

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Chelmsford Center

OLD TOWN HALL local

AND/OR COMMON

Chelmsford Center Historic District (Preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Multiple

CITY, TOWN

Chelmsford

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE I
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Multiple County Registry of Deeds (North District)

STREET & NUMBER

360 Gorham Street

CITY, TOWN

Lowell,

STATE

Massachusetts 01852

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey
Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1973 to 1977

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

02108

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chelmsford Center Historic District encompasses approximately 35 acres around Center Common which is formed by the convergence of six main streets: Billerica Boston Road, Littleton Road, Westford Street, Chelmsford Street and North Road and New York, New Haven and Hartford Rail Road. The area, which is located on gently upland, was the site of the town's original settlement and has remained its functional center to the present. Despite pressures from a rapid increase in population and heavily traveled roads the area has retained the character of a New England village with a minimum of intrusions. Of 42 structures within the district only five buildings three additions are considered intrusions. The majority of buildings are of wood construction and date primarily from the mid to late nineteenth century. The north end of the district is residential in character, while commercial activities are concentrated around Central Square at the southern end. In addition, the triangular common at the center of the district is surrounded by several public buildings including the Town Hall, Fire Station, 1802 School House and Unitarian Church. The common is also the site of several commemorative markers and a Revolutionary War Memorial. A large burying ground is located west of the common. Individual buildings within the district are described below:

The First Parish Unitarian Church (#213-photo #1) which is sited on a rise at the intersection of Littleton Road and Westland Street, faces southeast on the common. Built in 1842, it is Greek Revival in design and characteristically faces gable end to the street, with a pedimented Ionic portico. Wide corner boards and an encircling entablature are other major design features. A school and chapel were added to the west elevation in 1955 and are considered intrusions.

The Sullivan-Haley House (#217) is a one and one half story, clapboarded Greek Revival structure of about 1845. Facing gable end to the street, it is side-hall in plan. A one story ell and porch have been attached to the rear elevation.

The Patrick Haley House (#229), constructed c. 1880 is a simple Italianate cottage which rises one and one half stories to a ridge roof. The heavily bracketed door hood on this side-hall plan house is a major feature.

The Daniel Haley House (#230) was designed in 1915 in the popular Georgian Revival style. It is a two and a half story clapboard dwelling enclosed by a hipped roof with dormers.

The Edward Robbins House (#232), built in 1904, has a more elaborate Georgian design. Its symmetrical facade is framed by corner pilasters and is organized around a central pedimented pavilion which is emphasized by pilasters. The entry is sheltered by a balustraded portico. The upper portion of its hipped roof is masked by a Chippendale balustrade.

The Hezekiah Packard House (#29 -photo #3) stands on a rise overlooking Worthen Street and has a greater set-back than most of the other houses in the district. It is

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elaborate late Georgian house with quoins, a modillion cornice and a balustraded hip roof. Alterations include the removal of the north interior chimney and the replacement of the original center entrance with double doors in the late nineteenth century

The Stavelly House (#234) is a two and a half story Italianate residence constructed c. 1880 with its gable end to the street. Stylistic features include quoins and a bracketted cornice. A barn is attached to the southern end of the rear elevations.

The Samuel Davis/Russell House (#27 - photo #4) is a two story Federal period house with interior end chimneys enclosed by a low hipped roof. The facade is sheathed with a flush boarding and is framed by Ionic pilasters on high pedestals. Similar pilasters carry a central pediment and frame the entry which is headed by an unusual glass and wood fan.

The Ward House (#238) is a two story hipped roof Italianate structure. Like other houses of this style in the district it has a bracketted entrance hood and also possesses a wide frieze and bracketted cornice. A one story all across the northeast elevation connects the house to its barn.

Constructed in 1868, the Central Baptist Church (#239) is a Gothic Revival structure facing southeast on the common. Typically asymmetrical, it has a buttressed tower with an octagonal spire attached to its northeast corner. Buttresses are also used for decorative effect on the rest of the building. An extension of the roof creates the illusion of a clerestory. The major alteration to this building was the installation of shingles over its original flushboard siding in 1937.

Facing south on the common is the Winn-Emerson House (#37) a typical late Georgian house constructed in 1804. This two and a half story clapboarded house is enclosed by a ridge roof with interior chimneys. The entrance located on the symmetrical five bay facade is framed by paired pilasters separated by side lights and carrying a pediment. A similar entrance is found on the east elevation, also five bays long. A two story rear ell may have existed as a separate house in the mid-eighteenth century.

The Leslie Davis House (#242) is a one and one half story bungalow constructed in 1919 in a style unique to this district. A wide, triple window in a shed roof dormer is central to the facade. A one story porch extending across the facade was enclosed in 1971.

The neighboring Richardson-Davis House (#36) is a one and one half story ridge-roof, clapboard structure, built prior to 1845, with gable ends to the side. This was designed as a double house, containing two mirror image residences which shared a common room in the middle of the east section.

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The John Wilson House (#245), located on the eastern edge of this district, was constructed in 1894 in the Queen Anne style. This two story clapboard building rises to a slate covered hipped roof. Flanked by projecting end pavillions, the facade has an octagonal turret with a pyramidal roof. An open porch extends across part of the facade.

The Parkhurst Tailor Shop (#264), an 1894 Colonial Revival structure, is a two story clapboard structure enclosed by a hipped roof. Atypically, the facade has three entries, asymmetrically placed which are protected by a full length Doric piazza. One of the few masonry structures in the district, All Saints Episcopal Church (#247) is a Gothic Revival building constructed of grey random fieldstone with dressed granite trim. Build in stages between 1879 and 1889, it is asymmetrical in plan with a steep gabled roof. A large rose window is located in the west gable. A square, buttressed and crenelated tower with paired pointed arches beneath the battlements on each elevation was added to the eastern end of the church in 1888.

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LIST OF PHOTOS

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. First Parish Unitarian Church | INDIVIDUAL BUILDING: |
| 2. 1802 Schoolhouse | |
| 3. Hezekiah Packard House | |
| 4. Samuel Davis/Russell House | |
| 5. Dr. Samuel Dutton House | |
| 6. Middlesex Canal Toll House | |
| 7. Winn/Emerson House | |
| 8. J.P. Emerson House | |
| 9. Richardson/Davis House | |
| 10. Chelmsford Town Hall | |
| 11. Parkhurst Store | |
| 12. Kittredge/Sweeter House | |
| 13. Kittredge/Howard House | |
| 14. Episcopal Parsonage | |
| 15. Fiske House (NR) | |
| 16. Chelmsford Ginger Ale Co. | |
| 17. Ginger Ale Co. with Forefathers Cemetary in foreground | |
| 18. Littleton Road- streetscape | STREETSCAPES |
| 19. Westford & Worthen Streets- streetscape | |
| 20. Westford Street- streetscape | |
| 21. Bridge Street- streetscape | |
| 22. Billerica Road- streetscape | |
| 23. Chelmsford Street-streetscape | |
| 24. Chelmsford Street- streetscape | |
| 25. Academy Street- streetscape | |
| 26. North Road- streetscape | |
| 27. Chelmsford Street- streetscape | |
| 28. Westford Street- streetscape | |
| 29. Worthen Street- streetscape | |
| 30. Additions to Unitarian Church | INTRUSIONS |
| 31. Central Congregational Church | |
| 32. Addition to Central Baptist Church | |
| 33. Baptist Parsonage | |
| 34. Fire Station | |
| 35. Kidder Garage | |
| 36. Sweetser Building | |
| 37. Service Station | |

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IDENT NO. *	NAME	CONSTRUCTION DATE	ADDRESS
213	First Parish Unitarian Church	1842	2 Westford Street
1	1802 School House	1802	Westford Street
217	Sullivan/Haley House	C. 1845	4 Westford Street
229	Patrick Haley House	1880-2	2 Bridge Street
230	Daniel E. Haley House	1914-15	4 Bridge Street
231	Day House	1908	8 Westford Street
232	Edward Robbins House	1904	12 Westford Street
29	Hezekiah Packard House	1794	16 Westford Street
233	Batchelder House	1887	22 Westford Street
234	Stavelly House	1880	28 Westford Street
27	Samuel Davis/Russell House	1799	10 Worthen Street
28	Dr. Samuel Dutton House	C. 1808	14 Worthen Street
235	Nichols House	1909	9 Worthen Street
236	Central Congregational Church	1959	1 Worthen Street
237	Smith/Weatherbee House	1881	15 Westford Street
238	Ward House	1884	1-3 Westford Street
239	Central Baptist Church	1868	11 Academy Street
240	Baptist Parsonage	1955	7 Academy Street
2	Middlesex Canal Toll House	1832	Center Common
37	Winn/Emerson House	C. 1804	1 Academy St.-6 Nor
38	J. P. Emerson House	C. 1835	11 North Road
241	Center Fire Station	1952	7 North Road
242	Leslie Davis House	1904	5 North Road
36	Richardson/Davis House	C. 1845	1-3 North Road
225	Chelmsford Town Hall	1879	North Road
243	Kidder Garage	1922	59-61 Central Squar
205	Parkhurst Store	C. 1861	2 Chelmsford Street
218	Smith/Osborn House	C. 1858	8 Chelmsford Street
244	Sweetser Building	1923	10 Chelmsford Stree
206	Kittredge/Sweetser House	C. 1833	20 Chelmsford Stree
245	John Wilson House	1894	24 Chelmsford Stree
207	Kittredge/Howard House	C. 1840	21 Chelmsford Stree
246	Parkhurst Tailor Shop	1894	9-11 Chelmsford Str
24	Episcopal Parsonage	Before 1775	6 Billerica Road
247	All Saint's Episcopal Church	1879-1882	10 Billerica Road
248	Eustace B. Fiske House	1929	9 Billerica Road
25	Fiske House	1798	1 Billerica Road
249	Odd Fellows Building	1896	41-44 Central Squar
204	Wilson Block/Central House	1884	3-8 Central Square
250	Central House Stables	1884	1 Central Square
251	Service Station	1950 or 1951	8 Littleton Road
209	Chelmsford Ginger Ale Company	1913	Littleton Road

*Identifying number corresponds to Town and Massachusetts
Historical Commission survey number.

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9100
3700
3360
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4720000m N.

4719

22 MI. TO U.S. 2
9 MI. TO MASS. 2

4718

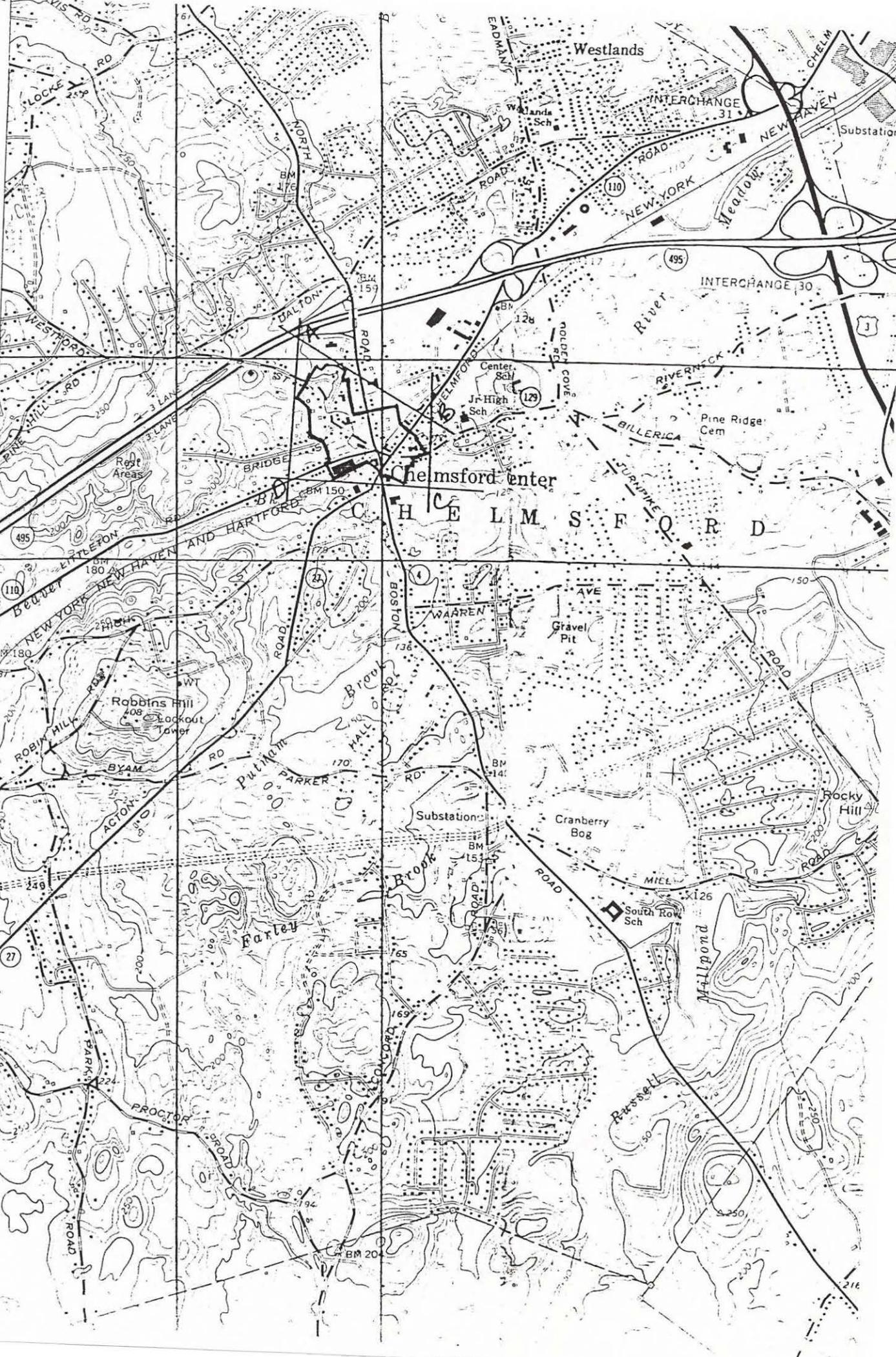
357

4717

4716

4715

6769 III SW
(WESTFORD)



8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chelmsford Center Historic District possesses integrity of setting, design, materials and workmanship and is significant as the hub of town activities since its settlement in the seventeenth century. While little of its earliest character remains, the wide range of architectural styles provide tangible evidence of the town's economic and social growth during the eighteenth and particularly the nineteenth centuries. Despite an extremely rapid growth rate in recent years which has obliterated the character of the surrounding farmland, Chelmsford Center has remained relatively unchanged, in part as the result of its status as a local historic district.

This district began to assume its present role as town center in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries when it was chosen as the site for several public buildings and common areas. The town's first meetinghouse, serving religious and civic needs, was erected here, on common lands between 1659 and 1660. Rebuilt in 1712 and again in 1792, it assumed its present form as the Greek Revival First Parish Unitarian Church (#213) in 1842. Although the town was no longer directly concerned with the support of religion at that time, it did pay for the high brick basement, occupied by town offices until the present Town Hall (#225) was constructed on the opposite side of common. In the late 17th century the common west of the meeting house was set aside as a cemetery which today contains markers bearing dates as early as 1690 as well as the graves of forty five Revolutionary War soldiers. Townsmen gathered on the common east of the meetinghouse on April 1 1775 before proceeding to the Battle of Concord. Three and one-half rods of land at the north corner of the burying ground were donated by townsman William Fletcher in 1718 for the town's first school house. The present schoolhouse (#1) was constructed on the same site in 1802 and now is the oldest town owned building in Chelmsford. William Parker, who was one of the teachers at this school, later became founder and president of the Academy of Medicine in New York City.

Several other buildings within the district possess particularly important local associations:

The Hezekiah Packard House (#29) was built by the Reverend Hezekiah Packard during his ministry in 1794. Packard, who served in the Continental Army during most of the Revolutionary War, subsequently attended Harvard College and met John Quincy Adams. While living in this house he founded the town's first Social Library in 1811. A later owner, the Reverend Wilkes Allen, wrote the town's first history while living here in 1820.

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The oldest house in the district is the Episcopal parsonage (#24) part of which was built prior to 1775 on a site one mile to the east. About 1830 it was moved to its present site by Otis Bailey, a bookbinder. From 1868-1882 part of the first floor was used as a chapel by the group which became the first organized Episcopal Parish in Chelmsford. In 1882, All Saint's Episcopal Church (#247) was built and the house became the Rectory. The Reverend Wilson Waters D.D., rector of the church for 41 years wrote another history of Chelmsford while living here in 1917 and was also one of the organizers of the local historical society.

The Winn-Emerson House (#37), constructed c.1804, was owned by Deacon Otis Adair a prominent town leader and primary advocate for the erection of a Revolutionary War Monument on the common in 1859. During Adams ownership the Chelmsford School for the Deaf was opened in the left front chamber in 1866. The school was the first in the country to teach deaf mutes to speak and read lips using a purely oral method. One of the pupils was Mabel Hubbard who later married Alexander Graham Bell. The invention of the telephone was based on his experience in producing graphic presentations of speech inflections as a graphic aid for the deaf. The school was renamed the Clarke School for the Deaf when it moved to Northam in 1867.

The J.P. Emerson House (#38), constructed c.1835 on the common, was still owned by the Emerson family and used as a working farm as late as 1975 until it was sold to the town for expansion of municipal offices.

In 1901, C. George Armstrong and Simeon H. White erected a building of brick with a wooden second story on the site of the burnt-out ruins of a machine shop owned by Armstrong's brother-in-law, John Byfield. Under the name of the Suss Mineral Spring Company, the partners produced ginger ale and beer using pure water piped from a then never failing spring about a half a mile away. In 1906 Armstrong became sole owner, changing the business name first to the Chelmsford Spring Company and later to the Chelmsford Ginger Ale Company (#209). Under the new management, Chelmsford Ginger Ale enjoyed an international reputation as the business grew, the building expanded. A disastrous fire on November 20, 1912 destroyed most of the building. Due to lack of water the center of town was threatened for a time until help arrived from neighboring cities and towns. Bottling was resumed three weeks later in the part of the building left standing with company offices set up in the Odd Fellows Building. The present building built of fireproof materials to prevent another disaster, was completed during 1913 and 1914. The fire at the Chelmsford Spring Company and the efforts of C. George Armstrong and others led to the establishment of the Chelmsford Central Water District in 1913. The Chelmsford Ginger Ale Company was bought out by

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Canada Dry Ginger Ale in 1931 and operated in Chelmsford until 1959. Chelmsf
Ginger Ale is still being bottled in Waltham, Massachusetts in 1978.