

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

35/142/5

Westford

CLM.402

**Town/City:** Chelmsford

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 11 School Street

**Historic Name:** Eagle Mill

**Uses:** Present: offices  
Original: mill

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1910

**Source:**

**Style/Form:** altered beyond recognition

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: stone/composite

Roof: flat

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
Not determined

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

Ca. 1915 2-story addition

Ca. 1935 3-story addition

1985 exterior and interior remodel

2010 second exterior and interior remodel

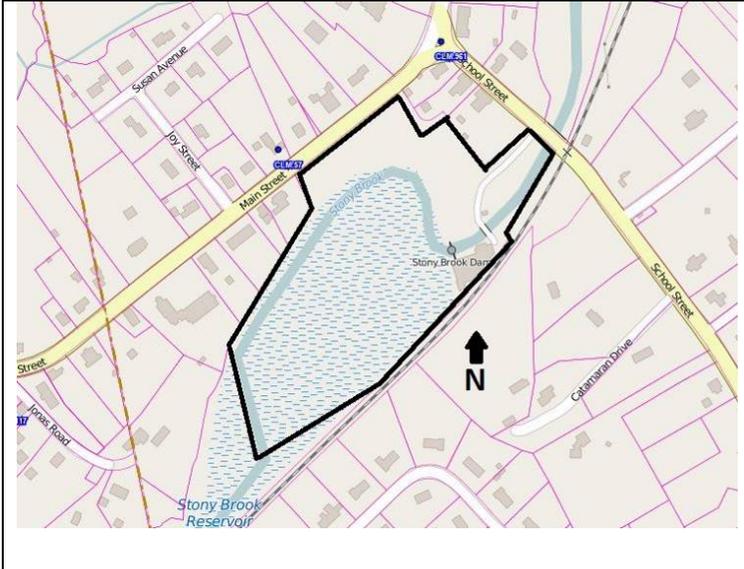
**Condition:** Fair

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

**Acreage:** 13.77 A

**Setting:** The building is located approximately 350' SW of School St. south of Main St. Parking areas lead from the street to the building. The Stony Brook Reservoir, part of the parcel, is to the W of the building. Railroad tracks are to the SE of the building. The area includes 19<sup>th</sup> c. residential and commercial developments that supported the former mill.

## Locus Map



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

**Organization:** Chelmsford Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): June 2016

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

11 SCHOOL 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.*

A mill in this location was rebuilt a number of times in the nineteenth century due to fires that destroyed previous buildings. The current building on site was constructed after the previous wood frame building was destroyed by fire in the late 1890s. The diagram below shows the evolution of the building through 1977. The building was utilized for the JapEnamelac company until 1979. In 1984 plans began to remodel the building for lease to small businesses. In 1985 a complete interior and exterior remodel of the building took place, drastically changing the look of the mill building. After years of vacancy the building was in disrepair and another complete remodel occurred in 2010. Since this date the building has been used by P&S Construction as its headquarters. The building is accessible via a driveway from the west side of School Street, south from its intersection with Main Street. A bridge from the parking area over Stony Brook leads to the building.

The building is currently three stories tall and has a flat roof. A portion of the historic stone wall is visible at the west end of the first story of the north façade (facing the parking lot). All other materials on the façade, including wall materials, windows, and detailing, are replacements. Replacement wall materials include siding, faux stone, and glass walls. Most of the windows are replacement casement windows. A set of four triple-pane windows are located in the stone portion of the façade. A video from P&S Construction documenting the changes to the building shows that many of the interior wood support columns remain extant. The interior was altered to suit the current needs of the company.

The building is a heavily altered example of an early twentieth century industrial building that retains historic integrity of location.

## 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.*

In 1830 Nathan Oliver and possibly his brother Samuel Oliver of nearby Lowell constructed a dam on Stony Brook, above the scythe factory pond. Once finished, they sold water power rights and land to the Chelmsford Company. The original mill building on this site, therefore, was constructed shortly after 1830 for the Chelmsford Company as a mill for producing worsted yarn. The mill closed in 1857 due to a financial crisis. The company was then purchased by Isaac Farrington, also of Lowell, who began operations once again. Soon after his purchase, a fire destroyed the mill building in 1863. Soon thereafter the complex was rebuilt, and was operated by several owners during the next 20 years. The last the mill was in operation it was referred to as the Eagle Mills. The 1875 map of West Chelmsford shows the Chelmsford Woolen Mills complex consisting of seven buildings with the main mill building then located on the north side of Stony Brook with a mill race lead to the building. At this date T.H. Tyler owner the mill complex along with six residential buildings at the corner of Main and School streets. Another fire on December 27, 1883 destroyed the mill building and it was not reconstructed. The ruins of the mill stood at the site for several years. It is believed that stones from the ruins were used to construct a sidewalk along School Street in 1908.

The original portion of the building at 11 School appears on the 1875 and 1889 maps of West Chelmsford in this location. Previous research found that a two-story addition was constructed on the east end of the building ca. 1915. Another addition was constructed ca. 1935 (see below). In 1914 the Sugden Press Bagging Company moved into the building. The company was incorporated by the Abbot Worsted Company, Inc. of Westford, MA. The company made cloth strainers and other products used in the manufacture of aniline dyes, cottonseed oil, and cocoa bean products. The Hershey Chocolate Company was a customer of the firm. In 1954 the JapEnamelac company moved into the site. The company specialized in metal finishings of Japanning, enameling, and lacquering; hence the company's name. Finished products included automotive parts, iron lungs, instrument panels, computer cabinets, and woman's shoe heel tips. The company was founded in 1945 by Hugo Nylander in Boston. The company moved to Cambridge, and then returned to Boston before Nylander decided to relocate once again to West

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CLM.402

Chelmsford. Nylander retired in 1960 and the company passed to his sons Jack and Richard. In 1979 they moved the company once again to 25 Katrina Road, northeast of Chelmsford's Central Square where it remains in operation. In 1984 Dr. Anil Kumar purchased the property and remodeled the building to its current configuration to lease to small businesses.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

Chelmsford Historical Commission. *History of Chelmsford 1910 – 1970*. Chelmsford Historical Commission, Chelmsford, MA. 2011.

Chelmsford Historical Commission. Building file from Jane Drury collection.

Genealogical research, including U.S. and Massachusetts census records; birth, marriage, and death records; and city directory records from ancestry.com.

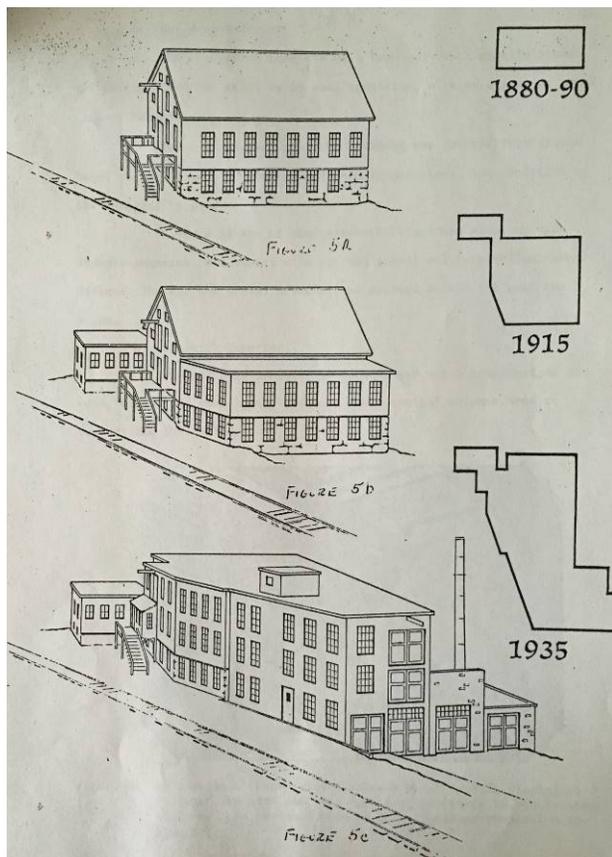
Geo. H. Walker & Co. *Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Geo. H. Walker & Co., Boston, MA. 1889.

Merriam, Fred. *Images of America: North and West Chelmsford*. Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC. 2016.

Middlesex North Registry of Deeds. [www.lowelldeeds.com](http://www.lowelldeeds.com).

P&S Construction. "Eagle Mill History." <https://vimeo.com/29632890>. Posted 26 September 2011.

Staveley, Joseph, et al. "Evaluation of the Structural Condition of Property Located at 11 School Street, W. Chelmsford, Massachusetts." January 1977. In Jane Drury Collection for 11 School Street/Eagle Mill. Currently in private collection.



Building diagrams showing changes to the building between 1880 and 1935. Staveley 1977.

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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 West Chelmsford is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places as a locally significant historic district under Criterion A for the development of this area around the Roby Manufacturing Company and Chelmsford Woolen Mills as well as under Criterion C for its intact examples of mid-nineteenth through early twentieth century residential architecture. The boundary of the proposed district would include resources built during the period of significance along Main Street from approximately Loiselle Lane in the north to the Westford Town Line, as well as resources along School Street between Main Street and Graniteville Road. This building at 11 School Street would be a contributing resource to that district as the only extant example of industrial architecture in the area. While the building has lost much of its historic integrity, as the only remaining example of the industrial development that was responsible for the growth of the area, it would be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP as a contributing resource in a historic district.