

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	43



Town Chelmsford

Address 96 North Road

Name Capt. John Butterfield House

Present use residence

Present owner John W. Fallon

Description:

Date pre-Revolutionary

Source deeds, Bridge diary

Style Georgian

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboard; butted, narrow

Outbuildings (describe) none

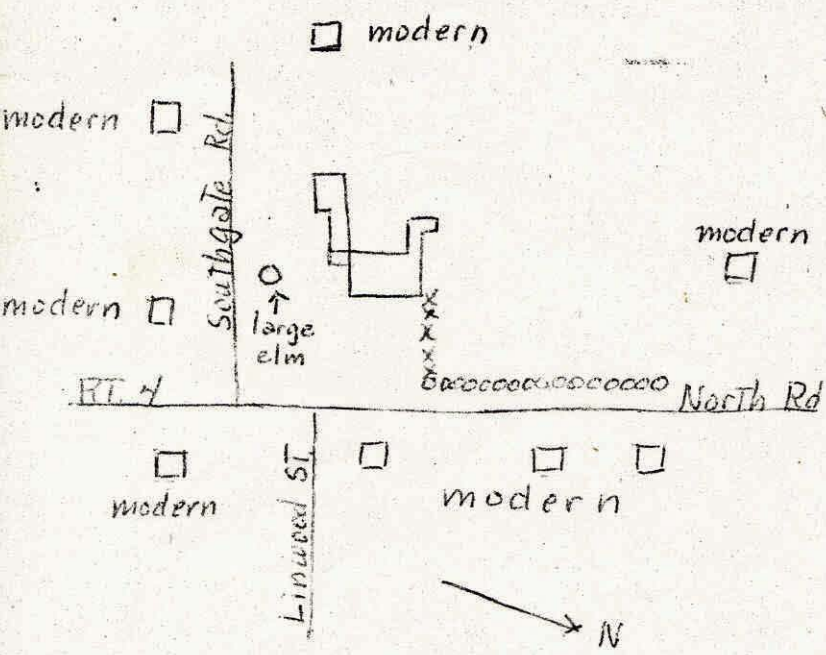
Other features old paneling; beehive over in "lean-to"; old hardware (driven);

H hinges (old nails)

Altered see attached Date _____

Moved no Date _____

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



5. Lot size: 35,000 sq. ft.
 One acre or less x Over one acre
224 ft.- South Gate
 Approximate frontage 211 ft.- North Rd.
 Approximate distance of building from street
ca 28 ft. from North Rd.

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

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury
 Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission
 Date December 26, 1976

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

This old house was standing before the Revolutionary War and was owned by Capt. John Butterfield, who in 1724 was a member of the snow-shoe company under the command of Capt. Robert Richardson. These companies were minute-men equipt with snow-shoes & fire arms, holding themselves in readiness to go in pursuit of the Indians. In Jan. of 1754 he nearly drowned in the Merrimack River. By the time of the Revolution, Capt. Butterfield was fairly well-to-do and owned at least one slave. He died in 1766, and his son Benjamin inherited the farm. In 1823 Capt. John Butterfield, grandson of the first Capt. John and owner of 140 North Rd. (#44) sold it to his son-in-law, Owen Emerson, Jr., a cordwainer in early life and later a farmer. Owen Emerson married his first wife, Louisa, at this time, and apparently they lived here farming the land until 1842, when Louisa inherited 140 North Rd. and they moved there. At that time 96 North Rd. was sold to Ezra A. Upham, a victualler. The property continued as a farm over the years, and during the first half of the 20th Century The Brown family ran a large chicken and egg business there. In 1952 much of the farm land was sold for building lots.

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

1831 map; 1856 map; 1875 Beers Atlas

Rev. Ebenezer Bridge Diary, 1749-1792

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds:

B.2, p.558(1729); B.11, p.484(1823; Plan B.M, plan 119 & 216; B.4, p.451(1763);
B.9, p.316(1788)

Middlesex County Probate records: #3707 Benjamin Butterfield 1715/16

"Mass. Soldiers & Sailors of Rev. Army," Vol.II, 1896

"Chelmsford, Woburn Vital Statistics to 1850"

Waters, "History of Chelmsford," 1917

Chelmsford Directory; 1898-9, 1915-16, 1922

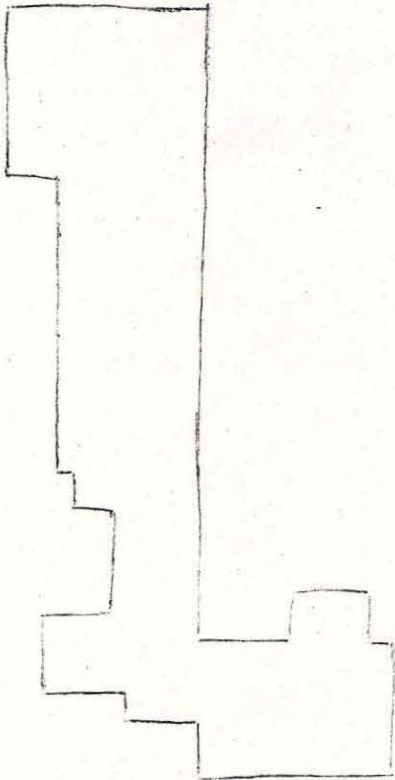
INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

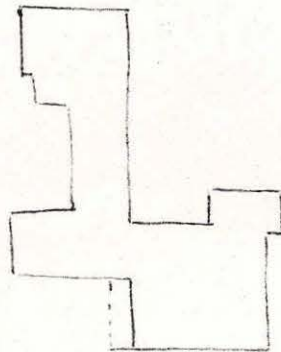
Community: Chelmsford	Form No: 43
Property Name: Capt. John Butterfield House	

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

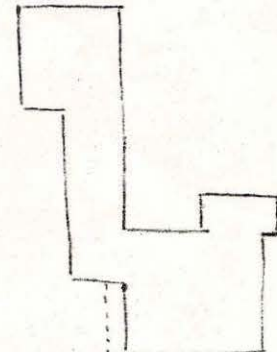
3. Altered:



1919 & 1934
1 inch = 40 ft.



1952
1 inch = 50 ft.



1975

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

96 North Road

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds:

North: Book 1283, Pg. 304	1/14/1955	Claude J. & Etta M. Harvey to John W. & Margaret H. Fallon of Brookline, N.H. 35,000 sq. ft.
North: Book 1243, Pg. 325	12/18/1953	Kendrick Phillips & John McCoy, Trustees of Colonial Estates Realty Trust to Claude J. & Etta M. Harvey 35,000 sq. ft.
North: Book 1204, Pg. 56	8/25/1952	H. Bridgham Brown to Trustees of Colonial Estates Realty Trust 10 acres.

Middlesex County Probate Office:

Docket # 223342

Estate of M. Esther Brown to
H. Bridgham Brown

Docket # 151703

Estate of Jerome H. Brown to
M. Esther Brown

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds:

North: Book 365, Pg. 43	2/ 2/1904	Edwin C. Perham to Jerome H. Brown, of Norwich, Vt. 10 acres.
North: Book 179, Pg. 219	1/ 7/1886	Lucien H. Reed, of Boston, to Edwin C. Perham \$4000. 10 acres.
North: Book 179, Pg. 219	5/10/1884	Charles S. Reed, Maria L. Reed, J. Willard Reed to Lucien H. Reed, of Boston \$56,000. 10 acres.
North: Book 58, Pg. 112	8/ 3/1867	Ezra A. Upham to Joseph Read \$3100. 10 acres.
North: Book 16, Pg. 47 South: Book 457, Pg. 53	4/15/1842	Owen Emerson, Gentleman, to Ezra Abbott Upham, victualler. \$2400. 10 acres.
North: Book 11, Pg. 484 South: Book 254, Pg. 188	4/ 1/1823	John Butterfield, Gentleman, to Owen Emerson, Jr. Cordwainer. \$1000. 10 acres.

Butterfield Family
Excerpts from Rev. Bridge Diary

- Jan. 2, 1754 Visited Joseph Peirce and intended to have visited Capt. Butterfield, who last week was rescued when in danger of being drowned in Merrimack River - but saw him from home.
- Sept. 6, 1764 PM Attended the funeral of Sharp, a negro man belonging to Cpt. Butterfield found last evening, near the road not far from his masters, near dead - and died immediately.
- Feb. 4, 1751 Visited Deacon Colburn, and James Dutton and made short visit to Wid^w Tabitha Butterfield and to David Butterfield in the evening.
- March 19, 1751 Visited James Dutton sick and prayed Capt. Butterfield and Deacon Ephraim Spaulding.
- Sept. 27, 1752 Visited Capt. Butterfield and discoursed with him and wife about their daughter Lucy who is pregnant at Litchfield.
- Oct. 22, 1753 Visited Widow Butterfield. She was not at home, but I discoursed with her daughter Allis Cowdry, and gave her some hints concerning some stories I had heard of ~~one~~ One Lambert, who has lately visited her by way of courtship - as that he has a wife and 3 children in the West Indies etc. which I thought I was bound to do, as she is a fatherless child and a poor girl, and in danger of being ruined by him if the stories are true.
- Oct. 23, 1753 Visited James Parkhurst his son sick and prayed with them - David Butterfield his child ill, and spent most evening at Deacon Ephraim Spauldings.
- Aug. 28, 1754 Visited James Dutton Sen^r sick, and his son Jonas his wife ill, lying in, and prayed with them - Captain Butterfield and Deacon Spaulding.
- Jan. 18, 1758 Visited Deacon Colburn very infirm and broken with age and illness - Capt. Butterfield, his wives Mother the oldest person in town, very weak and infirm - and Molley Stoddard very ill at Ephraim Bloods, and prayed with each.
- Dec. 6, 1758 Married Benjamin Butterfield and Olive Procter - fee 50/old
- Jan. 2, 1760 Visited Jo Pierce Capt. Butterfield & Capt. Spaulding.
- Feb. 6, 1760 Also visited James Parkhurst, also Jon^a Butterfield with sore hand - also Deacon Colburn
- April 7, 1760 Died old Widow Hildreth at Capt. Butterfields - AE 95 or thereabouts.
- Charles
Feb 1775

- June 6, 1763 PM Visited Richard King his child sick and prayed with them - Also visited Capt. Butterfield and Capt. Spaulding.
- Aug. 29, 1763 Toward night I visited Capt. Butterfield sick of the palsy and prayed.
- Sept. 8, 1763 Visited Capt. Butterfield yet ill and prayed, also visited Moses Graves.
- Sept. 23, 1765 PM Rode to Billerica and attended the funerall of a child of Jonathan Pollard, Rev. Mr. Cummings being out of town - ca, e back and visited Capt. Butterfield very bad and prayed with them.
- Dec. 19, 1765 PM I visited James Dun widow Foster sick there and prayed with her. Benjamin Parkhurst his child sick, but better. Capt. Butterfield very low and prayed with his family. Spent part of evening at Capt. Spauldings. Col. Cummings visited us while I was abroad.
- Dec. 30, 1765 Visited Leut. Ben Parker his wife very bad - Also Capt. Butterfield very bad - and prayed with both.
- Jan. 8, 1766 Capt. Butterfield died this morning AE 68.
- Jan. 10, 1766 Attended the funeral of Capt. Butterfield.
- Jan. 20, 1766 Visited Widow Butterfield, lately buried her husband, discoursed with her and her children. Also visited Capt. Spaulding his wife lately bereaved of her brother and his son Jonathan his wife lately bereaved of her mother.
- June 8, 1766 Lords day.....Baptized John son of Benjamin and Olive Butterfield.
- Dec. 27, 1771 Rode out before dinner partly upon business- visited Capt. Butterfield's Widow - and Reuben Goold, in the same house lately removed from Townsend to dwell here again.
- June 18, 1775after meeting PM heard from the Army particularly of my Son the Col. in the battle - I and my wife extremely distressed on his account, not expecting to hear of his being living - but by and by heard that he was living but badly wounded and that he was on his way home. I sent off my horse and chaise to meet him, but the messenger had not gone far before he mett with some of our men returning who would give the best information of him and others. So he returned, and afterwards Benjamin Butterfield and afterward Deacon Chamberlain visited me and assured me that they saw my son at General Cambridge and though he was terribly wounded and bruised, yet his wounds were deemed not mortal.
- Dec. 21, 1784 Pm Went to Benjamin Butterfields, and married Simeon Spaulding and Olive Butterfield - fee 6/8

June 15, 1791

Married John Butterfield and Rebecca Kendall (at his fathers PM) fee a Dollar.

Jan. 3, 1792

Prayed in the Meeting House PM at the funeral of an infant child of one Joel Kendall, He and his wife upon a journey, The child born this morning, at John Butterfields.

North: Book 9, Pg. 496; South: Book 192, Pg. 458

Olive Butterfield's Deposition

June 15, 1812

"I Olive Butterfield testify and say that about the time that my husband settled a part of his estate upon his son John he asked me how much he ought to give to his daughters and said that he intended to give them 100 pounds old tenor, and a midling cow a peice. And I understood that my son John gave a bond to my husband to pay my daughters the said sum and cow. And I further say that I several times mentioned to my husband that I thought the daughters ought to have something out of the lands which he owned at Stoddard. And sometime afterwards my husband told me that John had agreed to give the daughters \$40 a peice more, and that he hoped I should now be easy about it and I further say, that I have several times heard (my son) Byam say that I had recieved of my son John \$40 and the value of a cow in money and I also know that my daughter Rhoda recived of John her \$40 and her cow at her marriage. Question by Benjamin Byam. Do you know that John gave any bond at the settlement of the estate? Answer by the deponent. Mr. Ephraim Parkhurst came here and read a paper, that I understood was a bond. Question by the same. Do you know what was the tenor of the bond? Answer. I cannot really tell. Question by the same - Do you know whether the writings were altered after the first agreement was made? Answer - I think there was an alteration of the writings but I do not certainly know. Question by the same. Do you recollect telling me since your husband's death that the old bond was found? Answer - I recollect that I did, and that John showed you the bond, and you read it, and that you said at first, that you did not understand it, and that after reading it again you said you did understand it."

Olive Butterfield her X mark

Town of Chelmsford this 15th day of June in the year of our Lord 1812, personally appeared before us the subscribers to of the Justices of the peace for the County of Middlesex quorum unus, the aforesaid deponent and after being carefully examined and duly cautioned to testify the whole truth and nothing but the truth made oath that the foregoing deposition by her subscribed is true, taken at the request of John Butterfield to be preserved in perpetual remembrance of the thing. And we duly notified all persons living within 20 miles of the place of caption whom we knew to be interested in the matter to which the said deposition relates, and Simeon Spaulding and Olive his wife, Benjamin Byam and Joseph Bowers and Rhoda his wife attended Parker Varnum, Asahel Stearns, Justices of the peace for said County Quorum Unus.

Middlesex ss Cambridge 26th August 1812

Butterfield Family

Waters "History of Chelmsford"

pg. 150 Dummer's War

In August, 1723, Lt.-Gov. Dummer, then acting Governor of the Province, ordered detachments of from 3 to 6 men from the several frontier towns to range the woods, as the Indians were still in a threatening attitude. Groton, Dunstable and Lancaster were then more on the frontier than Chelmsford, but this town was still necessarily watchful, and contributed men for the service. A number of men (some of them prominent) who are credited to other towns were born in Chelmsford.

In Dummer's, or Lovewell's War, snow-shoe companies were raised in all the towns lying upon the Merrimach River, says Allen, pg. 182. These companies were minute men, equipt with snow-shoes and fire arms etc., holding themselves in readiness to go on scouting parties in pursuit of Indians at the moment of alarm.

The following constituted the snow-shoe company in Chelmsford in 1724; under the command of Captain Robert Richardson and Lt. Joseph Parker: (included John Butterfield)

pg. 155 Commission

To John Butterfield Gentleman Greeting.
By Virtue of the Power and Authority, in and by His Majesty's Royal Commission to Me granted, to be Captain General etc. over this his Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts-Bay aforesaid:
I do (by these Presents) reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Loyalty, Courage and good Conduct, constitute and appoint you the said John Butterfield to be Capt. of a Troop of hors in the Regiment of hors in the County of Middlesex whare of Joseph Varnum Esq. is Colonel of this Troop was the forst Troop in Colonel Tyngs Rigmint.

You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of a Capt in Leading, Ordering and Exercising said Troop in Arms, both Inferiour Officers and Soldiers; and to keep them in good Order and Discipline; hereby commanding them to Obey you as their Capt. and yourself to observe and follow such Orders and Instructions, as you shall from time to time receive from Me, or the Commander in Chief for the Time being, or other your Superiour Officers for his Majesty's Service, according to Military Rules and Discipline, pursuant to the Trust Reposed in you.

Given under My Hand and Seal at Arms, at BOSTON, the 15 Day of November In the Elementh Year of the Reign of His Majesty King GEORGE the Second.

Annoque Domini 1737.

J. Belcher.

pg. 521 Wamesit Land

As the Wamesit land came to be divided into farms there was a smaller number of proprietors.

In 1750 there were but 16. The record of that meeting is as follows:
.....voted that each proprietor haueing 20 acrs of land should be allowed to vote in sd meeting and so for a greattor or lesor number accordingly.

It was agreed that Capt. John Butterfield should vote on two β rits.....

pg. 570 Slaves* See Vital Records of Chelmsford:

Sharp, man belonging to Capt. John Butterfield, bur. Sept. 6, 1764
(d. Sept. 5)

g. 724 Forefathers Cemetery:
Capt. John Butterfield, Jan. 8, 1766. Age, 67 yrs., 11 mos., 26 d.

g. 361 Shays Rebellion:
A list of names of 27 Chelmsford men who went under General Lincoln in 1787. Each man received, by vote of the Town, \$1, of 6 shillings, bounty.
(The list included John Butterfield)

Allen gives "A list of those who were detached from the militia and formed a part of the Army of General Lincoln, in the memorable expedition through the counties of Worcester and Berkshire, to suppress the insurrection in 1786, commonly known as by the name of the Shays insurrection. The company, formed from this and ~~other~~ the neighboring towns, was commanded by Capt. (now Col.) James Varnum, of Dracut."
(The list included John Butterfield).

g. 563 Chelmsford Classical School:
The desire of the people for better educational advantages, for those wishing to pursue more advanced studies, led to the establishment of the Chelmsford Classical School in 1825. The building, which has since been converted into a parsonage for the Central Baptist Society, was erected for that purpose. The funds for the support of the school were furnished by individual enterprise.

The management was entrusted to the following Board of Trustees:
(The list included Captain John (?) Butterfield).

g. 599 Poor Farm:
According to Town records, a farm of 120 acres with a house and barn was bought of Salathiel Adams in 1823, and constituted as a workhouse, where the poor of the Town should be employed.....The Town, as was common in those days, borrowed of its citizens, \$3,500. The names and amounts were these: Abraham Prescott, \$1,500; Abbott and Fletcher, \$600; John Butterfield, \$426; Henry Adams, \$300; Samuel Davis, \$274; Zebulon Spaulding, \$200; Oliver Parkhurst, \$100; Moses Parker, \$100.

g. 682 Meeting House of 1792:
Another committee consisting of Capt. Josiah Fletcher, Wm. Adams, Esq., Capt. John Butterfield, Ichabod Gibson and Capt. Jonas Pierce was chosen to cause provision to be made for that event (ordination of Rev. Allen), and to prop and secure the meeting house. (Rev. Allen was ordained Nov. 16, 1803).

g. 725 Forefathers Cemetery:
Family tomb of Capt. John Butterfield, built A.D. 1813. No. 3.

Butterfield Family

Waters, "History of Chelmsford"

- Pg. 530 The description given of the two footways (Middlesex Village) indicates that three of those whose names are there mentioned, viz: John Wright, John Shepley and Jonathan Butterfield, were located on the east side of Black Brook, in the neighborhood of Pine and Parker Streets. In the description of the line between Pawtucket and Chelmsford, in 1665, Butterfield's highway is mentioned.
- Pg. 532 Jonathan Butterfield, whose barn is mentioned in the description of the footway, was born in England. He came to this country with his father Benjamin. In 1638 they were living in Charlestown; in 1640 at Woburn, where Jonathan's brothers, Nathaniel, Samuel, and Joseph, were born. Benjamin Butterfield's name heads the list of petitioners for the Chelmsford grant in 1653. He died at Chelmsford March 2, 1687-8. His sons all lived and died in Chelmsford.
- Samuel Butterfield, a son of Nathaniel, was a man of some prowess as an Indian fighter. He was taken prisoner by the Indians at Groton in August 1704, and remained a captive upwards of a year. His petition to the General Court after his release, sets forth that he was an inhabitant of Chelmsford sent by Capt. Jerathmel Bowers to Groton to help Col. Taylor, when the enemy came upon them. From some early accounts of the affair, it appears that Butterfield made a vigorous resistance, and before being captured slew an Indian Sagamore "of great dexterity in war", in consequence of which the Indians proposed to inflict upon him a death by torture, but the squaw of the slain Indian interceded in his behalf and his life was spared.
- Pg. 8 The first marriage recorded was that of Daniel Blodget. "Daniell Blodget & Marie his wife were Married by Mr. Browne (Water)towne September 15: 1653." The wife was Mary Butterfield who was born in England and the daughter of Benjamin Butterfield.
- Pg. 39 John Blanchard probably lived at what is now the Joseph E. Warren place (101 Boston Road). Dea. Joseph Warren came into possession of this land about 1700, since which time it has remained in that family. Benjamin Butterfield lived on the same road, nearer the village.
- Pg. 57 Newfield. A common field was laid out upon the Merrimack interval, north of Stony Brook. It consisted of 214 acres, in lots of 6 acres each. It was owned by 22 proprietors, some of whom owned several lots. The largest owner was Benjamin Butterfield, who held seven lots, 42 acres.
- Pg. 754 Civil List. Listed among the trustees to order the affairs of the Town: Benjamin Butterfield, 1656, 1660, 1661.

A number of families soon pushed out into the Stony Brook valley: John Snow, Joseph Butterfield and Joseph Parkhurst and others. Two highways were laid out, one to accommodate the Stony Brook families and another leading into it from Tadmuck hill furnished the first continuous highway from what is now Westford Center to the Chelmsford meeting house. They are thus described:

"A hie way Laid out from Stony broock houses throw the Land of Joseph Butterfield and so ouer frances hill by Joseph Keyeses house bounded by marked trees and ouer flagi ma made plaine bounded by marked trees and by the East and of Henry ferwells house in to the Cuntery boad the hie way is 3 rod wide all so we laid out A hie way from Arthar Crouchis house and by the houses at Litell tadnick and by the house of Josaph parkhust and as the way is drawn bounded by marked trees untell it Coms to Stony broock way."

This record is not dated but it is recorded in the handwriting of Thomas Parker who was town clerk in 1696 and 97.

Pg. 121

Sir:

The Consideration of the losses that Chelmsford sustained by the Enemy and the laste law made the 3d of May last that the losers should have a meete Alottment in ther proportions in ther Rattes is argument to the selectt men to psent what they with the Allowance of the honored Jenl. Courtt Judge meette to Alow to the Several persons as foloeth out of ther 10 Rates now Required.

Jt to Joseph butterfeld
Nath butterfield
(also others)

-00-09-00
-00-03-00

5 August 1676 by the selectt men of Chelmsford
(Supreme Judicial Court. Early files, No. 1521)

Pg. 135

Settlement of the Garrison in the West Regiment of Middlesex
Chelmsford, March 16th, 169 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Samuel Butterfield and with him
Nathaniel Butterfield
Joseph Hide 8 men
Benjamin Bagnet
and their families

(Stomey Brook)
Jno. Spauldin and wth him
Benjamin Spauldin
Joshua Fletcher
Joseph Butterfield 12 men
Thomas Chamberlain Junr
Arthur Crouch
Samuel Underwood
Joseph Parkis
Thomas Blogett
Edward Spauldin
Samuel Burge

Joseph³, son of Joseph² & Lydia Ballard:

Pg. 139 Queene'Anne's War & William Tyng's Snowshoe Company, 1703-4

Joseph Butterfield, Dunstable, son of Joseph and Lydia (Ballard) Butterfield, was born in Chelmsford, June 6, 1680. He removed early in life to Dunstable, living in the section of the town now Tyngsborough, where he died in 1757. His daughter, Deborah, was the wife of Col. Samuel Moor of Litchfield.

Nathaniel³, son of Nathaniel² & Deborah Underwood:

Pg. 140 Queen Anne's War - William Tyng's Snowshoe Company, 1703-4

Nathaniel Butterfield, Chelmsford, son of Nathaniel and Deborah (Underwood) Butterfield, was born about 1676 (1673). He lived in Chelmsford, where he died in 1749.

Jonathan³, son of Nathaniel² & Deborah Underwood:

Pg. 140 Queen Anne's War - William Tyng's Snowshoe Company, 1703-4

Jonathan Butterfield, Chelmsford, was probably a son of Deborah (Underwood) and Nathaniel Butterfield, and a brother of No. 22 (Nathaniel³).

Samuel³, son of Nathaniel² & Deborah Underwood:

Pg. 145 In 1704 600 pairs of snow-shoes and "Mogginsons" were provided. Chelmsford and Captain Tyng's (William) company were the special objects of revenge on the part of the French and Indians.

"A third was of Samuel Butterfield, who being sent to Droton as a soldier, was with others attackt, as they were gathering in the Harvest; his bravery was such, that he Kill'd one and wounded another, but being overpowered by strength, was forc'd to submit; and it happened that the slain Indian was a Sagamore; and of great dexterity in War, which caused matter of Lamentation, and enrag'd them to such a degree that they vow'd the utmost revenge; Some were for whipping him to Death; others for burning him alive; but differing in their Sentiments, they submitted the Issue to the Seaw Squaw widow, concluding she would determine something very dreadful, but when the matter was opened, and the Fact considered, her Spirits were so moderate as to make no other reply, than, "Fortune L'guare." Upon which some were uneasy; to whom she answered, If by Killing him, you can bring my Husband to life again, I beg you to study what Death you please; but if not let him be my Servant; which he accordingly was, during his Captivity, and had favour shōwn him."

Butterfield remained a captive for more than a year, It is not known how he obtained his release.

Lowell Courier-Citizen

Nov. 1, 1912 - Jerome H. Brown of the North road is at Norwich, Vermont, for a week's visit at his old home and incidentally to take advantage of the hunting season.

March 14, 1915 - The death of Jerome H. Brown occurred very suddenly on Friday evening at his home in North street, following a brief attack of pneumonia. His birthplace was at Norwich, Vermont, and about 11 years ago he purchased the E.C. Perham property in North street, where he has since been successfully engaged in the raising of fruit. More than a quarter of a century ago he was associated with his brothers in the dry goods business in Lowell, under the firm name of Brown Brothers, remaining until obliged to give up because of failing health, when he returned to his old home in Norwich. Mr. Brown was a man of kindly, unassuming manner, whose friendship was held in high regard among his wide acquaintances here and in Lowell. Besides his wife, Esther M., and a son, H. Bridgham Brown of Chelmsford, he leaves two brothers, James W. and Charles W., and a sister, Mrs. Annie Stratton, of Norwich, Vermont, and two sisters, the Misses Mary and Ellen Brown of Manchester, N.H.

Lowell Weekly Journal

April 16, 1886 - The farm known as the "Upham place" has recently been sold by L.H. Reed of Boston to E.C. Perham, one of Chelmsford's best sons.



OVER 300 YEARS OLD--This Dutch Elm finally fell to the severe rain storm this week after withstanding over three hundred years. Located at the home of John W. Fallon, 96 North Road, a home built in the 1700's the tree was older than the house. Luckily only a small branch of the tree fell on the house. Mr. Fallon thought that it would cost about \$300 to remove the damaged tree.

She teaches convicts a way out of jail

By KRISTOPHER PISARIK
Sun Staff

LAWRENCE — Tattooed, stubbly-faced men clad in tattered gym shorts, T-shirts and dungarees smile at Peg Fallon from behind the iron bars of their jail cells as she climbs two double flights of stairs to work each day.

Fallon smiles back as she tromps up to "The School" — an enclave of sorts within the old brick building that holds the Essex County House of Correction and the Lawrence Jail.

There, just outside Lawrence's downtown area, Fallon spends a couple hours each weekday as teacher to convicts

and accused criminals, preparing them for the high school equivalency exam.

"People are always saying: 'I

'We're not really concerned they're in jail. We're educators.'

**Margaret Fallon
Teacher**

hate my job,' " Fallon commented. "I love my job."

"We really have an awfully good time," she said, glancing at fellow teacher Sister William Julie Hurley on the other side of the dimly-lit classroom.

If not for a smattering of colorful posters, a map of the world and a few bookcases, the classroom would be as depressing as any other gray concrete-walled, concrete-floored room in the building.

"I don't know how they do it," commented jail Superintendent Harry Coppola. "They've graduated more inmates than any other county institution in the state." The program recently received a citation from State Education Commissioner John Lawson, he noted.

(Continued on Page B6)



Margaret Fallon



Margaret Fallon with Lawrence jail inmate Wigberto Figueroa

Teaching convicts a way out of jail

(Continued from Page B1)

She has been teaching at the Lawrence facility for about five years.

It's not a job the Chelmsford resident does because she needs the money. She loves to help people, to teach them — and most of her students need plenty of help, she said.

Many of them come in reading below the third-grade level, she noted.

"We push them for all they've got if we can get it out of them because everybody needs a high school diploma nowadays," Fallon said.

"We're not really concerned they're in jail. We're educators," Fallon said. "But my heart goes out when I see someone who could be out doing great things."

One of her more promising candidates for a General Education Development (GED) certificate — the equivalent of a high school diploma — is 34-year-old Fred Alonzo, who is serving time for assault and battery.

"I've got good teachers. They help me a lot," he said, in a heavy Spanish accent. He spent his boyhood in the Dominican Republic.

"If I get my GED, I'd like to go to Lowell University," Alonzo said, noting that he would like to take up drafting.

Look forward to class

Steve Milton, 31, who is awaiting trial on federal drug charges, earned his GED in just six weeks.

"It's good. It gives a lot of non-English-speaking people a chance to earn their GED," Milton said. "I've tried to recruit other people."

No one forces inmates or prisoners awaiting trial to attend classes, but all are welcome.

Those who attend the sessions with Fallon and Sister Hurley find them not only useful, but therapeutic as well.

"That's the only thing we got to look forward to in here," said Louie Ledesma, 20, who is serving time for armed robbery.

"They do so much for us inmates. If we need a needle and thread, they bring it for us. If we need a shirt to go to court in, they bring it," he said. "They're like our mothers. They're the heart of the jail. They care what happens to us."

"People in jail need an escape. And at the same time I'm getting love and care," Alonzo said. "It gets rid of a lot of tension. They give us a lot of care."

"It's a chance for them (prisoners) to get up into a different atmosphere, to see some smiling faces, get a little reassurance," said Milton, whose trial is pending.

"We try to offer them friendship. It's just if we can help them see a brighter day, that's marvelous. Being a mother of six myself, I get very saddened when I see them with-

out a home," Fallon said. "I feel sad that somewhere along the line, something went wrong."

Fallon's pastor, the Rev. Joseph Smyth of St. Mary's Church in Chelmsford, gets to see first-hand how well she works with special needs students.

When she isn't teaching at the jail, or at adult education classes in Lawrence, Fallon spends countless hours working with handicapped and underprivileged children from the church, Smyth said.

But the fact that her work could unlock some doors for the Lawrence inmates makes them perhaps her most appreciative students.

"I've learned a lot ... how to communicate with people, how to control my temper," Ledesma said.

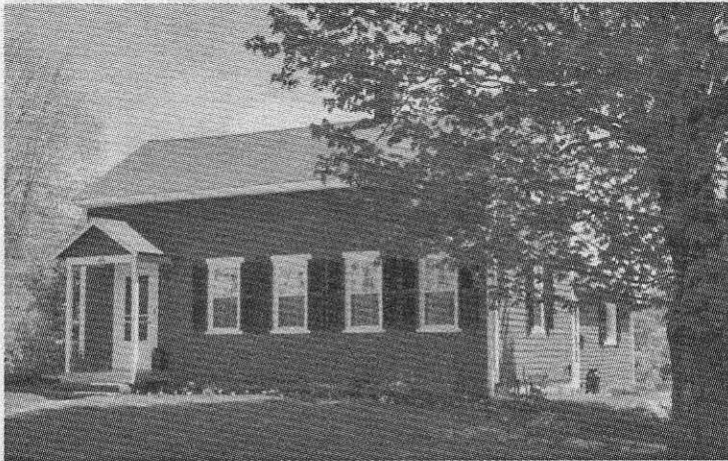
"They're very respectful to us," Fallon said. "We get a great deal out of the work ourselves. And there's a great deal of humor. We forget we're in a jail up here. Some of these guys really have a terrific sense of humor."



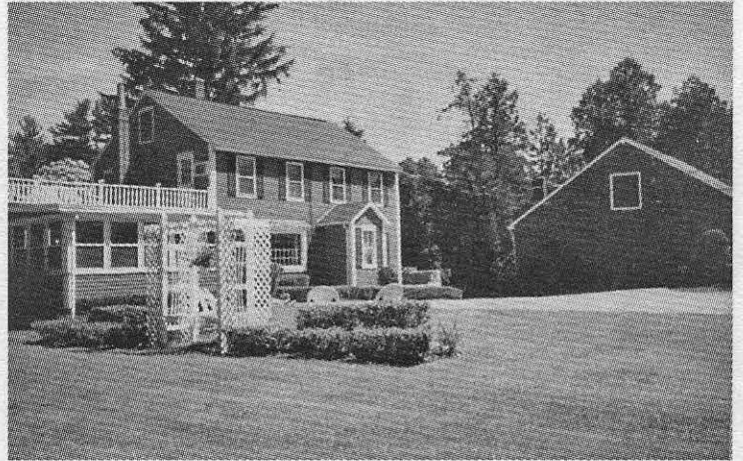
BRIMFIELD - This well preserved colonial has been attributed to Elias Carter, and features a large kitchen complete with fireplace and beehive oven, a formal dining room and spacious living areas with the integrity intact. There is a lofted garage and peaceful vistas over lovely gardens and stonewalls. A pleasure to view. \$260,000. Crossroads Realty, Inc. 413-245-0300.



CHELMSFORD - "The Sewall Parkhurst House," a 1790 antique Colonial, offers room for the extended family along with an in-law or au pair suite. Screened and open porches allow for the full enjoyment of the quiet surroundings, as well as a gourmet kitchen. Hand hewn, pegged beams and wide board floors are featured throughout this home. Offered at \$389,900. Call Walt Fitzgerald at Century 21-Minuteman Realty. 800-554-0021 or 508-585-2443.



CHARLTON - A charming antique Cape located within the Charlton Common National Historic District. Among the features are a recently renovated kitchen with beehive oven and fireplace and a convenient laundry. A mix of 19th and 20th century finishes combine for comfort and convenience. Handy to schools, churches, shopping and highways. \$124,900. Petraglia Real Estate. 800-559-7745.



CHELMSFORD - This is a prime location for the turn of the century farmhouse which has been thoughtfully edged into the 90s. The thirteen rooms include five bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths and a fireplace. There is potential for a home business, along with two huge outbuildings. \$325,000. Call Judy McCormack, DeWolfe N. E., Chelmsford. 508-256-9981.



CHELMSFORD - "The Captain Jonathan Butterworth Homestead," c. 1729. Nine room center-chimney Saltbox, five fireplaces, beehive oven, parson's closet, burning room, wide pine floors, wainscoting, 6x9 windows, on 3/4 acre. Close to schools, churches, shopping. Attached barn with workshop and two-car garage with potential office or in-law apartment (already wired). Fine gardens. \$219,900. Al Wilson, Century 21 Landmark Realty. 508-256-6575.



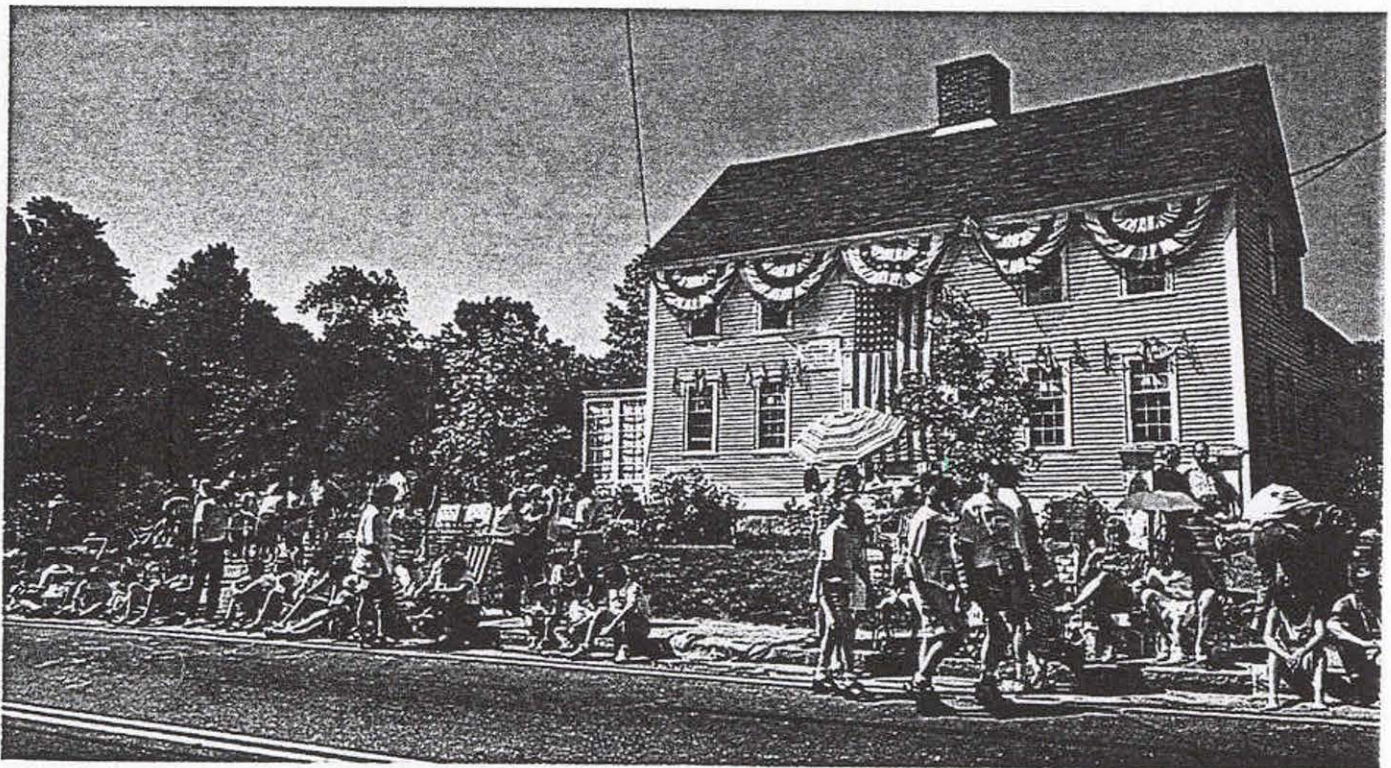
CHESTERFIELD - A wonderful New England Farmhouse from the 1800s has all the features of a newer home. This lovely home has seven rooms, three bedrooms and two baths. The kitchen is enhanced by a woodstove and a lovely view of the country. The 14.25 acres of land could possibly be used for an additional building lot. \$198,000. Call Paul Labbee of the Realty World Dulong & Labbee Agency 413-586-3333.

The Place to Be on the Fourth *It happens*

to be a nine-room, center-chimney saltbox built in 1729 in

Chelmsford, Massachusetts, and at precisely 10:30 A.M. this

coming July 4, you would be very fortunate to be there . . .



— photographs: Jack Fallon (left); Kindra Clueff (right)

IF YOU FIND YOURSELF DRIVING WEST along Route 4 into Chelmsford, Massachusetts, on the evening of July 3, you might well wonder why there are so many empty chairs placed out on the lawns in front of the homes. Specifically, in front of the homes that line the street along the 2½ miles between the McCarthy Middle School and what's known

as Central Square downtown. Camp chairs, porch rockers, canvas boat chairs, even the occasional sofa pillow. Anything that's suitable for sitting on or in. Then you might notice American flags — hundreds of them — and red-white-and-blue bunting and decorations grandly displayed from roofs and windowsills. By the time you reach the town green in the charming center of town,

For more than two hours every July 4, a fabulous parade marches past the Captain Butterfield House (opp. page) in Chelmsford.



YANKEE LIKES TO MOSEY around and see, out of editorial curiosity, what you can turn up when you go home hunting. We have no stake in the sale whatsoever and would decline it if offered.

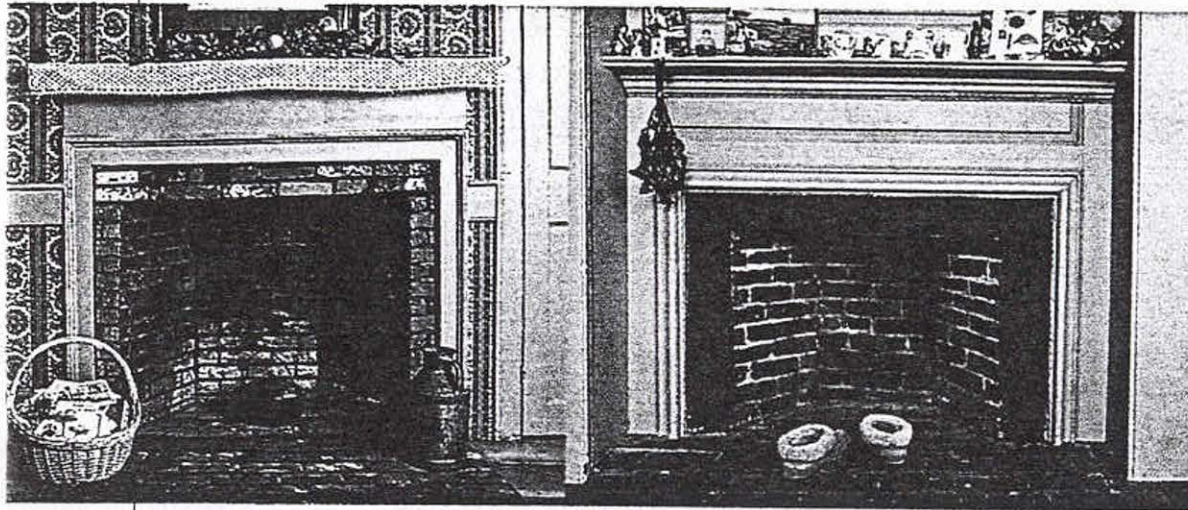


with lovely old buildings around it decorated as if George Washington himself were about to arrive for a visit, you would have to conclude that something exciting was about to happen in Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

You would be right, of course — but not until 10:30 the next morning. That's when, if you were still in the area, you would hear the distant honks and wailings of fire horns and sirens. Dozens of them blasting, tooting, and shrieking, louder and louder, until you would see, far down the road, more fire engines than you have ever seen in your life. Probably a solid mile of them. Some old, some spanking shiny new, some from

ing through Chelmsford. You don't *have* a lawn on which to sit and view the parade. Well, we have a solution for that problem, which we'll tell you about shortly. For the moment, let's just assume you do.

After the fire engines passed by, you would see and hear the Chelmsford High School band strutting its way down toward you — followed by band after band from neighboring towns, some from as far away as Canada. Interspersed among the bands would be majorettes twirling and whirling; Boy and Girl Scout troops with their special flags; some fellows dressed in Minute-man uniforms who



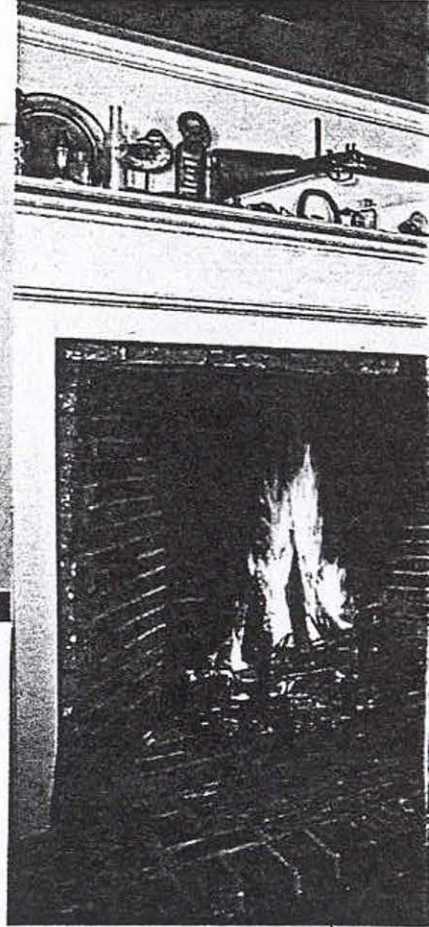
When Peg and Jack Fallon moved in 41 years ago, the house had been abandoned for two years and was a mess. But they loved the five fireplaces shown here, three downstairs, two upstairs.

Chelmsford and nearby towns, others from as far away as Cape Cod. When close enough for you to see all the smiling firefighters on each one waving to the crowds, your ears would be ringing, but you would be tingling all over with excitement. Perhaps by now you would know you were about to witness one of the best organized, most entertaining annual small-town Fourth of July parades in all of New England. And if you were not in the mood to celebrate our freedoms by then, well, you must be from Jupiter.

At this point, it would be time for you and your family to sit down and relax in the camp chairs and rockers you had placed out on your lawn the night before. Oh, that's right — you just happened to be driv-

would stop, maybe right in front of you, and blast off a volley with their Revolutionary War muskets; dozens of elaborate floats created by local businesses, including one on which couples would be happily square dancing to lively music; troops of police from local towns, stern and impressive; clowns throwing candy left and right to scrambling children; and a marching troop of uniformed Vietnam veterans. For this last group, you, with everyone else along the parade route, would stand, cheer, and applaud. That's a Chelmsford tradition. There was a time when Vietnam veterans didn't hear much cheering.

In truth, you don't have to own property along the parade route in order to see this



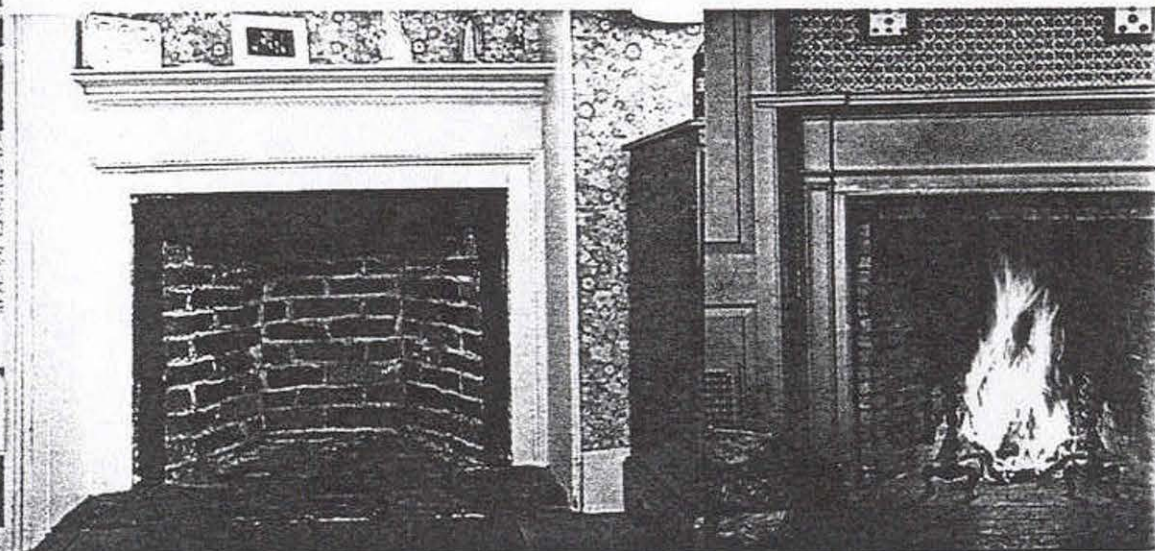
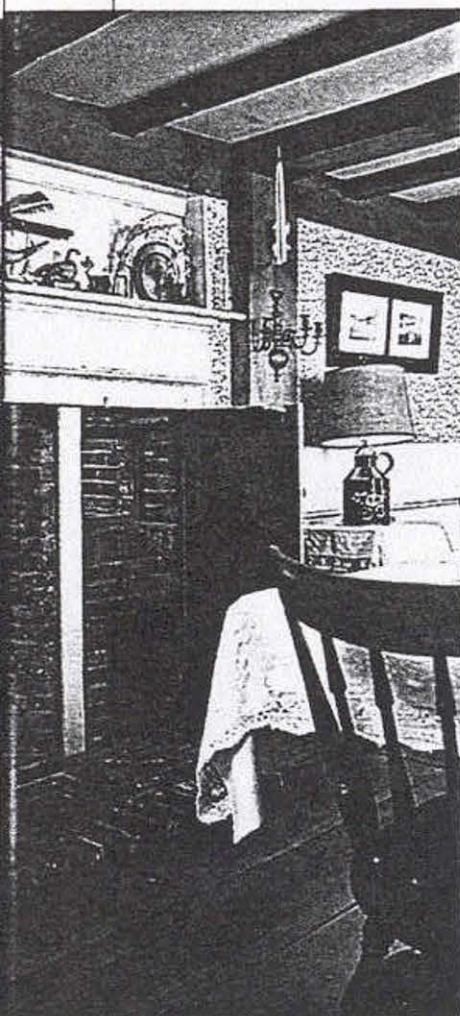
fabulous annual parade. After all, we have been told there are as many as 100,000 spectators. (Can that be possible in a town of 32,000?) But those who do own property have the prime ringside seats. And that's where we come into the picture. Because we know about the *perfect* property on which to place your camp chairs this July 3 — if you can close the deal in time.

It's a nine-room, center-chimney salt-box on three-quarters of an acre, with five fireplaces, built by a Captain Jonathan Butterfield in 1729, almost 50 years before we *had* an Independence Day. The present owners, Jack

area of Massachusetts they liked, they would knock on the door and ask if the owners had ever considered selling.

"You probably couldn't do that today," Jack told us when we stopped by last February, "but back then everyone was so nice about it. Invariably we would be invited in and shown around, even though they had no intention of selling."

When they spotted this particular place in Chelmsford, however, it had been abandoned for two years. "There was no electricity, the plaster was falling down, some windows were broken — it was in terrible shape," Jack recalled. "But the minute we walked in, we both loved it."



On the mantel of the dining-room fireplace with its beehive oven (left), the Fallons display artifacts like bottles, tinware, coins — even a powder horn — they found between wall partitions.

and Peg Fallon, and their six children, three boys and three girls, have lived here and enjoyed the parade for the past 41 years. Lately they have been joined by several spouses of their children and five grandchildren. Incidentally, if the name "Jack Fallon" rings a bell in your mind, it's probably because you have read his books about fishing or perhaps his countless articles for such magazines as *Field & Stream*, *Outdoor Life*, and *Gray's Sporting Journal*. Originally from nearby Lawrence, Jack and Peg started looking for a home in which to raise their growing family as soon as he completed two tours of duty as a line officer in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War era. If they saw a house in this general

We can understand their feeling that way. It's a charming old place. Of course, over the years, the Fallons have renovated and restored it beautifully. Some of the bottles, tinware, bull's-eye glass fragments, inkwells, coins — even a powder flask — found between wall partitions during the long restoration process are now displayed along the mantel of the large brick fireplace (with beehive oven) in the dining room. Also downstairs are what used to be called a "borning room," now simply a small bedroom, a living room with another large fireplace, a family room with fireplace, and a kitchen plenty roomy enough for a breakfast table. Over the kitchen, reached by either of two staircases to the second floor, is a small atticlike room in which all

four walls and the ceiling are covered with 19th-century theater posters. To display these anywhere else would require removing the walls and ceiling on which they are

like *today* — you could maybe be there by the Fourth. (The Fallons are asking \$219,900.) Oh, and by the way, you probably should know that for years and years, the Fallon family has had an open house on the morning of the parade. Friends, neighbors, and people just walking along after the parade stop by for doughnuts, coffee, and friendly conversation. So be prepared. It would be nice if you planned on continuing that tradition. Traditions are important in Chelmsford. Also, it's the least you can do for having "the best seat in

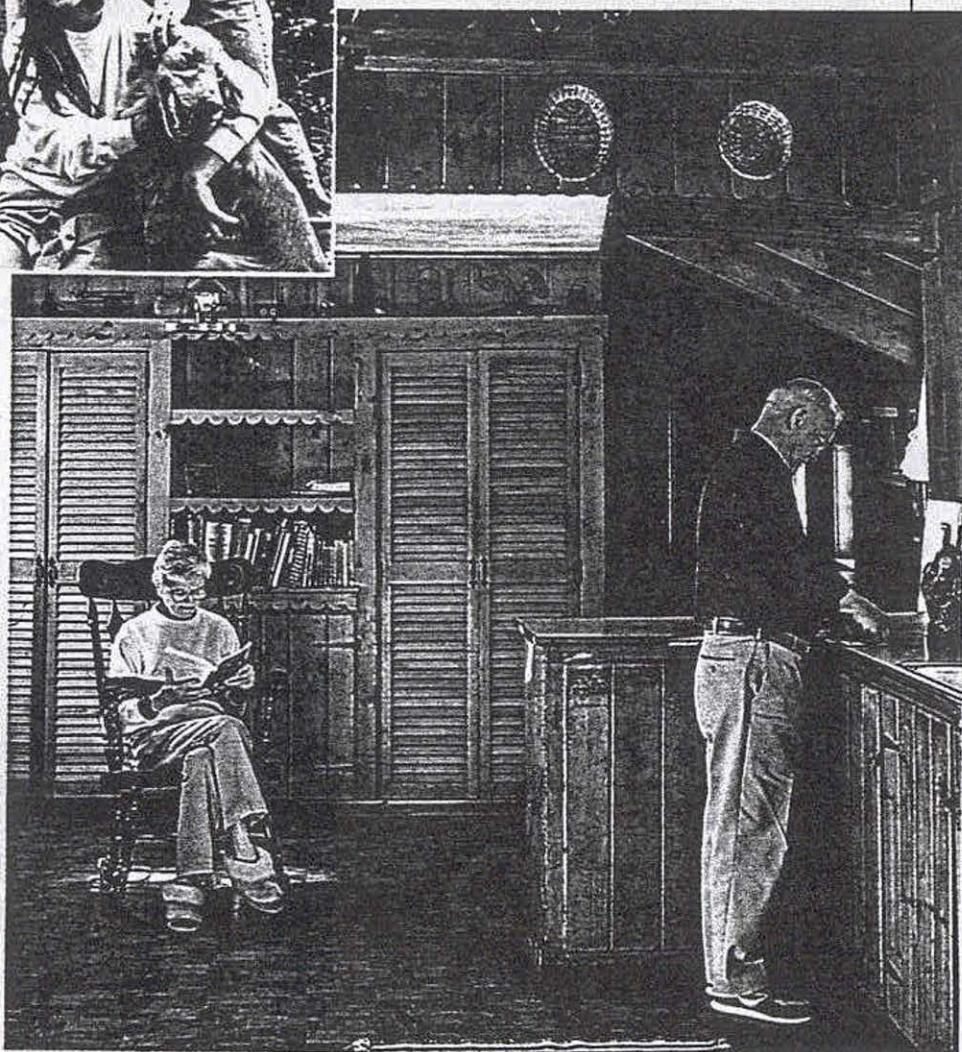


Jack Fallon, with Peg and family (top), writes of their long marriage: "We live in perfect bliss. No grief, no gripes. The way we manage it is this: I wash, she wipes."

affixed, but what a stunning decoration a panel of them would make on, say, one wall of a family room. Or somewhere.

Also upstairs are three bedrooms, two with fireplaces, and one bathroom. (There's one other bathroom downstairs.) Then beyond the kitchen, through a storage shed, are the two-car garage and workshop. Over that is a large, many-windowed space for an office or in-law apartment, all wired and, with some painting and decorating, ready to be used. Behind the house is a nice open area for a garden, basketball court, or whatever.

So there you have it. If you move fast —



the house" at 10:30 A.M., July 4, year after year. And don't forget to place some camp chairs on your lawn the night before. We guess that has become some sort of a Chelmsford tradition, too.

* * *

— **CONTACT THE FALLONS' AGENT, Stephanie Martin of Century 21 Landmark Realty, 1 Chelmsford St., Chelmsford, MA 01824; 508-256-6575 or 508-256-8704.** □ □

41 YEARS, COUNTLESS MEMORIES

Chelmsford family will miss life in historic 1729 home

By SHARON F. WEITZ
Sun Staff

6-16-97

CHELMSFORD — It had the earmarks of a great slumber party — pizza, soda, lots of friends, blankets and sleeping bags tossed all over the floors.

There was only one problem. Too many tears.

The Fallon family, who lived at 96 North Road for more than 41 years, was moving out the next day and the transition wasn't easy for anyone. How do you walk away from a 268-year-old house?

This is the place where John and Peg Fallon raised their six children. The place where those children dug up pieces of antique pottery, old coins and an 18th-century shoe buckle while planting the flower gardens. They played hide-and-seek in the seven-room house and adjoining barn, leaping out from stone fireplaces and small cupboards to surprise their friends.

"The attic used to really freak out some of our friends," recalled Julie Fallon, now 34, as she took a break from packing. "When the house was built, corn husks were used for insulation and there are still some tucked in the walls and

Please see **FALLON/4**



Julie, Matt and Margaret Fallon, like their parents, fell in love with this historic homestead on North Road.

SUN/BRADLEY CAUCHON

Historic Chelmsford house: storied charm and

FALLON/From Page 1

rafters. There's also a small lookout where colonists could watch for American Indians."

The white clapboard house is believed to have been built in 1729 by John Butterfield, a captain with the local militia. Butterfield actively campaigned for many years, before selling the house to his son Benjamin and moving to Dunstable.

"I suspect that John Butterfield had a little money because this is a well-decorated house," said Matthew Fallon, 38, referring to some elaborate early Georgian paneling and moldings, several ornate mantels, hand-thrown plaster ceilings and a large bookcase built into one room's wall.

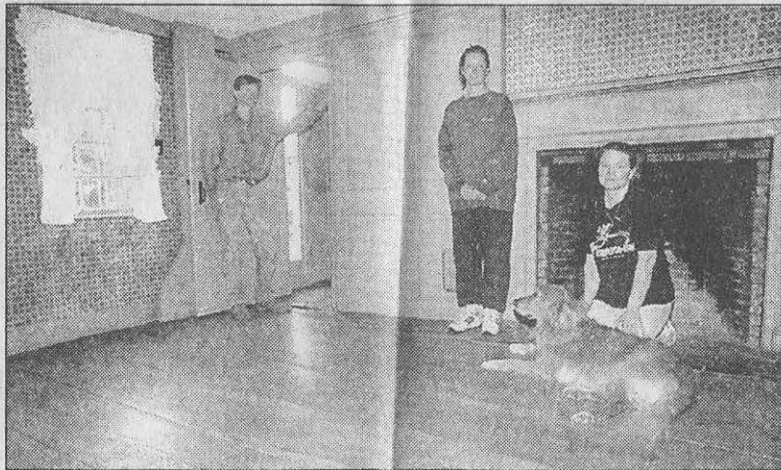
"This wasn't your average house in the early 1700s," he said. "Of course, it isn't your average house today either. My parents say it's been a constant adventure

with never-ending maintenance."

There are five fireplaces, two of which still work. The floors are wide wooden planks held in place by wooden dowels. Some rooms have low ceilings, others are cathedral-style. A "borning" room sits in the rear of the first floor. It is a windowless little room with a strong door, and its top panel flips down for hearing a baby cry or a woman giving birth.

A narrow back stairway leads from the caretaker's slope-roofed bedroom, papered with old-time movie posters, on the second floor, to the first level kitchen.

This is the house that will be featured in *Yankee Magazine's* July 1997 issue. John Fallon, 72, is a writer whose articles have been published by *Yankee Magazine*, *Field and Stream* and occasionally the *New Yorker*. He was thrilled when *Yankee Magazine* wanted to



Matt Fallon, standing in doorway, with sisters Julie and Margaret, kneeling, revisit their old living room and recall games of hide and seek in a house that their parents recall was a "constant adventure."

SUN/BRADLEY CAUCHON

write about his home.

"When my parents moved in, there were floors partially done, and there was only had one bathroom for eight people for 25 years," Julie Fallon said. "But

they fell in love with the place. It was an amazing house to grow up in. I'm still hoping that one of us will be able to buy it back one day."

The Fallons decided to sell

d countless memories

after Peg, 70, retired last year from teaching GED preparation in Lawrence only to be diagnosed with cancer a month later. The steep staircases and constant chores of a pre-Revolutionary War home were just too much.

"The kids are having a real hard time with this, but there are lots of good memories we'll take with us," Peg Fallon said. "Christmas with fresh greens on all the mantels and dinner for 30. Fourth of July open houses with about 200 people out on the lawn waiting for the parade and munching the doughnuts we'd bring out."

John and Peg Fallon now live in a detached condominium in Nashua. It's like an alien world to people used to the warmth and quirks of a historic home.

"But it is wonderful to finally have doors and cabinets that close completely and an office for writing," John Fallon said.

Now living surrounded by history are Michael and Jessica Olson, who bought the home from the Fallons and moved in last weekend.

"We fell in love with the house the first time we saw it," Michael Olson said. "There's so much character and charm — the beam ceilings, the wide pine floors. I've already bumped my head several times on some of the low ceilings, but I don't care."

Michael, 31, is a software engineer and Jessica, 25, a behavior analyst. Married in October, this is their first house.

"We're a little nervous about being able to keep up the reputation the Fallons have given the house," Olson said. "The beautiful flower gardens, the Fourth of July decorations and hospitality. But the Fallons have left us their supply of American flags for decorations and we'll make our own memories."

New Books



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



Matt Fallon Stained Glass unveiled at Chelmsford Public Library

5/14/2005 F. Merriam



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