

In Area no.	Form no.
	224

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

Town Chelmsford
Address Boston Rd. at Adams Ave
Name Adams Library
Present use library

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 10-20

Present owner Town of Chelmsford

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

3. Description:

Date 1894

Source on peak of portico; deeds

Style _____
Builder _____
Architect William C. Edwards

Exterior wall fabric brick (Flemish bond)

Outbuildings (describe) small shed, rt. sid

Other features dentils on portico & cornice, elegant beading etc. over windows & around main entrance

Altered see attached Date 1929

Moved no

5. Lot size:
33,915 sq. ft.
One acre or less x Over one acre

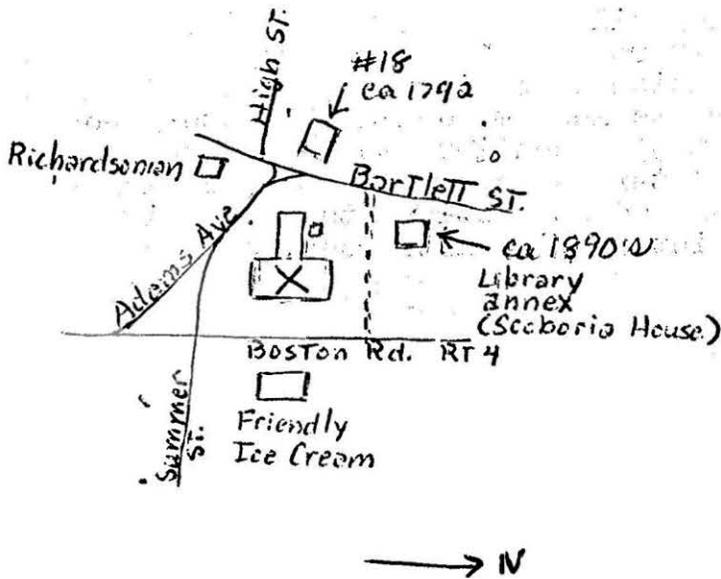
Approximate frontage 245' & 322' & 58'

Approximate distance of building from street

ca 75 ft. from Boston Road

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury
Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission
Date October 4, 1976

Architect John A. Fox



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

(over)

7 Original owner (if known) Town of Chelmsford

Original use library

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

9 Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Because accommodations for the Chelmsford Free Library at the Town Hall had become inadequate, in 1894 J. Adams Bartlett donated the land and Amos F. Adams the new building to the town. Mr. Bartlett also provided the grading of the land about the library. The town accepted the gift in 1895, and on May 8th of that year the building was dedicated. The building cost about \$30,000. In 1896 Mr. Adams gave 100 volumes of books on the first anniversary of the opening of the new building. Also in 1896 by vote of the town, the name was officially changed to "The Adams Library."

In 1922 the will of Orra A. George Flint gave money in memory of her parents, Aaron & Mary N. George, to build the George Memorial Hall at the rear of the old library. Work was started in 1929, and the hall was to be used for literary, cultural & educational meetings. The Chelmsford Historical Society used the 2nd floor for its museum. Children's story hours were begun at this time, reinstated in 1955 & continue to the present day.

The 1st floor of George Hall later was converted to a children's room, and in 1976 it was converted to hold adult fiction stacks. During the 1960s the 2nd floor was converted into a fine arts room, offices, etc.

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

Waters, "History of Chelmsford", 1917

"Chelmsford Newsweekly", 1955

Program: "Dedication to the Adams Free Public Library," 1896

Town meeting records, 1895

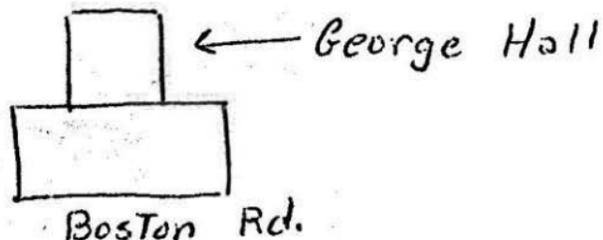
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds:

Book 254, page 457 May 8, 1894

Adams Library
Boston Road

Altered:

Addition of George Memorial Hall at rear of building



The work on the addition began in 1929. The architect was Mr. E. R. Clarke, Library Trustee and former Librarian, and architect for several of the local buildings. The main library was also redecorated at this time.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
CHELMSFORD

Property Address
25 BOSTON RD.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

The architect for the Adams Library, built in 1894, was John A. Fox of Boston. It was dedicated on May 8, 1895. The front steps, lower courses and buttresses are all of Chelmsford granite. The two large polished columns of granite are from the coast of Maine. Iron railings, specially designed at the request of library trustees, were added in 1958.

In May, 1998, the George Memorial Hall, built with a bequest of Orra A. (George) Flint in 1929 at the rear of the Adams Library was razed in order to make room for a much larger, new addition. It had many uses over the years, including as a general meeting room, Historical Society museum and meeting room, children's library, adult fiction stacks, and the fine arts and reference department. The main obstacle to keeping the hall was its design. George Hall was 5 steps below the main library, and there was too little room to make it handicapped accessible.

By 1970 an addition or new library was being discussed. A proposal was approved in 1974 for an addition on the south side of the Adams Library. However, because of organized opposition, that project was abandoned, and in the following year the Scoboria property on the north side of the library was purchased instead. The house was converted to the children's library, and the carriage house became an often used community meeting place. However, that became just a stop-gap, not only because more space was desired but the buildings weren't handicapped accessible. In 1987 the Donald Prout Associates of Cranston, RI were chosen to design a big, expensive addition and parking lot for the north side of the Adams Library. In spite of much publicity and urging, this proposal was turned down by the voters. The rejected design was considered too large and would overwhelm the existing library, which would not be integrated either physically or functionally. The Library trustees then looked for other sites for an entirely new building. When it was learned that the Adams Library and land would revert to its original owners if ever abandoned as a library, plans were again made for a simpler addition on the north side of Adams Library.

In 1993 the Dutton House next door to the Scoboria property was purchased in anticipation of the expansion of the Adams Library. In 1995 a plan was put forward to raze both houses and the carriage house to make room for the library addition. In 1997 the Town admitted that the Scoboria House was worth saving and put it up for auction. The house was moved, but the carriage house was razed.

In October 1996 the voters approved a scaled down \$4.5 million expansion and renovation of the Adams Library. A Boston architectural firm had been chosen, the A. Anthony Tapp and Associates, Inc. The parking lot was placed at the front of the addition, and the Dutton House could remain on library grounds. The library temporarily moved to the basement of the Town Office Building at 50 Billerica Road while construction by Taunton's Mello Construction Company took place. On February 29, 2000 the library with its new addition re-opened. The original section is still known as the Adams Library, but a sign over the main entrance into the addition reads "Chelmsford Public Library."

Sources:

Chelmsford Independent: May 7, 1998, pg. 1; Nov. 25, 1999

Chelmsford Newsweekly: July 24, 1958, pg. 1; Oct. 8, 1970; 1974 G. Parkhurst article; Apr. , 1984; Nov. 5, 1984; Oct. 1, 1987; Nov. 3, 1988, pg. 9; May 30, 1993; Oct. 21, 1996

Lowell Sun: undated month 1997, pg. 24; Mar. 12, 1998; Feb. 29, 2000

"Your Library", published twice yearly for Chelmsford, Ma Libraries: June 1970, pg. 2

Adams Library

Waters, Pg.

Free Public Library

The Free Public Library of Chelmsford, in the report of 1894, states that the proprietors of the Chelmsford Social Library voted, May 8, 1893, to donate the books belonging to them to the Free Public Library. These were turned over to the trustees, July 1. The South Chelmsford Library also gave their entire collection of books.

The library was first opened to the public, October 7, 1893. The trustees were Mrs. Harriet M. Bartlett, secretary, Luther H. Sargent, Henry S. Perham, chairman, S. Ingersoll Briant, Louisa A. Allen, A. Heady Park.

In 1896, by vote of the Town, the name was changed to "The Adams Library."

The Adams Library

The inadequacy of the accommodations at the Town Hall for the increasing number of volumes led to the making of plans for remodelling of the old brick schoolhouse at the cemetery, when Mr. Amos F. Adams became interested in the project, and other locations were considered. Finally, the present site of the Adams Library was given to the Town by Mr. J. Adams Bartlett, and Captain C. E. A. Bartlett bore the expense of grading it. Mr. Adams then caused to be erected the present elegant building, at a cost of about \$30,000.

Amos Francis Adams was born in South Chelmsford, May 26, 1842, and married Alice J. Wellington of Asby, Mass., December 25, 1865. He was the son of Charles and Nancy Robbins Adams. His line of descent on his father's side is: Amos F., Charles, Isaac, Thomas, Samuel, Timothy, Lieut. Thomas, Henry.

He died, Wednesday, January 4, 1911, at his home in Newton. He received his early education here, and then at the Appleton Academy, New Ipswich. In 1862, he went to Boston and obtained employment in the Quincy Market. In 1866, he became a commission merchant, and later the senior member of the firm of Adams and Chapman, in North Market Street. He liked hunting as a diversion, and sometimes went to the West with gun and dogs on a hunting trip. He was generous and affable, and in personal appearance was well-built and handsome. He contributed liberally to the Unitarian organ in Chelmsford and to the erection of All Saints' cloister. He was a member of the Dallhousie Lodge of Masons in Newton and of the Royal Arch Chapter and Gethsemane Commandery. His life-size portrait in oil hangs in the library.

Dedication

The dedication of the Adams Library took place May 8, 1895. Dinner was served in a large tent on the Library grounds at one o'clock. Many people were assembled, and some of the speakers were those who had spoken at the above mentioned centennial (January 6, 1894.)

Waters, pg.

1895. In Town meeting, Resolved, that the Town in accepting the gift of Mr. Amos Francis Adams of the land and building thereon, known as the

Adams Library, and upon the condition named in his letter to the Town, hereby acknowledges with gratitude the considerate generosity of the donor in this permanent provision for its educational interests. The munificence of the gift, with its special adaptedness to its end, and the elegance of its form and furnishings, evinces a public spirit and love of his native Town that will endear his name to the latest generation. That the Town hereby assures him of its appreciation of his good deed and pledges him its best efforts to preserve intact and to perpetuate through coming time this treasure house for the noble project object for which it is given. That the Town Clerk is directed to communicate the foregoing vote to Mr. Adams.

The Chelmsford Newsweekly, 1955:

"As accommodations became inadequate at the Town Hall, plans were made for remodelling the old brick schoolhouse in Forefathers' Cemetery to house the collection of books, but an entirely new building was finally decided upon in the present location, J. Adams Bartlett having provided the grading of it, and Amos F. Adams assuming financial responsibility for the building itself. This library building was dedicated in 1895 and has since been enlarged by the addition of George Memorial Hall (which also houses the Historical Society's room) presented by Orra A. George Flint, in memory of her parents, Aaron George and Mary N. George.

.....According to the Secretary's reports in 1896, Mr. Amos F. Adams gave 100 volumes of books on the first anniversary of the new building. A special meeting was held at this time to accept this gift.

Following are excerpts from a paper compiled and read at the 50th anniversary of the Adams Library (1944) by Mrs. Lydwin Batchelder, then a member of the Board of Trustees:.....

In 1912 the Misses Catherine and Margaret Hall took over the librarian's job left open when Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Clarke resigned, they having been elected in 1905, now resigning because of other duties as trustees. A Miss Ellis became an assistant in 1922. Mr. Clarke and the Rev. Wilson Waters were sent to Worcester to receive the bequest of the Flint will, Mr. Clarke to make designs for a new building made possible by this Flint will, and this new building to be called the George Memorial Hall. In 1929.....All plans for the new building were ready and work was to start immediately. The old building, that is the library, was to be all redecorated. The trustees stated that the George Memorial Hall could be used for literary, cultural and educational meetings. Mr. F. A. P. Fiske and Mr. J. M. Fiske gave the lamps to be used at the entrance to the new hall on Adams Avenue. Here is most interesting item: two story-hour mornings for third and fourth grade children were introduced. The program will be reinstated very soon on Saturday afternoons.

Police Sgt. Walter W. Edwards, jr., Oct. 3, 1976

His great-grandfather, William C. Edwards, built the Adams Library. He has a picture of the Ayers Library, also built by Edwards, which is similar to but smaller than the Adams Library and appears to be made of stone rather than brick.

Lowell Weekly Journal

April 6, 1894 - Mr. Amos F. Adams of Boston, who proposes to present his native town a library building, was again here Monday in search of an eligible site. None has yet been secured, but there are several in the market, and one on South street near South square has been offered free of cost by Mr. J.A. Bartlett. It is hoped that when Mr. Adams again visits the town a positive conclusion as to location will be reached.

April 20, 1894 - Amos F. Adams of Boston, a native of this village, who has generously offered the town a handsome library building, Tuesday accepted the site which was tendered free of expense by J. Adams Bartlett. It is situated on South street, about 3 minutes walk from the post office. The expense of removing a large gravel bank, preliminary to building, will be borne by C.E. A. Bartlett, esq. When the grounds are improved, as they will be, it will be a very charming spot.

May 11, 1894 - The contract for removing the large gravel bank on the site of the new library has been let by C.E.A. Bartlett, esq., to O'Connor Bros. of Lowell.

May 25, 1894 - It is reported that the contract for erecting the new library has been given to a Boston firm. The work of removing the gravel bank is nearly completed.

June 28, 1894 - The mortar wall of the library building cellar is about finished. Upon this will be placed a granite underpinning five feet high, lined with brick, and the work will begin early in July.

July 13, 1894 - Gooch & Pray, Boston, the library building contractors, have begun work upon the granite foundation, a part of the material having been delivered.

July 13, 1894 - Two car loads of brick have arrived for the library building.

July 27, 1894 - The stone underpinning of the library building is in position and about 4 feet of the brick work of the superstructure. There is a force of 12 men at work at present and 3 additional carloads of brick arrived this week.

Aug. 17, 1894 - The terra cotta trimmings for the library building are arriving this week.

Sept. 7, 1894 - The iron frame which will support the dome of the new library building is in position, and one can now form a clear idea of the fine proportions of the structure.

Oct. 12, 1894 - The library building is making good progress. The dome is about ready to receive its copper coat; the granite steps are placed; and the lavatory and closets nearly completed. Work will soon begin upon the interior finish. The contractors have until January to complete their part, which does not include the grading of the grounds.

Oct. 26, 1894 - Adams & Co. of Lowell have the contract to provide the furnishings for the new public library.

Nov. 16, 1894 - The additional grading of the library grounds is progressing under the charge of R.W. Dix.

Lowell Weekly Journal

June 8, 1894 - R.W. Dix has the contract to put in the cellar of the Adams library building, and will begin work at once. Connor Brothers have completed their contract to remove the large gravel bank, most of which was deposited upon the opposite side of South street. The ground dimensions of the library building are to be 73x44 feet, the longest line fronting on South street. The walls will be of pressed brick.

Adams Library
Boston Road

Annual Report of the Trustees of the Free Public Library for the year ending Feb. 29, 1896:

"During March and April the library was opened, as last year, in the town house. In May the books were transferred to the Adams Library, and, immediately after its dedication, were ready for circulation.....

The library has been open 16 hours per week; on Mon. And Fri. evenings from 6⁴30 to 9 o'clock, and on Wed. & Sat. afternoons and evenings from 3:30 to 9 o'clock.....the present number of volumes is 4715."

Annual Report of the Trustees of the Free Public Library for the year ending Feb. 28, 1894:

The Proprietors of the Chelmsford Social Library voted, May 8, 1893 to donate the books belonging to them to the Free Public Library.....

The library was first opened to the public Oct. 7. At first the patrons were permitted to select books from the shelves, as had been the custom in the old library, but the space was so limited, and the confusion arising from the misplacing of the books was so great, that it was found necessary to close the doors and pass the books outside as they were called for. This unavoidable change has occasioned some discomfort to the patrons, as the space where they were obliged to wait could not be heated, but it has been quite patiently.....

The library has been open only 4 months and 10 days.....

From what has already been said we think it must be sufficiently evident that the library is in need of better accommodations.....

Waters, "History of Chelmsford", pg. xiii:

Index of Maps & Illustrations

33. S.E. View of Adams Library, Chelmsford Centre. Architect,
John A. Fox. (See page 585.)

Lowell Courier-Citizen

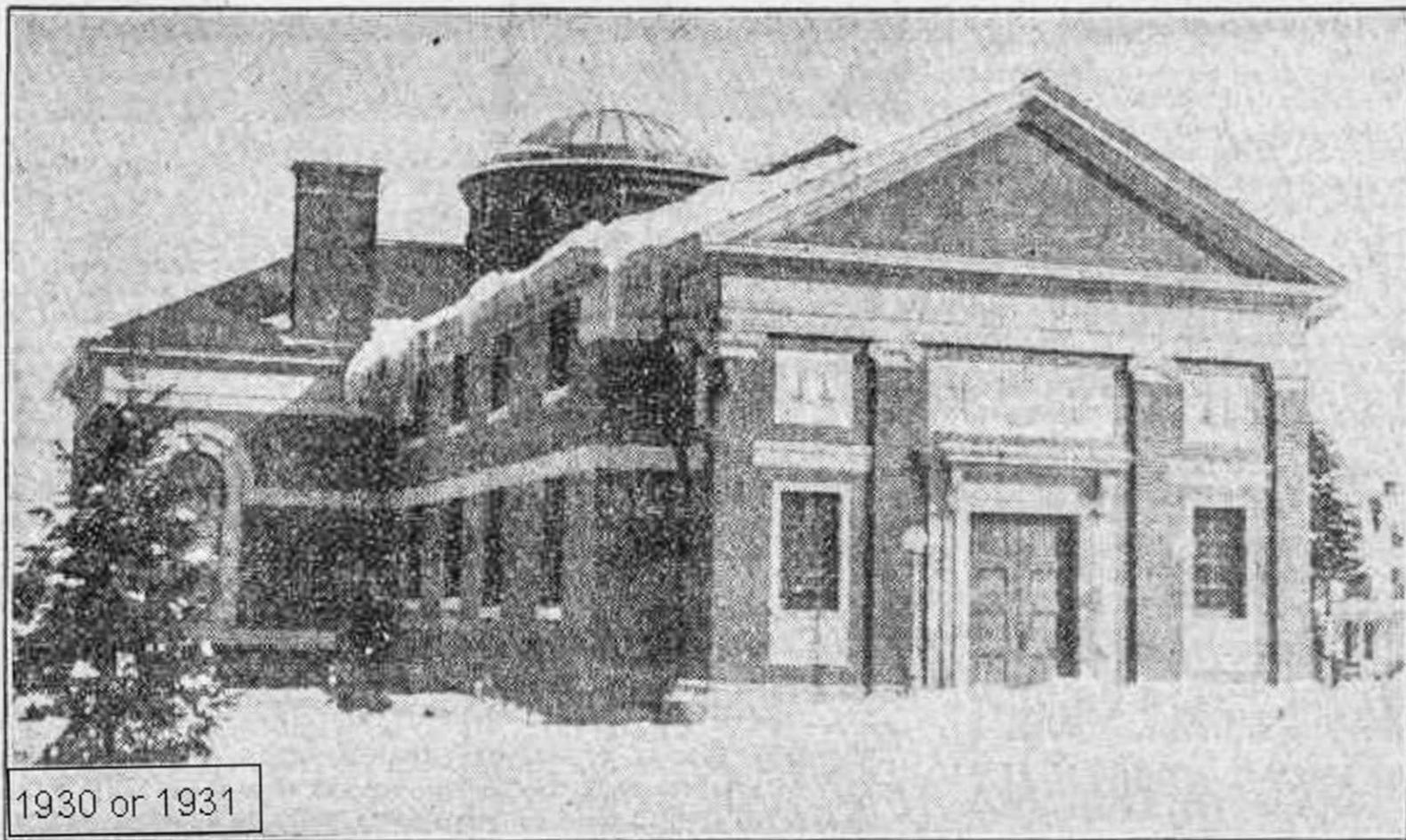
Jan. 5, 1911 - Amos Francis Adams died Wednesday morning at his home, 37 Park avenue, Newton. He was born in 1842, in the old Charles Adams place in the southern part of the town. He went to school here and was for a time at the Appleton academy in New Ipswich.

Going to Boston in 1862, he obtained employment in the Quincy market. He entered the commission business in 1866, and finally became the senior member of the firm of Adams & Chapman, commission merchants in North Market street. He married Miss Alice Wellington.

He was something of a Nimrod, and had his guns and dogs and loved to go to the West on a hunting trip. Most good men have good mothers, and the mother of Amos Francis Adams was a good and lovely woman. He was a handsome, well built man, and very ~~seeable~~ affable. He gave generously when appealed to for good objects, and was interested in the progress and betterment of his native town. He have liberally to the organ in the Unitarian church, and also to the erection of one bay in the cloister of All Saints' church.

In other instances he manifested his interest in the improvement of the town. His great gift to his native place is the Adams library, which will for many generations stand as a testimonial to his love for Chelmsford and to his generosity, guided by wisdom. Perhaps no gift which Mr. Adams could have made would have been of more lasting benefit to the people of the town, and the building itself will stand the test of time, being of excellent architecture.

New Addition to Adams Library in Chelmsford to Be Lecture Room and Historical Museum



GEORGE MEMORIAL HALL ADDITION TO THE ADAMS LIBRARY, CHELMSFORD

Adams Library expansion hits last-minute roadblock

By IAN FISHER
Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD — All through the fall, things had been going smoothly for supporters of \$4 million project to expand the Adams Library.

Unlike the fierce reaction to last spring's override question, no group sprang up to oppose the Adams Library's request for a \$1 million debt exemption to Proposition 2½.

In fact, approval sailed through last month's special town meeting.

But now, less than a month before the Nov. 1 special election on the project, the Historical Commission has attacked the project as "not compatible" with the 1894 Adams building or the neighborhood.

"The charm of the area about the Adams Library is threatened to be destroyed with the Tevlin property lost to a parking lot," reads the letter to the Sun and four other newspapers. "As no alternative plans for a less conspicuous library have been presented, this Commission cannot be in support of the new addition."

While commissioners claim the letter was written to preserve the area, reaction among library supporters has been strong, questioning both the commission's judgment and timing.

"It's sort of absurd for them to come with these objections at this late hour," said Selectman Bradford Emerson, who has long supported the expansion project. "To write such a letter at this late date is doing the library and the town a great disservice."

The Nov. 1 special election will ask voters to

approve a \$1 million debt exemption to the project.

Supporters are billing this as the last chance for an addition on this site, because state funding is available now and the Tevlin property, a part of the expansion, could be sold as commercial property.

Emerson, as well as others, was especially incensed that commissioners attended none of the public meetings and said nothing about their problems until just before the election.

The letter, supporters said, shows a commission willing to tear the project down, but unwilling to help build a better plan.

"It is very unfortunate that they chose such a late time to raise their concerns because we have no time to listen to their concerns or accommodate them, which we would be happy to do," said David McLachlan, chairman of Library Building Committee who said the opposition could hurt the project.

Historical Commissioner John Goodwin said at least two members of the commission have tried to express their opinions but found the building committee "really inflexible."

Goodwin, who said he was expressing his own opinions, added that his main concern was the removal of three buildings, including the Tevlin house, that the expansion plan calls for.

"Those buildings lend a certain (residential) atmosphere to the area," said Goodwin, adding that the commission supports more space for the library but at a different site. "This certainly is not preserving it."

He added that the expansion, which will give a total of 20,000 square feet and 100 parking



Architect shows sketch of proposed expansion of Chelmsford's Adams Library

spaces the library, "isn't warm and friendly. It's a cold building."

Library Trustee Mark Gauthier disputed Goodwin's assertion, saying the architecture and landscaping is designed to preserve the integrity of Adams as well as the rest of the area.

"It isn't going to look 100 years old but it's not going to look like something terrible," Emerson said.

Emerson added that the Nov. 1 election really comes down to a choice of having either commercial buildings or the expansion on the site.

This is because at the Sept. 19 special town meeting, voters changed the Tevlin property's zoning to general commercial. So if the library doesn't get the property, some other business probably will.

"Now that it has been rezoned the houses are doomed in any event," Emerson said. "So let's

preserve the Adams Library."

Aside from the historical question, some doubt the project will get approval at the polls on Nov. 1. With a steep tax hike expected this spring and a natural resistance to override and exemption questions, voters may not want to approve another increase to their taxes.

Treasurer/Tax Collector James Doukszewicz, who strongly supports the addition, thinks town residents won't vote yes if it means higher taxes, especially since not everyone uses the library.

"It's an exemption question, which is asking the people to tax themselves more than they can be legally taxed," he said. "A lot of people are not going to relate to the need" for the expansion.

But Emerson and others remain confident.

"Based on the vote at special town meeting, I'm optimistic," he said.

MARK W. GAUTHIER

ATTORNEY AT LAW
ONE VILLAGE SQUARE
CHELMSFORD, MA 01824

(617) 250-8272

Received
Oct. 14, 1988

October 11, 1988

An open letter to Martha P. Sanders, J. Perry Richardson, Jane B. Drury, Florence Gullion, D. Lawrence Fadjo and John Goodwin, Members of the Chelmsford Historical Commission:

Dear Commissioners:

I write to you in response to statements made these last few days in several area newspapers by or on behalf of your Commission criticizing the proposed Adams Library expansion plans. I understand that the Historical Commission "cannot be in support of the new addition" because "no alternative plans for a less conspicuous library have been presented."

I believe that you as members of a public board have been derelict in your duty. The 1987 Chelmsford Annual Report describes the function of the Historical Commission, in part, as follows:

The Chelmsford Historical Commission works in cooperation with other town agencies to insure that the goals of historic preservation are considered in planning for future development in the town.

Your Commission has failed to participate in the planning of the Adams Library expansion or to cooperate with the Library Trustees and Library

Building Committee. By letter dated October 20, 1986, (a copy of which is attached), Ms. Drury, for the Historical Commission, indicated that the Adams Library should be preserved and that an underground addition might be considered. In a letter dated November 18, 1986, ^(a copy of which is attached) I responded to Ms. Drury, writing that "I would be happy to meet with you or any other individuals interested in developing proposals for improving the Library and preserving the Adams family's gift" to the Town. Since November 18, 1986 I have not been contacted by any members of the Historical Commission to discuss any issues or concerns that you may have had regarding the Adams Library site or the proposed addition. You have not written to the Library Trustees or the Library Building Committee, nor have you attended any of the 17 Trustees' Meetings or 24 Building Committee Meetings held between November 18 and the date of this letter. You did not attend or participate by telephone in our March 16, 1988 televised presentation of architectural designs and expansion proposals. All of these meetings were posted, public and open to all interested persons

On the other hand, the Chairman of the Building Committee, the then-Chairman of the Library Trustees and the Director of the Public Library went to your meeting on February 22, 1988 to review the proposed library expansion with you. They showed slides, gave a full explanation of all that had been done to that date, showed you floor plans and artist's renderings of the proposed expansion, and answered whatever questions you had regarding the plans.

Still, the Historical Commission stayed out of the picture and chose not to be involved at those stages of the planning process where it could have had the greatest impact.

It is outrageous that your Commission should ignore for 23 months its responsibility to air its concerns and be involved in the library building process. It is even more outrageous that your Commission should issue a press release criticizing the Library's efforts only weeks before the Town's

vote on approving the building project. Your Commission has not done its homework on this project and has ignored its mandate to participate in the planning process. I note also that a copy of your press release was not sent to the Library Trustees or to the Library Building Committee.

Speaking as one who participated in those 42 public meetings and forums, I resent your Commission's negative, unfounded and ill-timed approach to protecting the public's concerns.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark W. Gauthier', written in a cursive style.

Mark W. Gauthier

Library Trustee

Member, Library Building Committee

Literary choice

Chelmsford library at a crossroads — once again

By AURELIA FALK
Newsweekly Staff

CHELMSFORD - Residents need to decide how badly they want an expanded or new library, whether they're willing to pay for it, and where they want it.

The current century-old library buildings cost the town money each year to maintain. Money the town could invest in buying more books or hiring more staff so the town's several library facilities could be open Sundays.

But to expand and improve upon the Adams Library, the choice library officials hope residents will make, will cost about \$4 million or about \$45 a year for 10 years on a tax bill for a home valued at \$150,000, according to town officials' estimates.

It would cost about the same to build a brand new library, they say.

At a forum last week, library officials stressed the inadequacies of the libraries, including non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), lack of space for expanded collections, and inadequate parking and seating.

Bottom line concerns

Meanwhile, residents expressed concerns about the cost of an expanded or new library and the sale

of the historic painting to fund library improvements.

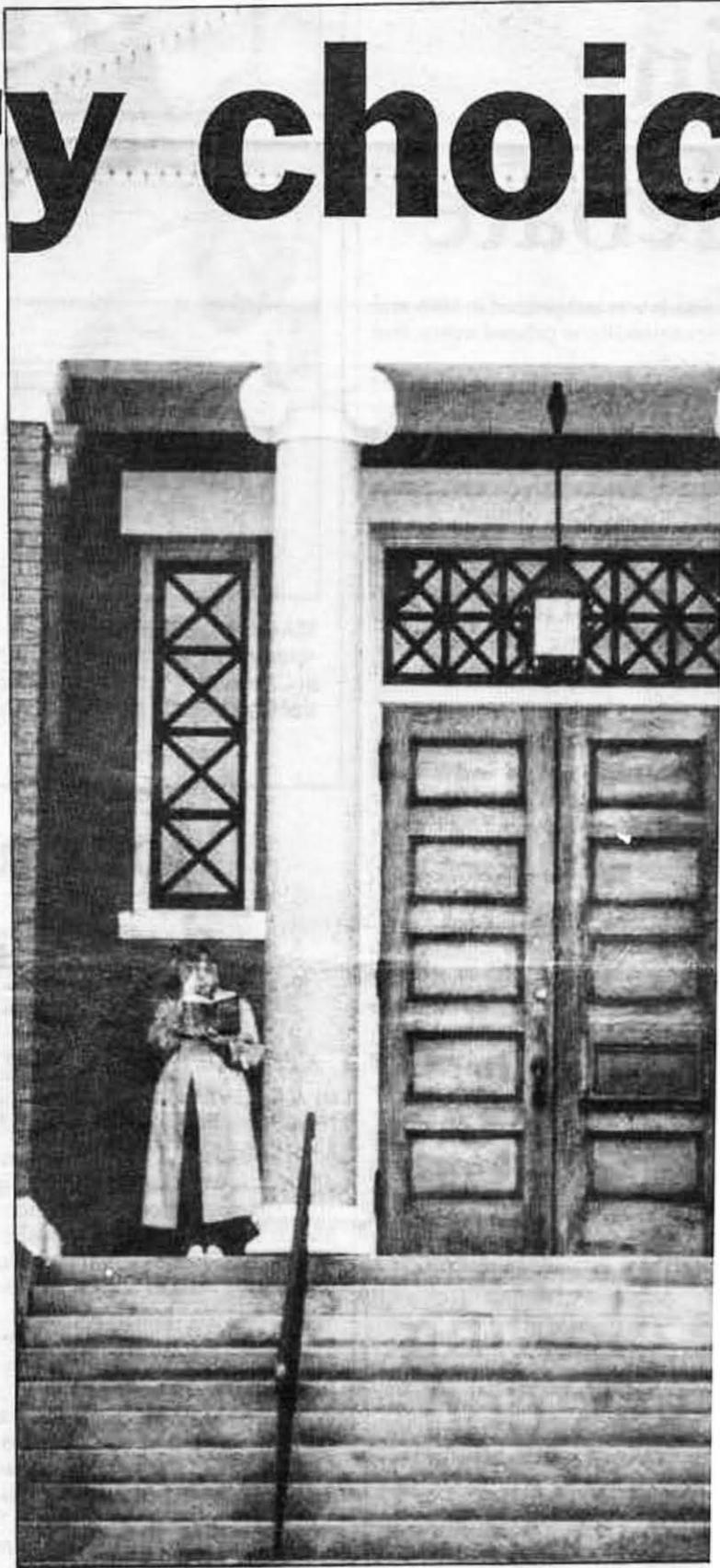
Today, Chelmsford library facilities consist of four buildings: the Adams Library in the center; the MacKay Branch in North Chelmsford; the Children's House, next to Adams; and the Carriage House, a meeting hall, also next to Adams.

Library officials hope to buy property called the "pink house" which abuts the Carriage House and Children's House and then move or raze the "pink house" and the Children's House and raze the Carriage House. The Adams Library would then be expanded.

Library officials have tried for almost 25 years to convince residents the town needs a new library. Now, as they move ahead with plans to try and buy the "pink house" for the third time since 1970, they seek community support.

Voters at this spring's annual Town Meeting will be asked to authorize the town to take from available town funds and the library's endowment and borrow as well to raise monies needed to assist with the purchase of the pink house. Voters will also be asked to allow the library trustees to sell a library painting to raise funds for the sale.

See LIBRARY on Page 11



TOUGH CLIMB — Officials acknowledge they must make the Adams Library users who are handicapped.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, ROOM 310
BOSTON, MA 02116

PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM

Project Name Chelmsford Public Library Renovation/AdditionLocation/Address 25 Boston RoadCity/Town Chelmsford, MA 01824

Project Proponent

Name Town of ChelmsfordAddress Chelmsford's Town Offices, 50 Billerica RoadCity/Town/Zip/Telephone Chelmsford, MA 01824

Agency license or funding for the project (list all licenses, permits, approvals, grants or other entitlements being sought from state and federal agencies).

Agency NameType of License or Funding (specify)

Commonwealth of MA 605 CMR Library Improvement
Board of Library Commissioners Program, Public Library Construction

Project Description (narrative)

This project will renovate and restore the century old Adams Library building and provide a 20,372 sq. ft. addition.
(total project=29,610 sq.ft.)

Does the project include demolition? If so, specify nature of demolition and describe the building(s) which are proposed for demolition.

The project proposes removing the Adams Library's 1,600 +/- sq. ft. addition which was built in 1927. Another building, a former residence now housing the Children's Library will be moved off the property. It is the intention of the Town to make every effort to sell these properties.
Does the project include rehabilitation of any existing buildings? If so, specify nature of rehabilitation and describe the building(s) which are proposed for rehabilitation.

The Adams Library will be renovated, restored, and updated with new mechanical and electrical system.

Does the project include new construction? If so, describe (attach plans and elevations if necessary).

New construction will include a 20,372 sq. ft. addition.

Trustees unveil design for \$4.5M library expansion

Chelmsford Independent 4/25/96

Proposal would spare 'Pink House' but raze two other buildings

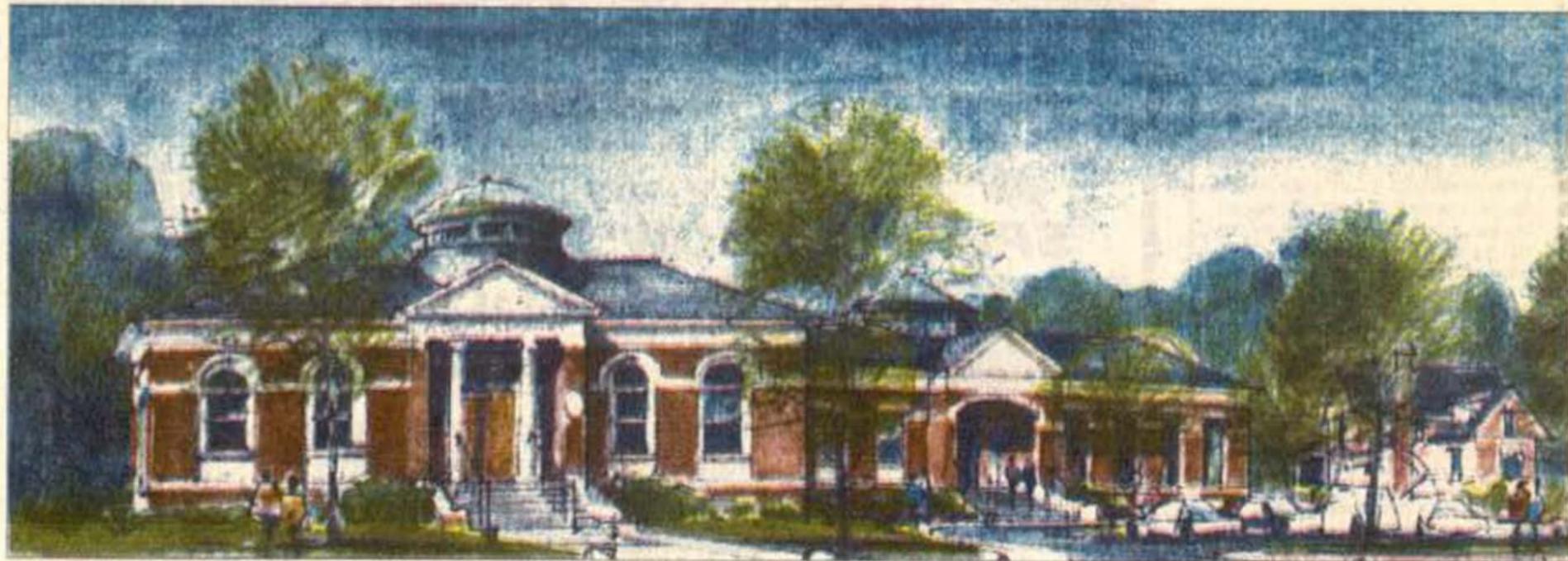
BY BRENDA DONOGHUE
STAFF WRITER

Selectmen previewed the \$4.5 million design for renovation and expansion of the Adams Library Monday, but the real show will be at Town Meeting next week.

The project will result in a library with 29,500 square feet of space. It also brings the library into compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and adds 100 parking spaces.

Representatives will be asked at Monday's Town Meeting to allow the town to seek funds for the library project. This article does not seek town funding.

Right now, the library encompasses 15,000 to 16,000 square feet in three buildings — Adams Library, the Children's House and the Carriage House, Library Director Mary Mahoney said.



The architect's drawing above, by A. Anthony Tappe and Associates, shows the Adams Library from Boston Road, with the proposed addition to the right.



Town Meeting Representatives

Precinct 8

Dear Constituent:

At the October 21, 1996 Town Meeting, Representatives overwhelmingly voted to fund a new library building/handicapped access project. Following that Town Meeting, a petition was submitted to hold a special election to ratify the vote of Town Meeting - thereby giving residents the opportunity to vote on the library project. As Town Meeting Representatives who support the library project we hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to support the library's new project and ratify Town Meeting's 'yes' vote.

We also want to take the opportunity to explain why an overwhelming majority of Town Meeting Representatives support the new project.

The new project is affordable within the Town's budget and will not increase taxes. In 1995, residents rejected a ballot question which would have allowed the Town to override Proposition 2 1/2 in order to fund a 6.7 million dollar library expansion. The new project is smaller in scale. The cost is offset by an additional 1.8 million dollar State grant. The cost to the residents is 3 million dollars - that's 55% less than the previous plan.

If the remaining 3 million dollars is not funded by the Town, the 1.8 million dollar grant must be returned to the State. It cannot be used for alternative library improvements or handicapped access. If Chelmsford returns the grant to the State, it will be awarded to one of the 21 communities on the State's waiting list for grant funding.

The reduced design minimizes future operating costs and requires no additional staffing

The new project is 25% smaller than the previous project. It is compact and efficient and its design does not overwhelm the original building and the Pink House remains on site.

We believe this project makes sound financial sense for Chelmsford. It provides handicapped access while adding needed space. Vote 'yes' to ratify the vote of Town Meeting and to keep the State Grant money in Chelmsford.

Katherine A. Foster
Angelo J. Taranto
David G. Lee, Rep.
Cheryl Boss
Walter A. Cleven
Alexander W. Lewis
Sam Poirer
Gail E. Poutten

Willie Cherry
Deborah Dillhoff
John Dillhoff
Shirley



R. W. EMERSON
PUBL.

"ACROSS THE MEADOWS"
CHELMSFORD CENTRE, MASS.

Note Adams Library right center

Postcard courtesy of Paul Pettazoni



R.W. EMERSON, PUB.

SOUTH STREET.

CHELMSFORD, MASS.

Note Adams Library right center (South Street is now Boston Road) Postcard courtesy of Paul Pettazoni



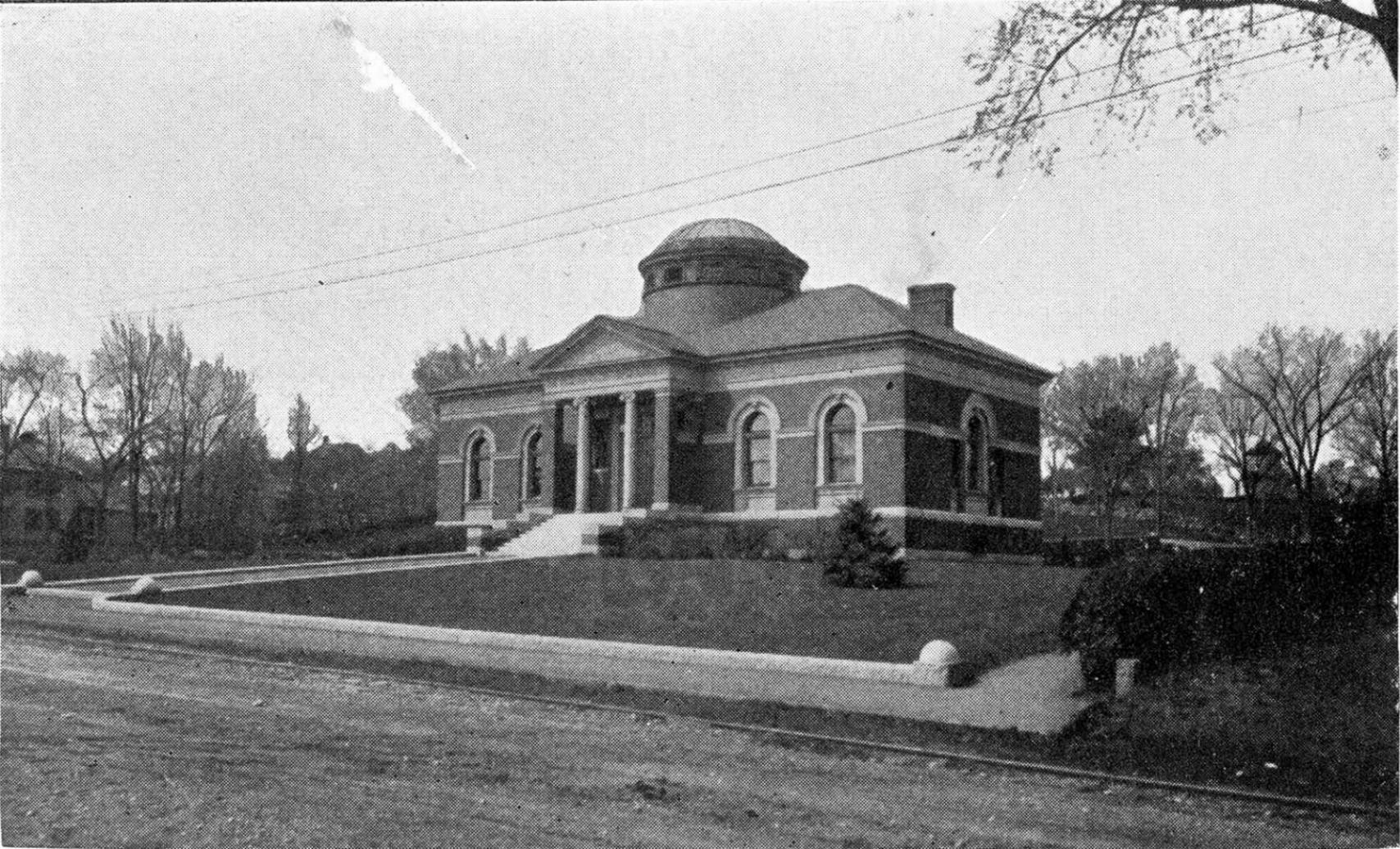
25 Boston Road - Adams Library prior to 1903 (Fred W. Park photo)



Adams Library, North Chelmsford, Mass

(Note caption error)

Postcard courtesy of Paul Pettazoni



Adams Library, Chelmsford, Mass.



Postcard courtesy of Paul Pettazoni



1894

ADAMS LIBRARY



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