

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

84/334/14	Billerica		CLM.325
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Town/City: Chelmsford

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Chelmsford Center

Photograph



Address: 6 Boston Road

Historic Name: Nathan P. Dadmun House

Uses: Present: offices

Original: single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1842

Source: *History of Chelmsford 1910 – 1970*

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Unknown date side additions

1956 change of use to offices

Ca. 1960 rear addition

Ca. 1990 replacement windows

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: less than 1 acre

Setting: The building is located approximately 40' east of Boston Rd. across from Central Sq. A drive south of the building leads to the rear parking lot. A flat grassy area is in front of the building. A line of mature trees is along the south line of the lot. The surrounding area includes 19th and 20th c. commercial development.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Jennifer Burden, Gray & Pape, Inc.

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

6 BOSTON ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The 2.5-story building has a stone foundation, walls clad in wood clapboard with wood trim, and an asphalt-shingled side gable roof with gable returns. An exterior brick chimney is centrally located along the north wall. Fenestration throughout the building consists of six-over-six double-hung windows. The primary (west) façade of the main mass of the building is five symmetrical bays wide with windows in the outer bays of both stories. A smaller window is in the center bay of the second story. The main entry is in the center bay of the first story. The Greek Revival style entry features a historic wood and glass pane door with sidelights and fluted pilasters topped with a dentil molded pediment. A 2.5-story, one-bay projection is on the south wall and is slightly shorter than the main mass of the building. The projection is two bays deep with windows in each of the bays. A two-story wing on the north wall has a flat roof with a short railing along the perimeter. The west wall of the wing has ribbons of four windows on both stories. In ca. 1960 a large two-story brick addition was constructed at the rear of the building that is approximately double the size of the original house.

The resource is a fair example of a Greek Revival style mid-nineteenth residence that retains historic integrity of location, setting, and association.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

In 1828 a barn from behind the Unitarian Church was relocated on the south side of Beaver Brook in Chelmsford Center and converted into a blacksmith shop. By 1842 Nathan P. Dadmun and Eben H. Marshall took ownership of the blacksmith shop and Dadmun constructed the house at 6 Boston Road in front of the shop. Three years later Marshall left the partnership and opened another blacksmith shop on Boston Road at Warren Avenue, south of this location. The 1855 Massachusetts State Census lists Dadmun (ca. 1818-1880) living in Chelmsford with wife Martha (born ca. 1819), four children under the age of 12, and Nathan's mother, Abigail Dadmun (born ca. 1789). Several blacksmiths worked at the site during Dadmun's ownership. The 1875 map of Chelmsford Center shows the Dadmun house and blacksmith shop along the east side of what would become Boston Road, south of Beaver Brook. At this date the house is shown as an L-shaped plan.

When Nathan died ca. 1880 his son Girard (ca. 1846-1923) was named his executor. The 1889 map of Chelmsford Center shows the house and blacksmith shop in the same locations as the 1875 map. Girard is listed in the 1870 U.S. Population Census as living in Lowell in a boardinghouse and working as a store clerk. He continued to appear in Lowell City Directories at various addresses into the 1910s. The 1920 Census lists him as owning a place on South Street (now Boston Road) in Chelmsford. At this date he is listed as single, living alone, and not working. His death is recorded on the Massachusetts Death Index in 1923. At that date, his executor, Charles E. Bartlett, sold this property and the blacksmith shop to George Day for \$5,000; the shop was demolished on September 8, 1923.

The 1910 Census lists George Day (ca. 1867-1937) living on Westford Street in Chelmsford with wife Daisy (born ca. 1882) and mother-in-law Daisy Peavy (born ca. 1849). Day was the co-founder of the Sweetser and Day mill that was razed in 1923. After George's death in 1937, the property transferred to wife Daisy. She retained the property until 1955 when she sold it to C. Richmond and Helen Q. Page. Richmond Page previously purchased other parcels on Central Square from Ms. Day after George Day's death. In ca. 1960 Page had the brick addition constructed at the rear of the house and divided the both sections into medical office suites. This use continues today with 11 condominium units. The property is owned by a trust run by the Page family.

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