

In Area no. Chelmsford Center	Form no. 239
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MISSION
oston

1. Town Chelmsford
 Address 11 Academy Street
 Name Central Baptist Church
 Present use church

Present owner Central Baptist Church

3. Description:

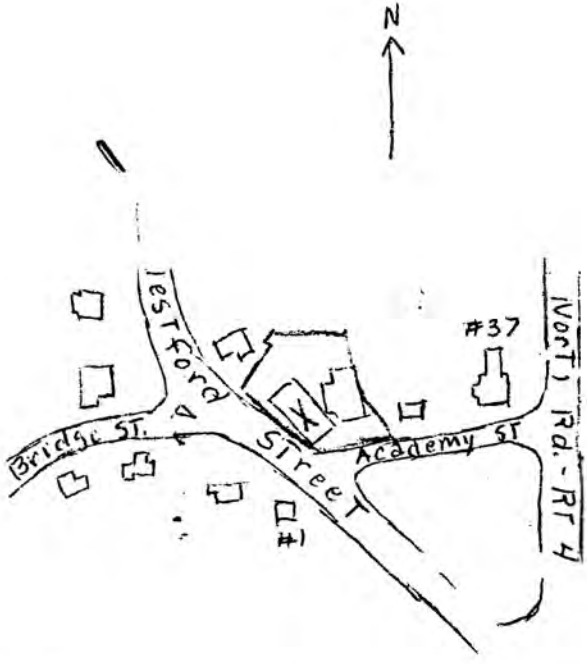
Date 1868
 Source deed; Waters; Hist. of Chelms.
 Style Gothic Revival
 Architect _____
 Exterior wall fabric shingles
 Outbuildings (describe) see attached
 Other features _____

Altered see attached Date 1920s
 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
15,840 sq. ft.
 One acre or less x Over one acre
 Approximate frontage ca 250' - Westford & Academy Sts.
 Approximate distance of building from street
ca 12 ft. from Westford St.

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury
 Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission
 Date February 22, 1977

on
and



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

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) David Perham (b. 1813)

Original use church

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

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		Military	Transportation	
Communication		Political		
Community development				

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

The church is on the site of the Col Sampson Stoddard house, which was probably built before 1737. Deacon David Perham bought the property for \$1100 in 1866 and soon after tore the house down. On July 10, 1869 he sold the land with the new church on it for \$8000 to the Deacons of the Central Baptist Church. The local history states that the church building was erected at a cost of about \$11,000, about half of which was the gift of Deacon David Perham. "As one entered the upper room, he faced the assembled congregation, back of whom was the choir. A massive built-in pulpit was in front beside the door. The pulpit seat was a large sofa....."

Deacon Perham was long remembered for his business foresight in the management of church affairs, but less publicized was the fact that he kept an ample supply of hard cider in the basement of the building.

On July 6, 1903 the church was endangered by "fire smouldering at the center of the easterly side of the roof, undoubtedly due to a cinder wafted from the first fire nearly a fourth of a mile distant. Fifteen minutes later and probably this building would have shared the fate of the less fortunate Littleton street structure."

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

Waters, "History of Chelmsford," 1917

Chelmsford Newsweekly, 1955

Lowell Daily Courier: 7/6/1903

Beers 1875 Atlas; 1889 Atlas

Middlesex North District Registry Deeds: Bk. 69, pg. 241; Bk. 52, pg. 538; Bk. 7, pg. 101; Plan Bk. M, Plan 76

Chelmsford Eagle, Jan. 1, 1876

Enslie Mills, Arnaud Blackadar - members of the church, 1977

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Chelmsford	Form No: 239
Property Name: Central Baptist Church	

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

3. Description

Outbuildings:

In 1964 the parish house was built south (right) of the church, facing Academy St. It is made of brick and is connected to the church building by an open breezeway (shingled). The parish house stands about 40 feet back from Academy St. and is widely used by local groups.

Altered:

1920s - about 20 feet added to rear (north side) of church for a new vestry. The addition is 1 story high, with only crawl space underneath (full basement is under the original portion). The 1 story addition matches the lines of the construction of the left side of the original church, so that it is very difficult to detect.

Is only major exterior change.

Varying dates - stained glass windows installed in memory of several members and friends.

1947, 1953, 1954 - interior "enlarged" & redecorated

Two entrance doors to choir loft were added - when new organ was installed, entrance to choir loft was blocked.

1950 - new heating plant installed.

889 Atlas

ROOOO

Westford Street



1912 Plan

Plan Book M Plan 76

Scale 40 FT. = 1 inch

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Academy Street - Lot 1
Central Baptist Church

1974 owner: Central Baptist Church
Church
15,840 sq. ft. (inc. parish house)

Built in 1868; parish house added 1964
First owner: David Perham
Use: church

Previous building: Stoddard house
Sold to David Perham Oct. 17, 1866
Home of Col. Sampson Stoddard, who died 1777

Sources:

1. 1889 Atlas: Baptist Church
1875 Atlas: Baptist Church
1856 Map: building
2. Chelmsford Assessors' Office 10/3/1974
Plat 178, Block 42, Lot 1
1974 owner: Central Baptist Church
1972 Church & parish house 15,840 sq. ft.
1969 Church & parish house "
1965 Church & parish house "
1964 Church "
1963 Deed, 5/17/1963, Book 1600, pg. 220 15,840 sq. ft.
title from Central Baptist Church, Deacons of.
3. Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds
Book 69, pg. 241 6/10/1869 David Perham to
David Perham, John E. Stevens, Levi
Howard, Deacons of the Central Baptist
Church
\$8000 Land with meeting house and
other buildings standing thereon.
4. Waters, "History of Chelmsford", pg. 706
"In 1868, the church building was erected at a cost of about \$11,000
about half of which was the gift of Deacon David Perham."
5. "Chelmsford Newsweekly," 1955
"In 1847 the Central Baptist Church was organized at the Center by 35
persons who sought,....a home more accessible than the First Baptist
Church of Lowell or the First First Baptist Church of Chelmsford, situ-
ated in the South Village to which two organizations they had belonged.
The Rev. John Parkhurst became their pastor and the upper floor of the
old Chelmsford Academy building...later the parsonage and now being
torn down to make room for a new parsonage....was used for meetings
until 1868, when at a cost of \$11,000, the present building was erected!"

6. "Chelmsford Eagle," January 1, 1876
"The Baptists; in charge of Bro. O.C.S. Wallace, worship in a very pretty church, of modern style, located charmingly, facing the common, and the south.
7. "Chelmsford Vital Statistics to 1850"; pg. 449
Stoddard, Sampson, bur. Apr. 28, 1777, a. 68/ y
8. Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds
Book 52, pg. 538 10/17/1868 Barney P. Dickenson of Lowell to David Perham
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres land with buildings thereon \$1100
Book 7, pg. 101 10/22/1789 Levy Wilder of Lancaster, Administrator of Estate of Sampson Stoddard to Samuel Pitts, merchant.
Land, mansion house & shop adjoining 190 pounds

Chelmsford

Residence of Minot A. Bean destroyed by Fire
Located in Littleton Street
Broke out at 11 o'clock Saturday Night and Burned
House to Foundation - Insurance \$4000

After a quiet and uneventful day, free from accidents and all demonstrations except the usual and expected fuselade of fire-crackers and other specialties of the Glorious Fourth, Chelmsford Centre wound u Saturday with a display of fireworks unexpected, unwelcomed and most disastrous in results. About 11 o'clock at night the residents of Littleton Road were aroused by shouts and calls which at first some supposed came from boys as a close to the day's observance; but, a glow of light speedily following, it was then apparent that a fire was in progress.

Those first on the street discovered that it was located on the premises of Minot A. Bean and it was not long before a large crowd had gathered from the village and a mile or more away as the flames were visible at quite a distance. Those who first saw the fire state that it began in the ell of the house, a two-story structure which was connected with the barn. Mr. & Mrs. Bean and their little daughter left their home at 9 o'clock in the morning and spent the day with Mrs. Bean's arents, Deacon and Mrs. George F. Locke who live in a westerly part of the town about 2 miles from the Centre. They had no knowledge of the destruction of their property until informed about 1 o'clock Sunday morning by Mr. Eben T. Adams who drove over to inform them.

The janitor of the Unitarian Church rang the alarm as soon as notified of the fire but many were earlier on the scene. The Town ladder truck did not arrive until 11:30 when the buildings were practically consumed. No attempt was made to save them as the flames had obtained too great headway but most of the contents of the parlor sitting room and dining room were carried out including a valuable Sohmer piano. A silver service, the family wardrow, beds and bedding, valuable papers and many articles cherished because of their associations, were destroyed.

The barn contained no livestock but had been filled up by Mr. Bean for the manufacture and packing of a child's game which he had patented and orders for which he was filling. In the cellar he had 10,000 paper boxes stored, and about 1000 games were nearly ready for shipment. These were all burned as well as a wagon belonging to Deacon Locke and 2 harnesses the property of Mr. Bean.

The fire did not reach two large hen houses in the rear of the barn, and a steel windmill is also intact. The cinders from the burning buildings seriously threatened the nearest houses. One belonging to Mrs. M. Hutchins and occupied by Albert Brigham and family is only about 50 feet from the Bean premises and its preservation is due to the vigorous efforts of men stationed upon the roof to throw water upon it from such points pails and buckets as could be obtained. The Johnson pumps again demonstrated their effectiveness and at this stage of the fight against the flames the to n ladders came into good service. The other house in peril for a short time was that of Mr. Charles D. Clark on the opposite side of the street and in direct line of the flying timbers driven by the wind which fortunately was very light, otherwise probably half a dozen more houses would have shared the fate of the Bean homestead. At 12 o'clock the fire was practically out and the buildings were burned to the foundation walls.

The cause of the fire is unknown. By some it was attributed to a stray sky rocket but, as those who first saw the fire assert that it caught from inside of the ell, that theory seems improbable. Then too, the rocket firing in the neighborhood had a very different trajectory.

The insurance on the buildings is \$4000 placed by C. W. Whidden, Lowell, in two companies. The household goods were insured for \$1000 and there is a special insurance of \$500 on Mr. Bean's boxes and wares in the barn.

At 12:45 o'clock and before all had left for their homes, the fire alarm again rang from the Unitarian Church and word was soon passed that the Baptist Church was on fire. There was a general rush for that edifice and it was found that a fire was smouldering at the center of the easterly side of the roof, undoubtedly due to a cinder wafted from the first fire nearly a fourth of a mile distant. The town trucks were in evidence a little earlier this time and with long ladders the incipient fire was soon extinguished. Fifteen minutes later and probably this building would have shared the fate of the less fortunate Littleton street structure. This second fire was discovered by two young men, Stewart Redman and Roy Allen who were on their return from escorting home two young women who had been present at the first outbreak. Their sharp eyes made the discovery when quite a distance from the church and they wasted no time in giving the alarm.

Among the incidents of the evening may be mentioned the prostration of Mrs. Brigham who was taken to a neighbor's until the safety of her home was assured. Clarence Kelley, druggist's clerk, was assisting in removing furniture from the Bean house and finding that the atmosphere was too smoky for breathing purposes made a hasty ~~exit through~~ exit through a closed window, and in doing so, severely cut his wrist requiring a surgeon's aid. Fireward F. A. Hazen was early on the scene and his associate, Melvine Walker, as soon as notified and with the volunteer force, they did excellent work in saving other buildings.

Mr. & Mrs. Bean have the sincere sympathy of the community in this sudden loss of their pleasant home.

Everyone who witnessed the fire of Saturday night with its possibilities of a much more extensive conflagration must have come to the conclusion that this section of the town has very inadequate protection against experiences of this sort. Johnson pumps, a few buckets and half a dozen ladders are sufficient to squelch a fire in its incipient stages, but when it gets the but between its teeth, so to speak, as it often will in a country village or more sparsely settled communities, then more effective extinguishers should be at hand and there should be a better organization of the fighting forces. There should be better preparation for the next lesson.



AT WINDOW DEDICATION--These gracefully beautiful new stained-glass windows were dedicated at solemn service held at the Central Baptist Church during the observance of "Ellis Sunday" last Sunday. In photo, left to right, Leonard MacElroy, Arnaud Blackadar, Rev. Lawrence Selfridge, pastor, and Mrs. Selfridge, Mrs. Charles H. Ellis and Rev. Charles H. Ellis.

Central Baptist Dedication of New Windows

Very impressive and interesting ceremonies were held Sunday, May 2, at the Central Baptist Church when the dedication of the new church windows was held in the presence of church members, friends and invited guests.

The order of service was held as follows: Prelude, 'Communion in G', 'Melodie Pastoral', with Mrs. Ralph P. Coats, Organist and Director;

Continued on page 11

Processional Hymn No. 1, 'Holy Holy, Holy'; Invocation and Lord's Prayer; Responsive Reading 'Give Thanks'; Florida Scripture Reading; Anthem, 'Let Me Walk With Thee'; Prayer and Response; Offertory Anthem, 'Hollowed Be Thy Name' Hymn 5, 'Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim'; sermon, 'Markers Along Life's Way'; and Hymn 'Jesus is Tenderly Calling Thee Home'.

The service of dedication took place and the presentation of windows was made by Deacon, Leonard Mac Elroy, chairman of the project; acceptance for the church, Deacon, Arnaud Blackadar. Rev. and Mrs. Charles H. Ellis, guests, gave a brief talk. Rev. Charles Ellis is Pastor Emeritus.



11 Academy Street, Col Sampson Stoodard House on left - 7 Academy Street, Chelmsford Academy on right, c. 1866



Central Baptist Church Interior 1896

Central Baptist Church, CHELMSFORD, Mass.





8/22/2004 E. Merriam





CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
NEW THRUWAY BOULEVARD, FAIRBANKS
SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00 AM
P.O. BOX 111, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
AN EVANGELICAL BAPTIST CHURCH



CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
THOMAS BOLDETNETTE PASTOR
WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM
CENTRAL BAPTIST IN AUGUST
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH
BRINGING THE LOVE OF CHRIST SINCE 1847

