

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

99/ 344/ 1/

Westford

CLM.435

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

**Town/City:** Chelmsford

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

## Photograph



View looking northeast from intersection of Pine Hill Road and Galloway Road.

**Address:** 249 Pine Hill Road

**Historic Name:** John and Sarah Adams House

**Uses:** Present: Single-family dwelling

Original: Single-family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** circa 1756

**Source:** Waters: *History of Chelmsford*

**Style/Form:** Georgian

**Architect/Builder:** Not known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone, cut

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles, clapboard / wood trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** None

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): West ell removed after 1980. Beverly jog ell and two-story ell at east side of house added after 1980. 6/9 wood sash windows removed after 2012.

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** 0.99

**Setting:** The house is located in a suburban residential area with houses constructed in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century located on large lots. A nature preserve is located across the street on the west side of the intersection of Pine Hill Road and Galloway Road. Highway Route 495 is located across the street to the south.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Cons. for

**Organization:** Chelmsford Historical Commission

**Date:** March 2022

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

249 PINE HILL RD

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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 house is oriented to the south and parallel to Pine Hill Road. An asphalt-paved drive leads from Pine Hill Road toward the garage located at the lower level of the east ell. The level lot is planted in grass with mature trees at the rear property line.

The two-story frame building is five bays wide and symmetrical in plan. The west elevation is one bay deep, with an additional bay in the saltbox extension. The east elevation is two bays deep. The side-gabled roof has a shallow overhang on the façade (south elevation) and no overhang on the side elevations. The building rests on a cut stone slab foundation. A pair of slender, brick chimneys with corbeled caps are centered on the roof ridge. The building is clad with wood clapboards and trimmed with cornerboards and a skirtboard. Two ranks of closely-spaced bays flank the façade's center entrance.

The center entrance is accessed by a single cut granite step. The door surround, which, based on the materials used, appears to date from the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, reflects the building's likely original appearance. The paneled wood (or metal?) door is sheltered by a metal-frame storm door and surrounded by slender Doric pilasters and a projecting, molded cornice and wide frieze. Windows throughout the house are recent replacement sash with interior *faux* grilles. On the façade, the second-story windows are tucked up against the plate with no crown. Throughout the remainder of the house, the windows are capped by a molded wood crown.

A Beverly jog ell (constructed after 1980) is attached to the northeast corner of the house and rests on a poured concrete foundation. This shed-roofed ell contains a door and window on the south elevation and a single window on the east elevation. A two-story addition (post-1980), attached to the northeast corner of the Beverly jog, rests on a poured concrete foundation. The addition contains a garage at the first floor and living space at the second floor. The addition is covered with shingles on the south elevation and clapboard on all other elevations. The addition contains a gable-roof screen porch at its west elevation. A single-story, shed-roof ell extends from the addition's north elevation.

Interior inspections were beyond the scope of this survey, but a closer examination of surviving framing, floorplans, and interior features and finishes by an architectural historian with expertise in early Massachusetts building technology could provide additional insights into a likely original construction date and on the physical evolution of the building over time.

## 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.

John Adams (1719-1791)<sup>1</sup> and his wife, Sarah Adams Adams [*sic*] (1723-1808)<sup>2</sup> appear to have owned this property in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The house at 249 Pine Hill Road was standing by 1783, when it was the residence of John and Sarah Adams' son, Capt. Timothy Adams. Timothy Adams (1757-1824) and his wife, Joanna Keyes Adams, were married in 1781.<sup>3</sup> Waters' *History of Chelmsford* noted that their son, Joel Adams (1783-1863), was born here.<sup>4</sup> Joel Adams, Esquire, was graduated from Harvard College in 1805 and began practicing law around 1808 in Chelmsford.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18162833/john-adams>. Accessed Jan. 27, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18162841/sarah-adams>. Accessed Jan. 27, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Cleveland and Cleveland: 410.

<sup>4</sup> Waters: 807

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In 1791, John Adams sold sixty acres of land with a dwelling house, barn and corn house, to his son, Timothy Adams.<sup>5</sup> (This may be 249 Pine Hill Road. More research is recommended.)

In 1856, the house was owned by "J. Chamberlain." This appears to be Joseph Chamberlain (1797-1864),<sup>6</sup> who married Martha Trask Putnam (1803-1873)<sup>7</sup> in 1827. The couple had four children, including Adams Chamberlain.<sup>8</sup> In 1861, Adams Chamberlain (1839-1875)<sup>9</sup> married Hattie Avery. That same year, farmer Adams Chamberlain purchased what appears to be this property from his father, Joseph Chamberlain.<sup>10</sup> In addition to 36 acres of tillable land and 20 acres of woodland, the sale included "the westerly half of [the] dwelling house, divided by a line running from south to north through the center and the land under the same, the center door, entry, stairwell, and door yard to be held in common by the owner of each half." The sale also included "1/2 barn and shed and half the barnyard." Adams Chamberlain owned the house and land until his death. Adams Chamberlain's estate sold the property in 1875.

In 1876, Johanna Sheehan (ca. 1829- ) purchased the house and surrounding land.<sup>11</sup> The 1880 census included Johanna and her four children: Ann (24) and Mary (17) worked in a woolen mill; John (22) worked as a farm laborer; Thomas (19) worked as a milkman. In 1889, Johanna Sheehan sold the house and approximately 65 acres of land to her sons, Thomas E. Sheehan and John C. Sheehan.<sup>12</sup> The property remains in the Sheehan family, having passed through:

- Thomas E. Sheehan sold to John C. Sheehan (1899);<sup>13</sup>
- Francis J. Sheehan willed to Anna G. Sheehan (1962);
- Anna G. Sheehan willed to Andrew F. Sheehan;
- Andrew F. Sheehan to Andrew and Donna Sheehan.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 17, p. 116.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18163218/joseph-chamberlin>. Accessed Jan. 2, 2022.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18163228/martha-trask-chamberlin>. Accessed Jan. 2, 2022.

<sup>8</sup> Putnam: 368

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18163208/adams-chamberlin>. Accessed Jan. 2, 2022.

<sup>10</sup> Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 27, p. 80.

<sup>11</sup> Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 118, p. 330.

<sup>12</sup> Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 204, p. 101.

<sup>13</sup> Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 307, p. 502.

<sup>14</sup> Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 3208, p. 44.

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## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



View looking west.



View looking south.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

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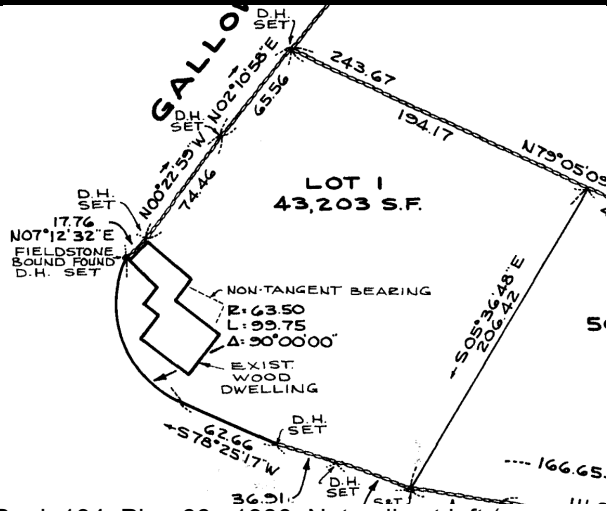
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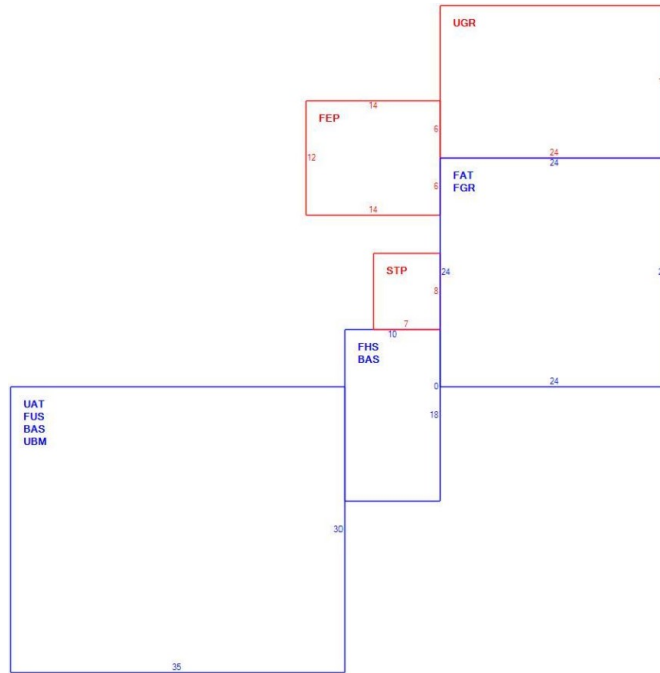
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Plan Book 134, Plan 66. 1980. Note ells at left (now removed).



Assessor's Sketch