

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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BillERICA

CLM.441

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

Town/City: Chelmsford

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



View looking north from Robin Hill Road.

Address: 75 Robin Hill Rd.

Historic Name: Samuel and Betsey Parkhurst House

Uses: Present: Single-family dwelling

Original: Single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1788

Source: Marriage date

Style/Form: No style

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, cut

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/ Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Replacement windows (early 21st C); Chimney rebuilt (20th C)

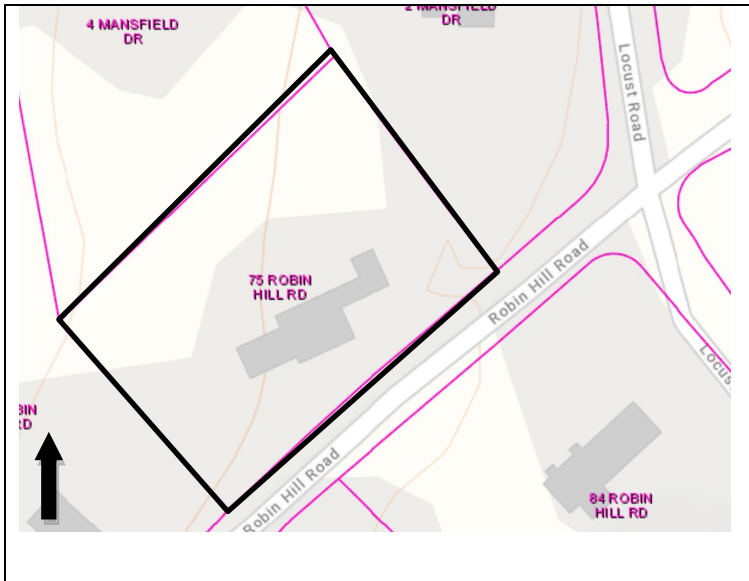
Condition: Very Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.7 acre

Setting: Wooded residential neighborhood of mid-20thC residences.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Cons. for

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date: March 2022

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

75 ROBIN 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, with a shallow, curved paved drive separating the house from the road. A second paved driveway leads from the road to the garage in the east ell. Located on the western face of Robin Hill, the wooded lot slopes to the west.

The house consists of a two-story main block constructed in the 18th century with a mid-19th century two-story ell attached to the west elevation and a one-story ell (late 19th or early 20th C) attached to the east elevation. The five-bay 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 is two bays deep with a single window in the gable peak. 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 large brick chimney, which now rises from the center of the roof ridge, is located at what was the east elevation of the original house. In order to accommodate the chimney, the two east bays are slightly farther away from the center door than are the two west bays. The entire building is sheathed with wood clapboards with cornerboards and sill boards.

The main block's center entrance consists of a six-panel wood door flanked by three-light, half-height sidelights above slender wood panels. Cut stone steps lead from the doorway to the yard. Reeded pilasters rise to the projecting molded pediment. The entablature appears to be a 20th-century replacement. The windows feature molded wood surrounds, perhaps dating from the mid-19th century. The window sash, while recent vinyl (?) replacements, are sympathetically undertaken, with interior *faux* grilles that mimic the historic 6/9 muntin configuration. Screw-on vinyl shutters frame the windows.

The two-story west ell appears to have been constructed during the third quarter of the 19th century, based on its stylistic features. The ell is shallower and slightly shorter than the main block and is capped with a side-gabled roof with overhanging eaves and gable-end cornice returns. A slender brick interior chimney rises from the roof ridge. The ell is four bays wide and features a wide frieze on the façade (south elevation). The windows, which are much taller than those on the main block (nearly floor-to-ceiling), contain *faux* 9/9 interior grilles. A shed-roof porch supported by turned wood posts is located along the façade of the ell and shelters a paneled wood door containing two vertical panels over two horizontal panels. The porch floor is edged with cut stone and features a stone slab floor. Cut stone steps lead from the south and west porch elevations to the yard. At the northwest corner of the ell is located a shed-roof projection that contains a modern metal personnel door.

The one-story frame east ell has an asymmetrical gable roof. The south (streetside) elevation contains a single window, a personnel door and an overhead garage door. The wood personnel door contains a light in the top half over three rectangular panels and was likely installed in the early 20th century, based on its appearance. The east elevation contains two windows.

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.

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Samuel Parkhurst (1759-1849)¹ was born in Chelmsford and entered the Revolutionary War as a teenager.² In 1776-1777, Parkhurst served "in the Burgoyne campaign in Capt. Jonathan Minott's company."³

In 1788, Samuel Parkhurst married Betsey Hutchinson (1760-1817) in Bedford, Massachusetts. The house was likely constructed around this time for the couple. Betsy Parkhurst died in 1817 in Chelmsford; Samuel remarried that same year to Anna Lane Dutton (1782-1864), also of Bedford. This was a second marriage for Anna Lane Dutton, as well.

In 1843, Samuel Parkhurst sold his "homestead farm," which included a dwelling house, barn, and other outbuildings on approximately 80 acres to his daughter, Susan Elizabeth Parkhurst (1818-1884)⁴ and her betrothed, Jeremiah Cogswell Mansfield (1817-1883).^{5,6} The couple married that same year. The 1860 census records J. Cogswell Mansfield working as a farmer and living here with Susan, their four children, and Susan's mother, Anna Lane Dutton Parkhurst.

After J. Cogswell Mansfield's death, the property passed to his son, George Mansfield.⁷ George Parkhurst Mansfield (1850-1916)⁸ married Hannah Elizabeth Byam (1851-1932)⁹ in 1873. George worked as a farmer, according to census records. The property remained in the Parkhurst-Mansfield family until 1938.¹⁰

Helena Pierce owned the property from 1938 until 1960.¹¹ At the time of the 1940 census, Helena Pierce (ca. 1893-) worked as a saleswoman with an egg route and her husband, Charles A. Peirce (ca. 1892-1947), worked as a farmer. The couple had two sons.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18169056/samuel-parkhurst>. Accessed March 9, 2022.

² Waters: 220.

³ *Lineage Book of the Charter Members of the D.A.R.*: 334.

⁴ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18163949/susan-elizabeth-mansfield>. Accessed Dec. 6, 2021.

⁵ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18163940/jeremiah-cogswell-mansfield>. Accessed Dec. 6, 2021.

⁶ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 15, p. 230.

⁷ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 180, p. 8.

⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18163938/george-parkhurst-mansfield>. Accessed Dec. 6, 2021.

⁹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18163930/hannah-elizabeth-mansfield>. Accessed Dec. 6, 2021.

¹⁰ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 915, p. 173.

¹¹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 915, p. 173 and Book 1477, p. 150.

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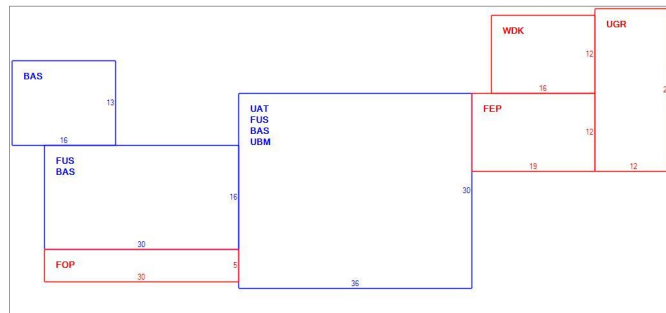
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View looking west from Robin Hill Road.



East ell. View looking north.



Assessor's sketch