

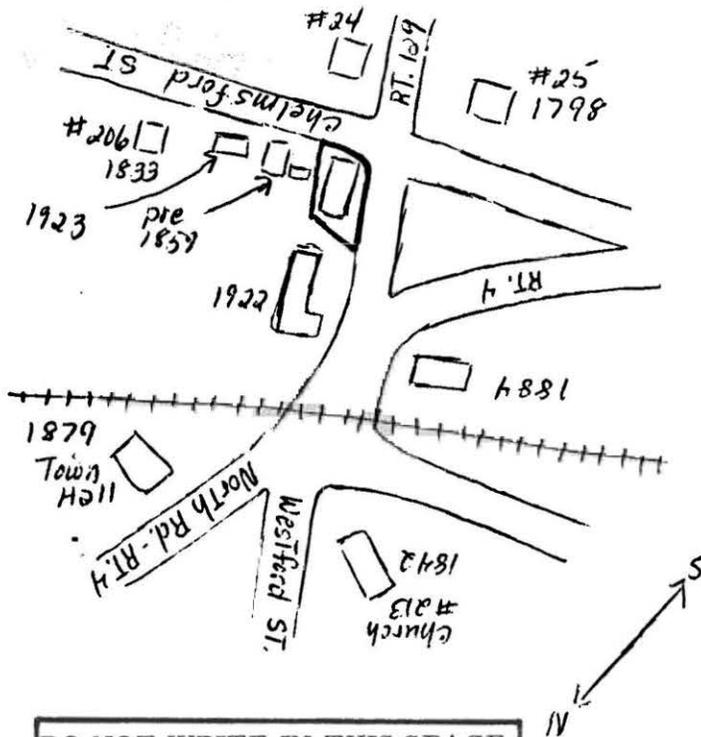
FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	205

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number #2 - 11

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



1. Town Chelmsford
Address 2 Chelmsford Street
Name Parkhurst's Store
Present use Bookstore, Driving School offices
Present owner Bradford Realty Trust

3. Description:
Date 1862
Source deeds, Frances Andrews
Style _____
Architect _____
Exterior wall fabric butted clapboard
Outbuildings (describe) none
Other features _____
Altered see attached sheet Date _____
Moved see Hist. Signif. Date ca 1871

5. Lot size:
One acre or less x Over one acre _____
 $\frac{1}{4}$ acre
Approximate frontage 150 feet
Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury
Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commis
Date February 8, 1975

7. Original owner (if known) Edwin King Parkhurst

Original use grocery store

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates P.O. 1st floor, multiple times. 2nd Floor -1887
shoemaker shop; ca 1900 to 1969 printing shop; Civil War & later-social events

8. Themes (check as many as applicable) plays, dances etc.

Aboriginal		Conservation		Recreation	
Agricultural		Education		Religion	
Architectural		Exploration/ settlement		Science/ invention	
The Arts		Industry		Social/ humanitarian	<u>x</u>
Commerce	<u>x</u>	Military		Transportation	
Communication	<u>x</u>	Political			
Community development					

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

See attached sheet

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

1875 Beers Atlas

Miss Eleanor Parkhurst

1889 Atlas -G. Walker, Boston

Mr. Henry Eriksen

Waters, "History of Chelmsford"

Miss Frances Andrews

Middlesex North District Reg. of Deeds:

Plan, Book M, plan 77, sheet 1, 1912

Bk. 30, pg. 556, 1862; Bk 30, pg. 543, 1861; Bk. 41, pg. 473, 1865

Bk. 9, pg. 160, 1804; Bk. 8, pg. 440, 1815; Bk. 17, pg. 476, 1851

Bk. 15, pg. 174, 1842

Rev. Ebenezer Bridge Diary, 1749 - 1792, 11/18/1770; 1/8/1771; 6/17/1771

Parkhurst's Store Historical Significance

From as far back as 1843 until 1923, with a few interruptions, there has been a Parkhurst's Store at Chelmsford Center. At that time the store was run by Samuel S. Parkhurst and was at the site of the present Wilson or Central Block. This building burned, and in 1861 the business moved across the street to the present building, apparently built at that time by Edwin King Parkhurst between the location of the present railroad tracks and the town hall.

An earlier store stood on this location for many years and appears in a deed from Oliver Barron to Colonel Ebenezer Bridge, dated 1804. Apparently it was either destroyed or moved sometime between 1856 and 1861, when Mr. Parkhurst bought the land.

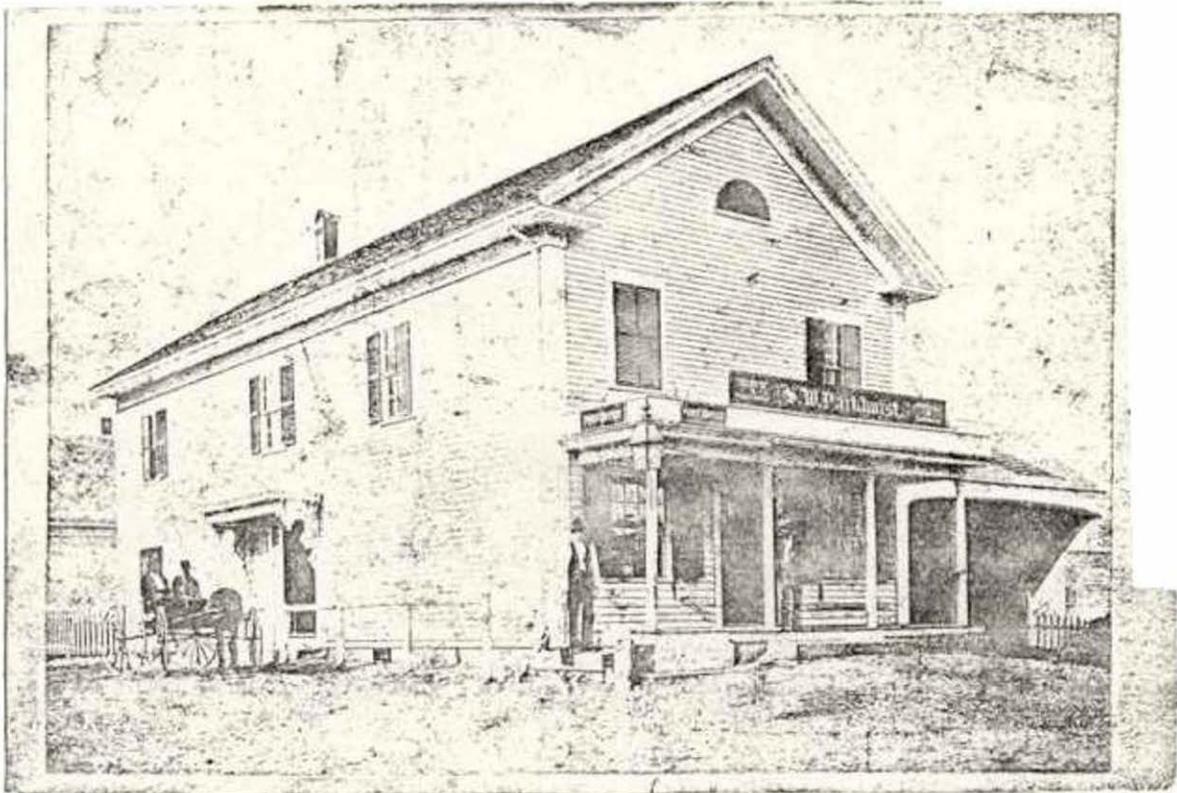
During the Civil War the Soldiers' Aid Society met at the new store building in the room called Central Hall on the second floor over the grocery to quilt, knit and make articles for the soldiers. Dances and social were often also held in the hall.

In 1871 the Framingham and Lowell Railroad (Penn Central in 1975) was built, and the store building was moved to its present location at the corner of Chelmsford Street and Central Square. This was the approximate location of the old Barron's or Reed's Tavern, built by Capt. Oliver Barron in 1771 following a fire which consumed a previous tavern on the site. These taverns were a popular meeting place for the local officials. The second also burned in 1861, and for many years afterward the elms in Central Square gave evidence of damage received at that time.

In 1865 S.S. Parkhurst again took up the grocery business. Samuel Cummings and Libby & Evans both controlled it for a short time, and in 1880 S. Waldo Parkhurst purchased it and in 1883 added a storage shed. He remained the storekeeper for about 35 years and for part of that time he and his brother George A. were postmasters with the office in the store. The post office returned during the 1920's, Ray Hazeltine postmaster. In 1887 C.W. Sylander returned to Chelmsford and opened his shoemaker's shop over the store. Shortly before 1900 S. Waldo's son, G. Thomas Parkhurst, opened a printing office on the second floor next to Central Hall, a business that was continued by his daughter Eleanor until 1969.

After the retirement of S. Waldo Parkhurst's daughter, Emma, in 1923, the store business passed out of Parkhurst ownership to a Boston firm E.E. Gray and then to Henry Erikson, who ran it until 1969, when the Parkhurst family sold the building. Since then it has been occupied by the Chelmsford Bookstore and other offices.

North: Book 41, Page 473	4/ 1/1865	Edwin K. Parkhurst to Elizabeth W. Fiske Buildings, scales & materials 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres (2 parcels) \$1050 plus mortgage
North: Book 30, Page 543	11/19/1861	Joseph Reed to Edwin K. Parkhurst $\frac{1}{4}$ acre \$150
North: Book 30, Page 556	4/21/1862	Asa Heill Jr., Lowell, to Edwin K. Parkhurst Wood, stone, brick, manure, & nearby Fairbanks scales 2 acres \$600
Abbott Store		
North: Book 30, Page 543	11/19/1861	Joseph Reed to Edwin K. Parkhurst $\frac{1}{4}$ acre \$150
North: Book 15, Page 33 South: Book 408, Page 562	10/11/1841	Jonathan M. Reed Esquire to Joseph Reed, Innkeeper $\frac{1}{2}$ acre \$1200 store & shed (lease of store to B.F. Adams)
North: Book 13, Page 347 South: Book 347, Page 168	1/13/1834	Caleb Abbott & Josiah Fletcher to Jonathan M. Reed, Gentleman $\frac{1}{2}$ acre \$950 store & buildings
North: Book 9, Page 513 South: Book 195, Page 432	10/1 /1811	David S. Eaton of Boston, Merchant to Caleb Abbott, Merchant Store & land (minus land deeded to town) \$900
North: Book 8, Page 210 South: Book 184, Page 192	2/ 9/1809	Ebenezer Bridge Esq ^r to David S. Eaton of Boston, Merchant 1 acre \$800 store (lease of store to Eaton)
North: Book 9, Page 160 South: Book 159, Page 115	5/ 7/1804	Oliver & Jonathan Barron to Ebenezer Bridge 1 acre \$1300 store



Parkhurst's Store

This is a picture of the store when it stood on the southern corner of the lot on which the town hall now stands. It was moved to its present site shortly after the railroad was built thro' the town, perhaps about 1872.

I think the store at that time was kept by Samuel Parkhurst, better known as "Uncle Sam."

The house showing at the left of the picture is the Mary E. Richardson place, where I now live. The house at the right is where E.W. Sweetser * now lives at that time occupied by D.B. Emerson.

While I do not remember much about the store before it was moved, I do remember seeing it while it was being moved but I cannot definitely state what year it was.

Albert H. Davis

* Think this the Amos Adams House (15 FletcherSt.) -G. Thomas Parkhurst

This is a copy of a handwritten note in the possession of Eleanor Parkhurst. The correction by G. Thomas Parkhurst was written some time later.

Barron or Reed's Tavern

Waters, "History of Chelmsford", pg. 396

The old tavern which stood near where Parkhurst's store now stands, in Central Square, was kept, at one time, by Capt. Moses Barron; and later, by Joseph Reed, Harrington, Ailing, and H. Proctor. This was burned in 1861. The elms in Central square still give evidence of the damage they received at this time.

Bridge's Diary

Dec. 27, 1762 - Also went to Capt. Barron's to see one Noyes a young man sick there but was not asked to see him nor to go any further than the Barr-room

March 2, 1767 - Prayed in Town meeting, and in evening supped at Barrons with the Selectmen.

Nov. 18, 1770 - In the evening between nine and ten o'clock, we having been in bed and asleep some little time - were alarmed with the cry of fire - I awaked and saw Capt. Oliver Barron's house in flames - rose as quick as I possibly could and ran to their assistance. But when I arrived there, found, the fire had prevailed so far, as there () no hopes of saving the house. Looked for the family - found they were all preserved alive. Mrs. Wilder and the Captain's son Oliver, were delivered from the greatest danger, and through the greatest difficulty. Mrs. Wilder seemed almost gone. It remained doubtful for several hours, whether she would revive, but at length she gave some hopeful symptoms of a recovery. A terrible night we had of it, God ordered a calm season, and through divine goodness, the other buildings in the neighborhood were preserved. I took Mrs. Barron and the children to my house and they went to bed toward morning and had some rest. Blessed be the Lord it was no worse.

Nov. 19, 1770 - Capt. Barron and wife and children with us - the Captain and his mother have lost not less than between 3 or 400 Sterling - A hurried, uncomphsed state we are in!

Nov. 20, 1770 - Last night Capt. Barron and wife and 2 children lodged with us - but the other 2 children lodged elsewhere. Col. Stoddard took Mrs. Wilder to his house yesterday, and this day the Captain and his family, except his oldest son, went to reside in the house of Sampson Stoddard Jun^r; the oldest son remains with us.

Jan. 8, 1771 - Capt. Oliver Barron raised a new house, in the spot where his old house was lately burnt. I attended, and after the raising was finished, sang the first 3 Stanzas of the 34 Psalm.

June 17, 1771 - Visited Capt. Barron with my wife in his new house.

Transactions of the church:

Sept. 22, 1805 - The pastor desired the church to stop after the congregation were dismissed to consult with them on the question viz: whether there were any covenant violation that ought on any account of misconduct to be deprived of church privileges. The church after mature consideration declared that Jonathan Barron was a suspicious character; that if reports circulated and believed by people in general were true, he ought not without public confession to enjoy church privileges. The church chose a committee of three consisting of the Pastor, Dea. Benjamin Parkhurst and Dea. Josiah Parkhurst to inquire of the said Mr. Barron, whether those reports be true and to see what satisfaction, if any, they could obtain, relative to his supposed misconduct.

Parkhurst/Eriksen Store
2 Chelmsford St.

Page 64: Stores

1843 - S.S. Parkhurst (Gt. Uncle Of S.W. Parkhurst)
Had a store where the Central Block now stands.
Was owned by Thos. Howe in 1845
" E.F. Webster in 1848
" Hill & Parkhurst in 1855
" E.A. Parkhurst in 1851
then by John E. Stevens
It was burned

E. King Parkhurst
Built the present store - which stood about where the flagman's house now stands

The store was moved to the corner where it now stands, when the railroad was put in.

A tavern - kept by Henry Proctor formerly stood on the corner and was burned.

1865 The store was sold to S.S. Parkhurst - which he held till 1880
It was then taken over by S.W. Parkhurst.

Page 125: Parkhurst

Solomon & Samuel S. - brothers

Samuel S. had:

S.W. Parkhurst

born 1836

conducted a grocery store at center for 33 years.

celebrated his 75th birthday May 10, 1911.

an old cat at the store was 21 years old Aug 1, 1911 -called
"Old Tom."

(See picture in Courier Citizen)

S.W. Parkhurst had:

Thomas G (printer

Emma L.

Bertha A.

Willis

Page 161: Central Hall

In 1862 the Soldiers' Aid Society met at Central Hall to quilt, knit, and make articles for the soldiers. During the summer of 1864, they met there regularly. Other meetings were held at the houses of the members. The use of this hall was given to them by S.S. Parkhurst.

This old hall adjoins the printing office of Mr. Thomas G. Parkhurst, and has been kept in its original state. Part of the old wall paper may still be seen, the platform where the musicians played for dancing, etc.

This building originally stood between the R.R. tracks and Town Hall and was moved to its present location about 1870 when the Framingham and Lowell R.R. was to be established here in 1871.

Page 186: Chelmsford Eagle, Dec. 15, 1883

S.W. Parkhurst's store at the corner has been enlarged by a store house.

Parkhurst's Store
2 Chelmsford St.

Chelmsford Newsweekly, 1955

1887. C.W. Sylander, shoemaker, one of the best workmen who ever adorned the bench in this village, has returned after a short residence in Lowell and opened a shop over S.W. Parkhurst's store.

Lowell Courier-Citizen

Jan. 31, 1890 - Mr. S.W. Parkhurst, who was on Monday appointed postmaster at the Centre, is a native and a life-long resident of the town. He is 54 years of age and until he was 25 years old assisted in carrying on the farm where he was born. He then engaged in the milk business, which he followed successfully for 18 years, supplying Lowell patrons, the route being considered one of the best in the city. About 8 years ago he disposed of his milk line to John T. McCoy and soon after engaged in the grocery and general merchandise trade in the building which he now occupies, and where for 17 years, until the advent of the Cleveland administration, the post office was in charge of Geo. A. Parkhurst, a brother of the new appointee. With the return of the office to its old location there will be a number of changes in the interior of the building which will greatly facilitate the transaction of postal business and contribute to the convenience of the patrons of the office. In this connection it is but simple justice to state that the change of officials is not prompted by any dissatisfaction with the management of the office. Postmaster Wilson and his assistant, Mr. E. Nettel, the latter having had the principal charge of the office, have capably and courteously served the public and the transfer is made for business reasons and with the most kindly feelings on the part of the retiring and incoming officials.

S.W. PARKHURST

Copied from "Chelmsford
Newsweekly", 1955 issue.

1890

S.W. Parkhurst having received his commission as postmaster Wednesday, the office was transferred to its new location.

1893

Postmaster S.W. Parkhurst last Monday mailed his resignation to the department at Washington. While this may seem to have been prompted by a desire to anticipate the official guillotine the writer happens to know that the same course would have been pursued had there been no change in administration. Since the introduction a few months ago of the money order and postal note business the work of the office has been so largely increased, with no corresponding advance in compensation, that Mr. Parkhurst has not been able to give to his principal business the attention that it demands. Therefore he decided some time ago to leave Uncle Sam's service and he now hopes that his distinguished relative at Washington will install some other nephew in his place as local man of letters.

Parkhurst's Store

Chelmsford "Eagle" - December 15, 1883

The store of S.W. Parkhurst at the head of Lowell Road has lately been enlarged by the addition of a needed storehouse, involving other beneficial changes.

Lowell Courier- Citizen

- May 10, 1911 - There were numerous callers at the home of S.W. Parkhurst in High street today, to extend to him their congratulations and good wishes on the 75th anniversary of his birth. Mr. Parkhurst has been a lifelong resident of the town and was born within a stone's throw of his present home. Among those having a part in the business life of the town, his participation exceeds that of any now engaged, having successfully conducted the general store of the village for more than 33 years.
- 10, 1912 - Mr. S. Waldo Parkhurst, whose connection with the business life of the town exceeds any of those now engaged, quietly passed the 76th anniversary of his birth today. Mr. Parkhurst was born and has always made his home in Chelmsford and for nearly 35 years has successfully conducted a general store.
- 11, 1913 - Mr. S. Waldo Parkhurst, dean of the business men of Chelmsford, where he has conducted a general store for more than 35 years, passed the 77th anniversary of his birth Saturday.
- 10, 1914 - S.W. Parkhurst, for more than 35 years proprietor of the general store at the Centre, quietly passed the 78th anniversary of his birth today, the event being pleasantly marked by a family gathering at his home in High street.

Waters, "History of Chelmsford"

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Storekeepers

This is a partial list of storekeepers in Chelmsford, not previously mentioned.

1750 Major Sampson Stoddard	1845 Thomas Howe
1751 John Tucker	1848 E.F. Webster
1794 Samuel and Willard Marshall	1851 E.A. Parkhurst
1810 Colonel Ebenezer Bridge	1858 Hill & Parkhurst
1828 Ezekiel Byam	1860 John E. Stevens
1829 James Robbins	1862 E.K. Parkhurst
1831 Capt. Lovell Fletcher	1865 S.S. Parkhurst
1832 Abel Hunt	1869 S.S. Parkhurst
1838 Abel Hunt	-- Samuel Cummons
-- Capt. Franklin Putnam	-- Libby and Evans
1843 S.S. Parkhurst	1880 S.W. Parkhurst

The store kept by S.S. Parkhurst was on the site of the Wilson Block. The present store, facing on Chelmsford street, was moved to its present site when the railroad was built. It formerly stood where the flagman's house now is.

Parkhurst's Store

Lowell Courier-Citizen:

Aug. 1911 - Picture. Occasionally one hears of a cat reaching the age of 12 or perhaps 15 years of age, but "Old Tom" at Parkhurst's store in Chelmsford Centre, had the distinction of being well along in his 21st year when last week his infirmities made it humane to painlessly terminate his existence. By reason of his long years he was well known throughout the village and in his cat language was always ready to carry on a conversation with his many friends. Of dogs he had no fear and promptly resented their intrusion of his domain. The traditional nine lives allowed to cats seemed to have been his.

July 23, 1913 - Some Modern Industries

.....There is also a town printer. The Parkhurst Press is well known. You have read its advertisements in Courier-Citizen from time to time because it uses modern methods to get business. It has a trade all its own, and holds it.

July 25, 1913 - Two swiftly moving automobiles and a motorcycle carrying a passenger narrowly escaped a collision at the corner of Parkhurst's store one day this week. The automobilists slowed down to safety, while the man on the motorcycle bumped over the cobble curbstone onto the sidewalk and out of danger. The wonder is that a serious accident at this point has so long been averted.

Aug. 11, 1913 - William A. Kittredge, clerk for the past two years at Parkhurst's store, has given up his position and will start for the Northwest on August 17, with Winnipeg, Manitoba as his first stopping point.

Aug. 7, 1914 - The hay scales at Parkhurst's store are temporarily out of commission, it having been found necessary to renew the woodwork and repair certain parts of the mechanism.

Jan. 11, 1915 - Fred Tangley, clerk at Parkhurst's store for the past year and a half, concludes his services on Saturday of this week, having accepted a position in Providence, R.I. His place will be taken by Henry Erikson.

Aug. 9, 1916 - In excavating for one of the new catch basins in the upper part of Central Square Tuesday afternoon, a part of the foundation wall of the old hotel that stood where Parkhurst's store now is located was brought to light. Cinders and ashes were also dug out. The hotel building was destroyed by fire some 50 years or more ago, and the two elm trees near the upper watering trough, scarred the length of their trunks, were burst at the time by the intense heat from the burning building. Some of the stone turned out proved to be lime stone and it is likely it came from the old Chelmsford lime quarries.

Nov. 5, 1916 - An experienced man is wanted in the grocery business and applications for the position should be made at S.W. Parkhurst's store.

THOMAS PARKHURST

Copied from 1955 "Chelmsford
Newsweekly"

Thomas Parkhurst, for nearly sixty years a printer in Chelmsford, may well be called the dean of Center business men. Soon after his graduation from high school, he opened a small shop in the upper part of the grocery store then operated by his father, S. Waldo Parkhurst, and later occupied larger quarters -- a part of Central Hall -- in the same building, which he now owns. He became interested in printing when a young boy and progressed from a press operated by hand to others run by footpower, then by kerosene - and gas - burning engines, and finally to automatic presses using electricity.

For some years he employed young men of the town who were interested in the printing trade. Among them were Ralph Boyd, Esq., heading a law firm in Boston; R. Harold Boyd of the American Tel. and Tel. Company in New York; George Paasche, executive of a Waltham printing concern; E. Percy Boulter, a printing teacher in the vocational department of the Newton public schools; and the late Wm. A. Kittredge, who became Art Director of The Lakeside Press in Chicago in 1922, where, until his death (1945) he produced many examples of fine printing. He presented Mr. Parkhurst from time to time with some of his work -- such as some of the books, pamphlets, handbooks, etc., he designed. During his 23 years connection with The Lakeside Press, Mr. Kittredge was honored by having no less than 43 of the books designed under his direction included among the 'Fifty Books of the Year.' He received wide recognition for his work, including such professional awards as the Gold Metal of the American Institute of Graphic Arts.

Mr. Parkhurst's musical interests developed early and he made his first public appearance as a cornetist with the Chelmsford Coons, and entertainment group of the '90's. At various times he studied the cornet and trumpet with Roscoe McDaniel of Lowell, Walter B. Smith of Boston, and Herbert E. Clarke, soloist with Sousa's Band. He has been connected with many musical organizations in Lowell and Chelmsford. He was a member of the Lowell Orchestral Society, and of the Chelmsford Orchestra which was organized and directed by Dr. Amasa Howard. He was also a longtime member of the Chelmsford Band and, for several periods, its conductor. With the late Thomas Beckvold and Herbert M. Sturdevant, Mr. Parkhurst originated and continued for a number of years the pleasant custom of playing carols on Christmas Eve from the belfry of the Unitarian Church.

Three years ago Mr. Parkhurst celebrated the 50th anniversary of his marriage to the former Ednah F. Byam of the South Village. Mr. and Mrs. Parkhurst have one daughter, Eleanor, a graduate of Wellesley College.

The building in which Mr. Parkhurst works has an interesting history of its own. It has been known for years as Parkhurst's Store, so-called at first because of the grocery store occupying the ground floor and operated by his great uncle, Samuel Stevens Parkhurst. The building dates back further than this although how far is not certain; earlier maps and some photographs show the store's original location as being very nearly where the Town Hall now stands. When the railroad was built, the store was moved to its present location at the corner of Chelmsford Street and Central Square. This site was formerly occupied by a tavern operated by Joseph Reed (1843) and was burned in 1851.

Upstairs in this building and originally occupying the entire floor, was Central Hall. Its stage, benches, anteroom, and sign are still intact and some of the original wallpaper may be seen on the walls. The ceilings are thought to contain Chelmsford lime because of their extreme hardness. Central Hall was not only the scene of many dances and entertainments, but also, during the Civil War, was used by the women of the town (as the Soldiers' Aid

Society) as a meeting place while doing work for the Union soldiers. Another object of great interest here is a large wooden wheel constructed to serve as a means of handling heavy articles between the grocery store and its cellar below, while an early type of freight elevator, operated by hand and still in its original condition, was used to raise and lower goods to and from the upper floor.

EDWIN K. PARKHURST
Sept. 12, 1898

Copied from "Chelmsford
Newsweekly", 1955 issue

Edwin K. Parkhurst, a well known resident of Chelmsford, died suddenly of apoplexy this morning at his home in South Street, aged 70 years. He had been in failing health about two years, but his sudden decease was wholly unexpected. Although nearly all his life was passed in Chelmsford, his father's native place, he was born in Ashburnham, where his parents resided during the early years following their marriage.

He followed the occupation of carpenter in the earlier part of his business career; afterwards for a number of years was the proprietor of a milk route between Chelmsford and Lowell; and later was engaged in the grocery trade and the real estate business.

Although taking much interest in municipal affairs he never desired to hold town offices, but had represented the district in the lower branch of the Legislature. In all matters relating to the material progress of the community he was deeply interested, and to him must be awarded the credit of originating the local Village Improvement association nearly twenty years ago and which has been a most important factor in the growth and prosperity of the town. Mr. Parkhurst was a man of more than average mental endowments and ~~his~~ in his prime was a vigorous writer and a forcible speaker. He was twice married. His first wife was Miss Charlotte M. Howe, who left two children, one now surviving, Mrs. Lester Ballard of New Salem. In 1853, he married Miss Octavia Larcom -- a younger sister of the poet, Lucy Larcom -- who survives him. Of their eight children the following are living: Charles E., Harry L., Edgar F., and Mrs. W.H. Hall of Chelmsford; Edwin L. of Lowell; Charlotte M. of Nashua, N.H., and Mrs. Geo. Avery of Newtown Highlands.

EDGAR PARKHURST

Copied from 1955 "Chelmsford
Newsweekly."

Mr. Parkhurst, a son of the late Edwin King and Octavia (Larcom) Parkhurst, is a member of one of the town's oldest families. Like Mrs. Daley, he attended school in the old yellow building at the Center, and at age 15, went to work at Bartlett and Dow, a hardware store in Lowell owned by J. Adams Bartlett of Chelmsford and F.D. Dow of Lowell. He left ~~00000~~ town at 5:55 each morning on the 'Scoot'---the train running between Chelmsford and Lowell, and his duties were first to open and sweep out the store which remained open until 6 P.M. on Monday, Friday and Saturday evenings, closing time was at 9 P.M. In those days there were no telephones and much business was transacted by telegraph. A telegraph receiving station had been installed at Bartlett and Dow's and Mr. Parkhurst recalls his excitement when on his first day a telegram sent by Thomas Talbot (later goverhor of Massachusetts) to Dr. Levi Howard of this town. Mr. Parkhurst continued here for 30 years and in 1916, with Winthrop A. Parkhurst, a cousin and also of Chelmsford, reorganized at Bartlett and Dow Company and carried on business for 25 years more.

His father was Chelmsford's first staion agent and his uncle, Jonathan Larcom, built the present Town hall. Lucy Larcom, noted poet and writer, was Mr. Parkhurst's aunt and he is now the proud owner of a copy of her book, Childhood Songs, inscribed to him and his sister, the late Mrs. Wm. H. Hall of Littleton Rd. Among Mr. Parkhurst's many interesting recollections of bygone days are those of plowing out the Homestead road with a 1-horse plow, and of seeing the town street lights cared for. There was perhaps a dozen of these glass-enclosed kerosene lamps located in the Center, and they were collected daily in a pushcart and taken to be filled and trimmed. He also recalls the custom some 75 years ago of providing wooden sawdust-filled cuspidors in church for some of the tobacco-chewing members of the congregation.

Mr. Parkhurst was born in the house now owned by Miss Gertrude A. Roberts, but has lived at his present house 82 years. Both of these houses were built by his father. His son, Eliot King, is a Billerica resident, father of three children, and an agent for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.

42 Boston Rd



Parkhurst's Store at original site near Town Hall c 1872



Parkhurst's Store 1885











CHELMSFORD

Dennis & McHugh
ATTORNEYS
AT LAW



7/31/2004 F. Merriam



CHELMSFORD

Dennis & McHugh
AUCTIONEERS
EST. 1941

12/28/2004 F. Merriam