

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

90/ 370/ 16/ /

Billerica

CLM.436

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

**Town/City:** Chelmsford

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

## Photograph



View looking north from Pine Hill Road.

**Address:** 309 Pine Hill Road

**Historic Name:** Benjamin Osgood House

**Uses:** Present: Single family dwelling

Original: Single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** circa 1756

**Source:** *Chelmsford Historical Tour, 1975.*

**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:** Shed (late 20thC)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): House expanded from 3 bays to five (18<sup>th</sup> C?). Chimney[s] removed. Attached garage (post-1974)

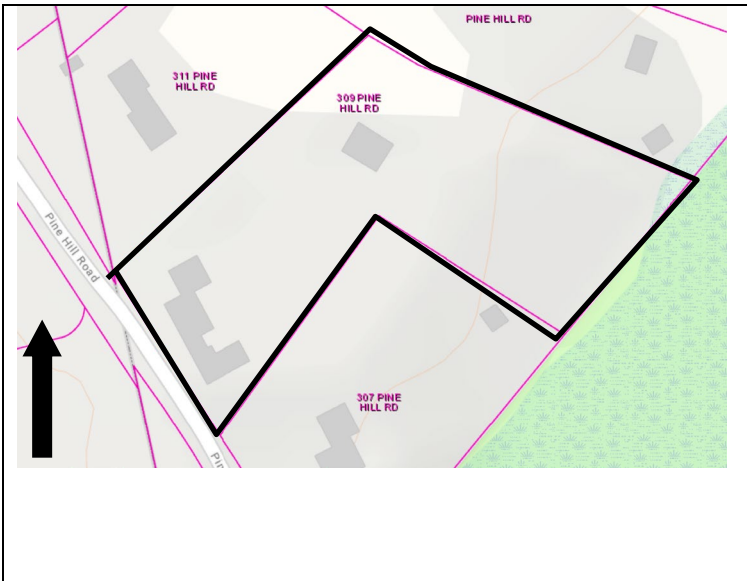
**Condition:** Very Good

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

**Acreage:** 1.66

**Setting:** The house is located in a wooded suburban residential area.

## Locus Map



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

**Organization:** Chelmsford Historical Commission

**Date:** March 2022

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

309 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 perpendicular to Pine Hill Road. A series of ells extends from the rear of the house, parallel to the road. A short gravel driveway leads from Pine Hill Road to the two-car garage attached to the north end of the house. The house is located very close to the road, separated by a narrow grassy area and a row of cut stone posts. Iron pintles set into the posts indicate that fencing and/or gates were once attached to the posts. The level lot is planted in grass near the house with wooded areas beyond.

The house consists of a two-story main block constructed in the mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> century with three one-story ells that extend from the rear (north) elevation of the main block. The main block is five bays wide and one bay deep. The main block rests on a cut stone foundation and is capped by a side-gabled roof with a shallow box cornice and overhang on the façade and no overhang on the side elevations. The main block appears to have been constructed in two phases, as evidenced by the different distances between the west two bays and the center entrance and the two east bays and the center entrance. The two west window bays and the entrance bay were constructed first. The house likely had a large center chimney, evidence of which can be found in the ripples in the roof ridge. At present, an interior brick chimney rises from the east end of the rear roof slope. The entire building is sheathed with wood clapboards with cornerboards.

The main block's center entrance consists of a wood door containing two vertical panels flanked by full-height sidelights that each contain five lights. Pilasters on plinths rise to a pediment consisting of compound moldings and a dentil course. Two cut stone steps lead from the entrance to the front yard. Windows throughout the building are 6/6 double-hung wood sash (likely early 20<sup>th</sup> C replacements) with narrow, flat surrounds and metal-frame track storm windows.

The one-story ell attached to the west end of the north (rear) elevation has a gabled roof with shallow eaves. The ell is covered with wood clapboards. The ell is five bays deep with an entrance at the fourth bay. The entrance is sheltered by a small front-gabled porch with square-section wood posts. Window surrounds are similar to those on the main block.

The second ell, attached to the north elevation of the first ell, is also one story in height, and slightly shorter than the previous ell. Covered with wood shingles on the west elevation and wood clapboards on the north elevation, the ell is two bays deep and one bay wide.

The third ell, added after 1974, rests on a poured concrete foundation. The ell is attached to the northeast corner of the previous ell and contains two garage bays with overhead doors. The ell has an asymmetrical gable roof and is clad with clapboards on the north elevation and wood shingles on the east elevation. The north elevation contains a personnel door and a single window at the first floor and a window in the gable peak.

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 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.*

The house at 309 Pine Hill Road is reported to have been constructed in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century on the outskirts of Westford's Chamberlain's Corner. Located at the Westford line, deeds indicate that the parcels of land associated with the house straddled

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the Westford-- Chelmsford municipal boundary as early as the 18<sup>th</sup> century. While the house is located in Chelmsford, much of the land associated with it was located in Westford.

In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, the land upon which the house is located was owned by Ebenezer Wright, who lived nearby in Westford.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Benjamin Osgood is reported to have lived in this house circa 1820.<sup>2</sup> Benjamin Osgood (1781-1863)<sup>3</sup> was born in Chelmsford. In the 1820s and 1830s, Osgood was a resident of Westford and served as a Selectman.

In 1831, Jacob Osgood sold 70 acres with buildings in this area to Eliel Heywood.<sup>4</sup> When compared to the 1831 map of Chelmsford, the area described in the deed appears to include more than one house. Furthermore, some of the buildings in the deed are located in Chelmsford and some are located in Westford. It is unclear in which house Eliel Heywood might have resided.

Eliel Heywood (1801-1872)<sup>5</sup> was married twice: to Mary Reed in 1832 and to Bethia Prescott in 1854.

Eliel Heywood's son, Edwin Eliel Heywood (1835-1910)<sup>6</sup> married Mary K. Fletcher (1838-1924)<sup>7</sup> in Westford in 1859. Edwin Heywood worked as a farmer and lived in Westford with his wife and their four daughters.<sup>8</sup> The 1880 census agricultural schedule noted that Heywood owned 100 acres of land. The 1875 map identifies Edwin E. Heywood as owner of the house at 309 Pine Hill Road.

While Isaac Adams does not appear to have owned the house, it does appear that he lived here. Although the 1856 map notes "I. Adams" as the owner of 309 Pine Hill Road, this researcher has been unable to uncover any deeds that link an Adams to this property. The 1880 census provides a clue that Adams may have, instead, resided here. In that census, Isaac Adams (1808-1892)<sup>9</sup> and his brother, Thomas Minot Adams (1810-1895),<sup>10</sup> are recorded in the household next to Johanna Sheehan, e.g., next to 249 Pine Hill Road. 309 Pine Hill Road, at that time, would have been the next house down the road.

It appears that Edwin and Mary Heywood may have moved to this house after the deaths of Isaac and Thomas Adams. The 1900 census for Chelmsford includes their family in the count.

Between 1910 and 1920, Joseph Tremblay purchased land here on "Tadmuck Road," as this section of Pine Hill Road was then named (before the highway was constructed). Tremblay (1873- ) was born in Canada and emigrated to the United States around 1876. He worked as a teamster in Lowell before moving to Chelmsford with wife, Clarida, and their family. The couple had eight children. After moving to Chelmsford, Tremblay worked as a stone mason in the building trade. Clarida Tremblay sold the property in 1949.<sup>11</sup>

Ethel and Edward Baron owned the house from 1949 until 1974.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Waters: 46, 531, 558 and Hodgman: 42. Also see 1730 map of Westford, reproduced in Hodgman.

<sup>2</sup> Waters: 5, citing Allen: 10.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/22433820/benjamin-osgood>. Accessed Jan. 26, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book 311, p. 14.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/183104947/eliel-heywood>. Accessed Jan. 13, 2022.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/198007381/edwin-eliel-heywood>. Accessed Jan. 13, 2022.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/198007394/mary-kimball-heywood>. Accessed Jan. 13, 2022.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Census, 1880.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18167840/isaac-adams>. Accessed January 26, 2022.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18167886/thomas-minot-adams>. Accessed January 26, 2022.

<sup>11</sup> Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 1130, p. 437.

<sup>12</sup> Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 1130, p. 437 and Book 2104, p. 85

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## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



View looking south.

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CHELMSFORD

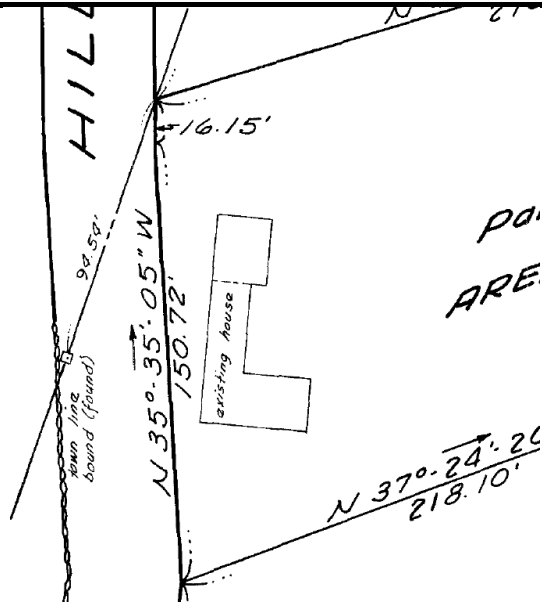
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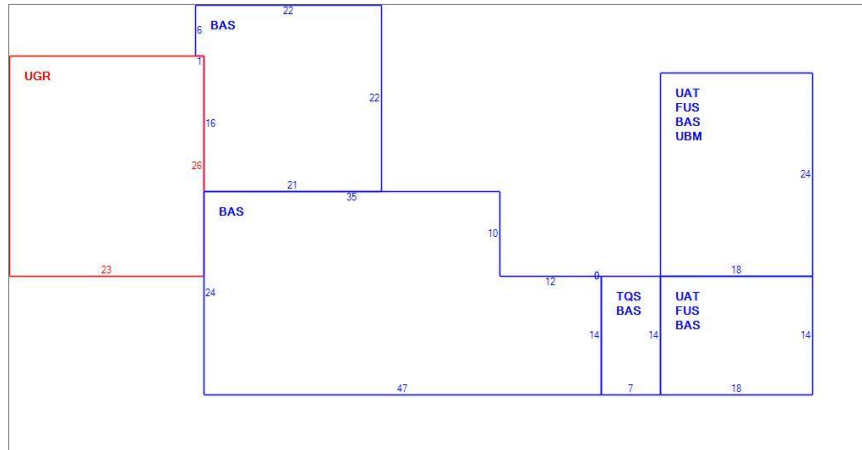
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Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Plan Book 118, Plan 9. 1974.



Assessor's Sketch.