

FORM B – BUILDING

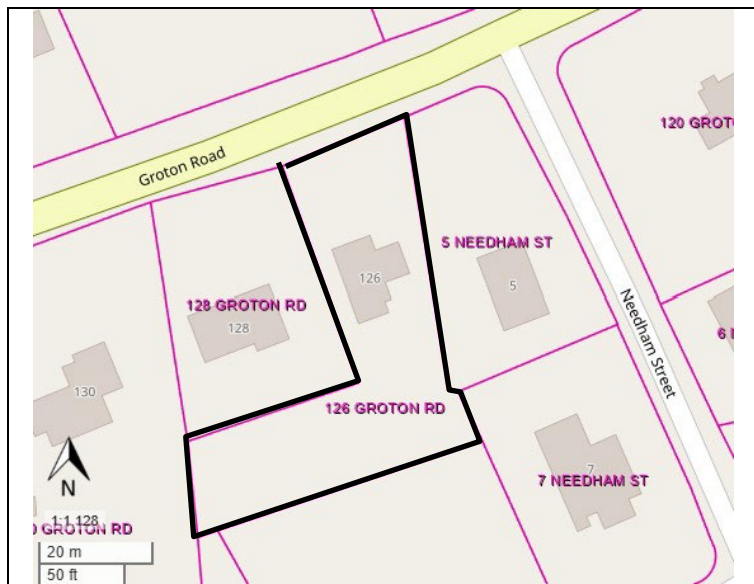
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



View looking southeast toward facade.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy E. Spies, Historic Preservation Consultant

Date: September 2026

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

18/ 56/ 2//

Nashua
South,
NH

Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Address: 126 Groton Road

Historic Name: I. Edward and Lena Brown House

Uses: Present: Vacant

Original: Single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: circa 1949

Source: Deed; City directory; Plan

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete Block; Poured Concrete

Wall/Trim: Vinyl siding / Vinyl Trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Shed

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Front addition (before 1971); East ell and rear porch added (between 1985 and 1995); Vinyl siding (late 20th C or early 21st C).

Condition: Poor

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.4

Setting: Located on a busy suburban street. Small houses to the north, east, and west date from the early-mid-20th century. A development of circa 1955 single-family dwellings is located to the south.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

126 GROTON RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The house is located on a level lot and oriented to the north, facing the street. Shrubs and small trees line the edges of the grass-covered lot. An asphalt-paved driveway leads to a concrete-block retaining wall located near the front steps. The 1-story house rests on a concrete block foundation and rises to a shallow-pitched, side-gabled roof with no overhang. An interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap rises from the rear (south) roof slope. A pair of symmetrically-placed gable dormers are located on the north roof slope. The original house consists of a 22' wide x 27' deep block. The block is three bays deep with a window centered in the gable peak. Original windows, visible on the west elevation and gable dormers, are 6/1 wood sash. A shed-roofed addition fills the width of the façade (north elevation) and rests on a parged concrete block foundation. The addition contains the center entrance, which features a paneled wood door and a metal storm door. One-over-one sash windows frame the entrance. A small 1-story ell with a side-gabled roof extends from the original block's east elevation. The ell rests on a poured concrete foundation. Two wood sash windows are located on the ell's north elevation; the rear elevation contains full-height glass slider doors. An enclosed shed-roofed porch extends along the main block's south elevation. A deck constructed of pressure-treated wood connects the main block, east ell, and rear porch.

The house is typical of Minimal Traditional houses constructed during the post-World War II decades. The house has been substantially altered and retains a low level of integrity.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The house was likely constructed in late 1948 for immigrants I. Edward and Lena Brown. Isadore Edward Brown (1888-1954)¹ was born in Romania and appears to have emigrated in 1905. Lena Parad Brown (1887-1973)² was born in Lithuania and emigrated to the United States via Canada in 1900.³ The couple was married in 1914 in Boston, where they lived until circa 1943. The family grew to include four children. I. Edward Brown worked in a grocery store and later as a meat cutter in a retail meat market.⁴

In 1943, I. Edward and Lena Brown purchased a 12.32 acre parcel of land in Chelmsford that included the house at present-day 128 Groton Road.⁵ (Figure 1.) (The parcel encompasses the adjacent Kiberd Drive neighborhood.) It appears the Browns initially lived at 128 Groton Road while they had the house at 126 Groton Road constructed. The 1949 Chelmsford city directory listed I. Edward Brown working as a fireman and residing at 128 Groton Road.⁶ In January 1949, the Browns sold 128 Groton Road.⁷

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/228718192/isadore-e.-brown>. Accessed September 17, 2026.

² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/143244754/lena-brown>. Accessed September 17, 2026.

³ Massachusetts, U. S. and Federal Naturalization Records, 1798-1950, Declaration of Intention, V. 525, No. 317701, April 2, 1943. Ancestry.com. Accessed September 17, 2026.

⁴ U. S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. Accessed September 17, 2026. Also, U. S. Census, 1940.

⁵ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 991, p. 55 and "Plan of Land in Chelmsford, Mass. belonging to I. Edward & Lena Brown, June, 1946," Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Plan Book 69, Plan 7.

⁶ Lowell City Directory, 1949.

⁷ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 1109, p. 121.

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126 Groton Road appears in its present-day location on a 1950 plan of the property.⁸ The Browns subdivided the property and began selling lots along Needham Road (the renamed Lake Street/ Twist Road) in 1949. (See Figure 2.)

After I. Edward Brown's death in 1954, Lena Brown sold the house, the remaining land, and the unsold subdivided lots to developer Roberts Homes, Inc.⁹ Roberts Homes developed and constructed at least six residential neighborhoods in Chelmsford between 1954 and 1962: Briarcliff, Buckman Drive Estates, Castlewood, Charlesgate, Kensington Park, and Kiberd Drive Estates.¹⁰ In 1957, Roberts Homes, Inc. sold 128 Groton Road to Richard and Carolyn Larssen.¹¹ The Larssens sold the house in 1963 to Harvey and Lorraine Miller.¹² The Millers sold the house in 1982 to Mark and Claire Conway.¹³

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Advertisement. "Charlesgate II at Chelmsford." *Boston Globe*. April 19, 1961: 36.

Advertisement. "Premiere Opening Canterbury Farms at Lunenburg." *Boston Globe*. Nov. 12, 1961: 136.

Advertisement. "Roberts Homes is Moving to Lunenburg." *Boston Globe*. Sept. 23, 1961: 21.

Chelmsford Tax Assessor records.

City Directory for Lowell, including Billerica, Chelmsford. 1949, 1953, 1955. Ancestry.com.

Findagrave.com.

"Four Model Homes at Castlewood." *Boston Globe*, Aug. 19, 1960: 118.

Historicaerials.com.

Massachusetts, U. S. and Federal Naturalization Records, 1798-1950, Declaration of Intention, V. 525, No. 317701, April 2, 1943. Ancestry.com.

Middlesex North Registry of Deeds.

Massachusetts Marriage indices. Ancestry.com.

United States Census.

United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. Accessed September 17, 2026.



View looking north along west (side) elevation and enclosed porch attached to south elevation.



View looking northwest toward rear (south) and side (east) elevations.

⁸ "Subdivision Plan of Land in Chelmsford, Mass. belonging to I. Edward & Lena Brown, September, 1950," Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Plan Book 82, Plan 148.

⁹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 1344, p. 56.

¹⁰ Advertisement, "Charlesgate II at Chelmsford," *Boston Globe*, April 19, 1961, 36.

¹¹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 1380, p. 210.

¹² Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 1587, p. 511.

¹³ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 2530, p. 69.

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16	WDK (240 sf)	8	FSP (160 sf)	8
16		2	20	
14		8	22	9
	BAS UBM (266 sf)	19	EAF BAS UBM (396 sf)	18
14			22	
			BAS UBM (176 sf)	8
			22	

Assessor's plan. Original house is the shaded 22'x 27' block.

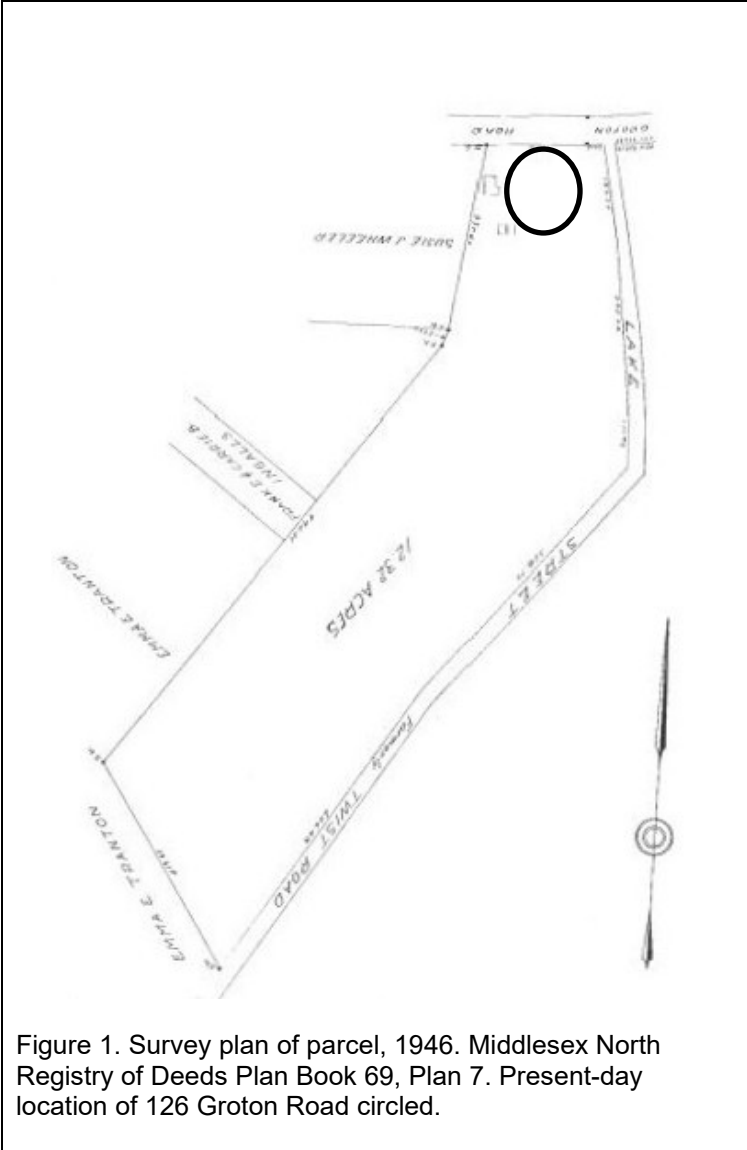


Figure 1. Survey plan of parcel, 1946. Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Plan Book 69, Plan 7. Present-day location of 126 Groton Road circled.

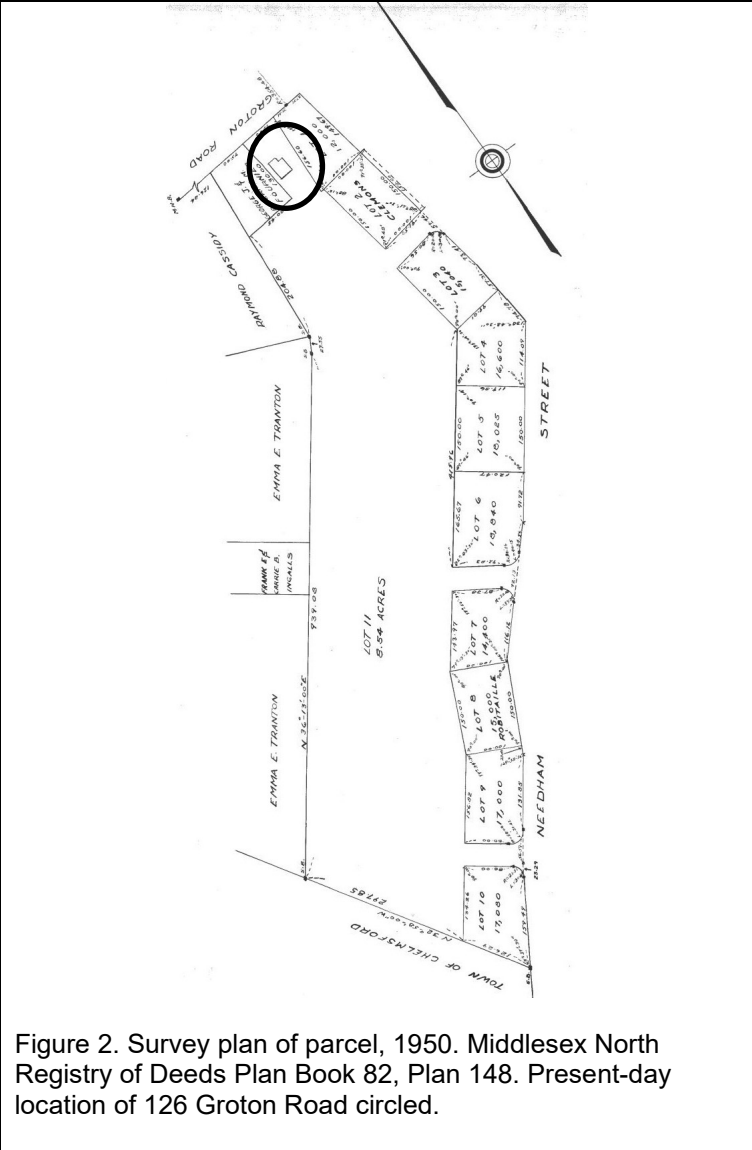


Figure 2. Survey plan of parcel, 1950. Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Plan Book 82, Plan 148. Present-day location of 126 Groton Road circled.