

FORM B - BUILDING

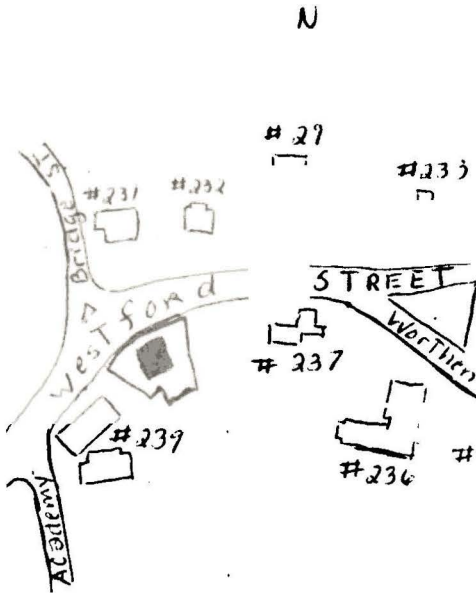
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no. Chelmsford Center	Form no. 238
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Town Chelmsford
 Address 1-3 Westford Street
 Name Ward House
 Present use residence
 Present owner Donna L. Needham
 Description:
 Date 1884
 Source Lowell Weekly Journal
 Style _____

4 Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect _____
 Exterior wall fabric clapboard
 Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features hip roof

Altered see attached Date _____
 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
 10,675 sq. ft.
 One acre or less x Over one acre
 Approximate frontage 135 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street
ca 20 feet

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury
 Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commissic
 Date February 9, 1977

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

7. Original owner (if known) Charles C. Ward

Original use residence - 1 family

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Second apartment - ca 1915

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal		Conservation		Recreation
Agricultural		Education		Religion
Architectural	<u> </u>	Exploration/	<u> </u>	Science/
The Arts	<u> </u>	settlement		invention
Commerce		Industry		Social/
Communication		Military		humanitarian
Community development	x	Political	<u> </u>	Transportation

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This residence was built on land purchased from Deacon David Perham, one of Chelmsford's early "housing developers." By December of 1884 the house was in the process of construction, probably by its owner, Charles C. Ward, who was a carpenter and house builder.

Following his death, his son William C. Ward occupied the house, and Charles' widow moved to Woburn shortly before her own death in 1914. William was an inspector at the custom's house in Boston, a member of the Lowell Musicians' Association, director of the Unitarian church choir, and a leader of the Chelmsford band. After his death on Dec. 2, 1914 of a pneumonia-induced heart attack, the apartment was rented by Frank W. Smith, a leather worker in Lowell; the Smith's soon built and lived in a house on Billerica Rd. before purchasing 15 Westford St. (#237) in 1921. The house at 1-3 Westford Street was sold out of the Ward family in 1939.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Lowell Weekly Journal: 12/3/1884; 6/29/1888

Beers Atlas of 1875; Atlas of 1889

Lowell Courier-Citizen: 12/2/1914; 12/29/1914; 3/17/1916

Chelmsford Directory: 1915/16; 1922

Chelmsford assessors' records; real estate valuation lists

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds: Bk.145, p.426; Bk.2093, p.154;

Bk. 930, p.358; Plan Bk.M, Plan 76 (1912)

Mrs. Margaret Mills

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

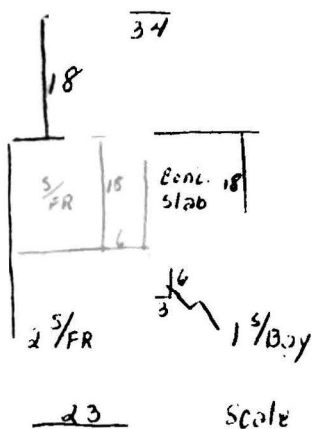
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Chelmsford	Form No: 238
Property Name: Ward House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Altered:

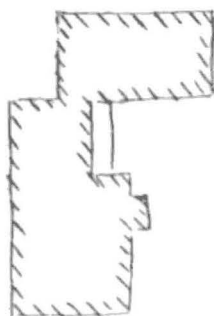
1972 Chelmsford Assessors' Revaluation Card:



10675 sq. ft. land
dwelling 2 S/FR no garage
good condition, no change since porch
2 family
brick foundation
full basement, concrete floor
clapboard walls
hip roof, asphalt shingles
wood joists, 2x8
no. rooms: 1st-7, 2nd-5

Ca 1915
Converted to 2 family house (main house & small apartment)
Apartment at rear (former barn):
1 1/2 stories plus basement
rear shed dormers
shingled under dormers; elsewhere clapboard

1912 Plan Plan Book M, Plan 76:
Scale: 1 inch = 40 feet



1889 Atlas:



Staple to Inventory form at bottom

1-3 Westford Street

Mrs. Margaret Mills, telephone conversation, March 23, 1977:

Rear of house - was a barn when Mrs. Mills was a teenager (b. ca 1905)
Was an apartment when daughter Elizabeth Ward married a Richardson
and lived there.

Mrs. Ward was left alone after younger daughter Eleanor married
(Elizabeth already married). She rented the front of the house o
and she (William's widow) and Helena Lyons moved into the rear
apartment.

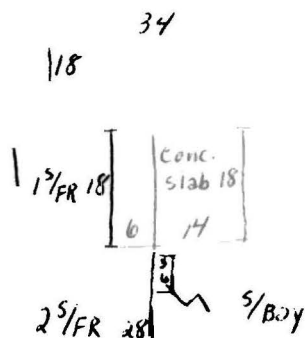
Sarah Ward - had a bedroom upstairs facing the Baptist Church.

Mrs. Mills was a young girl, when one day a bad thunderstorm
occurred. Just as her father (Edward Robbins) & Uncle Herbert
came home, there was a terrific clap of thunder. An apple tree
in back of the Wards' house was stripped of its leaves; the fire
department came to the house. Lightning had completely splintered Sarah's
bureau mirror, imbedding glass in the wall. She had left the room
during the storm and gone downstairs for supper.

Mr. & Mrs. Smith and daughter Clara lived in the Ward house for a while,
then built and moved in house on Billerica St. (corner of Perham St.
then moved back to quieter Westford St. (#15-17).

Evalyn Russell - said 3/23/1977 that Russell Lumber supplied the lumber
for the house that Frank Smith Built on Billerica St.

Chelmsford Assessors' Revaluation Card



10675 sq. ft.
dwelling 2 S/FR, no garage
good condition, no change since porch
2 family
brick foundation
full basement, concrete floor
clapboard walls
hip roof, asphalt shingles
wood joists 2x8
no. rooms: 1st-7, 2nd-5

3 Westford Street
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

Compiled by J. Drury
12/8/1974

Book 2093, Page 154
November 9, 1973

Gladys M. Needham to Donna L. Needham
All her right, title & interest
Buildings thereon 10,675 sq. ft.
\$3,097

Book 1194, Page 498
May 5, 1952

Nora Conneely, Lowell, to Myrtle G. Needham
Buildings thereon 10,675 sq. ft.

Book 1185, Page 600
April 24, 1948

Charles Greene to Bertram T. & Myrtle Needham
Buildings thereon 10,675 sq. ft.

Book 1074, Page 284
August 16, 1947

Frank A. Emerson to Charles Greene
Buildings thereon 10,675 sq. ft.

Book 930, Page 358
June 12, 1939

Caroline J. Ward, widow, to
Frank A. & Susan M. Emerson
Buildings thereon 10,675 sq. ft.
Restriction: no buildings to be built within
50 ft. of Westford St.

Book 537, Page 343
May 4, 1915

Fred E. Ward, Lowell, to Caroline L. Ward
Buildings thereon

Book 539, Page 270
June 9, 1915

Elizabeth L. Richardson & Eleanor A. Ward to
their mother Caroline L. Ward, widow of Willie
O. Ward
10,675 sq. ft.
Restriction: no buildings to be built within
50 ft. of Westford St.

Book 246, Page 434
December 16, 1895

Henry S. Perham, Caroline R. Howard, & Susie
A. Dutton to Charles C. Ward
Land 675 sq. ft.
\$25

Book 199, Page 12
July 3, 1888

David Perham & John E. Stevens, Deacons Central
Baptist Church, to Charles C. Ward
Land 3,000 sq. ft.
Restriction: no buildings to be built within
50 ft. of Westford St.

Book 145, Page 426
May 23, 1881

David Perham to Charles C. Ward
\$120 7000 sq. ft.
Land

Lowell Courier-Citizen

Dec. 2, 1914 - The village was deeply stirred this morning by news of the death, at an early hour, of William C. Ward at his home in Westford street. Since passing the crisis of an attack of pneumonia, his friends had been cheered by encouraging reports of his condition. At midnight he spoke to the nurse of feeling better than at any time since his illness began, but at 4 o'clock a sudden attack of heart failure brought the end without warning. Mr. Ward was born in Lowell 43 years ago, the second son of Charles C. and Sarah Ward, coming to Chelmsford at an early age, where his life and interests were centred. For the past 12 years he had served as an inspector at the customs house in Boston, where his integrity and strict attention to business won for him the high regard of his associates. He was a musician of more than ordinary ability and gave unstintedly of his time and talent as director for a number of years of the Unitarian church choir. All recompense for this work, at his own request, reverted to the use of the society. He was always ready to contribute a part of all the social activities of the society and his interest and counsel will be greatly missed. He was a member of the Lowell Musicians Association and was for several years leader of the Chelmsford band. He was firm and loyal in his friendships, thoughtful and sympathetic, ready at all times to perform a service for another with complete self-effacement. In his home life, he was especially devoted and never happier than when doing something that would bring an added pleasure to the family circle. The deepest sympathy is extended them in their bereavement. Besides his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Elizabeth and Eleanor; his mother, Mrs. S (torn) Ward of Woburn, and two brothers, Fred and Harry. Duneral services are to be held at the Unitarian church on Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Dec. 29, 1914 - The death of Mrs. Sarah J. Ward, widow of Charles C. Ward, occurred on Monday evening at her home in Woburn, after an illness of several weeks. The death of her eldest son, William C. Ward, early in the present month, was a severe blow to her, and although able to attend the funeral, she was taken ill immediately afterward and failed steadily. For many years her home was in Chelmsford, where she was a member of the Central Baptist church and also of the order of King's Daughters, taking an active interest in the work of both as long as she was able. She is survived by two sons, Fred and Harry, and two granddaughters, Elizabeth and Eleanor Ward of Chelmsford.

March 17, 1916 - F.W. Smith and family are occupying Mrs. W.C. Ward's tenement in Westford street.







1-3 Westford Street

9/4/2004 F. Merriam



