

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13/34/8	Nashua South	G	CLM.126
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 38 Princeton Street

Historic Name: Ephraim and Thankful Kennon House

Uses: Present: single-family dwelling

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1835

Source: 1831 map of Chelmsford and tax records

Style/Form: Cape

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/vinyl

Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Detached garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 1940 enclosed porch and garage additions

Ca. 2000 replacement siding and windows

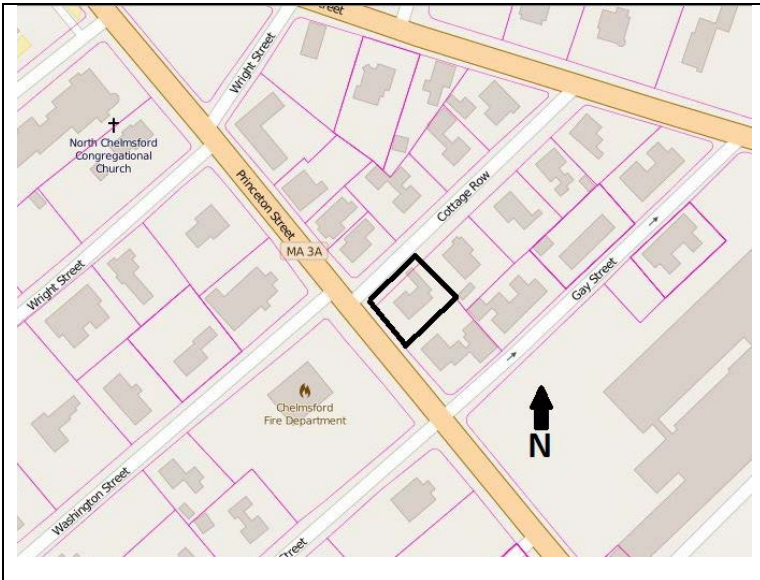
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .14 A

Setting: The house is located approximately 30' northeast of Princeton St. at Cottage Row. A paved parking area, accessible via Cottage Row, is behind the house. The front yard is flat and grassy with a couple of mature trees. The surrounding area includes 19th c. residential development, much of which served as mill worker housing.

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 PRINCETON STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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 southeastern corner of Princeton and Cottage Row streets. It is a ca. 1835, 1.5-story, wood frame, Cape type house. The side gable roof is covered with slate shingles. The exterior walls are covered with replacement vinyl siding with vinyl trim. The original portion of the house rests atop a granite foundation, while the addition at the rear rests atop a concrete foundation. The front portion of the house follows a rectangular plan and a rear gabled addition extends from the rear or northeast side of the house. The primary (southwest) façade faces Princeton Street. The façade is divided into five bays with the front entrance located in the center bay. The door consists of a vertical wood planks with wrought iron strap hinges. The doorway is surmounted by a large, heavy lintel. It is not known if these features are original to house or are replications. The doorway is flanked on either side by six-over-six, vinyl, replacement windows. Fenestration throughout the remainder of the house consists of similar six-over-six replacement windows.

The building is an altered example of a mid-nineteenth century residence that retains historic integrity of location, setting, 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.

An early history of the property is provided in the original Inventory Form completed by Jane Drury of the Chelmsford Historical Commission in 1985. Drury's research discovered the house was constructed ca. 1835 and was once owned by Lincoln Drake, proprietor of iron foundries in Chelmsford and Easton. Drake did not live in the house, but likely rented it to an employee. The Kennon family (sometimes spelled Cannon or Canon) purchased the property in 1843 and it remained in the family until 1893. The 1850 US Population Census lists Ephraim Kennon (born ca. 1791 in New Hampshire) as a machinist living in Chelmsford with wife Thankful (born 1797 in Massachusetts) and daughter Emeline (born ca. 1821). Also living with the Kennons were S.H. Burger and E.G. Carlton, who were both listed as machinists. These men may have been apprentices to Kennon.

After the Kennon family several others owned the property. The owners had a variety of occupations, but no others appeared to have been employed at the local mills. Since 1963 the Ralls family have owned the property.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

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.

Hales, John G. *Plan of the Town of Chelmsford in the County of Middlesex*. Surveyed in 1831 by John G. Hales.

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

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

Walling, Henry F. *Map of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Smith & Bumstead, Boston, MA. 1856.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

38 PRINCETON STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.126 retains sufficient historic integrity to contribute to this potential historic district.