

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 28 Central Square

Historic Name: Care Cleaners

Uses: Present: dry cleaners

Original: dry cleaners

Date of Construction: 1960

Source: *History of Chelmsford 1910 – 1970* and deed research

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: unknown

Wall/Trim: glass windows/aluminum

Roof: flat

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

None

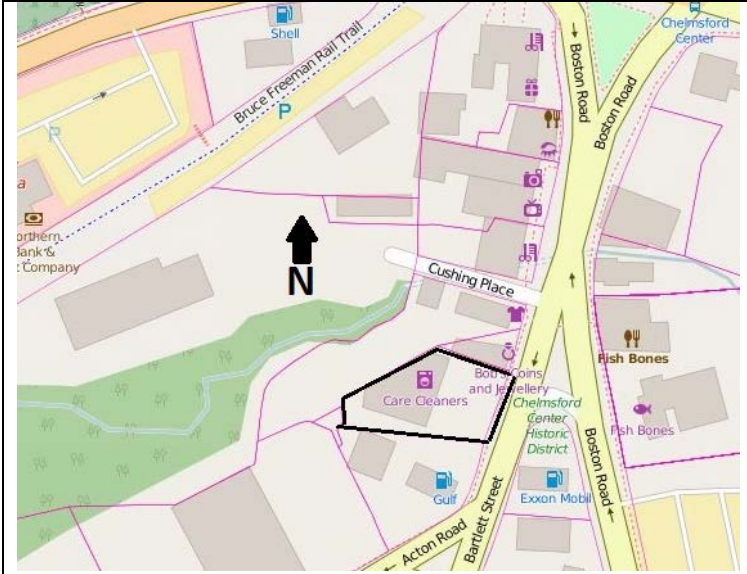
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .24 A

Setting: The building is located approximately 75' west of Central Sq. north of its intersection with Acton Rd. A parking lot is in front of the building, indicative of its mid-20th c. design to accommodate automobile traffic. The building is angled on the NW side to fit within the lot. The surrounding area includes 19th and 20th 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

28 CENTRAL SQUARE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CLM.333

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 was constructed in 1960. The five-sided building is angled in the rear to accommodate the shape of the lot. The front of the building is approximately 80' wide and the rear is about 35' wide. The primary (east) façade is 11 bays wide and consists of all glass with aluminum trim. Two sets of double door entries are located within the third bays from the north and south ends. The flat roof projects over the width of the façade, providing shelter from the elements. Climate control equipment is located on the roof. The projection portion of the roof features a neon sign that reads, "Cleaners Care Laundarama." Since the building has only ever housed the cleaners, the sign appears to be original to the building.

The resource is an excellent example of a mid-twentieth century modern-type building that retains all aspects 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.

Prior to this building a house was located on the site where Dr. Elijah Harris had a veterinary practice until 1915. The house stood until 1960 when it was cleared to construct the current building. At the end of 1959 Russell Dobson Munro purchased the property and the next year had the cleaners building erected. Munro (1913-1985) arrived in Boston from Nova Scotia in 1916. His father, Frederick Russell Munro (1891-1973) is listed in Boston city directories as early as 1917 as a carpenter. The elder Munro's obituary describes him as a "residential architect." Research, however, did not discover if Frederick Munro designed the dry cleaning building. Russell Monroe owned and operated a chain of dry cleaners and laundries in the greater region, including Ayer, Groton, Ft. Devens, Acton, Wellesley, and Littleton. Two of his Ayer establishments are documented on MHC Inventory Forms AYE.148 and AYE.149. In 1983 Munro transferred ownership to the Kleen-It Realty Trust, who retains ownership of the property. Since its construction the building has housed the Care Cleaners dry cleaners and alterations business.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Chelmsford Historical Commission. *History of Chelmsford 1910 – 1970*. Chelmsford Historical Commission, Chelmsford, MA. 2011.

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.