Summer

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE 1. Outbuildings barn and summer house 2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal Predominant features nines lining drive-way: nower transmission line Landscape architect _ 3. Neighboring Structures Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom. Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian (Modern) Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form) Present house was builthw Rev. John Parkhurst in 1823. He was Pastor So. Chelms. Baptist hurch 1821-1845. Pastor Chelmsford Center Baptist Church 1847-1868. House served as parsonage and farm dwelling during this period. Has always served as farm dwelling. Carla Se right to and real to cross above the cast of the bright the a THE ELEVAPORE TO LOW A. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE History of helmsford-Wilson Waters * Liganteuexitetrative of free BK FILE SEE GOOD A Laura A Court Co. Bk.125 P570-right of way (Bk.753 Pl4 -easement FEA* OPE Solid Made Solid (Bk.1285P407-easement

Registry of Deeds

N. Middlesex

N. Middlesex Registry of Deeds

Page 302

Original Owner: Rev. John Parkhurst.

Deed Information: Book Number 11

147 Robin Hill Road Deed Summary Found in Eleanor Parkhurst Papers

Bk. 976, pg. 267	rec.	Apr. 17, 1942	H. M. Pontefract from George Thomas
Bk. 789, pg. 283	rec.	May 7, 1930	George Thomas from Celia Parkhurst Battles Park
Bk. 629, pg. 361	rec.	June 29, 1920	Celia Parkhurst Battles Park from Harriet Battles
Bk. 114, pg. 337		Dec. 11, 1875	Harriet Battles, wife of W.D. Battles, from Benjamin Minot Fiske
Bk.? , pg. 592	rec.	Aug. 14, 1875	Benjamin Minot Fiske from Estate of Rev. John Parkhurst
Bk. 11, pg. 302		Jan. 25, 1823	Rev. John Parkhurst from Estate of Elijah Parkhurst

Penniman House 147 Robin Hill Rd.

1831 map: yes

Beers Atlas (1875): Rev. J. Parkhurst, owner

Brad Parker (Pine Hill Rd.) 2/28/72:

This house may be old. Henry Pontefract lives in it now. Mr. Taylor lived there a while ago also. Mrs. Minniw Brown used to be a Penniman and may know something about it.

Mrs. Minnie Brown (Barton Hill Rd.) 3/9/72: She was born there. The house is over 100 years old.

Mrs. Margaret Mills (12 Westford St.) 10/6/72:

Helen Mason has done much research on the Proctors, and she is quite sure that the first Proctor settled in this house.

Waters, pg. 241:

"A sword that was captured from the British at Ticonderoga, and brought home by a Chelmsford soldier, Samuel Parkhurst, father of the late Rev. John Parkhurst...."

Waters, pg. 398:

"George P. Mansfield's place and the home of Rev. John Parkhurst are old buildings."

Waters, pg. 600:

"In 1827, 'Prayers were performed' in Town Meeting by Rev. John Parkhurst."

Waters, pg. 693:

"In 1820, Allen, on the title page of his History of Chelmsford, styles himself pastor of the Church in Chelmsford. John Parkhurst, on the title page of a printed sermon, in 1826, writes himself pastor of a Church in Chelmsford; and later of the Baptist Church in Chelmsford."

Waters, pg/ 702:

The South Chelmsford Baptist Church: "The longest pastorate was that of Rev. John Parkhurst, twentypthree years and three months. The shortest, Rev. E.H. Hayden's, the months."

Waters, pg. 705-6:

"On Feb. 14, 1847, a number of people from the Baptist Church in the South Village, with some from the First Baptist Church of Lowell, met at their place of worship in the Centre Village, and organized by choosing the Rev. John Parkhurst chairman, and John Millikan scribe, and united as an independent body under the name of 'The Central Baptist Church of Chelmsford.' For twenty years, services were

held in the Academy building, which later became the parsonage of this society.

During the same period, until 1868, the Rev. John Parkhurst was pastor.

The Rev. Alfred Coburn succeeded him for a few months.....

Dr. S.L. Dutton said of the Rev. John Parkhurst: 'He was a man of high scholarly attainments, graduating from Harvard in 1811. It was his purpose to become a Unitarian minister, all of his family belonging to that faith. From a change in view, however, soon after graduation he became a Baptist, remaining steadfast to his principles throughout a long life. He was a man of great sweetness of character, a peace-maker, a friend to all, and revered and honored of all classes.

John Parkhurst was born in Chelmsford, Jan. 17, 1789. Edward Everett was of the same class at Harvard. He was ordained in 1814 and settled over the Baptist Church at New Ipswitch, N.H., where he remained seven years. He returned to Chelmsford in 1821 and was pastor of the First Baptist Church in South Chelmsford until 1847, when he orgainized the society at the Centre Village. He died February 17, 1875. In his latter years, he became mellowed somewhat in his doctrine, preaching the the hell of conscience, instead of a place of material fire.

Two sermons by him are printed: 'The Garden Enclosed,' and 'The Holy Tendency of Saving Grace,' both preached in 1826. They have considerable

literary merit."

Historic Commission (12/12/71):

The pile of stones at 6 Robin Hill Rd., known as "John Eliot's Pulpit" or the "John Parkhurst Pulpit" could be either, or just a pile of stones. But, according to George Parkhurst, legend says that Rev. Parkhurst was a terrible speaker, so he went there and practiced his sermons in pravate.

NOTES

Rev. John Parkhurst House # 104

Date:

When a new threshold was installed in 1950 a badly corroded copper one cent piece was found under the old threshold.

Ontractors who do restoration work say that it was customary at that time to place a coin under the threshold when the threshold was installed.

The date on the coin would be that year nearest to when the house was built. In this case the date on the copper one cent piece was 1823.

Deed for the property was passed July 20, 1822.

Wall cover:

Clapboards with bevel joints were replaced by shingles in 1957.

Rev. John Parkhurst House

Notes by Henry Pontefract May 1973

Windows were 6 over 6 panes in picture taken 1899 but were changed

to 2 over 2 in picture taken about 1905.

A white picket fence was shown in 1899 picture; it was about 15 to 18 ft. from the front line of the house. Granite posts supported the railings. The fence had disappeared but the granite posts still showed in the 1905 picture.

Old residents reported that a house was on the property when Rev. John Parkhurst bought it at public auction in 1822. He did not like the old house which could have been 167 years old, so he tore it down and erected the present structure.

Ceiling beams in the present kitchen lead one to believe that material

from an earlier structure was put into the present one.

Rev. John Parkhurst had 13 children by 2 wives who were sisters:
Lydia Burrows 1815 - 1819 2 children
Celia Burrows 1820 - 1872,11 children
see Parkhurst Geneology, owmed by George Parkhurst

In 1950 a small room off the kitchen was made into a bathroom and a door was cut between it and the parlor.

A pantry, stairway to attic, small toilet and back hall were converted

to the present sun porch. The kitchen fireplace was opened.

In 1965 approximately, the ceiling was removed in the kitchen, exposing the original beams. The mantle over the kitchen fireplace and plaster wall were removed exposing the fireplace chimney as now seen.

A post or pillar from the South Chelmsford Baptist Church was used in the building what is now a garage.

In the basement there is a recess in the south wall about 2 ft. off the floor. What purpose it served is a mystery. It is now filled in with brick to prevent dirt from falling from above.

Copied by Jane Drury 5/29/73

I VIII. A Minister's Notebook) Extracts from by Eleanor Parkhurst May 12,

Diaries and notebooks are well-known as sources of historical inform-ation. They are eyewitness accounts and unintended autobiographies, too, for behind the recorded events we find the man who observed them and was sufficiently impressed to write them down. His omissions are as revealing as his inclusions; being the sort of man he was, he made certain selections and not others from his world of physical and mental activity. The Rev. John Parkhurst's notebook (1814-60) is less detailed than Mr. Bridge's diary (1?50-92) and more so that Mr. Fiske's notebook (163?-75) but it represents, as they do, what serious-mlnded men in their respective centuries considered important enough to be put into a permanent record.

The Rev. John Parkhurst was born Jan. 17, 1789, a son of Samuel Park-hurst, who occupied the house deeded in 1784 to him by his father, Josiah, at 75 Robin Hill Rd., Center, now owned by Mrs. Chas. Peirce. He had planned to become a Unitarian minister, but soon after graduation from Harvard (1811)he underwent a profound religious experience and was baptized into the Baptist church. For 3 years he was a home missionary in parts of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and in 1814 was ordained in New Ipswich, N.H. He married and there his first two children were born. After the death of his first wife, he married her sister and 11 children were born to them. In 1821, he became the pastor of the First Baptist church in S. Chelmsford and lived for several months at what is now the Paul Swanson farm in Carlisle. He then purchased the Lt. Elijah Proctor farm at auction for \$1005 and, in 1823, built upon it the house now owned by H.M.Pontefract, 147 Robin Hill Rd., not far from his old childhood home. The circular wall of stones on the south side of Robin Hill Rd. near its junction with High St., often called "Priest Parkhurst's Prayer Pen," is still to be seen. For his own amusement, but as a student, John often went there to meditate and, according to tradition, sometimes to practice his sermons. His pastorate of 23 years which ended in 1845 was the longest ever held at the South Chelmsford church. In 1846 he began preaching in the old Academy building at the Center--now the Baptist parsonage [site of: J. B. Drury] -- to a group of persons from the South Chelmsford and Lowell Baptist churches, organized as the Central Baptist Church of Chelmsford. He remained with this church until 1868, and died in 1875. His present-day descendants include a grand- daughter who generously made his notebook available, and several great-grandchildren--among them Homer Battles Park of Chicago and Eustace Bridge Fiske of Chelmsford, both Harvard graduates, and Miss Helen Fiske of Chelmsford. Mrs. C. Geo. Arm-strong, Mrs. Joseph E. Warren, and Mrs. Waldo Perham, all late residents of this town, were other grandchildren. * * * * *

March 10,1814. I was ordained at New Ipswich. Elder Andrews preached the sermon; Elder Higbee offered up the consecrating prayer; Elder Elliott gave the charge; Elder Willard gave the right hand of fellow-ship. Elder Spaulding made the concluding prayer. The audience was unusually solemn and attentive. May. 25. The Baptist meeting house was raised in New Ipswich.

Nov. 27 Entered into the married state with Miss Lydia Burrows of New Ipswich and commenced housekeeping the same day.

Jan.22,1816. ...went to Chelmsford...with my consort at a sudden request to visit my sick brother. Stayed there until he began to amend, add in the meantime preached for the Rev. Wilkes Allen [Unitarian Church: J.B. Drury] to a solemn audience

Apr.'7, 1817. Was added to my family a son. Circumstances favorable. Same day was constituted in Wilton, N.H. a church of Christ and 7 baptized. The Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice.

Aug.31. At Concord, N.H. Preached in a schoolhouse in the street. Continued there one week preaching and visiting. Was encouraged to believe that ere long a Baptist church would be constituted there. Light with regard to religious liberty is evidently braking forth.

- May 9. Had the honor and happiness of preaching at Tyngsboro Congregational meeting house. Good attention. Trust it will not be in vain.
- July 4. Baptized Lydia Nutting at Dunstable. Preached to a large concourse and rode immediately home without making any stops, my wife being considered at the point of death.
- Sept. 18. Found the people unwilling to have a Baptist church at Groton. A door will sometime be opened there.
- Feb. 22, 1820. Was married to Miss Celia Burrows. **
- Sept.10. ..whether I shall ever be very useful in this place still seems doubtful. ...
- Dec.10. Preached at New Ipswich. Just like preaching to the air; and indeed I had but little else to preach to: 6 or 8 church members and a few indifferent persons. I think it is sufficiently evident that it cannot be duty for me to labour here any more at present if ever. May the Lord direct me. I have an appointment to labour as a missionary 4 weeks in
- destitute places. May the Lord fit me for the important work and crown my labour with His blessing. Amen.
- Jan.21,1821. I feel like a man in darkness favoured however with a lamp at his feet. I can see to take one step. I can believe that Wisdom guides the lamp but what la before me I cannot tell.
- Jan. 31. Returned home, found I had a letter from Boston requesting me to go to preach there a few Sundays. Thus the Lord opens my way before me. Feb. 18. Preached for the first time to the First Baptist Church, Boston. About the 20 of November received an invitation to preach in Chelmsford and Dunstable. May the Lord prepare for the work before me. What wisdom, grace,
- zeal, energy and knowledge I shall need in that region!
- Dec. 16. Began my year's labour at Chelmsford.

faithful in the work of the ministry.

- Dec. 21. Moved down my family to Carlisle--Bro. Hutchins'.
- Sept.13,1822. Blessings have attended me in many respects the past season. In May I purchased the farm lately owned by Lt. Elijah Proctor. During the season have seen something of the work of God. Have baptized 18 persons. Jan.17 1823. This day I am 34 years of age. Mercy has attended me the past year in a peculiar manner. I have seen the prosperity of Zion. Union and peace have attended the church in this place. May God grant me grace to be
- Nov. 14. 12 years have elapsed this day since I was baptized at Hampden, Me. I have reason to bless God that I have seen so much of His goodness in the land of the living. May my remaining days be zealously devoted to the service of my exalted Lord and Saviour .
- July 2,1831. Sometimes my desponding heart seems unable to rise Do God. The least effort seems to carry pains through all my nervous system. Again, God seems near, and his government fills me with joy and confidence. Aug.26,1832. The spring and summer past have been rather a winter season in the church. The enemy has laboured to sow discord. The cause of the Redeemer has been wounded; and many of the saints seem I constrained to sit in silence. * .*
- Nov. 14. 21 years have I been in the visible church. Vain desires delight in the soil of my sinful nature. I need to look at the errors continually. Some tokens of the Divine Mercy have not long since been conferred. Four have been baptized and one backslider, who had wandered more than 20 years, has been reclaimed.
- Aug.16,1833. Work-work seems to be the absorbing interest of the people generally in this vicinity. Were it not for the divine promises I should be utterly disheartened with regard to the cause of God. A few seem to retain the spirit of prayer and there is one or two bright spots in the religious horizon. Yet my own heart evidently partakes of the general worldliness. Sin strives to have sway.
- Qct. 28, 1843. Although 30 have been added to the church since the commence ment of the present year there are some things among us not altogether pleasant. * * My prayer is that I may be led in a plain path--that I may know when I ought to give place to another man.

Left the pulpit of the Baptist meeting house the second Lord's Day in April,1845. Commenced preaching in the Academy in the middle of Chelmsford on the 4th day of October,1846. I trust that God has opened this door in \sim mercy to souls. May it be my great business to hold up the truth as it is in Jesus.

Feb.14, 1847 A Baptist church was organized consisting of 35 members of which I was chosen Pastor.

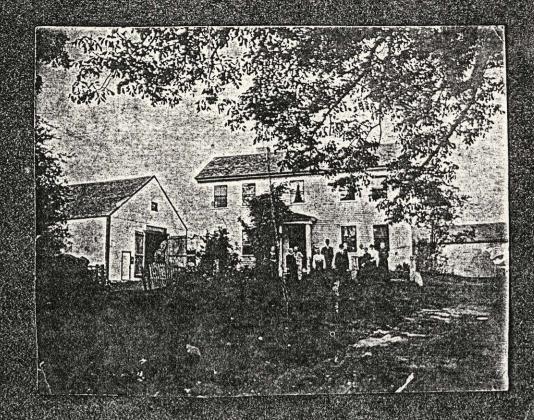
Sept. 30,1848. Two years have nearly elapsed since I commenced preaching in the middle of Chelmsford. Although many blessings have been granted still evidence of the conversion of sinners has been wanting. Only two have been added to the church and those by letter. ...

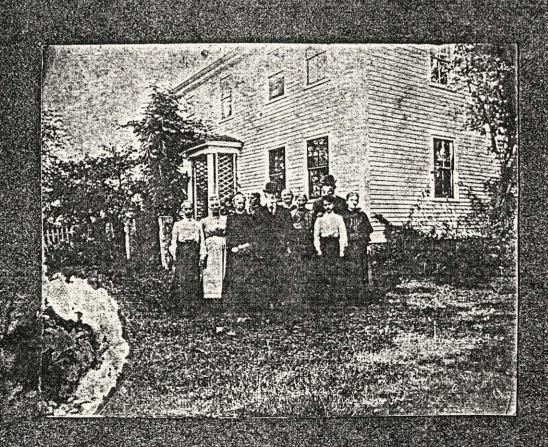
Oct. 25,1849. Baptized Ezra Abbott Upham, the first individual, it is supposed, who was ever baptized in the middle of Chelmsford.

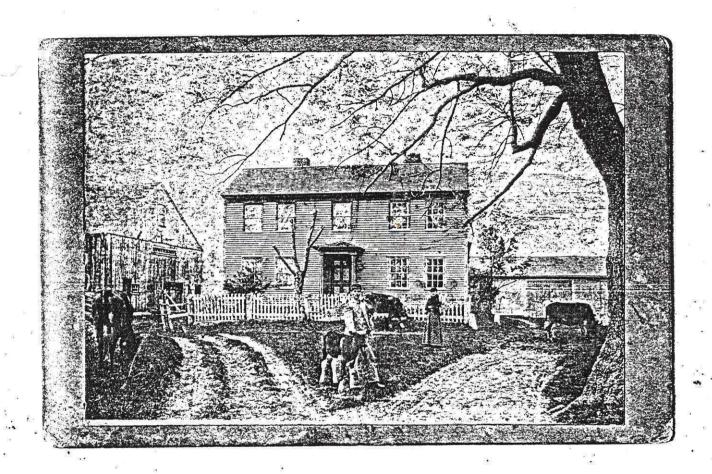
Nov. 4. Baptized Mrs. Howard, wife of Dr. Levi Howard, probably the first woman ever baptized in the middle of Chelmsford. God grant that many more both men and women may be led on in the way of truth and duty. Jan. 26,1860. [Last entry] My oldest son, my first born, died. I trust in

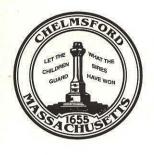
the faith of Jesus.

IN ITALICS: Permission to quote from this article must be requested and secured in writing from the author.









HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CHELMSFORD, MA 01824

June 24, 2004

Board of Selectman Town of Chelmsford 50 Billerica Road Chelmsford, MA 01824

Re: 147 Robin Hill Road

Dear Sirs:

The Historical Commission understands you are reviewing the plans for a 40B Project proposed by Emanouil Brothers, Inc., on Robin Hill Road. While the Historical Commission understands the importance of the project, and does wish the project too be successful, the Commission strongly recommends the preservation of 147 Robin Hill Road.

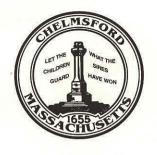
This lovely, well built Georgian style home was built by the Rev. John Parkhurst in 1828. In 1973 the house was inventoried and placed on the State Register of Historical Buildings. This is the home of the Rev. Parkhurst who preached from "Parkhurst Pulpit", the home of a man who influence Chelmsford for many years as minister of the South Baptist Church for 23 years and as minister of the Central Baptist Church for another 20 years.

The House... this well built Georgian house has many architectural features in common with 79 Elm Street, the Oliver Hutchins House. On September 5, 1985, the Oliver Hutchins House was placed on the National Register of Historical Places. One of the important qualifying factors the house design was from the American Builder's Companion, by architect Asher Benjamin. The Rev. Parkhurst House has many similar details and was built about the same time. In an interview with the last owners of the Rev. Parkhurst House last summer, there was mentioned the house was documented as having Rumford Fireplaces.

This house is another example of where our history and architecture have united. The Historical Commission strongly requests that this house should not be destroyed but be moved to another part of the property and sold as an antique colonial.

Sincerely,

Linda V. Prescott, Chariman



HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CHELMSF Shelmsford Historical Commission 50 Billerica Road Chelmsford, MA 01824 July 19, 2004

Board of Selectmen Town of Chelmsford 50 Billerica Road Chelmsford, MA 01824

RE: 147 Robin Hill Road

Dear Sirs:

The Historical Commission would like to continue to keep you updated with the Reverend Parkhurst House. Since the creation of your last information package the Commission has concluded that 147 Robin Hill Road, is a good candidate for the National Register. The house meets several criteria' it has architectural features in common with Asher Benjamin's *Builder's Companion*, has not been significantly changed by renovations and the person Rev. Parkhurst was influential to the development of our community. Enclosed is a very brief outline of the Reverend's life, the research is very basic, but there is enough there to draw the conclusion.

Also, enclosed is a copy of the real estate list information, the house was listed as being built in 1823, and several notes sent to me by Elli and John Clemens. The notes make it clear the Clemens understood that Emmanouil Construction w3ould use the land for agriculture. It is indeed unfortunate the Emmanouils did not plan to honor their verbal contract.

The Historical Commission recognizes the rights of ownership, the Commission feels that Emmanouil Construction misrepresented their intentions to purchase the land at a lesser amount and of preserving the house. Therefore, the Historical Commission requests that a parcel of land be set aside for the Parkhurst House and the property be sold as a separate lot. The Commission is willing to work with Emmanouil Construction to secure a reliable house mover, and possibly a suitable contractor experienced with restoring antique homes.

Respectfully,

Linda V. Prescottt, R.D.H. Chariman

Board of Selectmen Town of Chelmsford 50 Billerica Road Chelmsford, MA 01824

Re: 147 Robin Hill Road

Dear Sirs:

The Historical Commission wishes to thank you for your support for the preservation of the Rev. Parkhurst House. Going on record, expressing a concern for the preservation of the building will be a tremendous help to the project.

With the closing of the public comments, I could not thank you publicly. After the hearing, I did meet with Chuck Emanouil and his lawyer to discuss the future of the house. It does sound promising. The Commission looks forward to working with Emanouil Construction.

Sincerely,

Linda V. Prescott, R.D.H Chairman

cc: Emanouil Construction

Emanouil Enterprises LLC 30 Hunt Road Chelmsford, MA. 01824

RE: 147 Robin Hill Road

Dear Mr Emanouil:

It was a pleasure to speak with you after the Selectmen's Meeting. Your plans for Robin's Meadow look very appealing. The plan is an excellent example saving open space with the use of cluster housing and that "town common" look. and preservation. With the rehabilitation of the Rev. Parkhurst House, the project could be a model that the Massachusetts Historical Commission would be interested in publicizing. As you could tell, the Boards are becoming proconservation and pro preservation. The Commission is willing to help.

I am truly sorry for the rough start, but I feel the door for communication is now open and look forward to positive results. Please come to our meetings, that is the best way to present all of your information to all of us. You will need the support of every member.

Sincerely,

Linda Prescott, R.D.H. Chairman

Lowell Sun

Tensions ease over Chelmsford housing plan

By TOM SPOTH Sun Staff

Friday, August 13, 2004 - CHELMSFORD Neighbors of a proposed affordable-housing complex on Robin Hill Road are encouraged after meeting last week with the project's developer.

The conference started badly, according to those in attendance, with a contentious back-and-forth between residents, builder Charles Emanouil and Emanouil's lawyer, Douglas Hausler.

However, once things settled down, an agreement was reached to preserve a historic house on the site, and the air began to clear.

"It went a lot better than I expected," neighbor Keith Magnant admitted. "They want to make it more of a friendly atmosphere."

The Robin Hill Meadows project 20 detached condominiums was proposed as a "friendly" Chapter 40B project. That means the builder works with residents and selectmen to iron out any problems before taking his case to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

That process has taken longer than expected, due to the 181-year-old Reverend Parkhurst House, as well as loudly expressed concerns over neighborhood safety.

"Whatever they do will directly influence my being able to live here," said Elizabeth Huber, who lives next door to Emanouil's 11.7 acres at 147 Robin Hill Road, near the Chelmsford Tennis and Swimming Club.

While traffic and safety concerns remain on the table, those whose primary concern was the Parkhurst House's proposed demolition should be appeased. Emanouil agreed to preserve the structure and incorporate it into the project, according to neighbors. Emanouil did not return phone calls seeking comment.

Selectman William Dalton, who also attended last week's meeting, said the deal to save the house only improved what was already a good proposal.

"(Emanouil) tried to come in with something reasonable," said Dalton, a member of Chelmsford's Affordable Housing Committee. "(The neighbors) shouldn't get too upset. He could come back with more (units)."

However, Huber said neighbors may demand a reduction in the project's size perhaps to as few as eight condos.

Robin Hill Road residents met Tuesday night and plan to flood selectmen with letters detailing the neighborhood's point of view.



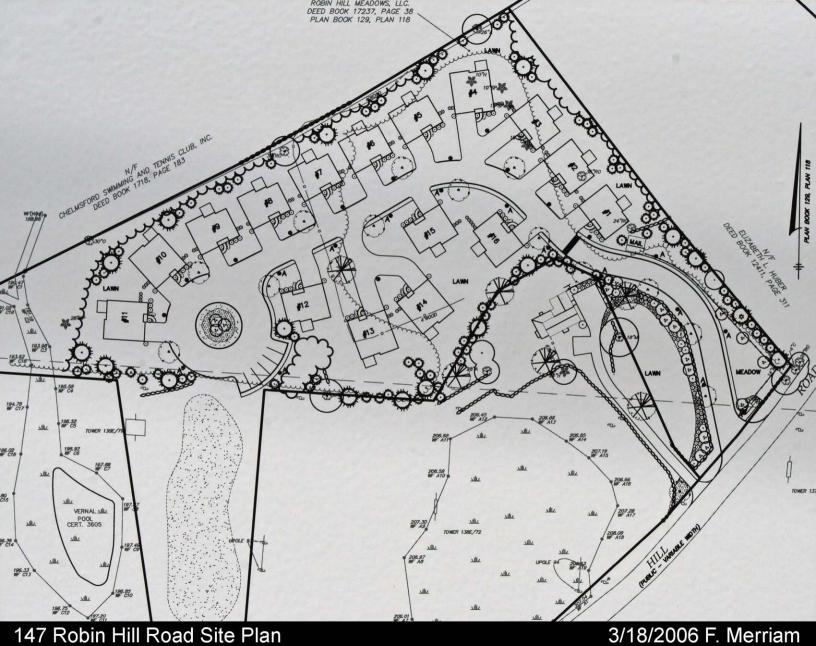
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147 Robin Hill Road Jun 1973



147 Robin Hill Road 11/5/2004 F. Merriam





147 Robin Hill Road 3/18/2006 F. Merriam







Robin Hill Road #147 10/13/2006 F. Merriam