

PROPOSED CHELMSFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT

FINAL REPORT
OF

THE CHELMSFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT
STUDY COMMITTEE

SUBMITTED TO THE TOWN OF CHELMSFORD
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 1975

May 1, 1975

Final Report

The Town of Chelmsford Historic District Study Committee has completed all the necessary steps which must precede the submission of its Final Report on the proposed district to the Town Meeting.

These steps are:

- (1) Appointment of the Study Committee by the Selectmen (August 1974).
- (2) Survey of historic buildings, sites, and areas of the Town.
- (3) Consideration of options available for historic district controls.
- (4) Preparations of a Preliminary Report.
- (5) Notification of Public Hearing.
- (6) Public Hearing held by the Study Committee (April 29, 1975).

Preliminary Report

The Preliminary Report, dated February 26, 1975, was filed as required with:

- (1) The Massachusetts Historical Commission (February 27, 1975).
- (2) The Chelmsford Planning Board.

In addition copies for general reference were placed in the office of the Town Clerk and in the Adams Library.

The Preliminary Report is appended hereto and forms a part of this final report. The Preliminary Report is unchanged except for several editorial corrections. Appendix B, Photographs, and Appendix C, Inventory Sheets for Historic Buildings and Sites have been omitted from this distribution.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission has reviewed the Preliminary Report and informed the Study Committee that it finds the proposed Chelmsford Historic District acceptable as proposed.

Final Report

PUBLIC HEARING

The Hearing was held on April 29, 1975 in the Town Hall, and was attended by about 45 property holders or residents in the proposed district, and other towns' people. A considerable number of questions and suggestions from property holders were entertained.

One suggestion that all members of the Historic District Commission (if established) be residents or property holders within the District was considered impractical by the Committee for the following reasons:

- (1) Although property holders or residents are most immediately affected by the operation of the District, the District is a Town operation and should be treated as such.
- (2) The Massachusetts Historic District Act requires that where possible one appointment each be made from nominees submitted respectively by the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and thru the local board of realtors.
- (3) The proposed By-Law contains a specific requirement that one member be also a member of the Chelmsford Historic Commission, this is deemed necessary in order to advise on historical matters.
- (4) Already the proposed By-Law contains a specific requirement that at least one of the appointees shall be a resident or property holder in the District.

As a result of a comment that appointees to the District Commission might not have any more expertise than property owners in the District, the Study Committee is of the opinion that the requirements listed above should result in a well-balanced and competent Commission.

In response to a comment that operating procedures for the Commission are not sufficiently defined at this time, the Study Committee has again reviewed the Massachusetts Historic District Act, and feels that it adequately covers the general conduct of a Historic District Commission. The Study Committee also emphasizes that paragraph 5 of the proposed By-Law specifically empowers the Historic District Commission to adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of its business. As a result of discussion at the Hearing the Study Committee has unanimously voted to amend "Exclusions from Review" paragraph 3 of the proposed By-Law, by adding a fourth exclusion:

"d) Storm doors and windows, and screen doors and windows."

Final Report

ADDITIONS TO DISTRICT

The following proposals for inclusion in the proposed district have been again reviewed by the Study Committee:

- (1) Extension of the proposed District up Westford Street to near Route 495.
- (2) Addition of the open land at the end of Crosby Lane between Crosby Lane and the access road to Parlment Plaza(Site of the first Town Meeting in 1654).
- (3) The Old Chelmsfords Gingerale Plant on Littleton Road opposite Forefather's Burying Ground.

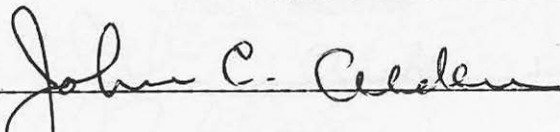
The first of these was suggested by a property owner outside of the proposed District. The second two have been recommended by the survey team of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. These all had been earlier considered tentatively by the Study Committee, but because of limitations of time the Study Committee has decided not to include them in the present proposal. In the event that a Historic District is established, however, the Study Committee unanimously recommends that these proposals be considered by the Historic District Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS

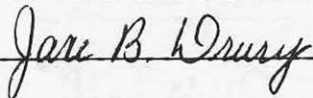
The Historic District Study Committee unanimously recommends:

- (1) That the Town accept the proposed Chelmsford Historic District, as described in the Preliminary Report dated February 26, 1975.
- (2) That the By-Law establishing an Historic District be adopted as proposed with an amendment to paragraph 3 of the By-Law which adds a fourth exclusion from review "d) Storm doors and windows, and screen doors and windows."

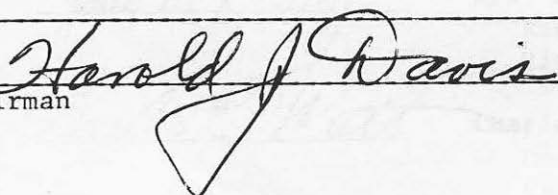
Chelmsford Historic District Study Committee:



John C. Alden



John J. Balco



Mrs. William H. Drury

Chairman

Charles E. Watt, Sr.

Harold J. Davis