

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13/10/4	Nashua South		CLM.4
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 15-21 Dunstable Road

Historic Name: Adams Reed Factory

Uses: Present: mixed-use

Original: factory

Date of Construction: 1835-1836

Source: Deed research

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: brick/vinyl siding at gables

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1909-addition of north and south wings

1980-building renovation

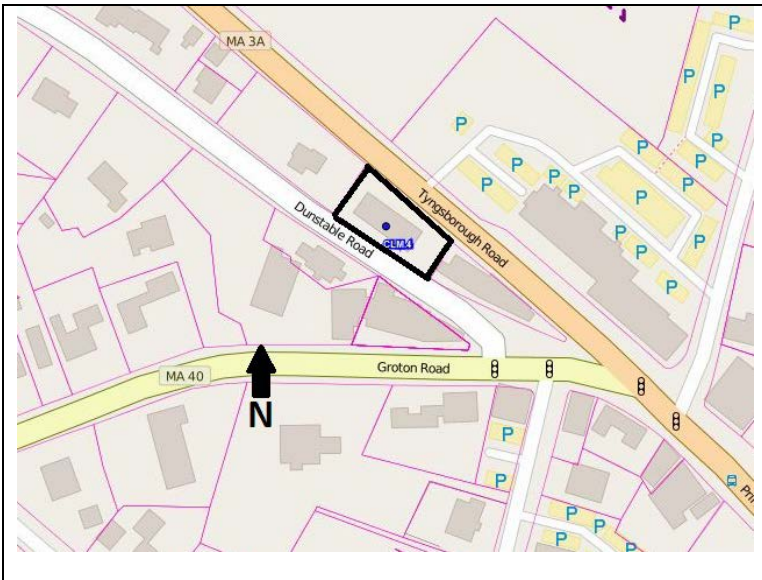
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .16 A

Setting: The building is located approximately 15' NE of Dunstable Rd., approximately 220' NW from its intersection with Groton and Tyngsboro rds. The building encompasses most of the parcel with asphalt-paved parking areas at its north and south ends. The surrounding area is largely characterized by 19th 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

15 DUNSTABLE ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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.

The two-story building has a stone foundation, red brick walls trimmed with replacement siding, and an asphalt-shingled side gable roof. The gable ends of the building are clad with replacement, horizontal siding. Two, internal, brick chimneys are located at the northwest and southeast ends of the center (original) portion of the building. The building is divided into three sections with the original, symmetrical, six-bay section in the center and three-bay wings at either end that were constructed in 1909. Windows throughout the building are replacement, one-over-one, double-hung windows and feature granite lintels and sills. The cornice is currently covered with replacement vertical siding, obscuring any architectural detail that may have been in this location. The center section includes one centrally located entry on the primary (southwest) façade. The replacement door features narrow sidelights topped with a broken pediment. The wings include two entryways each that lead to apartment units; these doors are also replacements.

The northwest and southeast walls are two bays deep with replacement windows in each bay. The northeast (rear) wall faces Tyngsboro Road and a set of concrete steps leads from the road to a centrally located entryway in the basement. The door and all windows on this wall are also replacements.

The resource is an altered example of a mid-nineteenth century industrial building. The building retains historic integrity of location and setting.

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 complete history of the building is presented on the original MHC Inventory form. The center portion of the building was constructed in 1835 by Thomas J. Adams (1805-1881), whose father, William Adams, owned the property at this date. In 1838, Thomas took ownership of the property. From 1835 until ca. 1848 the center portion of the building was a factory for the production of reeds to be used in looms in nearby mills in Lowell. The reed is the part of the loom that holds and separates the threads as well as keeps the threads from tangling. The reed looks like a comb in that it consists of several vertical wires or dents. The reed is also used to secure the weft yarn into place as is in woven.

After the mid-nineteenth century, the building was divided into multi-unit housing. In 1909, then owner James W. Stevens, constructed the two-story wings at either end of the building. The wings provided additional housing units.

In 1980 the building, then in poor repair, underwent a complete renovation. At this date the historic, two-over-two windows and entry doors were replaced with modern materials. Since the renovation the building has housed office and apartment spaces.

During the nineteenth century, the Adams family owned numerous lots in North Chelmsford. In 1889 this lot included the building to the southeast that is now the North Chelmsford Hardware Store (CLM.335). Between 1889 and 1904 the lot was subdivided so that the buildings were on different parcels. The Adams family retained ownership of the other parcel until 1925.

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