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FORM B - BUILDING SURVEY

95

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

Development of town/city

Architectural reason for inventorying:

see attached sheet

2. Town Chelmsford

Street address 41 Westford St.

Name Mansfield / Emerson House

Use: original & present dwelling

Present owner William Harris

Open to public No

Date ca. 1790 Style _____

Source of date owner - see attached sheet

Architect _____

OR part of Area # _____

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added see attached sheet

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material granite blocks

WALL COVER: Wood clapboard-butted Brick Stone Other _____

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork 2 pedimented dormers on front

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

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

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 see "addition - altered" PORTICO on ell Balcony

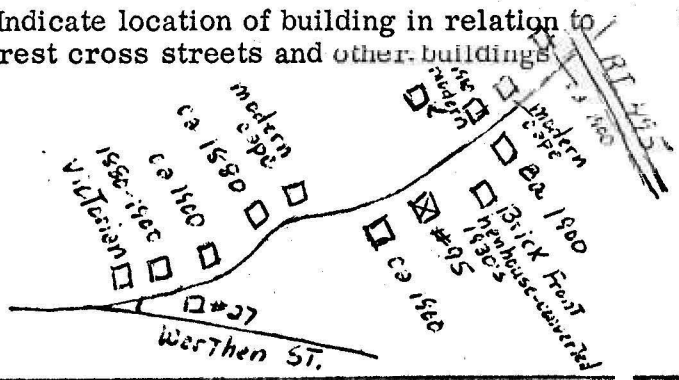
FACADE: Gable end: Front side Ornament _____

Entrance: Side Front Center Side Details: enclosed vestibule, pedimented, 5 lights each side of door very plain

Windows: Spacing: Regular Irregular Identical Varied 6 over 6 panes (maxy old), 5 Bay x irregular

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 18
Property has 125 feet frontage on street

Recorder Jane B. Drury

For Chelmsford Historical Commission

Photo # 5-20A Date May 5, 1973

SEE REVERSE SIDE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

1. Outbuildings 1 henhouse (barn & sheds attached to house ell)

2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal
Predominant features _____
Landscape architect _____

3. Neighboring Structures
Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.
Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern 1880-1900
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)

see attached sheet

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

- 1831 map
- 1875 Beers Atlas
- Waters, "History of Chelmsford" (1917)
- Chelmsford Vital Records to 1850 (Essex Institute, 1914)
- "Our Trees, How to Know Them" by Arthur Emerson & Clarence Weed (1908)

RESTRICTIONS _____

Original Owner: _____
Deed Information: Book Number 14 Page 529, North Registry of Deeds
16 31

Mansfield/Emerson House
41 Westford Street

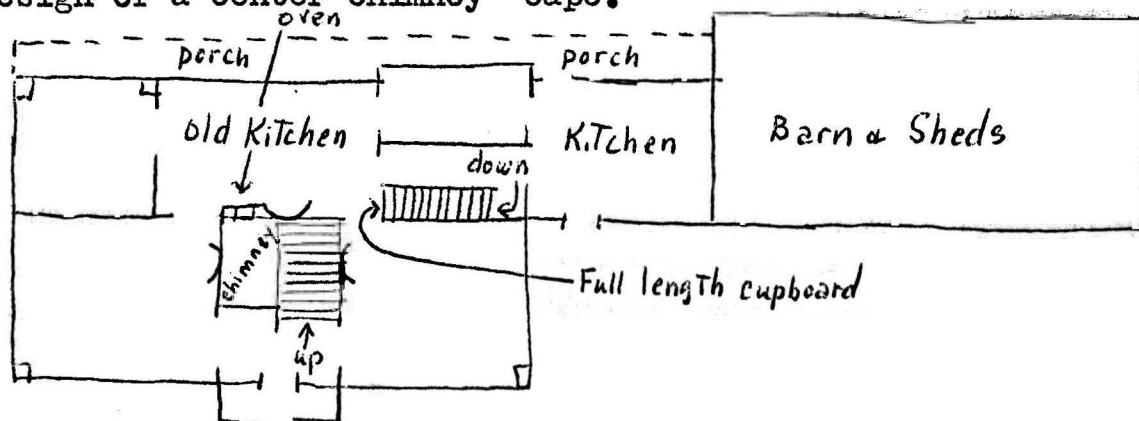
Source of Date:

When buying the house, the present owner was given the approximate date of 1790. Cast iron fireplaces in front of bricked-in fireplaces in the two front rooms have pretty indentations in the metal; the owners believe they are of a type built between 1790 and 1810.

A search of deeds goes back to 1827 but is complete at this time.

Architectural Reason for Inventorying:

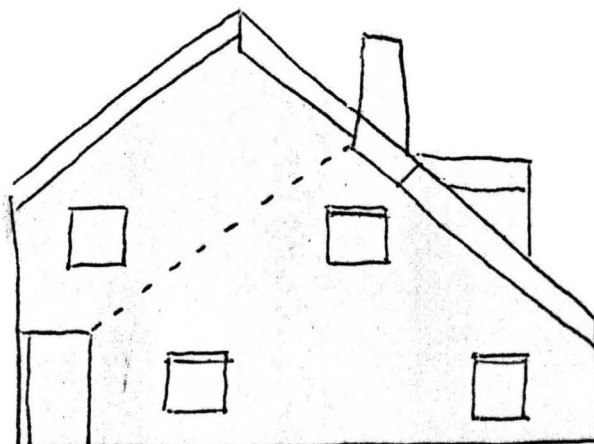
Although a 2nd story addition has changed the external design in the rear, the interior has been very little changed from its original design of a center chimney "cape."



Features include old window panes, working kitchen fireplace and oven, two unique cast iron fireplaces, pegged construction, some original wide floor boards.

Condition:

Altered - An additional bedroom and bath have been added to the second floor by extending the roof-line up and to the rear of the house and putting the bedroom over a Greek Revival type porch (7 full length columns). The original part of the house remains very much in its original state.

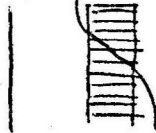


Added = two story kitchen ell.

Chimneys:

1. Large chimney slightly left of center (it is centered in the basement and first floor before it narrows down on one side to allow stairs to go up over it (no fireplaces in 2nd story rooms). This construction can be seen by lifting up a hinged stair - can see inside chimney to the ground.

2.



The chimney was rebuilt Sept. 1971, using mostly new bricks but also some old; original bricks in the cellar part. Fieldstone, lined with brick.

2. One narrow chimney in sheds.
3. One removed by present owner - was in the ell.

Historical Significance:

The earliest owner so far researched was Jonathan Perham, a member of a family which owned much land in the area and several houses. Although he owned this house, he probably lived in the family homestead, which was nearby and in the path of Rt. 495, and torn down. The Perham's were excellent farmers and became well known for the Perham Cider Works, which was active until Rt. 495 was built. In its early days, this house (#95) was probably part of this farm. Jonathan Perham was active in town affairs, including School Board, Selectman, State Representative, etc. He was known as ^{Carl} Colonel Perham, but no official record has been found of Chelmsford men who fought in the War of 1812 or the Mexican War of 1848. In 1827 he hung himself, and the property passed on to his two sons.

In the early 1900's the house was owned by Susan (local teacher for many years), Frank (blueberry dealer), and Arthur Emerson. Arthur was a photographer and took most of the pictures on the old local postcards. He collaborated with Clarence W. Weed on the book Our Trees, How to Know Them, published in 1908. It contains many fine pictures of Chelmsford trees photographed by Mr. Emerson and which appear in the book as half-tone engravings. It is still an excellent book for tree identification.

Frank Emerson House
41 Westford Street

Information from the Chelmsford Assessors Office
Compiled by Jane Drury 3/1/73

Northern Middlesex District Records:

Book 1945, pg. 328	12/28/1970	Bradford O. Emerson to William Harries
Book 1938, pg. 275	10/31/1970	William Riney to Bradford Emerson
Book 1927, pg. 193	7/14/1970	Thomas J. and Mildred Campbell to William Riney
Book 978, pg. 80	6/ 1/1942	Frank A., Arthur I., and Susan Emerson to Thomas J. Campbell
Book 978, pg. 79	6/ 1/ 1942	Eva S. Russell to Frank A. Emerson

The record of this last deed is made on a card done during a WPA project, which states that it is a deed made to clarify another deed never recorded.

Book 220, pg. 504	12/19/1890	Sarah Worthen to Eva Russell (Sarah's unmarried daughter)v\$5000. 18 acres. Borders land of Rufus Emerson, Henry Perham, Joseph B. Emerson, Nathaniel Glidden, J. Waldo Perham, Horace Dean.
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This last deed includes the Samuel Davis house and borders the 41 Westford St. land.

Arthur I. and Susan Emerson were dead in 1942, although they are mentioned in an above deed at that date. Mr. House, Chelmsford assessor, said that this is often the case (names must remain on a deed until another deed is probated which does not include them).

Frank Emerson House
41 Westford St.

Mrs. William Harries (owner) 2/8/73

Mr. & Mrs. Harries bought the house about 2 years ago through Brad Emerson, realtor. Previous owner was Mrs. Campbell, who lived there 30-35 years. Campbells did little to the house; let it go physically.

Mrs. Campbell gave sketches of the house made by an Emerson to the Historical Society.

Brad Emerson told the Harries that the house was built about 1790.

Mrs. Margaret Mills 2/28/73

Frank, Arthur, and Susy Emerson lived at 41 Westford St.

Susy was a teacher at the high school for many years. She was the first to die.

Arthur was a photographer. Many of the pictures used on local postcards were his. His photographic plates are now owned by the Historical Society. He collaborated with Clarence W. Weed (principal of the Lowell State Normal School) on a book "Our Trees." There is a copy of the book in the Adams Library. Mr. Weed was the author and Arthur took the pictures for it.

Frank was a bachelor and the survivor. He went into partnership with Minot Bean. In the 1930's Minot fixed up Frank's henhouse (now the brick front house at 43 Westford St.) and lived in it. Some time after Minot Bean and Susy & Arthur Emerson died, Frank sold the house at 41 Westford St. to the Campbells and moved into his renovated henhouse (43 Westford St.). His principal business was collecting and selling blueberries. He collected berries using a Stanley Steamer converted to a truck from the farmers in the Ashby area and then sold the berries at market.

Waters, pg. 651:

"Emerson and Weed's "Our Trees, How To Know Them," published in 1908, contains many fine pictures of Chelmsford trees. These were photographed by Mr. Arthur I. Emerson, and appear in the book as half-tone engravings."

41 Westford Street

Lowell Courier-Citizen:

Oct. 1, 1911 - Frank A. Emerson lost a much valued gray mare on Saturday, from farcy, a disease similar to glanders. The animal had been ill and under surveillance for a time and was promptly killed when the ~~animal~~ actual condition was learned.

March 25, 1915 - Arthur I. Emerson is ill at his home in Westford street with an attack of grip combined with pleurisy.

Mansfield/Emerson House
41 Westford St.

Waters, pg. 730: Burying Grounds

Rufus Francis Emerson, b. Sept. 19, 1835, d. Dec. 16, 1899.

Waters, pg. 750: Family tomb of Capt. Jonathan Perham and Henry Spaulding.
No. 8. Built A.D. 1813.

Otis Perham, M.D., son of Jonathan & Mary Perham, Nov. 22, 1863. Age 50yrs.

Jonathan, son of Samuel & Elizabeth Perham, July 28, 1827. Age 52 yrs.

Mary, his wife, April 16, 1836. Age 61 yrs.

Elizabeth, wife of Samuel Perham, Dec. 24, 1820. Age 83 yrs.

Elizabeth, dau. of Jonathan & Mary Perham, Sept. 2, 1807. Age 1 yr. 6 mos

Chelmsford Vital Records to 1850:

Births: Perham

George Washington Perham, s. Jonathan & Mary, Sept. 23, 1808

Jonathan, s. Samuel & Elizabeth, Apr. 2, 1776

Mary Ann, d. Jonathan & Mary, Jan. 7, 1801

Otis, s. Capt. Jonathan & Mary, Mar. 2, 1813

Marriages: Perham

Jonathan & Mary Parker, June 24, 1800

Mary Ann & Nathan Tyler, int. Nov. 3, 1838

Samuel & (Mrs. int.) Elizabeth Adams, Mar. 9, 1769

Deaths: Perham

Mrs. Elizabeth Perham (w. Samuel, widow, old age) d. Dec. 24, 1820
in her 83d y.

Jonathan Perham (s. Samuel & Elizabeth), hung himself, July 28,
1827 age 51 y. C.R.I. (age 52 y. G.R.L.)

Birth: Emerson

Rufus Francis, s. Franklin & Rebecca (Adams), Sept. 19, 1835.

Waters: Jonathan Perham

Pg. 8 "There used to be a tradition that the wife of Abraham Parker was the first woman to 'Bake and Brew' in Chelmsford. The authority for this tradition is a letter written by Jonathan Perham, Town Clerk, August 8, 1821, to Hon. Abel Parker, which says: 'Bridget who now is the wd. Pierce, * * * states that her great grandmother is said to be the first woman who Brewed and Baked in Chelmsford, which I suppose to be the wife of Abraham Parker. Mrs. Pierce states that Moses Parker son of Abraham was grandfather to her'. Jonathan Perham was a prominent citizen of the town, was Town Clerk, Selectman, Moderator, and Representative. He was descended from the first settlers of the town. He was born and lived in the house now occupied by the writer (H.S.Perham) on Westford Rd."

Pg. 563 "The management of Chelmsford Classical School) was entrusted to the following Board of Trustees:

Abel Hunt, Rev. Wilkes Allen, Rev. Abiel Abbott, Samuel Bachelder, Esq., Oliver M. Whipple, Jonathan Perham, Esq., J.S.C. Knowlton, Esq., Capt. Josiah Fletcher, Sen., Dr. J.C. Dalton, Owen Emerson, Jr., Cranmore Wallace, Captain William

Fletcher, Dr. J. O. Green, Dr. Rufus Wyman, Otis Adams, Joel Adams, Esq., Joseph Warren, Captain John (?) Butterfield."

Pg. 762: Civil List

Selectman: 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1818, 1819, 1820,
1821, 1822.
Representative: 1825.

Pg. 367:

"No official record has been found of Chelmsford men who served in the War of 1812 or the Mexican War in 1848." (Was the War of 1812 where Jonathan Perham got his Captain's rating? J. Drury?)

1831 map

1875 Beers Atlas: R. P. Emerson

equal privilege to use the outer doors, entries, chamber stairs, garret stairs and cellar stairs, and the door yards and wells - reserving and saving to the heirs of said deceased, the privilege of baking in the oven in the kitchen, and to pass through said kitchen to the well for water and also the east end of the wood-house - half the length of it - Also the west end of the pigery, as far as the partition - also the easterly part of the cornhouse, 8 feet in width, with an equal privilege to the door and also a privilege of making her cider in the cider mill by paying for her proportion of the repairs of the Mill and also the easterly part of the barn as far as to the west side of the floorway, and the northerly half of the bay in the barn, reserving and saving to the heirs a privilege of using the floorway in common with the widow as they all may have need. Also the easterly part of the barn yard, beginning 4 feet west of the Great-Doors and running southerly to southeast corner of the cider mill house; thence running easterly to the corner of the wall; thence northerly to corner of the yard; thence westerly to bound first mentioned - and a privilege to lay manure at the east end of the barn, and to take water from the pump in the cider mill house as has been usual, and to pass and repass in the lane to and from the barn.

\$ 523.33

Also a certain tract of mowing and tillage situate near the dwelling house, containing about 7 acres, bounded as follows, viz - Beginning at the corner of the wall near the house and running easterly on the road to the second cross-wall; thence running northerly by said cross-wall to another cross-wall; thence running easterly by said wall to the cow-yard; thence southerly to the end of the wall; thence westerly by the mill-house; thence southerly by the wall to the bound first mentioned.

580.00

Also a certain tract of mowing and pasture land situate near said dwelling house, containing about 5 acres, and bounded beginning at northeast corner on the road leading by David Perham's house, and running southwesterly on said Fletcher's-land said road to land of William Fletcher; thence running southeasterly on said Fletcher's land to the cross-wall; thence southerly on said Fletcher's land to a wall north of the wood-house; thence running easterly and northerly on the wall to the bound first mentioned.

390.00

Also about 3 acres woodland, situate in the westerly part of said Chelmsford, near Rocky Gutter, so called, and bounded, beginning at southwest corner at a stake and stones and running northeasterly by land of Ebenezer Spaulding to a pine stump, still northeasterly by land of Abbott and Fletcher to a walnut tree marked; thence northerly by land of Sewall Parkhurst to stake and stones; thence westerly by said Parkhurst's land to stake and stones by the Path; thence northwesterly by the Path to a stake and stones; thence southerly by the lime kiln road to bound first mentioned.

80.00

Also about 3 acres and $\frac{1}{2}$ of woodland near Chesnut hill in westerly part of said Chelmsford and bounded as follows, to wit:..... \$ 100.00

Also a pew in Chelmsford Meeting House, numbered 65. \$ 43.00

Inventory of Estate of Jonathan Perham:

Real Estate -

The homestead lying in Chelmsford containing about 40 acres	\$3400
About 8 acres of meadow land known by the name of the new plane	\$2500
About 22 acres of pasture land	\$ 350
About 8 acres of woodland known by name of Osborn lot	\$ 50
About 8 acres of mowing and pasture land known by the name of Rocky gutter	\$ 375
About 3 acres of woodland laing nigh to the last mentioned peace	\$ 60
About 18 acres of woodland and meadow known by name of Flaggy meadow lot	\$ 306
About 25 acres of old field and meadow land laing on south side of river meadow	\$ 200
About 6 acres of meadow land laing on the north side of river meadow brook	\$ 120
About 1 acre of woodland laing on the rode that Chelmsford to Lowel nigh the land pit	\$ 15
	<u>\$5106</u>

Personal Estate - also listed \$1340.57

The half of a pew on the floor of the central Meetinghouse in said Chelmsford. \$ 17.00

Horsehed in the middle of said town. \$ 10.00
Total \$2384.84

1830:

(Jonathan Spalding, an heir and son, took Sherebiah Spalding to court for not settling the estate. Sherebiah remained the administrator, and the estate was settled in 1831.)

Mansfield/ Emerson House
41 Westford Street

Copied by J. Drury
6/12/73

Newsweekly (1955):

"1893. Arthur I. Emerson, for several years the popular head clerk at the general store of S.W. Parkhurst, has resigned the position to take effect Saturday. Mr. Emerson needs a rest, which he proposes to take in the form of a change of occupation for a time. It is well known among his friends that he is the possessor of artistic abilities of a superior order, which he proposes to utilize by turning his attention to photography, in which he is already quite proficient as an amateur. His plans are made for the erection of a studio at his home on Westford St. and in a few weeks he will be ready to accommodate the public with sittings. He will be succeeded at the store by George W. Proctor, who has had long experience in the grocery trade."

"1893. Arthur I. Emerson has been crowded with work since opening his studio on Westford Street. There seems to be no danger of a shut-down in this quarter. Of course the proprietor takes sheerful views of the situation."



A. E. Emerson taking pictures, 1889







41 Westford Street

8/22/2004 F. Merriam