

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13/39/1	Nashua South	G	CLM.131
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 25-27 Princeton Street

Historic Name: William L. Draper – Samuel T. Wright Double House

Uses: Present: multiple-family dwelling

Original: multiple-family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1873

Source: Chelmsford tax records

Style/Form: Italianate

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1943 open frame porch addition

Ca. 1948 second story addition to rear ell

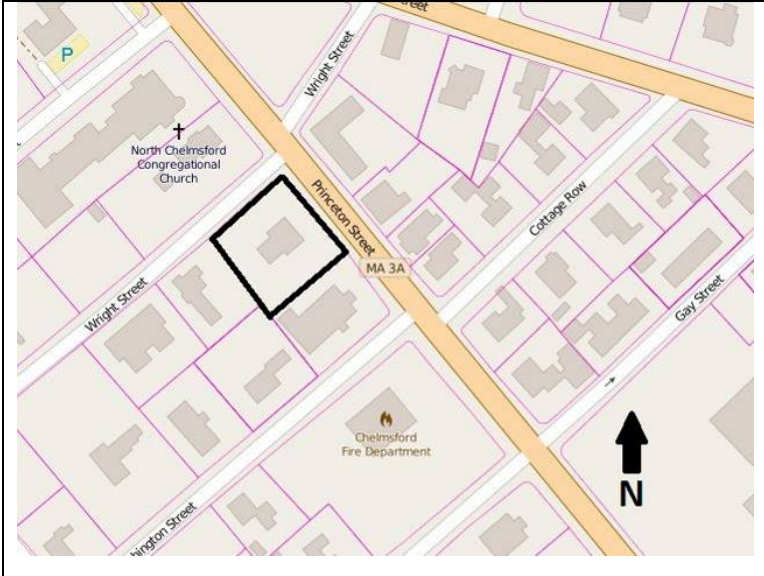
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreeage: .34 A

Setting: The house is located approximately 40' southwest of Princeton St., east of its intersection with Wright St. The building sits on a slight rise. Shrubs are along the perimeter of the lot. A paved parking area is at the rear of the building off of Wright St. The surrounding area includes 19th c. residential development; North Town Hall is to the south.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Jennifer Burden, Gray & Pape, Inc.

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

25-27 PRINCETON STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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 house is located on the south corner of Princeton and Wright streets. It is a two-story, wood frame, duplex constructed in 1873 according to tax records. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. All of the exterior walls are clad with wood clapboard. The building rests atop a stone foundation. A large, gabled ell extends from the rear (southwest) side of the house. The primary (northeast) façade, which faces Princeton Street, is divided symmetrically into four bays, with the two center bays featuring a pair of doors. Located side-by-side, the two doorways are surmounted by one continuous flat porch roof that is supported by three large, scrolled brackets. The doors are flanked on either side by a two-over-two, double-hung window. At the second story, a series of four, two-over-two, double-hung windows are located directly above their first story window and door counterparts. The sides of the building extend two bays deep, with the same double-hung windows found on the primary façade. The rear addition stands two stories in height and features one-over-one, double-hung windows and a one-story enclosed porch along the northwest side. All of the window surrounds on the original, front portion of the building feature molded lintels and simple wood frame sides and sills. Window surrounds on the addition consist of simple, unadorned wood framing. The cornice on the original portion of the building features pairs of small brackets spaced at wide intervals.

The house is a good example of the Italianate architectural style and retains historic integrity of location, setting, materials, 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.

The property was originally surveyed in 1888 by Jane Drury of the Chelmsford Historical Commission. Her research discovered the building was constructed in 1873 per tax records. The 1875 map of North Chelmsford shows that W.L. Draper and S.T. Wright in the north and south portions of the house, respectively. Samuel T. Wright owned a number of other parcels in North Chelmsford, therefore, he may have rented the north half of the house to Draper as the map notes it as his residence. The 1865 Lowell City Directory lists William Lester Draper (born in England in 1836, died February 2, 1908) as a carriage maker in that city, but the 1870 US Population Census lists Draper living in Chelmsford and working as a carriage maker. William and his wife Jane Draper (Jane was also born ca. 1836 in England) purchased the property at 1 Groton Road (CLM.342) in North Chelmsford in 1874 from Jacob Drake, but immediately sold it to Samuel Wright (1830-1883), a trader according to the 1880 census. Therefore, Draper and Wright had other property partnerships in the area. Draper operated the carriage shop until his death in 1908.

In 1890, George (1852-1921) and Ida (1857-1942) Swett purchased the property. After George's death in 1921, Ida continued to live in the house until her death in 1942. In 1955 Clifford Halligan purchased the property. According to the 1957 city directory, Clifford and his wife Helen lived at this address and Clifford was a salesman for the Middlesex Supply Company. The property remained in the Halligan family until 1998 when John Halligan sold it to current owners Scott Rand and Rosa Carmen.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Beers, F.W. *County Atlas of Middlesex, Massachusetts*. J.B. Beers & Co., New York. 1875.

Drury, Jane. Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory Form, "Swett House." CLM. 131. 1988.

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.

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



25-27 Princeton Street, facing south. November 2015.

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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. Resource CLM.131 retains sufficient historic integrity to contribute to this potential historic district.