

FORM B - BUILDING

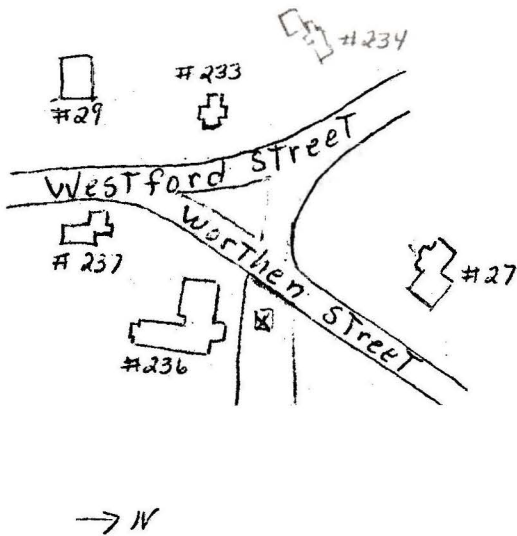
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no. Chelmsford Center	Form no. 235
-------------------------------------	-----------------



town Chelmsford
 address 9 Worthen Street
 name _____
 present use gift shop
 present owner Central Congregational Church
 description: _____
 date 1909
 source Lowell Courier-Citizen
real estate valuation record
 style _____

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



Architect _____
 Exterior wall fabric clapboard - butted
 Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features gable roof

Altered _____ Date _____
 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
13,608 sq. ft.
 One acre or less x Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 77 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street
ca 40 feet

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

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury
 Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission
 Date February 10, 1977

(over)

Builder: Almon W. Holt

7. Original owner (if known) Mrs. Charles Nichols, Sr. (Martha E.)
 Original use residence
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates gift shop - present time

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Lowell Courier-Citizen, April 13, 1909: "Work is underway upon a house for Mrs. Charles Nichols on the Worthen street frontage of her property. R. Wilson Dix is putting in the foundation and A.W. Holt has the contract for the carpenter work." Apparently Mrs. Nichols, who was a widow, remained at her old home on North Road next to that of her son, Charles Nichols, Jr. The new dwelling was rented out, and in Oct. 1914 Rodney F. Hemenway and his family moved in. Mr. Hemenway was a very prominent newspaper man, having worked for Lowell, Manchester, N.H., and Boston papers. At the time that he lived here, he was working for the New England Tel. & Tel. Co. However, on Jan. 1, 1915 he died of a heart attack at the age of 56 years. After his death, Mrs. Hemenway was a co-partner of the "Cookie Jar," a store/luncheonette in the Wilson Block (#204). In 1920 Mrs. Nichols sold the house, and it remained a residence until it was purchased in 1965 by the Central Congregational Church; it is now know as Ye Olde Parsonage Gift Shop, where articles are sold on consignment.

It was used intermittently as a parsonage between 1965 and 1970, when the gift shop opened.

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

Lowell Courier-Citizen: 4/13/1909, 1/2/1915, 12/10/1916, 8/7/1914, 12/29/1914
 Middlesex NorthDistrict Registry of Deeds: Bk. 392, p.389; Bk.1702, p. 484
 1889 Atlas
 Chelmsford Assessors' records & real estate valuation lists
 Clinton Vincent, church member

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Chelmsford	Form No: 235
Property Name:	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

3. Description

15
5 1 ³/₄ FR/B

29

Chelmsford Assessros' Records
1972

26
7

Open frame
porch

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

9 Worthen Street
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

Compiled by J. Drury
October 1974

Book 1702, Page 484 June 25, 1965	Walter L. & Jacqueline L. Damon to Central Congregational Church Buildings thereon Northerly portion: Plan Book 56, Plan 26.
Book 1632, Page 163 December 30, 1963	Dexter W. & Lois M. Laton to Walter L. & Jacqueline L. Damon Buildings thereon
Book 1353, Page 348 October 25, 1956	Dexter W. Laton to Dexter W. & Lois M. Laton Buildings thereon
Book 1229, Page 561 July 24, 1953	Rose E. Macauley to Carrie F. Wilson, Natalie W. Laton, Dexter W. Laton Buildings thereon 31,227 sq. ft.
Book 1229, Page 560 July 24, 1953	Carrie F. Wilson & Natalie W. Laton to Rose E. Macauley Buildings thereon 31,227 sq. ft.
Book 1023, Page 496 May 28, 1945	Carrie F. Wilson to Carrie F. Wilson & Natalie W. Laton Buildings thereon 31,227 sq. ft.
Book 815, Page 110 June 25, 1932	Rose Macauley to Carrie F. Wilson Buildings thereon
Book 815, Page 110 June 25, 1932	Arthur C. & Carrie F. Wilson to Rose Macauley Buildings thereon
Book 654, Page 433 December 16, 1921	Mary C. Ahearn to Arthur C. & Carrie F. Wilson Buildings thereon
Book 625, Page 371 May 14, 1920	Martha E. Nichols to Mary C. Ahearn Buildings thereon Portion of premises previously deeded
Book 392, Page 389 July 21, 1906	Lewis K. Howard to Martha E. Nichols Buildings thereon

Lowell Courier-Citizen

Aug. 7, 1914 - The Nichols cottage in Worthen street has been taken by Rodney F. Hemenway who will occupy it with his family about the first of October,

Jan. 2, 1915 - Rodney F. Hemenway and Walter S. Coburn, men prominently known in this city, were called to the great beyond yesterday, the first day of the new year. The end came suddenly to both and took them from the community where for many years they have been associated with its people. Their places will be hard to fill.

Rodney Hemenway dropped dead early last evening at the store of Irving Barlow in Chelmsford street. William William B. Northrup he was waiting for a Chelmsford Centre car when he suddenly became faint and slipped to the sidewalk. It was though at first that it was but a fainting spell, but as he failed to respond to restoratives, Dr. Charles L. Sweetsir was called and the ambulance summoned. He gradually became weaker and died soon after the arrival of the doctor.

Rodney F. Hemenway was for many years one of the best known newspaper men in Lowell. A man of brilliant literary ability, he numbered his friends by the score. Coming from Manchester, N.H., he was associated with the Lowell Times and later with the Mail as city editor. He then became Lowell correspondent of the Boston Herald which position he held for nearly 20 years. It was during this time that Lowell people came to know him best and his Sunday letters in the Herald were widely read. These letters dwelt largely with the political affairs of Lowell, with which he was probably more familiar than any other man. His writings were most readable, never labored, but with an easy, flowing, free style.

About eight years ago Mr. Hemenway resigned his position with the Herald and went into the employ of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Co., in their sub-license department, as a special agent. This position he held at the time of his death.

Mr. Hemenway was a member of the Vesper Country Club where he spent his summers for a number of years until the time of his marriage about two years ago to Miss Edith Hagerman of Chelmsford. He has since made his home in Chelmsford. A man of seemingly robust health, his death is a distinct shock and an irreparable loss to the community. His age was 56 years. He is survived by his wife, and one daughter, Marianna; his father and mother, Mr. & Mrs. William W. Hemenway; three sisters, Mrs. William D. Sargent, Mrs. James Cheyne and Mrs. Edwin L. Kittredge; also one brother, Ralph W. Hemenway.

Dec. 10, 1916 - Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Hemenway announce this morning through the suburban advertising column the opening of their Christmas sale of greeting cards, booklets and gifts at "The Cookie Jar," in the old Central House, on Tuesday afternoon, December 12. Orders may be given at any time for Christmas pudding, fruit cake and ice cream.

This land, adjacent to 9 Worthen Street, was donated to the Central Congregational Church in the 1970s by Ms. Elva Russell. Prior to park development in 1988, the land was overgrown with weeds, dead trees and poison ivy. It started as an Eagle Scout project by David Beaton, as a memorial to his best friend and fellow scout, Johnny Carson. Johnny, who was a member of this church, was killed in a tragic railroad accident while running with David and other members of the Chelmsford High Track Team on December 30, 1987.

The park was designed by Brenda Dudley Ball, a member of the church and of the Open Gate Garden Club in Chelmsford. Although an interior designer by profession, she has always had a love for gardening and did a phenomenal job in the design of this park. Within the design are shades of pink, yellow and white, with flowering times staggered throughout the summer. Plantings were chosen which require minimal maintenance.

Many people participated in building this park and in dedicating trees and shrubs in memory of loved ones. Another church member, Bob Moore, built the beautiful gazebo in memory of his wife, Barbara. In addition to the many shrubs that have been planted, three more Eagle Scout projects have been completed (lawn sprinkler system, entrance way fencing, and indirect lighting).

The park was dedicated on June 10, 1990. This park is maintained by mostly volunteer labor from the church and from Boy Scout Troop 74 (Johnny's Eagle Scout troop).

Even though the park is privately owned by the church, it has from the beginning been opened to the public and has seen a lot of use; picnics, weddings, prom pictures, and as a private place for a time of reflection. The park received special recognition by The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts when it was included on their 2000 edition of Massachusetts Gardens on Tour. This tour featured more than 75 gardens, historic sites and public spaces in communities across the state.

John W. Carson 5/30/2005



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT
B. S. A. TROOP 74

DAVID W. BEATON

PROJECT CONSISTED OF
CLEARING LAND AND
CONSTRUCTING WALKWAYS AND BENCHES

1988 - 1989

"IN MEMORY OF MY FRIEND JOHN"



**JOHN R. CARSON
MEMORIAL PARK**

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD
IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES

1990

PUBLIC WELCOME



9 Worthen Street

9/6/2004 F. Merriam

