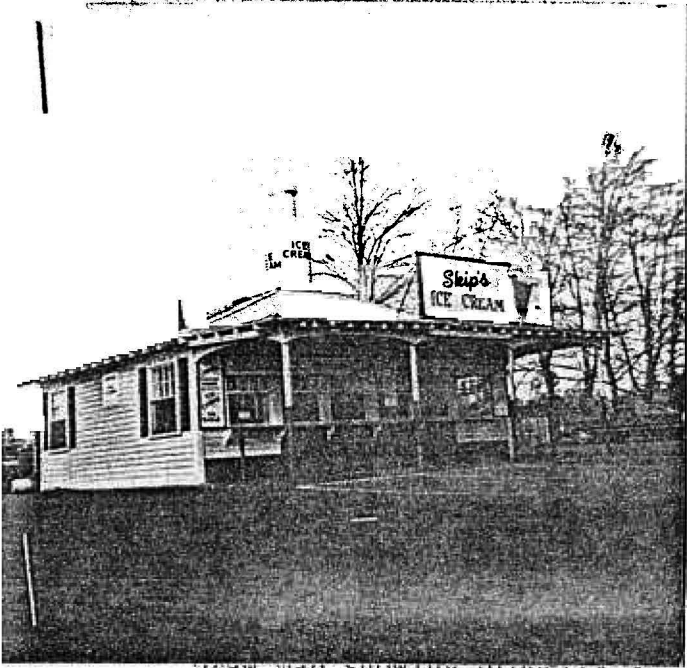
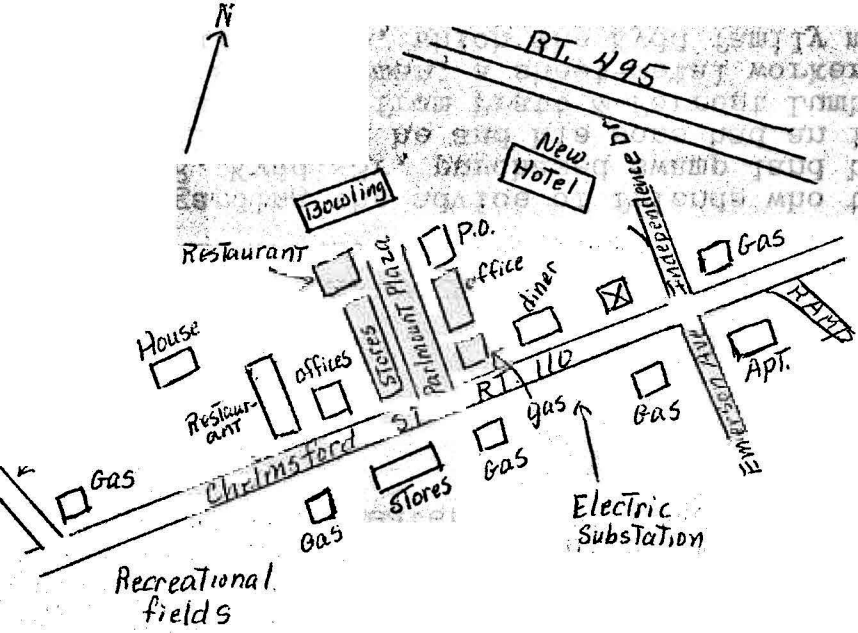


MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Town Chelmsford
 Address 118 Chelmsford Street
 Historic Name Skip's Ice Cream Stand
 Use: Original ice cream & sandwich stand
 Present ice cream stand
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization
 S.F.P. Realty Co.
 Public
 Original owner John R. Kydd, Sr.

Draw map showing property location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:
 Date 1936
 Source tax records, Raymond N. Kydd
 Style _____
 Architect _____
 Exterior wall fabric novelty board
 Outbuildings none
 Major alterations (with dates) none
 Moved no Date _____
 Approx. acreage 57,919 sq. feet
 Setting 20th Century "gasoline alley"

Recorded by Jane B. Drury
 Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission
 Date November 27, 1983

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The "milk bottle" on the stand roof is made of painted sheet metal covering a wooden frame. It is the only known example in the Greater-Lowell area.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

Disregarding the advice of friends who thought it a foolish venture, in 1936 John R. Kydd, Sr. purchased swamp land bordering Chelmsford St., and then on the filled land he and his sons had an ice cream stand built. The lumber for the stand came from Pratt & Forrest Lumber Co. on School St. in Lowell. His oldest son, Norman, a sheet-metal worker living in Dracut, made on the site the milk bottle, which the Kydd family men raised to the roof with the aid of ropes. The stand opened on a chilly, gloomy day in late summer, attended by a large crowd. It was the first such stand to open in Chelmsford.

John Kydd, Sr. lived on Stevens St. in Lowell, where he ran a dairy with 3 of his sons, who also helped him run the stand. Sandwiches & coffee were served from a window on the left, or west, side of the stand. Because of the overwhelming popularity of this part of the business, the diner was built next door about 2 years later. Only ice cream products have since been sold at the stand.

During World War II both the stand and diner were closed, but they re-opened about 1945-46.

In 1947 Kydd's Diner and Ice Cream Stand were sold to the Burliss & Geftas families, the present owners. The names were changed to Skip's Diner and Skip's Ice Cream Stand in memory of a Burliss son, who died young.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Raymond N. Kydd, Alan Greenhalge, Mildred Walhgren, Stephen Burliss, Charlotte DeWolf
Chelmsford tax/real estate valuation records; assessors' records
Chelmsford street directories

Conversation with Alan Greenhalge, 4 Bridge Street Nov. 10, 1983

Bottle: made in parts, from sheet metal, but wooden framed underneath made specially, when building was erected (bottle same time as stand)

about 1936
diner built a year or two later

Sandwiches & coffee served from side door of stand - had so many coffee & sandwiches purchases that it interfered with the ice cream business, so they built the diner.

He, Alan, was about 12 when he helped paint the stand, etc. He also helped the men pull on the ropes to haul the bottle up on the roof of the stand.

The men of the family built the stand.

His mother, Marion Greenhalge, "knows her name, that's about all"

He had some pictures of the stand & diner when they they built, and the diner when addition was put on. If he finds them, he will let me know.

Street Directory - 1983 Greenhalge
4 Bridge St.

Alan - postoffice, b. 1921
Mildred H. - housewife, 1926
David A. - machinist, 1960
Elizabeth A. - student, 1965
Marion K. - retired, 1895

Conversations with Charlotte DeWolf, Oct. 1, 1983

Original Kydd business - on Stevens Street in Lowell, on left side going toward Westford Street. House now boarded up, empty, needs paint. Bought milk, bottled & delivered it, including retail. John Kydd & Sons - had the milk business.

Stand - opened when Charlotte was a young married; 1936 sounds about right.

John had two sons in business with him: Doug & John, Jr. (who ran Jack's Diner in the Center. The 3 of them ran Skip's diner & stand.

Florence - wife of one of John's sons, lived in the Homestead (First St.?), later moved (ca 10-15 years ago) to area of Monument Hill Road.

Conversation with Mrs. Edward (Margaret Kydd) Tyler, 155 Boston Rd., Sept. 1983

John R. Sr. & 3 sons started the stand; diner came later. John lived at 809 Stevens Street in Lowell.

Her Aunt Mary (mother of Alan Greenhalge) - still alive.
Is the older sister of John R. Jr., Douglas, & David.
Very deaf.
Lives in studio apartment in Alan Greenhalge's house.

118 Chelmsford Street

Conversation with Raymond N. Kydd, 57 Newfield St., Nov. 15, 1983

All the land from the ice cream stand to the Gulf station was filled land when the Kydds purchased it. It was then all filled in. John Brady, Lowell, who did trucking, filled it in for them.

The weather was chilly and not too nice when the stand opened, late summer. But, the cars lined way up anyway: it was about the only ice cream stand in town.

Sandwiches & coffee: were sold through window on side toward Skip's (sandwich window is still there). The business was so thriving, that they built the diner next door.

Diner: built by a professional builder using plans, but built it from scratch, on the site. It was built a little later than the stand.

Stand: don't know who built it. Lumber came from a lumber company on School St. in Lowell. Believe the stand was built by someone outside of the family.

Bottle: made of sheet metal over a wooden frame, then the whole thing painted. Raymond's father, Norman Kydd, was John Kydd, Sr.'s oldest son. He was a sheet metal worker who lived in Dracut. He was not part of his father's dairy business, and he had nothing to do with the stand after it was built, except for maintenance of the bottle. He, Norman C. Kydd built the bottle there on the site.

Bottle & stand: unchanged from when they were built.

Diner: Raymond's grandfather didn't like alcohol beverages, so none were served there then. The diner & stand closed during W.W. II - re-opened about 1945-46. Additions were all after Kydd's sold.

Raymond N. Kydd: the oldest grand child. In 1928 went to work at the dairy but left in 1941 - too much of a family organization for him! Has no pictures of the stand or diner.

The 4 sons of John Kydd, Sr.:

Norman C - oldest son

John R., Jr. - ran Jack's Diner in center

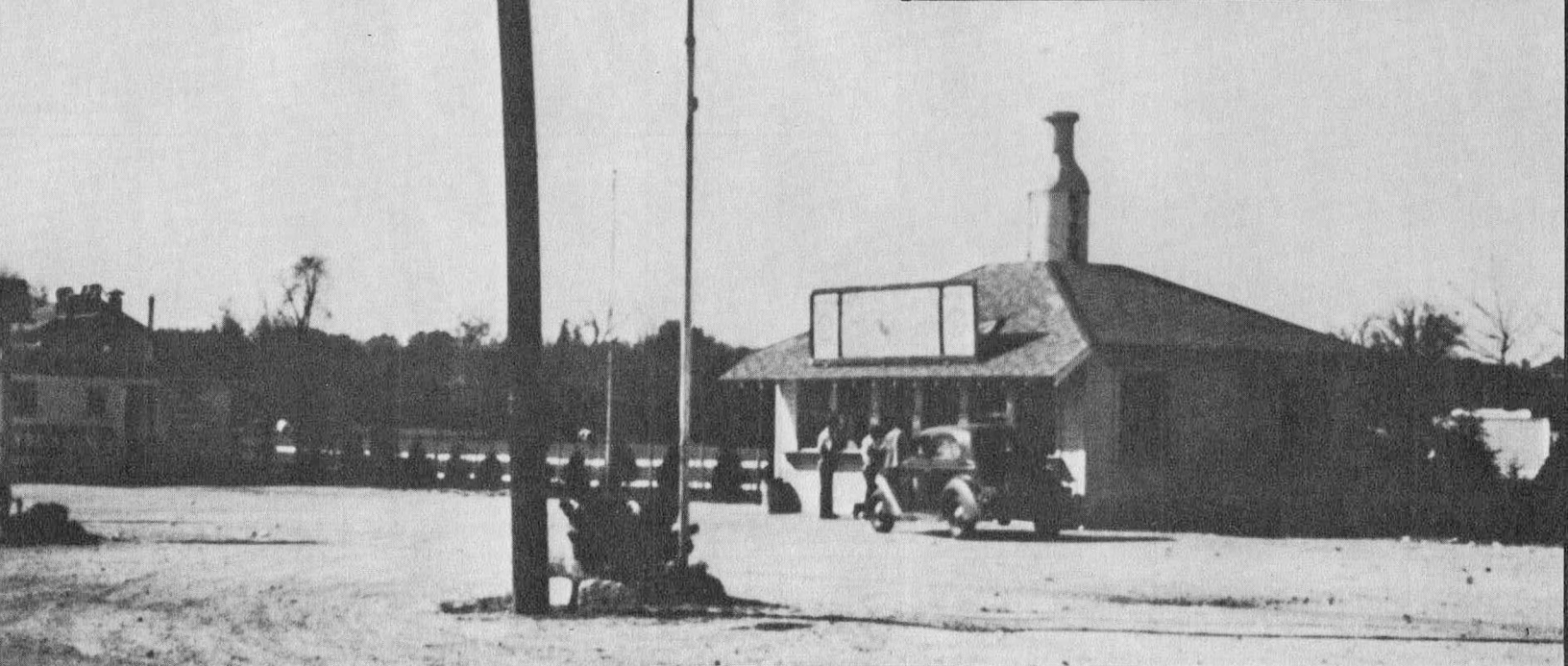
David W. - ran dairy with father

“ Douglas “ “ “ “

Conversation with Mildred Walhgren, 150 Wood St., Lowell, Nov. 15, 1983

Pratt & Forrest Lumber Co. was on School St., at corner by the railroad tracks. On the right going from Broadway to Middlesex St. Gas Co. is on the other side of the railroad bridge.

Marshall Pratt & --- Forrest: there a good many years. Dis a lot of finish work too - cabinets, etc. But not building construction.



c. 1940s From Parkhurst Publications Calendar 1992



c. 1970s From Parkhurst Publications Calendar 1992





Site of Skip's Ice Cream Stand Today

8/8/2004 F. Merriam