

Tenement House, Chelmsford Glass Works  
Lowell, Massachusetts

HABS. No. MASS-327

HABS  
MASS.

9 - Low

3.

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Massachusetts

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Frank Chouteau Brown, DISTRICT OFFICER  
76 Chestnut Street, Boston, Mass.

ADDENDUM TO  
TENEMENT HOUSE  
Chelmsford Glass Works  
Lowell  
Middlesex County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-327

HABS  
MASS  
9-LOW,  
3-

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

*APPENDIX 7A*  
TENEMENT HOUSE

~~(Chelmsford Glass House)~~

HABS  
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Location: Chelmsford Glass Works, Lowell, Middlesex County, Massachusetts.

Significance: The Chelmsford Glass Works Tenement House is the only extant housing model erected by the company for its operatives.

Description: The Tenement House hugs the ground, stretching fifteen bays long. The Tenement House stands at one and a half stories under a pitch roof. Each gable end has two windows. Clapboard covers three sides of the house, while its West wall is shingled. Changes to the building consist of a one story covered entrance porch with shed roof on the West side and of a one story lean-to in back of the East unit.

The Tenement House holds three housing units. The elevation for each house unit falls into five bays. Its four windows are arranged two per side of the entrance door.

History: Established in 1802, the Chelmsford Glass Works recruited skilled operatives from Germany. Topping out at twenty families, the company built a two story overseer house as well as smaller houses for the operatives and their families. Company housing was near the primary manufactory and also nearby the Middlesex canal. The canal brought essential raw materials to the manufactory's doorstep; the needed materials were potash, sand, and wood.

The Tenement House is reminiscent of plans by English architect, John Woods. The architect's plans were published in A Series of Plans for Cottages, or Habitations of the Labourer, Either in Husbandry or the Mechanic Arts.

Sources:

Anne R. Wardwell, "National Register for Historic Places Nomination: Chelmsford Glass Works: Long House," National Park Service, 1972. Includes photograph.

Historic Buildings of Massachusetts. edited by John C. Poppeliers. Scribner Historic Building Series. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. Photographic catalogue of historic buildings, built primarily during the colonial and federal periods.