

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

84/336/11	Billerica		CLM.332
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 26 Central Square

Historic Name: Jack's Quality Market

Uses: Present: retail store

Original: grocery store

Date of Construction: ca. 1937

Source: Deed and city directory research

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood

Roof: flat

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
none

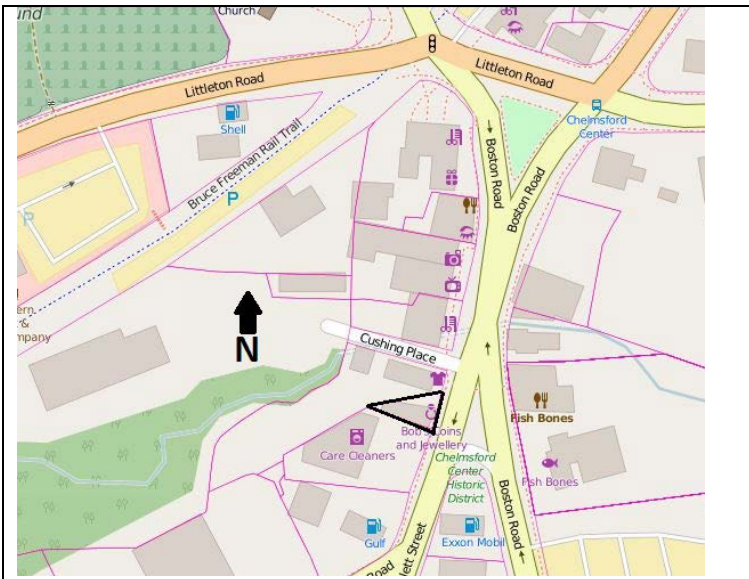
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .03 A

Setting: The building is located on the west side of Central Sq., south of Cushing Pl. The building compasses the entire lot and abuts the sidewalk. The north wall of the building tapers to the rear to fit within the parcel. 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

26 CENTRAL SQUARE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CLM.332

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 one-story building measures approximately 60' deep, 30' along the storefront, and 15' at the rear. The building has a concrete foundation, walls clad in wood siding with wood trim, and a flat roof. An internal concrete block chimney is at the rear of the building. A short, molded, false front is along the front of the building. Corner boards are on the north and south corners of the primary (east) façade. The façade is three bays wide with square, casement windows in the outer bays and a recessed entry in the center bay. A wood sign above the storefront is lit by an exterior light.

The building is a good example of a mid-twentieth century commercial building that retains all historic integrity.

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.

Deed research traced the ownership history of the property to 1937 when the City Institute for Savings sold it to Mary E. Gilbride (1907-2003). The deed did not mention any building(s) on the site and the 1937 city directory does not list Gilbride living in Chelmsford; therefore, the building was likely constructed once Gilbride made the purchase. The 1940 city directory lists Mary and John Gilbride living on Steadman St in Chelmsford with Mary listed as the owner of a grocery on Central Square with John as the store manager. Neither are listed in the 1942 directory; however, the 1949 directory lists John operating Jack's Quality Market at this address. In 1954 Gilbride sold the property to Gertrude V. Hart. The 1957 directory lists Gertrude's husband Edward D. Hart as the proprietor of the Eddie Hart Shop, a men's clothing store, at this address. Gertrude sold the property in 1975. In 1986 current owner Robert C. Casper purchased the property and Bob's Coin and Jewelry continues to operate at this address.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Genealogical research, including U.S. and Massachusetts census records; birth, marriage, and death records; and city directory records from ancestry.com.

Middlesex North Registry of Deeds. www.lowelldeeds.com.