

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

47/149/1	Westford		CLM.411
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 59 School Street

Historic Name: William and Agnes Hill House

Uses: Present: single-family dwelling

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: pre-1856

Source: 1856 map of Chelmsford

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Detached garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Unknown date: porch addition

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .92 A

Setting: The house is located approximately 100' southwest of School St. A gravel drive south of the house leads to the detached garage. The lot is flat and grassy with mature trees and shrubs along the perimeter. The surrounding area includes 19th and 20th c. residential development.

Locus Map



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

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

59 SCHOOL 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 at the south corner of School Street and Quessy Lane. It is a ca. 1850, 2.5-story, front gable, wood frame house. The house follows a rectangular plan. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the exterior walls are clad with wood clapboard with wood trim. The house rests atop a stone foundation. Two internal brick chimneys are present on the house; one is along the ridgeline at the rear gable and the other is on the south slope of the roof closer to the front gable. The primary (northeast) façade faces School Street. It is divided into three bays on the first and second stories and two on the half story. The front door is located in the first bay on the south side of the façade. The door and windows are not arranged symmetrically across the façade, as the pair of windows to the right of the door are separated from the entryway by about one bay in width. This offset pattern is repeated on the second story. The pair of windows under the gable in the half story are arranged symmetrically. The fenestration consists of six-over-six double-hung windows. A wraparound one-story porch extends the full length of the primary façade as well the south side of the house. The porch has a shed roof that is supported by a series of narrow Doric columns. The building appears to retain its original design and most of its original materials, including siding and windows. The wraparound porch is likely a later addition but probably dates to the early history of the house.

A later two-story garage building is located to the south of the house. The garage has an asymmetrical front gable roof, is covered with wood shingles, and has a vertical plank garage door on its northeast wall.

The house is a good example of a mid-nineteenth century residence that retains all historic integrity.

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.

The building appears on the 1856 map of Chelmsford as owned by William Hill. The 1855 Massachusetts Census lists William Hill (born ca. 1798) living in West Chelmsford with wife Agnes (born ca. 1801) with William employed as a wool assorter. By 1875, the Beers map of Chelmsford shows that George Mills had assumed ownership of the property. The 1870 census lists Mills (born ca. 1812) living in Chelmsford with wife Margaret (born ca. 1815) and farming. The 1880 census lists the same information, but niece Bertha Heathwood was then also living with them while she was employed in the woolen mill. In 1892 the Mills sold the property to Charles Andrews. The 1896 city directory lists Andrews living on School Street and working as a farmer. In 1898 he sold the property to James Brown. The 1905 city directory notes that Brown died in 1904. That year his estate transferred the property to Margaret Quist. In 1910 Margaret was living on School Street with husband Paul (both born ca. 1882) and brother Benjamin Brown (born ca 1884). In 1910 Paul was working in a quarry and Benjamin in the woolen mill. Paul died in 1914 and Margaret remarried in 1915 to William C. Edwards, Jr. In 1917 she sold the property to Charles Lull. The 1920 census lists Charles (born ca. 1855) living on School Street with wife Jennie (ca. 1861-1950), brother Frank, and a lodger named Joseph Murphy. In 1920 Charles was a janitor in the public school. Charles died in 1923 and Jennie retained the property until 1928. That year she sold it to Hiram Richardson, whose family kept it until 1951. The 1940 census lists Richardson living on School Street with step father Norman Provencher (born ca. 1869 in French Canada) and working as a poultryman. Richardson was born ca. 1901 in Illinois; therefore, he was an uncommon west-to-east migrant. In 1951 Richardson sold the property to Robert Egan, whose family retains ownership of the property.

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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.

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

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



Garage, facing west. November 2015.

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