

(Attach photo here)

FORM B - BUILDING SURVEY

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

1. Is this building historically significant to:
Town Commonwealth Nation

Building has historical connection with the following themes: (see also reverse side)

- Scholar
- Agriculture
- Art/Sculpture
- Education
- Government
- Literature
- Music
- Commerce/industry
- Science/invention
- Travel/communication
- Military Affairs
- Religion/philosophy
- Indians
- Other _____

Development of town/city

Architectural reason for inventorying:

Oldest house in immediate vicinity in fine setting

OR part of Area # _____

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added back portion

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low

Material granite block exterior, Fieldstone interior with brick facing under sills

WALL COVER: Wood clapboard-lapped + newer butted Brick Stone Other _____

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard double hip (less pitch under balustrade)
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork _____

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate

STORIES: 1 2 1/2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 PORTICO _____ Balcony _____

FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament _____

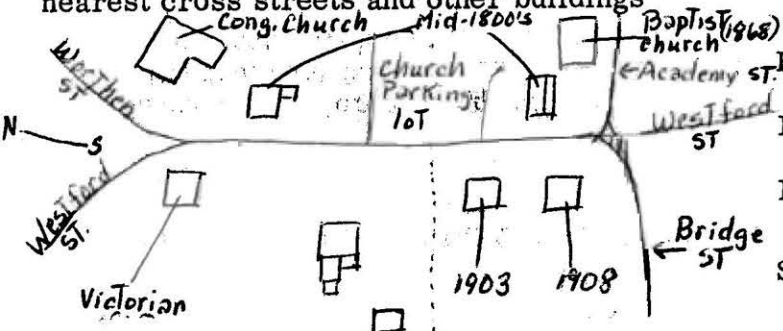
Entrance: Side Front Center Side Details: _____

Windows: Spacing: Regular Irregular Identical Varied 5 Bay X 5 Bay, 6 over 6 panes. Some Lavender Tinged panes.

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards _____

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street 115
Property has 207 feet frontage on street



Recorder Jane B. Drury

For Chelmsford Historical Commission

Photo # 2-3 Date 9/26/72
S-1

SEE REVERSE SIDE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE
(replacement)

1. Outbuildings old barn with new attached wagon shed (built by present owner)

2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal
Predominant features wooded in rear - many locusts which replaced old
Landscape architect Apple orchard.

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)

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

Mrs. Margaret Mills, owner
Allen: History of Chelmsford, Mass. (1820)
Waters: History of Chelmsford, Mass. (1917)
Deeds

RESTRICTIONS _____

Original Owner: Rev. Hezekiah Packard
Deed Information: Book Number 7 Page 353, Northern (Middlesex) Registry of Deeds

Other Special Architectural Features:

Beehive oven, warming oven, split lathe in ceiling, wide floor boards, dados, 2" Greek key under heavy 4" cornice in front left bedroom, some recessed windows, evidence of a wall mural and old wall paint, 8" square hearth bricks (relatively soft brick from East Chelmsford kilns).

Landscape Features:

The house stands several yards farther back from the road than do the neighboring buildings. A granite block and fieldstone retaining wall borders the street. Just above this wall two fine firs flank a sidewalk in very poor condition which leads to the house. The lawn is overgrown and returned to weeds. A granite block wall borders the long driveway left of the house. This wall probably is about as old as the house.

Neighboring structures:

Houses - mid and late 1800's including a Victorian one; early 1900's.
Churches * 1868 Baptist Church, modern Congregational Church.

Historical Importance:

The house was built in 1794 by Rev. Hezekiah Packard, who was born in North Bridgewater, Mass. and who enlisted in the militia as a fifer at age 13½ years. He served in the Army during much of the Revolutionary War, including the Battle of Harlem Heights. After the war, while living in this house and a minister in Chelmsford, he founded the first local social library (in 1794).

The house was bought from Packard in 179⁷ by Samuel Pitts, who lived there until his death in 1805. He too furthered the Social Library. Early in the Revolutionary War he was a Son of Liberty and was one of the Boston Tea Party with two of his brothers, one of whom commanded the group that boarded the brig "Beaver." Tradition says that the boys were sent to "a cooler atmosphere" in Chelmsford.

Rev. Wilkes Allen was living in the house when his "History of Chelmsford, Massachusetts" was written and printed (1820). A volume of 192 pages, it is the first town history of the dignity of a "volume" to be printed in this country (Farmer's "Memoirs of Billerica," a 36 page pamphlet, was printed in 1816).



Oct 1972

Rev. Hezekiah Packard House
16 Westford Street

Middlesex Probate Court:

Book 1470, Pg. 58 2/24/1944 Christina A. Robbins to
Edward Fisher, Tr.
3.58 acres.

Middlesex Registry of Deeds:

North: Book 731, Pg. 12 11/20/1925 Alcide A. Gladu to
Christina A. Robbins

North: Book 725, Pg.167 7/ 9/1925 Olia Gladu, widow, & Claude E.,
Bernadette, Valmar J., & Sylva F.
Gladu, children of Paul N. Gladu, to
Christina A. Robbins

North: Book 593, Pg.529 10/23/1918 Honora T. Enwright of Lowell to
Paul N. Gladu of Chelmsford

North: Book 524, Pg.530 7/28/1914 Curtis A. Aiken of Chelmsford to
Honora T. Enwright of Lowell

North: Book 366, Pg.443 6/ 9/1904 Martin Robbins & James P. Emerson to
Curtis A. Aiken of Pelham, N.H.

North: Book 355, Pg.566 6/ 8/1903 William Trull Sheppard to
Martin Robbins & James P. Emerson
21 acres. Public auction

North: Book 355, Pg. 565 6/ 8/1903 Charlotte A. Secord to
William Trull Sheppard
Possession - mortgage default

North: Book 342, Pg.434 5/ 6/1902 Granville Pierce of Townsend,
executor of will of Emma L. Bussell to
Charlotte A. Secord
21 acres. Bussell homestead.

North: Book 105, Pg.150 9/14/1874 Isaac Cooper of Lowell to
David A. Bussell
\$3400. 2½ acres, including north
half of house.

North: Book 83, Pg.108 10/27/1871 David A. Bussell to
Isaac Cooper of Lowell
\$2500. 2½ acres, including north
half of house.

North: Book 58, Pg. 61 8/ 1/1867 Edwin H. Warren, trustee of will of
Amos Carlton, to
David A. Bussell
\$5250. 45 acres, homestead farm of
Amos Carlton, plus 7 acre wood lot

Middlesex Registry of Deeds:

North: Book 13, Pg.220 South: Book 328, Pg.461	9/ ?/1833	Wilkes Allen, Clerk, of Cambridge, to Amos Carlton of Lowell, bricklayer \$2315. $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres.
North: Book 9, Pg.251 South: Book 164, Pg. 54	8/ ?/1805	John Pitts of Tyngsborough, executor of will of Samuel Pitts, to Rev. Wilkes Allen, Clerk, Chelmsford \$3300. $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres.
North: Book 7, Pg.353 South: Book 116, Pg.179	5/12/1794	William B. Fletcher, Yeoman, to Hezekiah Packard, Clerk 30 Pounds. $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres.of land.

Hezekiah Packard House
16 Westford Street

Excerpts from tape made by Margaret Mills, owner, 3/13/72
Transcribed by Jane Drury

"Built by Hezekiah Packard, a minister. A large house was built so he could house and conduct a small school (about 6 boys, sons of wealthy Boston families who were coming to Chelmsford in the late 1700's. He was a Harvard graduate. He planned to start a boys' academy to prepare them for Harvard, but Westford Academy had started up first, so he disregarded his plans and went on the Board of Directors for Westford Academy. According to Waters, it was ungentlemanly to go into competition! Here in this house he did get the idea of loaning books - the beginning of the first social library. Books were not housed here but at William Fletcher's on North Road, next to St. Mary's Church.

House description:

8 rooms rest on solid foundation with a dirt cellar.

Addition - very questionable about when or how many times.

The square of the house (original part) had a central hall. The present two doors were done in the early 1800's (I have a deed for when the house was owned by 2 separate families. The house was divided in half; a line went up the middle of the front walk and right through the middle of the house. An extra back stairway plus another in front were put in for the two families. Both families had the privilege of driving horses up and down the driveway. These central divisions have been removed by the Mills.) We also opened up fireplaces and have started to restore the house back to its original design. The fireplace on the north side, back one room from Westford St. frontage, has definite indentations in the brick where a crane had been used and iron pots swung up against the soft brick, leaving a rounded out indentation. There were 8" brick hearths in some rooms; most were of relatively soft brick from East Chelmsford kilns.

There is a wonderful wall outside of the house, on the south side beside the driveway to the house. Water's History mentions a new wall put around Forefathers' Cemetery in 1793, about the time when this house was built (deed of land buying by Packard is 1793). Probably some of the same workmen who did the cemetery wall made this wall also.

About 100 acres went with the house. Packard asked the parishioners for more money to help pay for the house, but he was too liberal for the people, who wanted to squeeze him out of the pulpit. They were successful, and he went to Wiscasset, where he had a fine residence. However, he first son was born here: Alpheus Spring Packard (Mrs. Packard was Miss Spring from Salem). Alpheus became a student and then went on the faculty at Bowdoin, marrying President Appleton's daughter. When Appleton died, Alpheus didn't accept the presidency (if it was offered to him) but continued to teach there, and there is a gate named for him in honor of his being at Bowdoin 62 years.

On the first floor, go to 1 room back of the original square; this was added on when the house was divided. It is the first room that we worked on. There is a kitchen type fireplace - only half of it remains (the other half had been cut off to make china closets). There is evidence of a beehive oven beside the fireplace. This room is up about 6" from the room next to it (the original kitchen is in the square of the house). The hearth is down 6", which leads us to believe that this was a summer kitchen or dirt floor kitchen.

Much soap making, dyeing of wool, etc. was done in these kitchens, where it was cooler than in the square of the house. We also believe that this is in an area where at one time there was perhaps more of a lean-to of a window; now there is a bay window, which certainly is a much later addition. Beside the fireplace is a 30-35 foot wall; one can see water in it now, though it is all stoned up to the best of our ability to prevent accidents. Backing up to this room and fireplace is an identical room on the south side of the house. This too had its own brick beehive oven, which also indicates that there were two families living here. Also on the first floor, there is evidence on the south side in the second room back from the front on the inside wall against the hall evidence of a wall mural. This is not uncommon for those days, then the family took in an itinerant painter for portraits and one or more a mural such as this for a decoration on the wall. Not much wallpaper was used in the early 1800's, which is the era we're talking about, or late 1790's. This mural was still visible until later years when some people put on wallpaper. When my parents changed the wallpaper, one could see just a little bit of greens of trees, and as I remember, there was a little bit of a water scene. But then Kentone was put over it by some later tenants, and this really ruined it. Now it is flecking off a little bit, but I don't believe it could ever be restored. But it's one thing I've wondered about: who did it, if it was a Rufus Porter or some other such itinerant painter.

Go upstairs: here you find one of the most elaborate rooms, in the front of the house (as you look at the house, it's to the left of the front door). Here there is a cornice all the way around the room at least 4-5" deep, below which is 1" of Greek "key" carved out as a border underneath this very lovely cornice. Over the fireplace is a chimney "breast", which is a big panel surrounded by Greek Key. Walls through-out the house were plaster; on some of the plaster in bedrooms is what I think is remnants of very early paint. Mrs. Dorothy Waterhouse, who has written books on wallpaper and painted walls, has come out from Boston to view this and said that the gray is no doubt one of the original colors they put on. In one of the other bedrooms is a wall with watermelon pink on it, which is quite attractive. Some of the bedrooms on the north side were mutilated and partitions taken out to make room for the extra staircase, when this became a two family house. This staircase came up from the grand hall. Partitions had to be moved over. By looking at the baseboards and getting paper off the walls so one can see the cracks in the walls, you can see where the doors used to be. I hope that when the grand hall is put back (since we took out the center partition), the new owners will put back the doors and entrances to the four bedrooms as they were originally.

Go to the 3rd floor, or so-called attic. Here the center of the house has been partitioned off, and there is a very attractive stairway up. It too is painted gray, and there is a small dormer in it. With the four plastered walls you do not see any of the roof rafters, nor can you see out to the edge of the house; this you do by going into a dark closet and climbing over some boards.

The barn is rather interesting, and there is a new wagon shed added on by Mr. Mills to replace an old one, which was not a part of the original barn. There are lovely vertical gray, weathered boards, so that I am very sure that the whole barn was clap-boarded at some time to up-date it. If some-one wants to restore this barn which is in excellent condition, they should take the clap-boards back and expose those lovely gray vertical weathered boards again. There was a corn crib to the left of the entrance to the barnyard, which was to the south side of the barn: all barnyards are to the south side of barns so

they could let the cattle out in winter-time. The corncrib was set up on four big solid pieces of granite, so that rats and mice couldn't get up into the crib itself, which was an open structure with slats, not wire; I can just barely remember the original building.

The long wall that goes up beside the property along the driveway to the house was probably put in about the same time as the new wall around the cemetery, which was put in 1793, and, of course, this house was built about the same time. Our wall terminates in a great big boulder, and, of course, they didn't quarry these pieces they used in walls; they cut up big boulders, which were sliced into granite pieces. It is easy to see these big boulders around town. At the end of this wall on the south side are the remains of a tree trunk that is very knarled and enormous - so big that two people can't reach around it (I think that it would take four people). It was the trunk of a white mulberry tree that was planted when it was a fad to raise silkworms for silk. I don't believe that this experiment got very far or that many silkworms lived in this climate. The tree itself became enormous (my father put up ropes on it for a swing for me as a child), and its berries were white. About twenty years ago a sprout was seen growing in the barn-yard, and we let it grow, but it was a surprise to us to have it fruit not with the white berries like the old tree but with the black berries, which were much more common.

On the first floor of the house in the front room on the north side: there is a dado and wainscoting, and the board from the baseboard up to the chair rail is about 36"; this is one board on all four sides of the room, up to where the fireplace and doors break it, of course.

If you stand in front of 16 Westford St., which was built in 1793 in the so-called Georgian or Federal manner, and look at the windows and general outline of the house, it is rather interesting. It is quite beautifully proportioned, and the windows are 6 over 6 panes of glass, which was the proper thing to have at that time.

Now look at 12 Westford St., which was designed by the well known Chelmsford architect, Edwin Clark, and see the transition to the plate glass of the beginning 1900s. This house is kind of half way between, so you have panes of 6 glass in the upper sash and the single pane in the lower sash. This house at 12 Westford St. had a piazza from one end of the house across the front to the other side: now these are removed and only the portico over the front door remains. Look at the woodwork and pillars there; they are very beautifully proportioned to the house as a whole, and the eye goes up to the railing and piazza on the second floor where the flagpole comes out. Find a Chippendale type of opening in a break in the straight up and down pieces of the railing. Hopefully we'll get the railing back up around the top of the roof. It had more of the Chippendale open work. As your eye goes upward, everything looks a little lighter.

Now look at 8 Westford St. This house had no architect but a contractor instead, and he compiled ideas from these other two houses. Here you see plate glass windows, the piazza is out of proportion to the whole - raised up with much shrubbery in front of it - and there is a preponderance of pillars, but this goes along with the plate glass. Showing more affluence, I suppose. Shift back to 16 Westford St. and see what 200 years can do in the manner of architecture. The 8 and 12 Westford St. houses are built on property that originally went with 16 Westford St.

This area on the south side of the wall of 16 Westford St. was originally a garden area, which extended up to where there are houses on Bridge St. In back of the house itself was a very fine apple orchard up until not too many years ago. Locust trees have covered the slope now up to the hilltop, where even in my day there were two great big chestnut trees; the stumps are still there.

Dropping down off the hill from this property, you drop into sort of a mud-hole area, on to land now owned by the LaPortes. On the bank of this mud pond Mrs. LaPorte has found an excavation lined with beautifully matched pebbles. Is this an Indian grave or where they built their fires (though the stones show no evidence of heat); it very definitely is something to do with Indians. Mr. Frank Emerson lived in the house opposite Mrs. LaPorte's on Westford St., and he used to back of Mrs. LaPorte's land on to land which went with the Packard House nearer Bridge St.; there were evidently springs there around which the Indians congregated. Mr. Emerson found artifacts and gave them to the Historical Society. I have never been in there. This land now goes with house that face Bridge St."

Notes on Hezekiah Packard

Compiled by J. Drury
10/29/72

Waters, pg. 794: The Rev. Hezekiah Packard.

Allen says: The third house of Worship, begun in 1792, was nearly finished; but there was none to minister at its altar. Divine Providence prepared them a man after his own heart, and sent him unto them in the fulness of the blessings of the gospel of peace.

The Rev. Hexekiak Packard was ordained pastor of the Church in Chelmsford, Oct. 16, 1793, having accepted the invitation given by the Town and Church. He was given £200 as a settlement and £100 annually.

He was born Dec. 6, 1761, at North Bridgewater, Mass., the son of Jacob, son of Solomon, son of Zaccheus, son of Samuel, who came from Wymondham, Norfolk County, England. Nov. 23, 1796, he married Mary, Daughter of the Rev. Alpheus Spring. He died in Salem, April 25, 1849.

The battle of Bunker Hill greatly excited his patriotic feelings, and although only thirteen and a half years old, (but large for his age) was appointed fifer by the captain of the militia. The captain soon enlisted and the young fifer went with him to Boston. He was in the battle of Harlem Heights, where his brother Asa was wounded, and for some time sick in the hospital. He saw General Washington take command of the Army, under the elm tree in Cambridge, and was so stricken with awe at the sight of the general, that he forgot to take off his hat. An extended account of his experiences may be found in "Recollections of a Long Life," by Joseph Packard, D.D.

The official record of his services is as follows:

Packard, Hezekiah, Bridgewater. Private, Capt. John Porter's co., Col. Paul Dudley Sargent's regt.; Company return dated Camp before Boston, Oct. 6, 1775; reported enlisted into another company; also Fifer, Capt. Edward Cobb's co., Col. Titcomb's regt.; services 2 mos. 4½ days (also given 2 mos.); Company marched from Bridgewater and Abington to Bristol, R.I., April 21, 1777; also list of men mustered in Plymouth Co. by James Hatch, Muster Master, so serve until Jan. 1, 1779; Capt. Nathan Packard's co.; residence, Bridgewater; engaged for Town of Bridgewater; also, Fifer, Capt. Joseph Cole's co., Col. John Jacob's regt.; engaged June 6, 1778; service 6 mos., 27 days, at Rhode Island; engagement to expire Jan. 1, 1779; also 10th co., Plymouth Co. regt.; list of men who performed tours of duty; said Packard credited with 5 mos. service at Cambridge; also with 12 mos. service at York.

For a time he cultivated his farm, after his father's death in 1777. He entered Harvard College in 1783, and had as classmates Samuel Putnam, later a Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, and John Quincy Adams, who frequently mentions Packard in his Diary ("Life in a New England Town"). Adams writes of him in 1787: "He has a good share of original wit; but his genius is not uncommon; his improvements are greater than those of the students in general, but not ~~so-much~~ such as to place him in the first rank of scholars. As a speaker he is too much addicted to a monotony, whatever his declamations are. His disposition is good, and his moral character is impeachable." He graduated in 1787; was principal of a grammar school in Cambridge.

He was tutor in Mathematics at Harvard for four years from 1789. His pastorate in Chelmsford closed July 29, 1802, when he went to Wiscasset, Maine, and was pastor there until 1830. He then came to Middlesex Village where he remained pastor until 1836. For seventeen years he was a trustee of Bowdoin College, and for ten years Vice President. He originated the Bible Society in Lincoln, Maine, and the Evangelical Society. He published the Christian's Manual in 1801. After leaving Middlesex Village he resided with his children at Saco, and Brunswick, Maine, and Salem, in this State.

For five years Dr. Packard rented a part of Samuel Page Hadley's house in Middlesex Village, and lived there with his daughter Sarah and Lukey Dixon, a servant, who died in 1832. Judge Hadley says: A great sorrow fell upon him while he resided under our roof, and this was the death (by consumption) of his youngest son, William, a youth of seventeen years, a member of the Sophomore class in Bowdoin College, a child of rare promise. I have often heard him speak with deep emotion of the loss of this dear son, and in his visits to our home it was his invariable custom, at least once, during his stay, to enter alone the room in which William had died, close the door, and engage in long and earnest prayer. To him this room, as he assured us, seemed a "sacred and hallowed place." (Address at the Centennial Celebration of the Chelmsford Social Library in 1894.) Dr. Packard was a scholar and a gentleman of refined manners and high character, a fine type of clergyman of his day. Tall and erect, of commanding figure, with black eyes, strong and benevolent features, dignified and courteous in manner, he was of striking personality. His conversation was full of anecdote, interesting and delightful, with a playful humor. He was very fond of children.

Mr. Packard loved good books and delighted in their refining and improving companionship, and embodied himself the grace and culture created and fostered by good literature. In 1794 he was instrumental in establishing the Chelmsford Social Library. "Having communicated his intention and obtained a sufficient numbers of subscribers, on the 6th of January, 1794, a meeting was called and the society was organized." The library was incorporated in Jan. 1812 under the name "Proprietors of the Social Library, in the Town of Chelmsford." Allen estimated its value at about one thousand dollars, and says it contained 350 books, including "Ree's Cyclopaedia, the most valuable and expensive work ever printed in this country." There were then about eighty members, and the shares were worth three dollars and fifty cents.

For nearly one hundred years the books were kept at the houses of the successive librarians, then they found a place in the Town Hall until the Adams Library was built, when they became a part of the public institution.

The Social Library organized at Billerica in 1772 was the first of its kind in Massachusetts.

Mr. Packard built and occupied the residence long known as the David A Bussell house.

In 1798, Mr. Packard requested the Town to make up the depreciation which had taken place in his salary since his settlement. This request when it came before the Town was dismissed without much discussion and without even referring it to a committee to consider and report thereon. At a subsequent Town meeting in December, 1798 it was voted to add £20 to Mr. Packard's salary yearly, for six years; but at the next meeting in March, 1799, it was voted to reconsider the grant of £20; which therefore was not assessed, until it was found to be recoverable by a suit at law. In 1802 an arrangement was made for Mr.

Packard's dismissal. It was agreed to allow him for the depreciations of his salary and betterments made on the ministerial land over and above the receipts and on July 5, 1802, his ministerial relation was dissolved. His valedictory sermon was preached Aug. 1, 1802, from Romans XV., 1,2,3. (Allen)

Mr. Packard's letters to his former parishioners are full of deep, earnest and wise counsel, are expressive of a broad, catholic spirit, and breathe love to God and man. He passed the six years at Middlesex pleasantly and decided to resign on account of infirm health. Oct. 31, 1836 he wrote: Yesterday I took leave of the Church at the table of Communion and at the throne of heavenly grace. There was quite a respectable assembly. The choir performed quite unexpectedly "Alps" from the Boston Academy, beginning "Once more before we part." I was gratified and grateful.

At Wiscasset he was principal of an academy. He says: For many years at Wiscasset, I performed double duty as much as one man could, and was up early and late and ate the bread of carefulness and broke ~~upon~~ in upon a good constitution. In 1839, he walked home and sawed wood daily.

Mr. Packard was one of those strong men who, to quote his own words, "occupied the middle grounds which are situated in the temperate zone of theology and do not feel themselves pledged to any party." His son, Professor A.S. Packard says: He was in full sympathy with nearly every feature of what is commonly called the Evangelical system.... He halted at the commonly received doctrine of the Trinity, and did not like to employ the expressions "Co-equal" and "Co-eternal" or to speak of the Son as really and truly God, but spoke of Him as "The Almighty Savior," and "Emmanuel, God with us."

In a sermon preached in the Unitarian Church, Dec. 30, 1877, the Rev. J.J. Twiss, acting pastor, said: When the church in Middlesex Village was formed, it was understood to be a Liberal Christian Church, and the Rev. Mr. Packard, its first minister, was supposed to be a representative of that denomination, or to be substantially a Unitarian in his religious convictions. But after his installation as pastor, his sympathies and inclinations developed in an opposite direction, and he became fully identified with the Orthodox Congregationalists.

He much disliked religious controversy, and quotes Archbishop Wake: "In religious disputes every good man would desire the office of peacemaker rather than of a litigant & account it a greater honor, as well as happiness, upon any reasonable terms to put an end to a debate, than to obtain a victory. For victory, whatever other circumstances it might have to recommend it, would want this, without which all the rest would be of little value, that the breach continues; the brother is not gained; & so religion suffers, tho' the particular matter in dispute should never be clearly & solidly prov'd or determined.

He wrote at Wiscasset in 1829: "I consider myself a Bible Christian & hold middle ground between the fires of controversy. It is I think my prayerful aim to preach Christ & him crucified."

Towards the end of his life he returned more and more to what is called the orthodox theology. He disliked "the extravagances of the liberals" and he thought the publications of the Calvinists "teemed with misrepresentations & errors."

He deprecated revivals as tending to make the stated and ordinary means of religion less effectual, and leading people to consider religion a possession which may be obtained at once and separate from the feelings, affections and pursuits of domestic and social life.

He was not at all inclined towards Universalism.

October 26, 1830, at Middlesex he wrote: "Since I have been here I took a ride with a friend to call on Mr. Allen, my successor in the old parish, and we found him engaged in funeral solemnities. He was in the pulpit, when we

entered the sanctuary, reading to his mourning friends and their sympathizing neighbors on the Resurrection. I soon found the person deceased was an old parishioner. I joined the procession with my friend and it did seem like a dream that I should walk through the passes in the same burying ground as I did 30 years ago, marking inscriptions in memory of some who were then in full health and vigor. The scene was impressive and led me to reflections adapted to quicken me in my labors and urge me to work while it is day."

He took great satisfaction in recalling the fact that his old classmate, President Adams, used to take his arm and walk with him in the procession of Alumni at the Harvard Commencement.

His wife was a loveable, Christain woman, who for thirty-five years made him a good helpmate.

His last days were peaceful and beautiful. He was buried at Wicasset.

The Assembly's Catechism had fallen into disuse in Mr. Packard's time, and he published one of his own in 1706, recommended by several neighboring ministers for "one obvious excellence," that "it meets all denominations on harmonious ground," and "is calculated to promote union." To this was appended "a part of Dean Swift's sermon on Sleeping in Church, with some alterations."

He received his A.B. and A.M. degrees at Harvard, the latter in course. He received the degree of S.T.D. at the Harvard Divinity School. In 1818 he received from Harvard the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

Hezekiah and Mary Packard had eight children:

1798. Alpheus Spring, Professor of Greek and Acting-President of Bowdoin College, and the author of numerous books. He was born in Chelmsford. Longfellow, who was his pupil, tenderly alludes to him in "Morituri Salutamus."

1801. Charles, a teacher and lawyer in Brunswick, Maine. He was a Congregational minister in Ohio, in Lancaster, Mass., and Biddeford, Maine.

1803. George, a successful physician, afterwards ordained in the Episcopal Church, and was for thirty years Rector of Grace Church, Lawrence.

Hezekiah, studied medicine and became a teacher in Portland, Maine. He was later connected with educational interests in New York.

1812. Joseph, an Episcopal clergyman, for nearly sixty years connected with the theological seminary at Alexandria, Virginia, as Professor and Dean of that institution. He was one of the American Committee on the revision of the Bible, 1872-1884.

1816. William, who died a sophomore in college, a young man of high character and a religious mind. His grave is in Forefathers' Cemetery.

Their daughters, who came between Hezekiah and Joseph were:

Sarah S., who on her mother's death in 1829, took charge of her father's family, and later that of her brother Alpheus.

Mary, Mrs. Jonathan Tucker of Salem.

Waters: pg. 442:

The Rev. Dr. Packard, writing at Middlesex Village, May 11, 1832, says, "The season is forward. Many of our trees are dead, but not as many as some apprehended. Farmers are very busy - our village witnesses much brisk and useful movement. Six or seven stages with six horses harnessed to ye chief of them daily pass my door. The canal seems at times crowded with boats and rafts, and our factories are in successful operation."

Waters, pg. 681:

May 13, 1793, the Town invited Hezekiah Packard to become pastor of the church. In his letter of acceptance, which was read to the church and congregation by the Rev. Caleb Blake of Westford, he says: "The kindness, hospitality and friendship which I have so largely experienced excite and deserve unfeigned gratitude, and your invitation presented me by the committee of the Church and Town I think it my duty to accept. "

Mr. Packard was ordained Oct. 16, 1793, with L200 settlement and L100 a year.

In preparation for the ordination, a committee was appointed by the Town to take proper measures that order be kept in the meeting house on the day of ordination and that the meeting house be secured against "lingu "ingury." It was propped.

Mr. Packard resigned July 5, 1802, and preached his valedictory sermon August 1.

Rev. James Thompson declined the Town's invitation to become pastor. The Rev. Wilkes Allen accepted a call.

From *History of Bowdoin College.* by Nehemiah ^{CLEVELAND} Cleveland (1813 class)

Edited and completed by Alpheus Spring Packard. (Class 1816)

The following biographical sketches cover period
1806-1870 inclusive

Biographical sketches:

HEZEKIAH PACKARD was born in 1761, in North Bridgewater, Mass.

When the war began, he enlisted as a fifer, and served for several months in Massachusetts and New York. At a later period also, he served under General Sullivan in his unsuccessful attempt to get possession of Newport. From the army he went home to become a farmer. From this occupation he soon became disqualified by accidental injury, so he went to Cambridge where he graduated in 1787. Then he kept the grammar school in that place for a year. Then he was made assistant librarian of the college, and aided in preparing the first printed catalogue. In 1789 he became mathematical tutor, and held that office very acceptably for four years. At the close of his tutorship he was settled in ministry at Chelmsford, Mass. After eight years of faithful service there, he moved to Wiscasset. Here his labors were numerous and arduous. He not only discharged with fidelity the duties of a preacher and pastor, but for many years taught successfully a large school. For this employment he was admirably adapted; he was a thorough teacher and an excellent disciplinarian. After he gave up the public school he received ladies into his family, and his high reputation brought him many pupils from other and distant places. Dr. Packard became a trustee of the college (Bowdoin) in 1813, and was an efficient member until 1830. For ten years he was vice-president. At the Commencement in 1819, President Appleton being disabled by sickness, Dr. Packard supplied his place. In the year 1830, at his own request he was dismissed from his charge in Wiscasset, and soon after became the pastor of a small church in Middlesex Village, a part of his former parish of Chelmsford. After six years at this place, he concluded to retire from active duty, and to live thenceforth with his children. Dr. Packard lived thirteen years longer, principally in Salem, Mass., in Saco, and in Brunswick. His last days were cheered by filial kindness and general respect. He died at Salem, April 25, 1849. He was married (1824) to Mary, daughter of Rev. Alpheus Spring, of Kittery (West), now Eliot. This superior woman died in 1829. They had two daughters and six sons.

Dr. Packard sent his six sons to Bowdoin College, -- 1816, 1817, 1821, 1825, and 1831. The youngest son, William, who would have graduated in 1835, died in college.

To those who would know more of a truly capable, pious, and charitable man, I commend the tribute to his memory--which his children prepared and printed for use of their friends.

He built the large house at 16 Westford Street, Chelmsford

Notes on Samuel Pitts

Compiled by J. Drury
10/30/72

Waters, pg. 299:

Some of the Pitts family came to Chelmsford from Boston at the time of the seige, and some of them went to Dunstable, from which town the Hon. John Pitts was several times sent as representative to the General Court. He married Mary, daughter of John Tyng in 1779.

John Pitts, son of Berwick, was born in England, came to Boston in 1695, and married Elizabeth Lindall. Their daughter Sarah married William Stoddard in 1721. Their son, James, born in 1712, married Elizabeth, daughter of James Bowdoin, afterwards Governor, and was councillor, a patriot, and an antagonist of Governor Hutchinson, who, in his diary, July 1, 1774, says King George III asked him, "Who is Mr. Pitts?" when Hutchinson told ~~him~~ the King he was one of the select few to whom Hutchinson's letters had been shown before publication. Of the sons of James, John married Mary Tyng; Lendall married Elizabeth Fitch; and Samuel, born 1745, married Joanna Davis. Samuel was a merchant of Boston, and, with his father, owned and sent merchantmen to the Bermudas. He was a Son of Liberty and one of the Boston Tea Party, as was his brother Lendall, who commanded the division of the Tea Party which boarded the brig, "Beaver." This fact had to be concealed, as his father and uncle Bowdoin were of the King's Council. The tradition is that the boys were sent away from Boston to get them into "a cooler atmosphere," or at least were induced to come to Chelmsford, where, according to the statement of Mrs. Luther Faulkner of Billerica (who was Martha Prescott Meriam of Chelmsford, and lived in what had been Colonel Stoddard's house), Samuel Prince, a nephew of Samuel Pitts, built what is known as "the Sam Davis house" (10 Worthen St.), which itn has been generally supposed, was built by Dav~~is~~s, who was probably connected with the Pitts family, and followed the sea. It may have been that the young men were persuaded to come to Chelmsford that they might be under the restraining influence of Colonel Stoddard and Parson Bridge. Samuel Pitts lived in the house which had been the home of Colonel Stoddard, which he found too small for his accomodation, and he bought the house built by the Rev. Hezekiah Packard, and lived there until his (Pitt's) death in 1805. His sister Elizabeth married Robert Brinley of Tyngsborough. Nathaniel Brinley married Sarah Elizabeth Bridge. Daniel Goodwin, Jr. in his Memorial of the Pitts, says that after the Revolution Samuel Pitts came to Chelmsford and lived in luxury, devoted to domestic comfort and a noble hospitality. Copley painted his portrait. After the death of his wife, Joanna, he married her sister, Mrs. Mary Davis Carver. Bridge, in his diary, records a visit from Mr. Samuel Pitts, who had come with his family to live in the late Colonel Stoddard's house.

Waters, pg 792: (Selected Items from the Diary of the Rev. Ebenezer Bridge) Nov. 7, 1787. Short visit to Mr. Samll. Pitts, having come with his family to live in the late Col. Stoddard's house.

Waters, pg. 193:

Some of the Pitts family, members of which afterwards resided in Chelmsford, participated in throwing overboard the tea. James Pitts and his sons John, Samuel, and Lendall, were all associated with the Tea Party.

Waters, pg. 581:

In 1795, 211 persons were warned to depart out of Town within fifteen days. These included:

Phinehas Whiting, Elisha Ford, John Farmer and wife, Henry Coburn and wife, Dr. Timothy Harrington and wife, Samuel Pitts, Joanna, his wife, and their children, Thomas, John, Sarah, and Mary, and a person by the name of Mary Philips from Boston; Jeremiah Abbott, wife and daughter, Jonathan and Timothy Manning and their wives, Israel and David Putnam.

Waters, pg. 583:

The Social Library. The period following the Revolution was marked by intellectual as well as other activities. In an address made at the centennial of the founding of this library, Mr. H.S. Perham dwells upon that fact, and speaks of the men like the Hon. John Pitts and the Hon. Dudley A. Tyng, officers of the Mass. Society for promoting Agriculture in 1792, and of other members, the Hon. Ebenezer Bridge, perhaps the most influential citizen of Chelmsford at that time, Parker Varnum, Esq., and Samuel Pitts, Esq., as being interested in furthering such organizations for the good of the community.

Waters, pg. 761: Civil List (Town of Chelmsford)

1792. Moderator: Samuel Pitts. Selectmen: Benjamin Spaulding, Benjamin Fletcher, Jonas Peirce.

Chelmsford Vital Records to the End of the Year 1849, pg. 428:

Chelmsford Deaths:

Joanna (w. Samuel), Apr. 5, 1796, a.45 y.

Sam(ue)l (dropsy), Mar. 6, 1805, a.59 y.

Notes on Rev. Wilkes Allen

Allen, pg. 82:

At no time perhaps since the first settlement of the town were the minds of the people so disaffected towards one another as after the dismissal of Rev. Mr. Packard; neither were they ever placed in circumstances so unfavorable to the re-establishment of the gospel ministry. Grieved and sadly disappointed by his removal, many could hardly brook the thought of a successor.....Accordingly the church and town with a harmony hardly to have been expected, invited the compiler to take the pastoral care of them. They offered him for his support a salary of \$500 per year, and a settlement of \$333. He accepted their invitation and proposals, and was ordained Nov. 16, 1803.

Waters, pg. 681:

Rev. James Thompson declined the Town's invitation to become pastor. The Rev. Wilkes Allen accepted a call. The Town gave him \$333.33 settlement and \$500 a year. He was ordained Nov. 16, 1803, and his pastorate closed the third Sunday in October, 1832.

Waters, pg. 799:

The Rev. Wilkes Allen was the son of Elnathan, son of Israel, son of Elnathan, son of Elnathan, all of Shrewsbury. He was born July 10, '75, the youngest but one of twelve children; the exception being a brother named Liberty. John Wilkes was a prominent member of the English Parliament, and a zealous friend of the Colonies during the Revolutionary struggle. "Wilkes and liberty" was a favorite political cry on both sides of the Atlantic, and the enthusiastic father perpetuated it by thus naming his boys.

Wilkes learned the carpenter's trade, and then fitted for college at Phillips Academy. During his vacations he taught school, and graduated in 1801, on which occasion he delivered a poem. He had previously composed others. He played the bass viol, and taught singing in his schools. He studied divinity with Dr. Increase Sumner, his pastor in Shrewsbury, who preached his ordination sermon in Chelmsford, Nov. 16, 1803, which was printed. He also studied with the Rev. Dr. Harris of Dorchester.

Nov. 13, 1805, he married Mary Morrill, daughter of Deacon James Morrill of Boston. She died in 1864. Thier children who reached maturity were: James Morrill, Charles Hastings, Wilkes, John Clark, and Nathaniel Glover. The latter became an Episcopal clergyman who frequently officiated in All Saints Parish, Chelmsford, and presented the church with a silver plated communion service in memory of his father and mother. He died in 1889. Their children, Israel, Mary, and Sarah died in infancy.

Mr. Allen was short in stature, rather thick set and ~~his~~ in his latter years was bald. "He was grave and dignified," says his grandson, "as was usual with parsons of such authority as the country parson of those days. I have been told that he was a rather dull preacher; but I suspect that this was also usual, when ministers were settled for life, and in the lack of books and intellectual society and the pressure of many cares and duties, were likely to become 'intellectually rusty.'" During the week he toiled on the 'ministerial lands' to eke out his small salary of \$500 and during part of the year he taught a private school in his own house, in which he fitted boys for college. It was probably at the time of his marriage that he bought the house the Rev. Packard, his predecessor, had built." He was active on the Town School Committee.

Mr. Allen slowly modified the Calvinistic and Trinitarian theology which he accepted when he entered the ministry. He went perhaps a step farther than his predecessor. In the early days the leaders of the liberal wing of the Congregationalists were conservative, or would be so considered today. They made the inevitable protest against the Calvinistic teaching. Many of the "liberals", like Dr. Dalton in Chelmsford, could say they believed the Apostles' Creed, believed in Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and accepted Christ as the Saviour, but stumbled at the doctrine of the Trinity as commonly presented.

Mr. Allen was conservative in temper, but sympathized with the new theology of his time. About the middle period of his ministry here the break came between the liberals and conservatives among the Congregationalists, and Mr. Allen took the liberal side and kept most of his people with him. He was what was then called a "high Arian", that is, he did not hold to the Athanasian dogma of the equality, in all respects, of Christ with the Father, and yet regarded Christ as a being who was above all other created beings.

He was a zealous and honored Mason, and attained the highest honors of the craft.

July 1, 1806, he was commissioned Chaplain of the Third Regiment, Second Brigade, Third Division, and was honorably discharged August 8, 1814.

In 1820 four hundred copies of Mr. Allen's History of Chelmsford were printed at the expense of the Town. It is an octavo volume of 192 pages, and has the distinction, aside from its value as a record, of being the first town history of the dignity of a "volume" to be printed in this country, Farmer's Memoirs of Billerica, a pamphlet of thirty-six pages was printed in 1816. Allen was considerably indebted to Farmer in the preparation of the Chelmsford history.

When he left Chelmsford, his wife had inherited considerable property and he bought a pleasant estate in what is now North Andover where he spent the remaining twelve years of his life, doing some farming and actively interested in local affairs. He was fond of singing and organized a "Hallelujah Club," for the practice of Church music.

He died at North Andover, December 2, 1845, in consequence of injuries caused by a fall in his barn. He is buried in the old burying ground at Chelmsford, with his wife and several children.

*Notes compiled by J. Quincy
10/30/72*

Waters, pg. 19:

The town also set apart a tract of land called the ministry land, for the benefit of the church and minister. This was the land now known as the Bussell place upon which Rev. Hezekiah Packard built, during his ministry, the fine old colonial house now standing.

The following is the record of this grant as it appears in the second book of records, page 25 and page 34 of the copy made in 1892.

The 31 of May 1679 by the Townes Gifte and order was laid out to the Ministry and for that only vse for eur in Chelmsford to say thirtey Acers of vpland and swampe bee it more or less and is bownded East by the high way to the training Feild south vp on a great Rock North by the land of mr Conelias Walldow With a straitte line to a stake with a heape of stones aboute it which is a westerly Corner of John bates his land and so of a Straite line to a pine neare stoney brooke path - North west bownded vpon the towne Common vpland to a black oake and From thence () straitte line to a Red oake Neare the land that was giuen by the towne to mr Fiske and his sonne John Fiske and From thence to a great Roak southerly all waies prouided ther bee a sofitient Carte way left beetwine the land of the Aboue sayd Fiske and the fore mentioned land; which way is to bee Foure polles in bredth in wittnes heare vnto wee the Commity Aponted to Actte hear in haue seett to our hands the day and yeare aboue sayd

William Vnderwood
John Fiske
Commity

The cart way mentioned in this description was what was known as "The Lane" until, by vote of the town it was named Bridge Street in memory of Rev. Ebenezer Bridge, pastor of the church (1741-1792).

In the description of Mr. Fiske's land, opposite the ministry, the "Pound" is mentioned. This was a small enclosure surrounded by a high stone wall. The wall was removed and the land taken into the highway some ten years ago (about 1895. It stood just west of the N.W. Corner of the Cemetery.) Mr. Fiske's land extended down to the cemetery.

Waters, pg. 396:

The Rev. Hezekiah Packard built a residence of some pretensions but not so fine an example of the Colonial style as the last two mentioned (Fiske & Capt. Samuel Davis Houses). It was later known as the Buzzell house, from Mr. D.A. Buzzell (David), who with his wife long occupied it. Some of these residences might almost compare with those at Salem or Newburyport. Mr. H.S. Perham once remarked to the writer that the builders of these three houses impoverished themselves in the undertaking.

Waters, pg. 796:

Mr. Packard built and occupied the residence long known as the David A. Bussell house.

Newsweekly (1955 :

"During the Georgian period (1750-1825) there was a tendency toward building more elegant houses, such as that the Rev. Hezekiah Packard built in 1793, on Westford Street, and Samuel Prince built three years earlier on Worthen Street. These houses have a new roof treatment: the gable roof has become a truncated hip roof and the central chimney again gives way to side chimneys. There is much ornamentation, inside and out, and elaborate fan-shaped ornaments are set over the door---all indications of their construction in a period of prosperity."

The Social Library
Forerunner of the Adams Library

Chelmsford Newsweekly, April 16, 1959

One hundred and sixty-five years ago, on January 6, 1794, a small group of local citizens met at Capt. Oliver Barron's tavern in Central Square and agreed to establish a Social Library.

They adopted a constitution which began: 'Every attempt to improve the minds and to form the manners of the rising generation, and every method to entertain and instruct persons of different ages, are important and highly laudable, and deserve the patronage of the wise and good. Conceiving that a Social Library under proper regulations may be rendered highly conducive to these valuable purposes, we, the subscribers, do constitute and form ourselves into a society.....for establishing such a library in the Town of Chelmsford.'

The Rev. Hezekiah Packard, who had been ordained here a few months before, was ~~one~~ the one who first put forth the idea of having such a library and called the meeting on that day. He continued as a member of the library's Standing Committee (its governing board) until he resigned his pastorate in 1802. If every institution is but the lengthened shadow of a man as we have been told, then certainly our public library today represents in part, at least, the embodiment of Mr. Packard's earnest desire to provide books to improve the mind, to entertain and to instruct. During National Library Week, we pay our small tribute to him, a man who loved good books and, loving people also, was the means by which many generations have been enabled to share in their happy companionship.

Mr. Packard was born in 1761 at North Bridgewater and at the age of 14 became a fifer in the Revolutionary Army, available records say, for about 2 years. His father died in 1777 and Hezekiah turned farmer, but entered Harvard College in 1783. One of his classmates there was John Quincy Adams with whom, at class reunions many years later, he used to walk arm in arm about the Harvard Yard. After graduating, Mr. Packard became principal of a Cambridge Grammar School and mathematics tutor at Harvard, but in late 1793 he settled in Chelmsford and, during his pastorate, having married in 1796, he built the imposing residence still standing at 16 Westford St. From 1802 to 1830 he headed the church at Wiscasset, Maine, where he was also principal of the academy. Returning to Middlesex Village, Mr. Packard was pastor of the church there (now moved to North Chelmsford where it is the Church of St. John the Evangelist) until 1836. He died in Salem in 1849.

Tall, erect, of commanding figure with strong benevolent features and the courteous manner now called 'old-fashioned', Mr. Packard was beloved by all; he was a clergyman and a scholar, and a Christian gentleman. He was fond of children, of conversation, and of singing. Above all, however, a contemporary account tells us, the qualities most noticeable in him were 'the grace, culture and refinement which good literature always creates and fosters.'

Improvement in every direction was in the air in the 1790's and early 1800's. The Revolution was over; freedom won, a young nation was setting out to fulfill its destiny. This was the period when the academies were founded in Westford (1792), Groton (1793) and the Chelmsford Classical School was established, 1825. The Chelmsford Glass Works flourished in Middlesex Village from 1802, and the Middlesex Canal was opened in 1803. Lowell was incorporated as a town in 1826; the first railroad came there in 1835. The churches became more liberal in their position; agricultural societies were formed to improve farming and livestock practices. Chelmsford,

with a population of about 1200, was a comfortably-off rural community, nearly self-sufficient like all of its neighbors.

Here was fertile soil for a Social Library, sponsored by the Minister and other prominent citizens. Benjamin Franklin had established the first public library in Philadelphia in 1731; The Social Library movement had not grown very rapidly, for when ours began, there were only 9 others in the state outside of Boston. As an organization, the Library was composed of shareholders, each of whom paid 12 shillings (which shall be considered as a right or share in this Library') and 1 shilling annually (to be appropriated to the use of the Society'). Annual business meetings of all members were held at which a librarian was chosen ('to take charge of the books, monies and other property... and to keep a record of the transactions of the Society'); a moderator was also chosen each year, and a committee of 3 who met every 3 months 'to examine the state of the Library' and, in brief, act as a governing board. The members names were to be listed alphabetically (That every member may have an equal privilege in taking out books') and each one was entitled to take out 1 book -- which must not be loaned by him to others and which must not be loaned by him to others and which must not be kept for more than 3 months. Several changes were made from time to time in providing for the disposition of shares at the death of a member but generally speaking they could be willed within the family and in the absence of a will, went to the widow or one of the deceased's children.

Certificates showing ownership of these shares are to be seen at the Historical Society together with catalogues of books in the Library, the original books of transactions, many of the books themselves, and signatures of 78 members including those of Mr. Packard, Gen. Bridge, Cyrus Baldwin, Simeon Spaulding, Dr. Gibson and James Pitts. There are also the names of 4 women in this list: Olive Chamberlain, who married Joshua Hunt, 1794, and lived in the 'Hunt House' on Hunt Road, parents of a family closely identified with All Saints' parish later; Anna Parker, later Mrs. Neah Spaulding; Lucretia Hastings, the young widow of Dr. Walter Hastings and daughter of Rev. Ebenezer Bridge; and Hannah Adams, who in 1797 married Isaac Adams and became the grand-mother of Amos F. Adams, donor of the Adams Library.

These people and the other not listed here were solid citizens: Harvard graduates, professional men, merchants, legislators and astute farmers. We must surely assume that the women were also of considerable intellectual attainments to join this cultured group! The founders of the Social Library were, therefore, earnest educated persons who were convinced that good books and the learning they represented were of tremendous importance.

At the first meeting, Mr. Packard was elected moderator and with Gen. Bridge (son of the Rev. Mr. Bridge, Mr. Packard's predecessor) and Dr. Timothy Harrison composed the standing committee. Gen. Bridge had graduated from Harvard, fought at Bunker Hill, taught school, opened a store in Billerica, served as the register of deeds, senator, and county treasurer. Dr. Harrington was also a Harvard man, physician to the town and to the General's father in his last illness; he lived near the site of the New Center school on Billerica St. Capt. Barron, the librarian, was a tavern-keeper, merchant and man ~~and-man~~ of great influence in local affairs. Later, other doctors, lawyers, ministers and public servants followed them in these capacities.....all distinguished and capable.

Mr. Packard's own children formed a distinguished group by themselves, reflecting the fine background furnished by their father and their mother, a minister's daughter: Alpheus was a professor of Greek and acting president of Bowdoin; Charles was a teacher, lawyer and minister; George, a successful physician, became an Episcopal clergyman as did his brother Joseph, who was a professor and Dean nearly 60 years at the theological seminary in Alexandria, Va.; Hezekiah, Jr. also studied medicine and became a teacher; the two women were 'noble women.'

In much the same way, the descendants of those early subscribers to the Social Library became outstanding citizens and carried on the work of making books and knowledge more generally available. Capt. Caleb Abbott lived at the corner of North road and Academy street, kept a store in the square; his son, the Hon. Josiah Gardner Abbott was an illustrious judge and lawyer, extremely active in founding the Lowell Library. Thomas Parker Proctor, Esq., a generous benefactor of the Adams Library, spoke of the pleasure he had derived as a boy from the books of the earlier library. Similar examples might also be given of the direct influence of the Social Library and its subscribers.

The books purchased in those early days would seem dull and quaint today...mostly theology, some history, biography and travels, a little poetry, a few novels. The 1827 catalog lists 371 volumes; the first printed list (1801) names 170. The weightiest purchase of all must have been that of Rees' Cyclopaedia, which required two special meetings of the members, a special assessment of \$1.50 on each one (those who did not pay it could not use the books) and the expenditure of nearly \$100 for the 29 volumes (now in the Historical Society), a chest to keep them in, transportation 'to the storehouse of the canal' (50¢) and 'canalage' or transportation on the canal/ from Boston (25¢).

At first the books were kept at the librarian's house---Capt. Barron's tavern, Wilkes Allen's house on Westford St. (formerly Mr. Packard's), Simeon Spaulding's at Dalton Rd. and North Rd., Capt. Abbott's, etc. Later as the number of books increased they were harder to transport and care for. Finally they were put in a small room at the Town Hall in the Center and plans were being made to make the old schoolhouse in the cemetery a library building when in 1893 a new state law gave aid to free public libraries and one was established here. The Social Library gave its 1846 books to it and the Agricultural Library gave 101. The town appropriated \$200 and the State gave \$100 for books. The Adams Library, on land given by Joel Adams Bartlett and graded by Capt. C.E.A. Bartlett--both directly related to earlier members of the Social Library as was Mr. Adams, donor of the building itself---was dedicated in 1895 as a Free Public Library but re-named 2 years later. Mrs. Celia P. Dow catalogued the entire library in 1895 and recalls the work with pleasure.

The centennial of the Social Library (1894) was an affair of such an importance that Gov. Greenhalge and many and many special guests attended despite a heavy snowstorm. The dedication of the Adams Library attracted an equally distinguished group of native sons and others of great prominence. All testified to the far-reaching significance of the Social Library and to the exceptional character of its subscribers, transmitted to their children and grandchildren in many cases, who were now following their examples and supporting this new library.

How well Hezekiah Packard had built for the future both in terms of personal example, the accomplishments of his children, and the continuing influences of the Social Library he was instrumental in founding!

Lowell Weekly Journal

May 1886 = City friends in their drives to Chelmsford should before their return call at D.A. Bussell's greenhouses and make a purchase of choice plants and flowers for their gardens.

March 6, 1891 - An esteemed townsman, Mr. D.A. Bussell, who for some months has been suffering from mental aberration, was last Friday removed to the McLean asylum in Somerville, where he may receive the treatment that his unfortunate condition requires.

April 17, 1891 - The mental condition of Mr. D.A. Bussell has not improved since his removal to the asylum at Somerville but on the contrary has grown worse, while physically he is quite comfortable.

May 29, 1891 - Mrs. D.A. Bussell has rented her furnished house for the season to a family from Boston.

Sept. 25, 1891 - Last week Mr. D.A. Bussell, who is an inmate of the insane asylum at Somerville, was attacked by severe illness and there are but slight prospects that he will rally.

Sept. 25, 1891 - Obituary, D.A. Bussell

Dec. 18, 1891 - The pleasant home of Mrs. E.L. Bussell is vacant for the winter. Mrs. Bussell will remain with relatives in Eastport, Me. until spring.

April 15, 1892 - Mrs. E.L. Bussell, who has been spending the winter with relatives in Eastport, Me., returned Wednesday.

May 19, 1893 - John Byfield and family last week vacated their premises on North Street, which were sold last season, and are now occupying a tenement in Mrs. E.L. Bussell's double house on Westford street.

July 14, 1893 - Mrs. E.L. Bussell's pleasant home is filled to overflowing with summer guests.

May 18, 1894 - Rev. Granville Pierce is moving into his new home, the house of Mrs. Bussell on Westford street.

April 9, 1886 - S.W. Thurlow & family of Lowell are in town for the season occupying the same residence as last year - the house of D.A. Bussell.

June 13, 1890 - Mr. Allston Allen and family have removed from Lowell to this village, occupying a tenement in Mr. D.A. Bussell's double house.

Lowell Daily Courier

Thursday, May 14, 1896 - Mrs. E.L. BUssell returned Tuesday from her winter's sojourn in Washington.

Monday, July 16, 1900 - A part of the "Bussell" house is now occupied for the summer by Mr. Moore and family of Newton. Mrs. Moore is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. S.L. Dutton.

July 1, 1908 - The wells are beginning to be considerably affected by the continued drought. C.A. Aiken's well, supposed to contain an inexhaustible supply of water, was pumped dry in a short time by the fire engine during the try-out Tuesday evening.

Sept. 20, 1908 - To secure water for his stock Curtis Aiken lately dug a well at the rear of his barn from which he bales the water into tubs. The well is only eight feet deep, but the supply has so far been adequate. Each morning the sand about the well top is covered with countless tracks made by squirrels, skunks, woodchucks, foxes and the like drawn to the spot that is to them no doubt like an oasis in the sand also.

May 13, 1909 - Curtis A. Aiken of Westford street, started tonight for his home in Canada, having been summoned by the sudden, ^{serious} illness of his father.

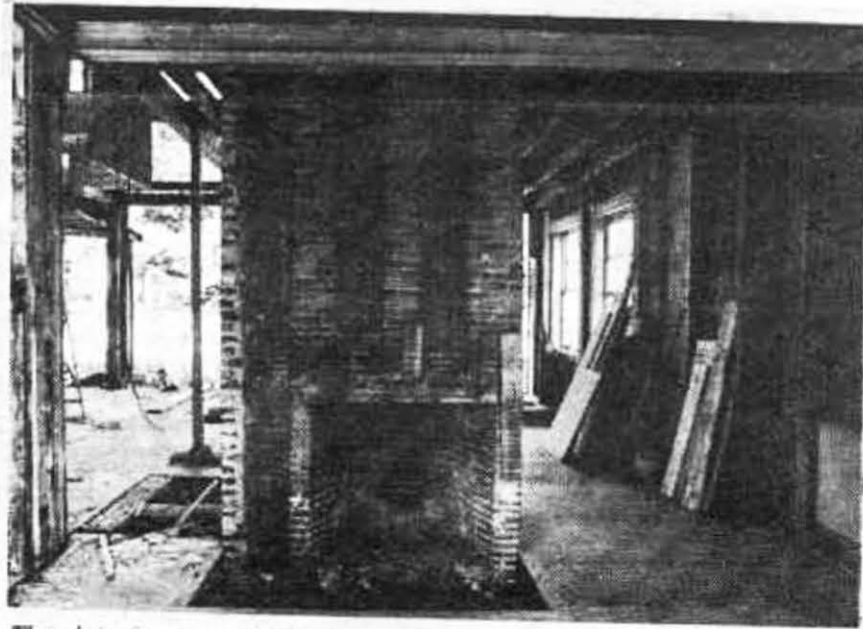
April 14, 1910 = Mrs. Godfrey and her daughter Eva Godfrey, who have been living at the home of Mrs. J.H. Parker in Billerica street, have taken rooms in the Aiken house on Westford street.

Lowell Courier-Citizen

Jan. 22, 1914 - Pheasants in increasing numbers are to be seen daily, near the centre of the village. They are frequently reported as feeding close to buildings, and show by little alarm in being approached. The recent heavy snow will probably make them even more fearless, as they find their food supply in the woods and fields cut off. A handsome cock pheasant was discovered a short time ago by Curtis Aiken, picking up grain in his hen yard. When a noise was made to startle it, instead of seeking the open, it flew into the barn cellar. Now, the cellar was already the home of a lusty rooster, and he immediately resented the intrusion. A lively mixup, followed and in a very brief time Mr . Rooster sought cover, and the pheasant returned to picking up the grain. A little later it was liberated.

July 23, 1914 - Mrs. Honora Enwright of Lowell, has purchased of Curtis A. Aiken, his property on Westford street, familiarly known to older residents as the "Bussell place." Mrs. Enwright buys for occupancy, and is to take possession about August 1. The property consists of a large old fashioned house of 19 rooms, at present arranged to accommodate two families, a large barn and about 20 acres of land, part of which is farm land and part wooded.

Aug. 5, 1914 - Curtis A. Aiken, who recently disposed of his property on Westford street removes this week to his house on Littleton street.



The eight fireplaces in the house are each small and formal in appearance. There was no large, country-style fireplace for cooking in the Packard house.
(Photo by Vicki Pierce)

Note: Article contains inaccuracies per J B Drury

Enthusiastic revitalization on Westford Street

By JUDY BUSWICK

Deserted, old houses set up on a hill always have ghost sea captains and secret passages. The longer they remain abandoned the more romantic they appear. And when someone finally comes along to reclaim the charm of the original house, everyone in town watches as the ghosts are dispersed and the secret passageways revealed.

When Hezekiah Packard came to Chelmsford in 1793 to accept the position as the local minister, he undertook the building of an elaborate home set on a hill on Westford Street not far from his church in the center. He was not a sea captain but chose a style of architecture favored by coastal builders. Its widow's walk atop the truncated hip roof is frequently found on homes around Newburyport and Salem. Hezekiah was a Harvard College graduate and knew John Quincy Adams, so perhaps his younger years were spent near Boston harbor and account for his selection of architectural style.

It has been said he built his gracious home in an attempt to outshine the Russell House on Worthen Street. The builders of these two houses and also the Fiske House went to their financial limits to create these gorgeous structures. Not a nail was used in that original frame, as everything was built with rough hewn beams which were notched and pegged. And now, after almost two hundred years, the Packard House is still standing and undergoing careful inspection to determine its soundness for rehabilitation.

Mr. James McClutchy and Mr. John Tomasko of Group IV, a Chelmsford company, arranged the purchase of the property and the next door real estate as well, through one and half years of talks and negotiations with the Planning Board, the Historical District Commission and Mr. and Mrs. Mills who previously owned and had worked on reconstruction of the house. Mr. Mills had accomplished approximately two thirds of the exact restoration to the first floor deck.

that the eight small fireplaces are not the only means of heating the house. Electric outlets will be as inconspicuous as possible, yet useable. Indoor plumbing may be the major floor plan change. The kitchen will of course feature modern appliances and not the old soapstone sink. The chimneys are being rebuilt for safety.

The original interior was probably very simple, even plain. There was little fancy molding or elaborate fireplace boards. But salvaging the exterior aesthetics of such a mansion is another dimension of historical renovation work. Mr. McClutchy has assisted in such work in Boston townhouses and finds it is through experience and research that the answers to appropriate style are found.

Because of the complete lack of structural remains, the new front doorway will copy features in an enlarged version of the side doorway. There will be four pilasters (shallow projections from a wall that imitate columns), two sidelights with an eight-light transom over the door and a specially made door canopy, or hood, with wooden teeth that is in itself a masterpiece of carpentry.

Once both chimneys have been reconstructed and new roofing put on, the widow's walk will be rebuilt in its original, simple style. It will not be as elaborate as that on the neighbor's peak.

The front yard will retain its sweep of lawns but be broken by two low granite walls and use brick walk ways to the original steps of block granite. The granite fence in the side yard is in good condition half way up the yard but will need replacing beyond a gate close to the house.

This yard work may reveal the secret tunnel passageway that makes this renovation project so intriguing. One workman tells of having been in a secret tunnel from the barn to the house. But this was fifty years ago or more. Rumor has it that the underground railway used this house to move slaves to security

Jim McClutchy says the careful craftsmanship of Mr. Mills' work was impeccably done and none of that work needs to be replaced. But through the long years in which the house was lived in before the Mills' time changes were made that needed to be corrected.

As the modern trend of renovating old homes into offices and vacated schools into senior citizen housing is now very popular, it is worth noting that just because repairs or additions were made, even a hundred years ago, does it mean it was necessarily correct for the structure. In the case of the Packard House, a 19th century project turned the lovely big house into a duplex and split the gracious entryway into two dark narrow stair cases. A wing was added to the back of the house at that time too, but the workmanship here was not as carefully done as in 1794.

That huge pile of debris behind the house that passersby can see is all that is left of the back wing and its five fireplaces. A smaller, one floor addition will replace it in time. A two car garage will fit in here and be barely visible from the road.

Mr. McClutchy says it is sometime difficult to recognize just what was in the original house but some features are easy to spot. The living room, one bedroom and a back nook display low wainscoting made from one long board. Picture yourself ordering boards today which are three feet wide and eighteen feet long—all one piece of wood. You'd be laughed at. And yet there are such boards around these rooms, coming up just to the window sills, so such planks could be found 200 years ago. Certain doors appear original as their key holes, latches and hinges have an antique look. Other doors are heavier and more common in appearance.

The house is now structurally sound and the interior will be approached with livability in mind, yet keeping as much of the flavor of the original house as possible. There will be forced hot water baseboards added so

railway used this house to move slaves to security during the Civil War. So far there is no sign of the tunnel but when it is found it may prove worthy of all this speculation.

Moving the barn is on the agenda for the next month. It will be moved back and to the right. Should a secret tunnel exist, it is bound to be revealed in this second project of renovation being undertaken by Group IV.

The barn is three floors of solid construction. "Solid as granite" seems a more finite way of describing it than, "Sound as a dollar," a phrase Jim McClutchy corrected himself from using. This barn will become a one family house and share a common driveway with a third home, as yet to be dawn up, but which will sit on its own acre behind the Packard House property.

Even as Lowell, Newburyport and Boston are undergoing renovation work of their old structures so too is Chelmsford. Here we tend to reclaim old homes for modern families but we do have examples of rehabilitation for office space and multiple family housing. It is perhaps a sign of the times that we enjoy saving the best of architecture and community history.

Throughout the summer and into the fall we can watch as "this old house" once financed by Hezekiah Packard comes into view once again. There will be no ghosts of sea captains but the possibility of secret passages remains for those of us who still see romance in abandoned mansions.

Historic House Begins A New Life

The Rev. Mr. Hezekiah Packard would be proud if he could see his old home at 16 Westford Street, now being restored by James McClutchy and John Tomasko to a modern version of its former graceful state. The house has experienced many changes during its 186-year history with additions being added and removed, but it was built with large strong timbers kept in place by mortise and tenon joints pegged firmly with wooden pegs. Many more braces were used than in modern construction, and the basic timbers remain strong, resulting today in a durable and solid building with an exterior which would look very familiar to Mr. Packard.

Hezekiah Packard was born in North Bridgewater in 1761. When he was 13 1/2 years old, the Revolutionary War began and he enlisted as a fifer. He was with the Army in Cambridge when General Washington took command. "When the general passed by me," the boy later reported, "I was so awe-struck that I forgot to take off my hat." When he returned home, he became a farmer but was soon injured so severely in an accident that he could not continue. He then enrolled at Harvard College, where he became acquainted with a classmate, John Quincy Adams. In his diary, Mr. Adams wrote of his friend: "As a speaker he is too much addicted to monotony, whatever his declamations are. His disposition is good, and his moral character is unimpeachable." Following graduation, Mr. Packard taught school for a year before becoming a tutor in mathematics. In May, 1793, he was invited by the Town of Chelmsford to settle as pastor of the church (now the Unitarian-Universalist Society, but at that time the church and town governments were one). In his acceptance speech he expressed hope that "mutual candour, forbearance, and charity may pervale (sic) and circulate through all our hearts," but that was a wish that would not come

true.

When he first came to Chelmsford, Mr. Packard lived with Dr. Timothy Harrington, whose home at that time was probably on Billerica Road, near the present Center School. In May, 1794 he purchased the land at 16 Westford Street, and construction of the house and a barn was started soon after.

Mr. Packard loved good books, and when he had been at Harvard, he was made assistant librarian of the college. This experience stood him in good stead, as in 1794 he was instrumental in the establishment of the Social Library, forerunner of the present Adams Library.

In Nov. 1796, Mr. Packard brought his bride, Mary Spring, from Maine to live in the new house. It was a very elegant dwelling, and from the outside, the main part of the house looked much as it does today. We can only guess what the front entrance looked like, however. The late 18th century-type doorway installed this summer by Mr. McClutchy was copied from the slightly simpler entrance on the south side of the building, incorporating designs prepared by Mr. Enslie Mills. The panel door, flanked on each side by two pilasters and five lights, is topped by a six-light transom. A classic frieze and decorative dentils and modillions underlay the cornice. These features repeat on a smaller scale the 1794 work under the eaves.

Inside the home that the Packards knew, a hallway led to the rear of the building, with a stairway going up to the second story. On both floors two rooms with fireplaces were on each side of the hall, very much as they are today. Downstairs, the south front room with deep recessed windows was probably the parlor. The walls of the room behind the parlor were painted blue. However, sometime during the early history of the house a mural of trees and a brook was painted on the north wall of this room. It was later painted over and has been past restoration for some time. The old kitchen with its larger fireplace for cooking and adjoining oven for baking occupied the cooler northwest corner of the house. The purpose of the north front room is unknown but presents an interesting puzzle. When the wall plaster was removed this summer, it could be seen that this was the only one of these four rooms which did not have an extra insulating layer of plaster next to

the outside sheathing. The walls were painted a delicate yellow, and today's mitered window frames in this room are the same ones put there by Mr. Packard's workmen.

It was a lovely and rather extravagant home, and, as it turned out, completely beyond the financial resources of Mr. Packard. In this respect, as well as architecturally, it has been compared with two nearby Federal style houses erected a few years later: The Fiske House at 1 Billerica Road, built in 1798 by Simeon Spaulding, Jr., and the Russell House at 10 Worthen Street, built by Samuel Prince probably in 1799. Simeon Spaulding, Jr. tried desperately by repeated mortgages to save his house for his children but finally lost it in the 1830s; Samuel Prince sold his dwelling in 1802 to another Boston merchant.

The value of money continued to depreciate after the Revolutionary War, and Mr. Packard found his annual salary of \$333 insufficient to support himself, a wife, and expected child, as well as to pay for the large house. Repeated requests beginning in April, 1798, for the Town to raise his salary fell on deaf ears, and in November of that year he was forced to sell the property for \$3000 to Mungo Mackay, Jr., a Boston merchant. The Packards continued to live in the house, however, for four more years. His pecuniary embarrassments and arguments with the Town continued, and on July 5, 1802, he was obliged to request his dismissal as the local minister with the following comment, "You cannot be unacquainted with my embarrassments, nor with my wishes and endeavours to extricate myself from them and secure a comfortable living among you. You all must be sensible that the means of building, buying, or securing any permanent place of residence are without my reach." His resignation was accepted, and he took up another pastorate in Wiscasset, Maine.

Some other owners of the property following Mr. Packard were also prominent in Chelmsford's affairs. Samuel Pitts, Esquire, lived there during the three years preceding his death from dropsy in 1805. He was the uncle of Samuel Prince, first owner of the aforementioned Russell House. Tradition says that as a result of his participation in the Boston Tea Party, Samuel Pitts had been sent into "a cooler atmosphere" at Chelmsford. He lived for a time in a house located on the site of the present Central Baptist Church before moving to 16 Westford Street.

Shortly before assuming the ministry of the local church in November, 1803, the Rev. Mr. Wilkes Allen "made application to the town for some assistance in building or purchasing a house." This being denied, he bought Hezekiah Packard's former residence just before his marriage to Mary Morrill in 1805. They were living there when he wrote his History of Chelmsford, published in 1820. This was the first town history of book size to be printed in America. Like Mr. Packard, Mr. Allen found it difficult to meet expenses or to "lay up any thing at all for the education of a rising family." For a time he taught a private school in the house, in which he prepared boys for

college. According to his grandson, "He was grave and dignified, as was usual with parsons of such authority as the country parson of those days. I have been told that he was a rather dull preacher." His pastorate ended in October, 1832, and he moved with his family to North Andover, where he did some farming before suffering a fatal fall in the barn.

The house is sometimes called the Bussell (or Buzzell) House, after the family who owned it for 31 years, until the widow, Mrs. Emma Bussell, died in 1902. During the 1880s, the Bussells attached a "floral conservatory" to the south side of the house and sold plants and flowers to local and Lowell customers. Although the building was originally a one-family house, it was later divided into two tenements, perhaps by the Bussells. From 1871 to 1874 the north side of the house had a different owner than the south side, the division passing up the middle of the front side walk and along the "center of a partition wall, which wall runs through the center of said house." From that time until August, 1954, the house was divided into two apartments, one sometimes occupied by the owner and the other side rented out. In 1894 one apartment was occupied by the Rev. Mr. Granville Pierce, the third pastor of the First Parish Church to live in the house.

There have been numerous additions to the house, but most of these were not as well constructed as the original building and were removed by Mr. McClutchy. The oldest and the one with the best

workmanship was the part of the ell immediately in back of the main house, consisting of three rooms. Some of it may have been a portion of the original 1794 building, but if not, it was an early addition. A graceful doorway arch with keystone at the rear of the main house led into perhaps the oldest of these three rooms and has been retained by Mr. McClutchy. The other two rooms each at one time contained a fireplace and beehive oven. The north room, located off of the old kitchen in the main house, was probably a "summer kitchen." A well was in the sand floor near the fireplace. This portion of the ell, as well as the main house, was made with boards cut by the old style "up and down" saw and with mortise and tenon joints secured with wooden pegs. During the 1970s, a large, well made, brick cistern was found in the ground near the conservatory.

A piazza was added along the front side of the building probably during the late 19th Century, was reduced to a portico in front of the main entrance about 1930, and was removed completely after 1955. Such a porch was common during the Victorian age but not during the earlier Federal period of architecture.

The house has seen several families come and go, and a whole new life style has arisen since the Packards first lived there 186 years ago. Now that this dignified building has undergone a re-birth this summer, perhaps it will experience another 186 years of new events as exciting as the first.

Jane B. Drury



CMFD-BEGINNING A NEW LIFE is the imposing Rev. Hezekiah Packard House on Westford Street, now being completely renovated for private residential use. During its long history it served as a home, a school, and, in part, a plant conservatory which was a novelty at the time. Mr. Packard was a minister, teacher and book-lover who established the Social Library, forerunner of the Chelmsford Public Library which became the Adams Library. After its last use as a multi-family dwelling, it stood vacant for many years but was in the process of restoration when sold several months ago. (Photo by Jean Sougnez)

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PACKARD HOUSE UPDATE Interior work should be completed in about a month at the Packard House on Westford Street which has been carefully restored during the past months. (Photo by Pierce)



16 Westford Street

October, 1972



15 Westford Road

9/6/2004 F. Merriam

