

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13/25/2	Nashua South		CLM.344
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 4 – 8 Groton Road

Historic Name: William Adams House

Uses: Present: multiple-family dwelling

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1830

Source: 1831 map of North Chelmsford

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: unknown

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/vinyl

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Ca. 1930 detached garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 1860 carriage house addition

Ca. 1990 replacement siding and windows

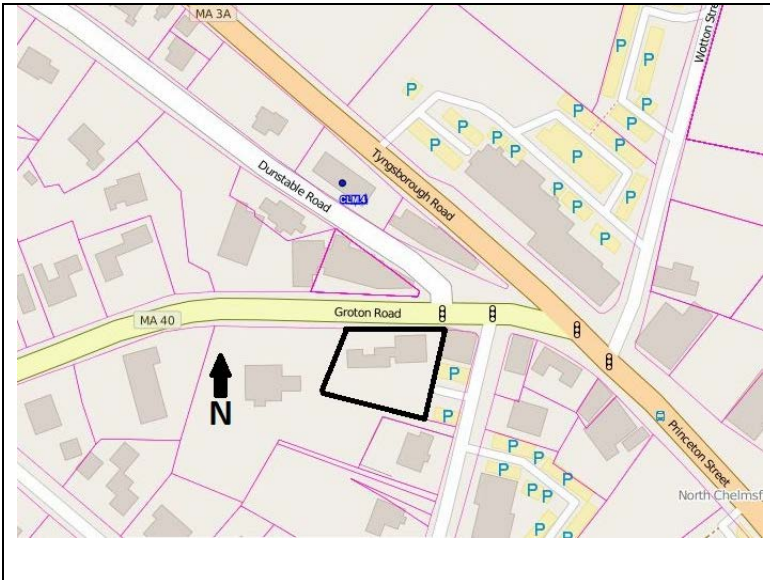
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .34 A

Setting: The building is located approximately 20' south of Groton Rd. The building encompasses most of the parcel with flat grassy areas in the front and east sides. An asphalt-paved driveway at the west end lead to the attached garage. The surrounding area includes 19th & 20th c. commercial and residential developments.

Locus Map



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

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

4-8 GROTON 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 two-story building is clad in replacement vinyl siding with vinyl trim and has a multiple gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Windows throughout the building are replacement, one-over-one, double-hung windows. The building is divided into three units at 4, 6, and 8 Groton Road. The original part of the building at the east end is six bays wide. Two brick chimneys are located along the ridgeline of the upright portion. The primary (north) façade includes the two-story upright portion in the east two bays. This section has a front gable roof with gable returns and single windows in the four bays of the two stories. The wing portion has single windows in three of the first story bays and the main entry is located in the third bay from the west. A two-bay, front gable, wall dormer with gable returns is located above the main entry. The dormer includes two, single windows. The original portion of the building is three bays deep. The east wall includes the main entry into one of the residential units in the center bay of the first story; the remaining bays feature single windows. A one-story, enclosed breezeway connects the west wall of the original building to the third residential unit on the west. The 1907 Sanborn map of the area shows a one-story breezeway connecting to a two-story carriage house. It appears this carriage house was converted into a residential unit in the early twentieth century. This portion of the building has a front gable roof without gable returns, is clad in replacement vinyl siding with vinyl trim, and has replacement, one-over-one, double-hung windows. The primary (north) façade is two bays wide with the main entry in the west bay of the first story. The entry is sheltered by a porch hood supported by two wood columns. A two-story addition on the west wall of the carriage house was constructed ca. 1960. The addition is one bay deep with a ribbon of four windows on the first story and a paired window on the second. The two-car garage is located to the west of the addition. It features a front gable roof with gable returns, wood garage doors, and is clad in replacement siding.

The building is an altered example of a mid-nineteenth century residence. 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.

A building appears at this location on the 1831 map of North Chelmsford. Deed research traced the ownership history to the Adams family when William Adams granted it to William Adams, Jr. in 1838; therefore, the building was constructed ca. 1830. The house is shown on the 1856 map as owned by the W. Adams estate; William Adams, Jr. lived between 1790 and 1851. In 1859 William's widow, Sarah, sold the property to Calvin Howard (1822-1870). The 1860 US Population Census lists Calvin living with wife Mary (1829-1915) in North Chelmsford with Calvin employed as a carpenter. The 1865 Massachusetts Census shows that the Howards had two children by this date, Henry Edward (1861-1931) and Mary Belle (born ca. 1864 and died soon after). After Calvin's death in 1870, the property was granted to Mary. The 1880 census lists Mary, Henry, and her mother Ruth Hodsden living in North Chelmsford with Henry working as a laborer. The property eventually transferred to Henry's ownership. In 1882 he married Ora Albee. The 1920 census lists Henry living on Groton Road and working as a moulder in a machine shop. Also living with him were his daughter Mary Belle (born ca. 1882) and housekeeper Rose Stutevant (born ca. 1858 in Canada); it appears Ora died by this date, but no record of her death was discovered. In the 1930 census Henry is still listed at Groton Road and then working as a carpenter at an iron foundry. Living with him at this date were wife M. Virginia (born ca. 1862-1932) and daughter Mary. After Henry's death in 1931, the property was transferred to Virginia. Virginia passed the next year and the property was transferred to her heir J. Arthur Mallalieu. In 1935 he granted the property to Thomas H. and Sarah J. Stewart, who retained it for approximately one week before selling it to John and Harriet Buchanan. According to the 1949 Chelmsford City Directory, the Buchanans lived at this address and John was then working at a foundry. In 1953 they sold the property to Francis G. Miskell. The 1957 City Directory lists Miskell living on Mission Road in North Chelmsford, therefore, he did not reside at this address. During Miskell's period of ownership, the house was converted from a single-family to a multiple-family residence. The property remained in the Miskell family until 1999.

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Ca. 1900 image of 4-8 Groton Road. (Chelmsford Public Library – Royal Shawcross Photograph Collection.)