

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13/21/10	Nashua South		CLM.336
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 20 Dunstable Road

Historic Name: Benjamin Adams Building

Uses: Present: commercial

Original: multiple-family dwelling

Date of Construction: between 1831 and 1856

Source: 1831 and 1856 maps of Chelmsford

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/vinyl

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 2000 replacement siding and entry materials

Ca. 2000 covering of 2nd story window opening

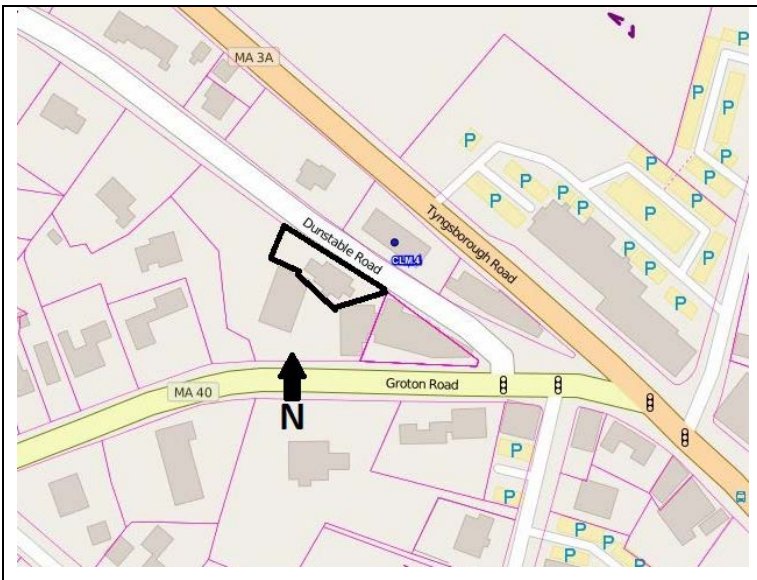
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .1 A

Setting: The building is located approximately 20' southwest from Dunstable Rd. The building encompasses most of the parcel with an asphalt-paved parking area to its NW and flat grassy areas immediately in front of the building. The surrounding area is largely characterized by 19th century commercial 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

20 DUNSTABLE ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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 2.5-story building has a stone foundation, walls clad in replacement vinyl siding with vinyl trim, and an asphalt-shingled side gable roof with gable returns. Two, internal, brick chimneys are located near the ends of the building. The primary (northeast) façade is five symmetrical bays wide with windows in the north and south bays of both stories. Windows on the first story appear to be historic, eight-over-twelve, wood, double-hung windows. Those on the second story appear to be replacement, six-over-six, double-hung windows; these windows feature exterior storm windows. All windows in the building feature decorative shutters. The main entry is located in the center bay and features a replacement wood door with sidelights. The entry is sheltered by a front gable porch hood supported by simple brackets. The hood is a later addition to the building as it does not appear in a ca. 1910 photograph of the building (see below). The photograph also shows that a window was located above the entry on the second story, but this opening has since been covered with siding. The side walls are each two bays deep with windows in the bays. The south wall features a two-story, one-bay wing. The north wall has a two-story, two-bay wing. The wings appear as early as the 1875 map of Chelmsford, and therefore, may date to the building's original construction.

The 1907 and 1950 Sanborn maps show the building evenly divided into two residential units. In 1951 Roger and Thelma Welch purchased the property and eventually converted the building into offices for the Welch Insurance Company, which remains at this address.

The resource is an altered example of a mid-nineteenth century building. It 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 does not appear on the 1831 map of Chelmsford, but is present on the 1856 map; therefore, it was constructed between these dates. Deed research traced the chain of ownership back to 1867 when Benjamin Adams (1801-1876) sold the property to Jacob Drake. The 1856 map of Chelmsford shows that "B & T Adams" owned the building at this date. B & T were Benjamin and Thomas Adams (1805-1881), who were brothers and owned numerous parcels throughout the North Chelmsford area. The 1880 US Population Census lists Jacob Drake (1802-1887) and his wife Lucy (born ca. 1817) living in Tyngsborough with their daughter Abigail and her husband George Marshall. At this date Jacob is listed as a farmer and George as a farm laborer. The Drakes owned the property until 1899, but likely did not live at this address. Lucy sold the property two years after Jacob's death to Floyer J. Whittemore. The 1900 census lists Whittemore (born ca. 1859) living in Chelmsford with wife Clara (born ca. 1860) and two young children. At this date Whittemore was employed as a blacksmith. The 1900-1901 and 1905 Chelmsford city directories list Whittemore living on North Road near Syndicate; therefore, it does not appear the Whittemore family lived at this address during their period of ownership. In 1915 Whittemore sold the property to George H. Manning. No information was discovered about Manning. He does not appear in the 1917 or 1921 Chelmsford city directories, so it appears he did not live in town during his period of ownership. Manning sold the property in 1939 to John (1863-1949) and Alice (1866-1942) Marinel (sometimes spelled Lemarinel). The 1942 Chelmsford City Directory lists the Marinels living at this address, but no occupations are provided. After his parents' deaths, the property was granted to George W. Marinel (1895-1980). The 1949 city directory lists George operating the Marinel Transportation Company at 15 Groton Road and living at 60 Dunstable Road. In 1951 Marinel sold the property to Roger P. (1915-2003) and Thelma (1917-2001) Welch. Thelma was a daughter of George Marinel. The 1957 city directory lists Roger as the manager of the Marinel Transportation Company, real estate and insurance, as well as a trustee of the Adams Library; Thelma was then a teacher at North School and they resided on Sharon Road. Roger also established the Roger Welch Insurance Company that continues operations in this building.

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Chelmsford Historical Commission. *History of Chelmsford 1910 – 1970*. Chelmsford Historical Commission, Chelmsford, MA. 2011.

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.

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

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



Ca. 1910 photograph showing the building at 20 Dunstable Road in the center. (Chelmsford Historical Commission.)