

FORM B - BUILDING

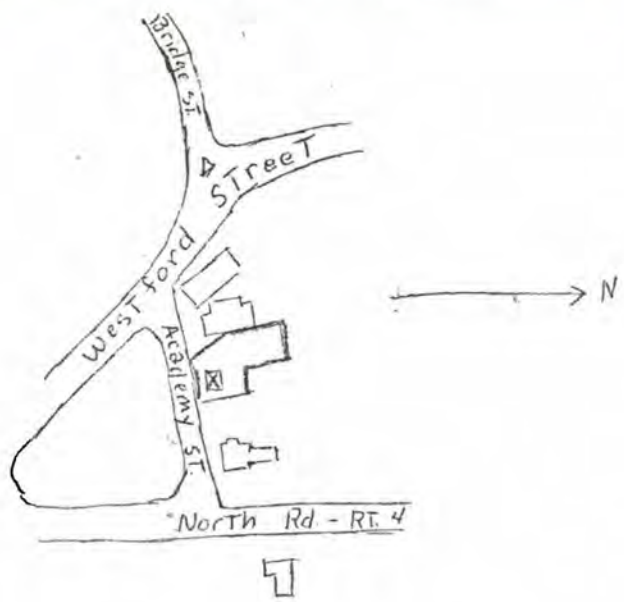
| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| In Area no. Chelmsford Center | Form no. 240 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|

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



own Chelmsford
 Address 7 Academy Street
 Name Baptist Parsonage
 Present use parsonage
 Present owner Central Baptist Church
 Description:
 Date 1955
 Source Chelmsford Newsweekly, 1955
 Style modern garrison

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



Architect _____
 Exterior wall fabric clapboard
 Outbuildings (describe) garage-attached to left side by open breezeway.
 Other features _____

Altered no Date _____
 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
17,318 sq. ft.
 One acre or less x Over one acre
 Approximate frontage ca 60 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street
ca 30 feet

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

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

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Central Baptist Church

Original use parsonage

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)

This modern dwelling was built on the site of the Chelmsford Classical School, which was erected in 1825. The Classical School was a private enterprise organized to provide more advanced studies than were offered by the public schools. Its teacher was Ralph Waldo Emerson. It had a short existence, but several of its pupils later gained distinction throughout the world. In 1859 the Chelmsford Academy opened in the same building, but during the Civil War some of its pupils joined the Union Army, and in 1862 the school closed.

In 1847 the Central Baptist Church was organized, and it met in the upper floor of the school building until 1868, when the present church building (#239) was erected. The school building was converted and used as a parsonage until 1955, when it was torn down to make room for the present parsonage.

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

Chelmsford Assessors' records

Chelmsford Newsweekly, 1955

Waters, "History of Chelmsford," 1917: pg. 563-4, 818

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds: Bk. 67, pg. 258; Bk. 16, pg. 258

7 Academy Street - Lot 2
Baptist Church Parsonage

1974 owner: Central Baptist Church
Parsonage
17,318 sq. ft.

Built in 1955
First owner: Central Baptist Church
Use: Parsonage

Previous building: Chelmsford Classical School House

Built 1825

Use: Chelmsford Classical School; 1847 - Central Baptist Church for worship (the upper floor); 1859 to 1862 - Chelmsford Classical School; Central Baptist Church for parsonage until it was torn down in 1955.

Sources:

1. 1889 Atlas: Parsonage
1875 Atlas: Parsonage
1831 Map: Building
2. Chelmsford Assessors' Office 10/3/1974
Plat 178, Block 42, Lot 2
1974 owner: Central Baptist Church
1972 House-breezeway, garage 17,318 sq. ft.
1964 " " " " " " "
1963 Deed, 5/17/1963, Book 1600, pg. 220 17,318 sq. ft
title from Deacons of Central Baptist Church.
3. Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds
Book 67, pg. 258 9/28/1867 Benjamin P. Hutchins, George O. Hutchins,
\$66 & John E. Stevens & Polly Stevens to
members of the Central Baptist Church
Book 16, pg. 154 4/ 1/1846 Caleb Abbott to Jephthah Parker
\$1 Most of his interest in said school house
Book 16, pg. 258 5/ 1/1825 Caleb Abbott & Josiah Fletcher Jun^r to
\$44 Joel Adams, John C. Dalton, Henry Spalding,
Gardner Fletcher, John Butterfield, James
Pitts, Otis Bailey, Jonathan Berham, etc.
et al
Condition: the buildings to be erected thereon shall always be holden
in common.....
4. "Chelmsford Newsweekly," 1955
"In 1847 the Central Baptist Church was organized at then Center by 35
persons.....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 the present building (church) was erected.
5. Rev. John H. Minott, minister, Central Baptist Church
"The parsonage was built about 1955."

6. Waters, "History of Chelmsford"
pg. 563 "The desire of the people for better educational advantages, for those wishing to pursue the more advanced studies, led to the establishment of the Chelmsford Classical School in 1825. The building, which has since been converted into a parsonage for the Central Baptist Society, was erected for that purpose. The funds for the support of the school were furnished by individual enterprise.
- pg. 564 The need or metter educational advantages than were offered by the public schools led to a movement in 1859 for the establishment of a school of higher grade. The use of the building erected for the Chelmsford Classical School, 34 years before, was obtained, and on Aug. 29, 1859, the 'Chelmsford Academy' was opened.....
- But in the meantime the War of the Rebellion came on. Some of the pupils joined the ranks of the army. The trustees were unable to secure the support necessary for its maintenance, and in 1862 the school was closed."
- pg. 818 "Note by Allen. The Classical School was opened Sept. 1, by Mr. Ralph Waldo Emerson, who left Dec.30. He was a very popular and useful instructor. He was bought off by some gentleman in Roxbury, who encouraged him to expect a profit of \$2000 per annum.



7 Academy Street, Chelmsford Classical School, on or before 1866



'Baptist Parsonage' 7 Academy Street

7/25/2004 F Merriam



