.385
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 38 Middlesex Street

Historic Name: Henry and Eliza Woods House

Uses: Present: single-family dwelling

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1894

Source: Deed research

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood

Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Detached garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 2000 replacement sash

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .33 A

Setting: The house is located approximately 40' north of Middlesex St., east of Kennedy Dr. A paved drive east of the building leads to the garage. Concrete paths lead from the street and drive to the front porch. The lot is flat with several mature trees. 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

38 MIDDLESEX STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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.

This building is located on the north side of Middlesex Street, just east of Kennedy Drive. It is a two-story house with a pyramid roof covered with slate shingles. Built of wood frame construction, the house features elements of Queen Anne style architecture. Fenestration consists of replacement, one-over-one, double-hung windows. The exterior walls are clad with wood clapboard with wood trim. The house rests atop a stone foundation. Internal brick chimneys are located on the rear and east slopes of the roof. The primary (south) façade, which faces Middlesex Street, is divided into five asymmetrical bays on the first story, with a large, square-shaped, three-story turret at the southeast corner of the façade. The turret is oriented 45 degrees to the plane of the façade and features a tall, steep, pyramid roof. The front entrance is located in the first bay of the west side of the façade and features a historic wood door topped with a transom. The second story of the primary façade is divided into three bays. A pair of one-over-one double-hung windows is located in each of the three stories of the primary facade of the turret. A one-story porch with hipped roof extends the full width of the primary façade. It is adorned with turned columns, arched corner brackets, and a wooden railing with balusters. Hipped dormers are located on the primary façade and east and west walls of the house. A pair of large brackets are located under the east and west corners of the dormer on the primary façade.

The house is a good example of the Queen Anne style that retains historic integrity of location, setting, design, 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.

Deed research traced the ownership history to 1894 when Clara A.H. Adams sold the lot to Eliza and Henry Woods. The house was likely built shortly after this sale as it does not appear on the 1889 map of North Chelmsford, but is present on the 1907 Sanborn map of the area. Henry (1843-1915) is listed in the 1896 Chelmsford city directory as the paymaster and bookkeeper for George C. Moore's mill enterprises. Henry was married to Eliza (1841-1899), and after she died he remarried to Marion (born ca. 1871). The 1910 US Population Census lists Henry and Marion living on Middlesex Street with Marion's cousin Marion Horne (born ca. 1894). At this date Henry continued as the bookkeeper for the woolen mill. In 1911 George Moore granted a mortgage to Woods and after Henry's death in 1915, Moore purchased this property from foreclosure auction. Moore retained the property until 1921, granting it to son George, Jr. It appears George, Jr (ca. 1887-1945) was living in the house before the transaction as the 1920 census lists him on Middlesex Street with son George III, housekeeper Alice Billings, her son Sumner Billings, and maid Donna Birchnough; by this date George was a widower. George, Jr. worked for his father as a manager of the Brookside Mill in Westford. George remarried to Dorothy in 1921 and in 1927 they had a daughter Jane. A year before his death George sold the property to J. Edmund Boucher in 1944. The 1949 city directory lists Boucher living at this address and working as a physician with an office at 32 Middlesex Street. Boucher retained the property until 1963. In 1966 current owner Stella Papaconstantinou purchased the property.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Chelmsford Public Library. Royal Shawcross Photographs Collection. Available at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/chelmsfordpubliclibrary/sets/7215760000139715/>.

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.

Merriam, Fred. *Images of America: North and West Chelmsford*. Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, South Carolina. 2016.

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

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Lowell, MA. 1907 and 1950.

Waters, Dr. Wilson. *The History of Chelmsford, Massachusetts*. Lowell, Mass., 1917.



Undated photograph of 38 Middlesex Street. (Chelmsford Public Library.)

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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 North Chelmsford was determined eligible for inclusion in the NRHP by MHC in 1987 for its local level of historical significance. The historic district boundary of Area G roughly includes resources along Middlesex and Princeton streets between Wright Street, Gay Street, and Edwards Avenue. The district is eligible for inclusion in the NRHP at the local level under Criterion A for its association with the industrialization of North Chelmsford in the mid- to late-nineteenth century and under Criterion C for its examples of workers' cottages, modest single-family houses, and elaborate residences owned by local industrialists. The building at 38 Middlesex Street retains sufficient historic integrity to contribute to this potential historic district.