

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	58

1. Town Chelmsford

Address 24 Chamberlain Road

Name Charles Adams House

Present use residence

Present owner Edward C. Gray

3. Description:

Date ca 1800

Source see attached

Style Georgian

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric brick-common bond
modern

Outbuildings (describe) shed-left rear corner

Other features 4 end chimneys, 8 fire
places

Altered see attached Date _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:

26,700 sq. ft.

One acre or less x Over one acre

Approximate frontage 145 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

29 feet

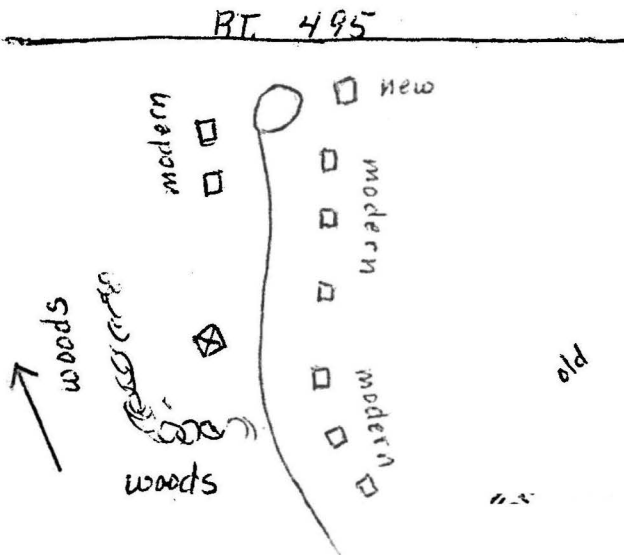
6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury

Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission

Date October 24, 1976

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 5 - 13A

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location
in relation to nearest cross streets and
other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

7. Original owner (if known) Isaac Adams, Sr. (b. ca. 1769, d. 1829)

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal		Conservation	Recreation
Agricultural	x	Education	Religion
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	Science/ invention
The Arts	_____	Industry	Social/ humanitarian
Commerce	_____	Military	Transportation
Communication		Political	
Community development			

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This lovely brick house was built by Isaac Adams, Sr., who is said to have mixed the lime for it himself. He probably bought the land with a house already upon it in Dec. 1791. In 1797 he married Hannah Adams; probably the brick house was built at this time. It definitely was built before 1813, when their daughter Hannah Maria was born. In 1829 Isaac died of dysentery at age 60 years, and the farm ownership passed to his oldest son, Charles. Charles had married in 1826, and he and his wife were already living in the house and helping to work the farm when Isaac died.

Charles and Nancy remained in the house for the rest of their life, although their children moved out of town. However, one son, Amos Francis, retained his interest in Chelmsford, donated the cost of building the Adams Library (#224), and contributed liberally to the Unitarian Church organ and to the erection of All Saints' cloister. In 1883 Charles Adams died, and the homestead passed out of Adams ownership. However, it continued to be a farm until well into the 20th century.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

1831 map; 1856 map; 1875 Beers Atlas
Chelmsford Town Records: Bk. T, pg. 191 (81)
"Chelmsford Vital Statistics to 1850"
Waters, "History of Chelmsford", 1917
Chelmsford Newsweekly, 1955
Letters of Mrs. Grace Harris
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds:
Bk. 12, pg. 112 (1827); Bk. 7, pg. 145 (1791)

24 Chamberlain Road
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

Book 1418, pg. 332	10/22/1958	Cedarwood Homes, Inc., Belmont, to Edward C. & Eunice M. Gray, Lexington Lot A' - 1958 plan 26,700 sq. ft. & buildings driveway easement
Book 1335, pg. 448	5/18/1956	Derry Frosted Foods, Inc., Derry, N.H. to Cedarwood Homes, Inc., Belmont Parcel 1 - land & buildings
Book 1335, pg. 447	5/18/1956	Estate of James M. Cormick to Derry Frosted Foods, Inc., Derry, N.H. \$18,000 2 lots, 29 acres & 116 sq. rods & buildings thereon Lot 2
Probate Docket #311363 Cambridge		Estate of Annie E. Cormick to James M. Cormick
Book 847, pg. 146	6/30/1934	Carrie A. Dickson, Lowell, to Annie E. Cormick 2nd parcel - 29 acres & 116 rods & buildings 2nd lot - "on which the buildings stand."
Book 526, pg. 292	2/ 5/1914	Haven G. Hill, Lowell, to Carrie A. Dickson, Lowell 3rd parcel - 29 acres & 116 sq. rods 2nd lot - on which the buildings stand
Book 493, pg. 370	10/14/1912	Annie E. Cormick to Haven G. Hill, Lowell 2 lots - 29 acres & 116 sq. rods 2nd lot - on which the buildings stand.
Book 433, pg. 116	4/28/1909	Haven G. Hill, Lowell, to Annie E. Cormick 2 lots - 29 acres & 116 sq. rods 2nd lot - on which the buildings stand.
Book 432, pg. 376	4/27/1909	James M. Cormick to Haven G. Hill, Lowell 2 lots - 29 acres & 116 sq. rods 2nd lot - on which the buildings stand.
Book 416, pg. 545	3/ 7/1908	Annie L. Clark, Lowell, to James M. Cormick, Lowell 2 lots- 29 acres & 116 sq. rods 2nd lot - on which the buildings stand.

Lowell Courier-Citizen

Jan. 5, 1911 - Amos Francis Adams died Wednesday morning at his home, 37 Park avenue, Newton. He was born in 1842, in the old Charles Adams place in the southern part of the town. He went to school here and was for a time at the Appleton academy in New Ipswich.

Going to Boston in 1862, he obtained employment in the Quincy market. He entered the commission business in 1866, and finally became the senior member of the firm of Adams & Chapman, commission merchants in North Market street. He married Miss Alice Wellington.

He was something of a Nimrod, and had his guns and dogs and loved to go to the West on a hunting trip. Most good men have good mothers, and the mother of Amos Francis Adams was a good and lovely woman. He was a handsome, well built man, and very ~~seeiable~~ affable. He gave generously when appealed to for good objects, and was interested in the progress and betterment of his native town. He gave liberally to the organ in the Unitarian church, and also to the erection of one bay in the cloister of All Saints' church.

In other instances he manifested his interest in the improvement of the town. His great gift to his native place is the Adams library, which will for many generations stand as a testimonial to his love for Chelmsford and to his generosity, guided by wisdom. Perhaps no gift which Mr. Adams could have made would have been of more lasting benefit to the people of the town, and the building itself will stand the test of time, being of excellent architecture.





8/8/2004 F. Merriam