

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

Lowell

CLM.334

Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 37-38 Central Square

Historic Name: George and Daisy Day Building

Uses: Present: mixed-use, hair salon/residential
Original: residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1924

Source: Research from the Chelmsford Historical Society

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 1990 replacement siding and windows

Ca. 1990 exterior staircase addition

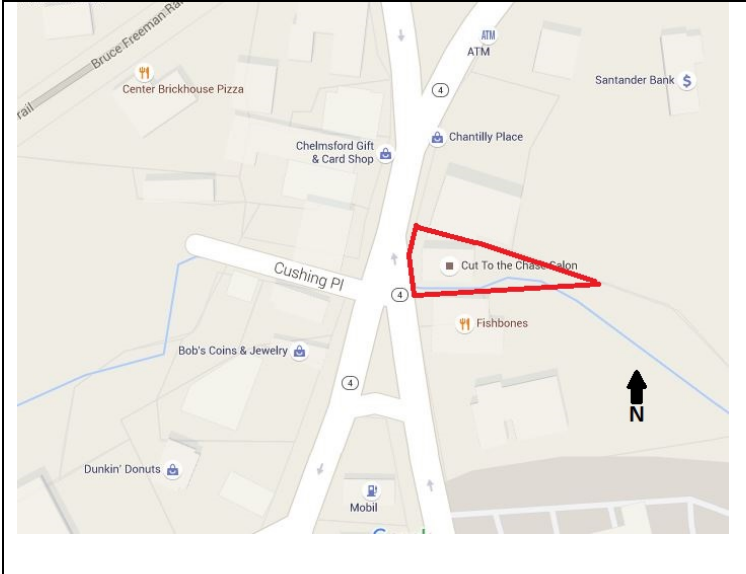
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .17 A

Setting: The building is located on the east side of Central Sq., approximately 10' from the street. An asphalt drive on the south side leads to a rear parking lot. Beaver Brook is immediately to the south of 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*): February 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD 37-38 CENTRAL SQUARE

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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.

This two-story building, with basement, has a stone foundation, walls clad in replacement vinyl siding, and a asphalt-shingled hipped roof. An internal, brick chimney is located along the south slope of the roof. Windows throughout the building are replacements, with one-over-one, double-hung windows on the north and south walls and six-over-six double-hung windows with false muntins on the second story of the primary (west) façade. The three-bay, symmetrical, primary façade includes storefront space on the first story and two, single windows on the second story. The storefront has large, display windows on the north and south bays and a single, recessed entry door in the center topped with an oval-shaped transom. Many of the storefront materials are replacements, including the multi-pane windows with false muntins, brick-covered kickplates, and entry door. The trim on the storefront appears to be historic, including the wooden, fluted pilasters at the corners of the windows and at the ends of the façade. The end pilasters are topped with a simple moulded capital; above this is a flat ornamentation with a plain, oval medallion and dentil moulding. A retractable awning is located above the storefront windows and extends across the width of the façade. A signboard space is above the awning and currently features a modern sign for the salon in the building. The storefront area is topped with a full-width, moulded piece that separates the stories.

The north wall features a partially-enclosed staircase that leads from the sidewalk to the apartment unit on the second story. The staircase is sheltered by a shed roof awning supported by knee braces. The east end of the north wall includes a one-story, shed roof addition that is clad in replacement siding. The south wall features a single door and window on the west end of the first story. The four-bay second story features single windows in each bay with the center two bays projecting outward. A modern, wood deck is located on the rear wall.

The resource is an altered example of a mixed-use building. It retains historic integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. The building is adjacent to the Chelmsford Center Local and National Register Historic District.

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.

A review of historic maps of Chelmsford show no buildings were on the site in 1831, but a blacksmith shop and house appear on the 1856 map of Chelmsford Center. This map and one from 1875 list the owner as N.P. Dadmun (sometimes spelled Dadman). The 1867 Massachusetts Register lists N.P. Dadmun as a blacksmith in Chelmsford. Nathaniel Dadmun was in business with Eben H. Marshall, another blacksmith, who owned land to the south of this parcel that now includes the building at 24 Boston Road (CLM.326). In the 1840s the two men owned a blacksmith shop that was located next to Beaver Brook, but in 1845 Marshall left the operation to start a wood working and blacksmith business further south on Boston Road at the corner of Warren Avenue.

The 1856 and 1875 maps also show a blacksmith shop located just behind the present day building at 37-38 Central Square and the house, which has a present day address of 6 Boston Road (CLM.325). The 1855 Massachusetts State Census lists Nathaniel Prescott Dadmun (1818-1880) living in Chelmsford with wife Martha (1819-1893, née Laws), four children under the age of 12, and Nathaniel's mother, Abigail Dadmun (ca. 1789-1880). When Nathaniel died in 1880, son Girard (ca. 1846-1923) was named his executor. 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

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this property and the blacksmith shop to George Day for \$5,000; the shop was demolished in 1923 and the new two-story building was constructed next to Beaver Brook and closer to the sidewalk soon afterward.

The 1910 Census lists George Day (1866-1937) living on Westford Street in Chelmsford with wife Daisy (1881-1974) 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. In 1936 C. Richmond Page purchased the drug store business from Walter D. Falls and relocated the store to leased space on the first story of this building. In 1950 the drug store relocated again, this time to the one-story building to the south of this property. After George Day's death in 1937, the property transferred to wife Daisy. She retained the property until 1951, selling it to Thomas G. Gallagher, Inc. The company only kept the property for five months before selling it to James and Louise Harrington. In 1951 Harrington opened the Chelmsford Wine Shop in the building. The property remains in the Harrington family, currently as Harrington Properties, LLC.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Beers, F.W. *County Atlas of Middlesex, Massachusetts*. New York: J.B. Beers & Co. 1875. Available from the Chelmsford Historical Commission map collection

Chelmsford Historical Society. Files and photographs of the Dadmun Blacksmith Shop. Available from the Chelmsford Historical Society.

Hales, J.G. *1831 Survey of Chelmsford*. Available from the Chelmsford Historical Commission map collection.

Genealogical data from ancestry.com including U.S. and Massachusetts Population Schedules, Massachusetts City Directories, and Massachusetts Birth, Death, and Marriage Records

Middlesex County Deed Records

Parkhurst, Eleanor. *History of Chelmsford 1910 – 1970*. Edited by Fred Merriam. Chelmsford: Chelmsford Historical Commission. 2011.

Walling, Henry. *Map of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Boston: Smith & Bumstead 1856. Available from the Chelmsford Historical Commission map collection.

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Photograph of the blacksmith shop taken in September 1920. (Chelmsford Historical Society.)



Ca. 1900 photograph of the blacksmith shop with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows building (CLM.249) in the left background. (Chelmsford Historical Society.)