

FORM B - BUILDING

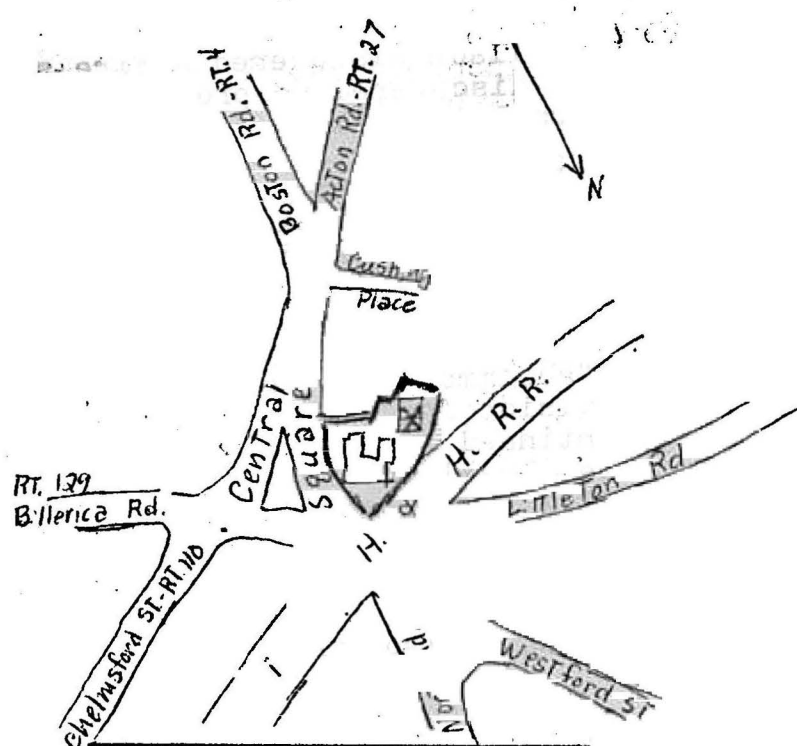
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no. Chelmsford Center	Form no. 250
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Town Chelmsford
 Address 1 Central Square
 Name Central House Stable
 Present use small business
 Present owner Vlahos Realty Co., Inc.
 Description _____
 Date December 1884
 Source Lowell Weekly Journal
 Style _____

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



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

Architect _____
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboard-butted
 Outbuildings (describe) none
 Other features on same lot as the
Wilson Block (#204)

Altered _____ Date _____
 Moved no Date _____
 5. Lot size:
16,980 sq. ft.
 One acre or less x Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage ca 180 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street
ca 100 feet

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury
 Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission
 Date March 28, 1977

7 Original owner (if known) George H. Wilson, Sr.

Original use stable

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates small businesses since probably the 1930s

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	Recreation
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	Religion
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	Science/ invention
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	Social/ humanitarian
Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military	Transportation
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	
Community development	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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

This building is actually an out-building of the Wilson Block (204), but because of its importance, it is being inventoried separately.

It was built for George H. Wilson, Sr. in December 1884, just 4 months after the completion of the Wilson Block - "a neat and commodious stable, which will prove a great convenience to his tenants."

In the spring of 1913 George Wilson converted a carriage shed adjoining the stable to a garage to house his new Cadillac touring car, and the following spring "additional garage accommodations for housing a Ford runabout were built for George H. Wilson at the Central House stables."

Early in the morning of April 8, 1915 George Wilson discovered a fire set in the cellar of the stable. Had the fire not been discovered so promptly, the Wilson Block, because of its closeness, would probably have been destroyed with the stables. Both were saved, however.

In March 1916 Mr. Wilson sold the property. In the latter years of his ownership, he had given up the hotel business and devoted his time to the management of the stables to which he had added automobile service for passenger and trucking. After the sale of the property, this business was briefly taken over by G. Garland Byam, but within 2 months Byam had formed a rival business, and Charles O. Robbins (#56) had taken over managership of both the stables and the Central House. At this time the stables had "accommodation for several horses and ample carriage space, with garage provision for two automobiles.

The livery and express business probably continued until sometime in the 1930s, when a furniture store was installed there. Small businesses have occupied the building ever since, and in March 1977 it is rented by the "Community-Crafts."

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

- Lowell Weekly Journal: 8/8/1884; 12/11/1884; Jan. 1885
- Lowell Courier-Citizen: 4/20/1913; 5/5/1914; 4/8/1915; 3/31/1916; 4/3/1916; 6/2/1916; 6/28/1916
- 1889 Atlas
- Chelmsford Assessors' records
- Mrs. Margaret Mills, daughter of former owner
- Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds: Bk.1320, p.19; Bk.693, p.206; Bk.552, p.147

2 - 9 Central Square Lot 1
Wilson Block

1974 owner: Vlahos Realty Co., Inc.
Stores & Apt.
16,980 sq. ft.

Built in 1884
First owner: George H. Wilson
Use: hotel

Sources:

1. 1889 Atlas: Central House, G.H. Wilson
1875 Atlas: D. Perham (outline of different building)
2. Chelmsford Assessors' Office 10/3/1974
Plat 174, Block 41, Lot 1
1974 owner: Vlahos Realty Co., Inc., c/o Vaseleke Vlahos, 54 Georgia
Ave., Lowell
1972 Stores & Apt. 16,980 sq. ft.
Barn loft
Office storage
1964 6-7-8 Stores 16,980 sq. ft.
3-4-5-9 Apt. Block
Gar. & Shop
1956 6-7-8 Stores 16,980 sq. ft.
3-4-5-9 Apt. Block
Gar. & shop
3. Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds
Book 1320, pg. 19 10/11/1955 Vaseleke J. Vlahos to
Vlahos Realty Co., Inc.
1/8 acre
Book 693, pg. 206 10/11/1955 Edward J. Robbins & Herbert E. Ellis
to Vaseleke J. Vlahos
1/8 acre
Book 552, pg. 147 3/24/1916 George H. Wilson to Edward J. Robbins
& Herbert E. Ellis
Book 202, pg. 502 12/12/1888 George H. Wilson to
George H. Wilson, Jr. & Fred N.
Wilson, both of Somerville
1/8 acre with buildings thereon
Book 166, pg. 124 4/12/1884 Edwin K. Parkhurst to
George H. Wilson
1/8 acre certain tract of land
\$12,000
Book 150, pg. 238 1/7/1882 Earl A. Thissell of Lowell to
Edwin K. Parkhurst
1/8 acre land with buildings thereon
\$450
4. Waters, "History of Chelmsford"
Pg. xii (maps & illustrations index): In 1884, George H. Wilson built
the large block in Central Square, Chelmsford Centre, and
kept a hotel there for a number of years.
Pg. 402 The store kept by S.S. Parkhurst (1865 - 1869) was on the site
of the Wilson Block.



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