

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13/26/1	Nashua South		CLM.415
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Town/City: Chelmsford

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Vinal Square

Photograph



Address: 11 Vinal Square

Historic Name: Rostler's Market

Uses: Present: mixed-use

Original: mixed-use

Date of Construction: ca. 1910

Source: Chelmsford Historical Society photograph collection

Style/Form: altered beyond recognition

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: unknown

Wall/Trim: wood siding/brick

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Unknown date: rear additions

Ca. 1960 storefront alterations

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .07 A

Setting: The building is on the southeast corner of Vinal Sq. and Adams St. and is across from the intersections of Groton, Dunstable, and Tyngsboro rds. The building encompasses the entire lot and sidewalks are along the north and west sides. The surrounding area includes 19th and 20th c. residential and commercial 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

11 VINAL SQUARE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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 walls clad in wood siding with wood trim and a front gable asphalt-shingle roof. Two brick, internal chimneys are located on the east slope of the roof. A one-story brick storefront surrounds the north and west walls and a one-story, concrete block addition is at the rear. The original portion of the building has wood, six-over-six, double-hung windows with exterior storm windows visible on the second and half stories. The storefront has large plate glass windows with wood trim. An abbreviated pent roof is atop the storefront. Signage is in the center of roof advertising the Taaza Market, which is currently vacant.

The resource is an altered example of a mid-twentieth century mixed-use building that retains historic integrity of location, setting, and feeling.

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 1907 Sanborn map, but is visible on a 1938 historical aerial map of the area. A historical photograph of the area shows the preparation of the site that would include this building. The exact date of the photograph is unknown; however, the photographer, Simon Towle, died in 1910, so construction of the building appears to date prior to 1910.

Deed research traced the ownership history of the property to 1891 when Clara Adams sold it to James and Ellen Wooten. The Wootens owned the property through 1921. James Wooten also owned several other properties and businesses in Vinal Square. In 1921 James Wooten and his children sold the property to Anna and Sigmund Rostler. According to his draft registration card, Sigmund Eli Rostler w(1892-1972) as born in Storoznitz, Bukovina, Austria. He emigrated to the US with his parents and brother Benjamin ca. 1895. By 1910 the family added two daughters and were living in Lowell. By 1922 Sigmund and his wife Anna B.(1898-1980) were living in Lowell, but operating a grocery store in North Chelmsford. The 1925 city directory lists Rostler's Market at the corner of Groton Road in North Chelmsford. The Rostlers remained in Lowell, but retained the North Chelmsford property until 1944. By 1949 the Princeton Market was in operation at this address by John Stefan. The Princeton Market owned the property until 1973. The property was sold several additional times since 1973. In January 2016 the Board of Selectmen granted a liquor license for the property to house the Craft Beer House and Premium Liquors store. At the date of survey, the store was not yet open for business.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Chelmsford Historical Society. Photographic Collection. On file at the Chelmsford Historical Society, 40 Byam Road, South Chelmsford.

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

Historic aerial maps available at www.historicaerials.com.

Melanson, Alana. "Craft beer store OK'd for Vinal Sq. in N. Chelmsford." *Lowell Sun*. 12 January 2016.

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

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

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



Pre-1910 photograph of the former Adams Tavern building, showing site preparation at the lower right for the 11 Vinal Square building. (Chelmsford Historical Society.)