

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

35/149/13	Westford		CLM.408
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Town/City: Chelmsford

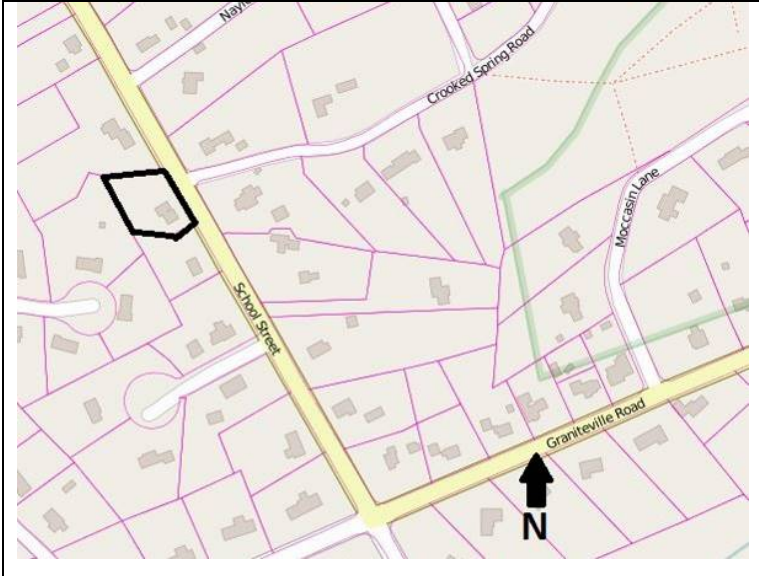
Place: (*neighborhood or village*): West Chelmsford

Photograph



Address: 47 School Street
Historic Name: Patrick Kiernan House
Uses: Present: single-family dwelling
Original: single-family dwelling
Date of Construction: ca. 1879
Source: Deed and Town Tax research
Style/Form: Italianate
Architect/Builder: unknown
Exterior Material:
Foundation: stone
Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/vinyl
Roof: asphalt shingle

Locus Map



Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
Ca. 1980 enclosed porch addition
Ca. 2000 replacement siding and windows

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .51 A

Setting: The building is located approximately 40' southwest of School St. An asphalt parking area is to the south of the house. An asphalt path leads from the street to the main entry. The lot is flat and grassy around the house with mature trees further out. The surrounding area includes 19th and 20th c. residential development.

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

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

47 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.

This building is located on the west side of School Street, just south of Crooked Spring Road. It is a ca. 1879, wood frame, upright and wing house. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the exterior walls are covered with replacement vinyl siding with vinyl trim. The house rests atop a stone foundation. Gable returns and the bracketed entry hood lend the house hints of Italianate style architecture. Fenestration consists of replacement one-over-one, double-hung windows. The primary (northeast) façade faces School Street. The façade of the upright section of the house is divided into two bays, with the wing to the north side of the house, comprising a third bay. The front entrance is located in the center bay of the upright section of the house. The front door is surmounted by a small, flat porch roof that is supported by scrolled brackets. A three-sided bay window is located to the south of the front door. An enclosed, one-story porch addition extends the length of the wing to the right of the front door. The porch addition appears to date to the mid-twentieth century or later. The original plan or footprint of the house has been altered by the enclosed porch addition.

The house is an altered example of a late 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.

Deed research traced the ownership history of the property to 1879 when Patrick Kiernan (at times spelled Kernan or Keenan) purchased the parcel from John N. Perry. Town tax records also list that John Perry had a dwelling house in 1879. The building does not appear on the 1875 map of West Chelmsford, but is present on the 1889 map of the area; therefore, Kiernan likely constructed the house shortly after his purchase. The 1880 US Population Census lists Patrick Kiernan (born ca. 1835 in Ireland) living in Chelmsford with wife Susan G. (born ca. 1835 in Ireland), daughters Mary Jane and Susan (born ca. 1858 and 1863), son William (born ca. 1861), and two boarders Daniel and Joseph Kief (born ca. 1857 and 1863). All of the occupants, except Susan G., were then employed in the woolen mill. Daughter Susan eventually married Joseph Keif (also spelled Keefe) and relocated to New Jersey. By 1898 William O. Biggers purchased the property. The 1898 city directory lists Biggers as a paper hanger living and working on School Street near the school. In 1898 he sold the property to Nellie Brown. The 1900 census lists Nellie (born 1858) living with husband Fred (born 1862), and son Jesse (born 1902) on School Street with Fred working as a carpenter. By 1920 Nellie and Fred were living alone on School Street while Fred continued to work as a carpenter. In 1932 Nellie sold the property to Daisy and John Boutilier. The 1940 census lists the Boutiliers residing on School Street with John (ca. 1886-1940, born in English Canada) working as a janitor in the public school, Daisy (born ca. 1889), and three sons: Raymond, Earl, and Paul. Daisy retained the property until 1944, selling it to Paul and Hazel LePage. The 1948 city directory lists the LePages at this address with Paul working as a supervisor (the industry is not provided) and Hazel is listed as a housewife. The LePages sold the property in 1949 to John P. Cryan, who retained it until 1987. The 1955 city directory lists Cryan and his wife Jane at this address with John employed as a maintenance man and the 1957 directory lists him as an insurance man. The property remains in the Cryan family as it is currently owned by John and Jane's daughter Kathryn Cryan-Hicks and her husband Phillip Hicks.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

Chelmsford Tax Records. Archival record books available at the Chelmsford Town Offices.

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.

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

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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 47 School Street would be a contributing resource to that district as an example of residential architecture constructed during its period of significance that retains some historic integrity.