

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

14/46/1	Nashua South		CLM.390
---------	--------------	--	---------

Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 71-73 Middlesex Street

Historic Name: Patrick Ward House

Uses: Present: mixed-use

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: between 1831 and 1856

Source: 1831 and 1856 maps of Chelmsford

Style/Form: altered beyond recognition

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/vinyl

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 1990 replacement siding

Change of use/remodel

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .08 A

Setting: The building is located within the intersection of Middlesex St and Quigley Ave. Paved parking areas are in the front, east, and rear sides of the small lot. A grassy triangular area is to the west of the building. The surrounding area includes 19th c. industrial and residential development.

Locus Map



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

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

71-73 MIDDLESEX STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CLM.390

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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

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

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

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

This building is located on the west side of Middlesex Street at its intersection with Quigley Avenue. Built ca. 1840, it is a wood frame commercial building with a two story, hipped roof section on the east side of the building and a side-gabled, one-and-a-half story wing extending westward from the east section of the building. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the exterior walls are clad with clapboard. The building rests atop a stone foundation. The first story of the primary (north) façade, which faces Middlesex Street, is divided into four bays. The front entrance is located in the second bay from the east side of the façade. The door is covered by a small, shed roof canopy. The remaining three bays on the first story consist of large, storefront windows, which are each divided into 24 panes. Fenestration at the upper story consists of a pair of one-over-one double-hung windows on the hipped roof section of the façade and a single, one-over-one double-hung window in a gabled roof dormer, located on the west side-gabled section of the façade. A pair of large, 12-light, storefront windows are located on the first story of the west side-gabled portion of the building. A single, one-over-one double-hung window is located in the gable of the upper story of the west side of the building. Fenestration on the east side of the building consists of one-over-one double-hung windows.

The resource is an altered example of a mid-nineteenth century building that retains historic integrity of location and setting.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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

The building is not shown on the 1831 map of Chelmsford, but is present on the 1856 map of the area; therefore, it was constructed between these dates. Available nineteenth century maps show that the Ward family owned this property during most of this century. The 1856 map lists P. Ward as the owner of this property, and other members of the Ward family owned the two properties to the east. P. Ward appears to be Patrick Ward (ca. 1814-1869, born in Ireland), who according to the 1865 Massachusetts Census was a moulder living in Chelmsford with wife Catherine, her mother, and six children. Patrick appears to have passed before 1875 because that map lists Mrs. Ward as the owner of the property. The property eventually passed to daughters Isabelle Ward and Mary Brennen. When they sold the property in 1911 to Mary McMahan it marked the first time the property was not under Ward family ownership since the mid-nineteenth century. The 1912 and 1915 city directories list members of the McMahan living on Princeton Street rather than Middlesex Street; therefore, Mary was likely renting out this property. By 1924 Mary transferred this and other properties to Patrick McMahan. That year Patrick granted the property to his wife Margaret. The 1931 city does not list either McMahan living in Chelmsford, so it appears the building remained rental property. In 1947 Margaret sold the property to Catherine V. Secor. The 1949 city directory lists Catherine and husband John residing at 6 John Street and John operating the Secor's Market at 75 Middlesex. John's son, Raymond Secor, an accountant, later acquired the building and operated Secor's Laundromat until 2006. The Secor family retained the property until this date, and then sold it to current owner Richard J. Nolet. The building currently serves as the office for Rick Nolet Contracting.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

71-73 MIDDLESEX STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	CLM.390
--	---------

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Beers, F.W. *County Atlas of Middlesex, Massachusetts*. J.B. Beers & Co., New York. 1875.

Genealogical research, including U.S. and Massachusetts census records; birth, marriage, and death records; and city directory records from ancestry.com.

Geo. H. Walker & Co. *Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Geo. H. Walker & Co., Boston, MA. 1889.

Hales, John G. *Plan of the Town of Chelmsford in the County of Middlesex*. Surveyed in 1831 by John G. Hales.

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

Middlesex North Registry of Deeds. www.lowelldeeds.com.

Perham, Henry S. *A Sketch of the History of Chelmsford, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia, PA, J.W. Lewis. 1890.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Lowell, MA. 1907 and 1950.

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

Waters, Dr. Wilson. *The History of Chelmsford, Massachusetts*. Lowell, Mass., 1917.