

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13/25/1	Nashua South		CLM.343
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**Town/City:** Chelmsford

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 2 Groton Road

**Historic Name:** John James & Harriet S. Buchanan Bldg.

**Uses:** Present: commercial

Original: commercial

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1940

**Source:** 1938 aerial and 1941 topo maps

**Style/Form:** no style

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: unknown

Wall/Trim: brick veneer/vinyl siding

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

Ca. 2000 replacement siding trim and windows

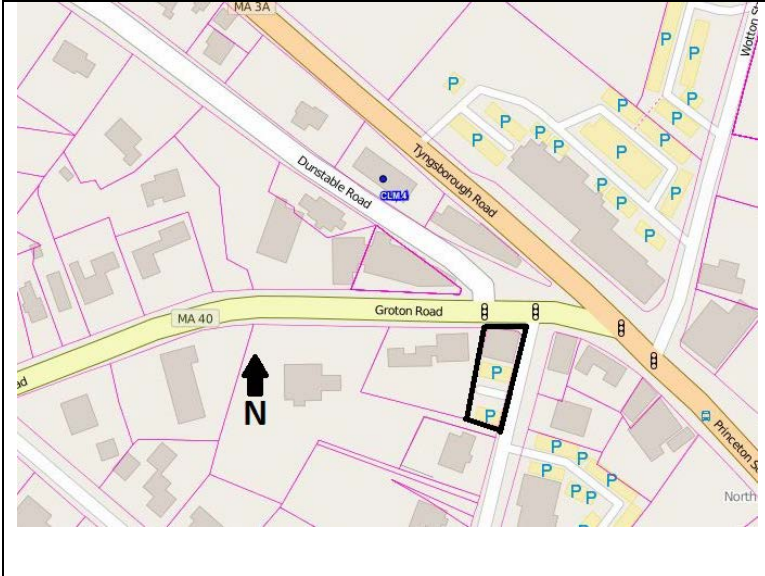
**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** less than 1 acre

**Setting:** The building is located at the southwest corner of Groton Rd and Adams St. The building faces Groton Rd at an angle and a patch of concrete levels the space between the building and sidewalk. The building encompasses most of the parcel and an asphalt-paved parking lot is at its rear. The surrounding area includes 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>c.</sup> commercial dev.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Jennifer Burden, Gray & Pape, Inc.

**Organization:** Chelmsford Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): June 2016

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

2 GROTON ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CLM.343

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 2.5-story building has brick veneer walls with replacement vinyl trim and an asphalt-shingled front gable roof with gable returns. The building has two brick chimneys; both are near the ridgeline, but one is near the front on the east slope and the other is near the rear of the west slope. A stone course runs the perimeter of the building between the first and second stories. The primary (north) façade is five bays wide with an angled, recessed entrance in the westernmost bay. Two more entrances are located in the center of the remaining bays. All entry doors are replacement anodized aluminum single doors. The four window openings of the first and second stories of the primary façade are replacement casements flanked by one-over-one, double hung windows with false muntins. The window openings also feature replacement, fabric awnings. A single, one-over-one, double-hung window is located just below the gable peak of the primary façade. The gable peak is clad in vinyl siding. The west wall is four bays deep with single, replacement, one-over-one, double-hung windows with decorative shutters on the first story. The second story of the west and east walls feature two-bay wide wall dormers that are clad in replacement vinyl siding. The dormers have two, replacement, one-over-one, double-hung windows with decorative shutters. The east wall only features one folding casement window in the north bay of the first story; the remainder of this wall solid brick veneer.

The resource is a slightly altered example of a mid-twentieth century commercial building. It retains historic integrity of location, setting, design, feeling, and association.

## 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.*

The building does not appear on a 1938 aerial view of North Chelmsford, but a building is marked in this location on the 1941 topographical map of the area; therefore, it was constructed ca. 1940. Deed research traced the ownership history to 1935 when Thomas and Sarah Stewart sold the property to John James and Harriet S. Buchanan. The Buchanans retained the property until 1944, so they had the building constructed during their original ownership period. The 1940 US Population Census lists the Buchanans living on Groton Road at this date with John (1896-1979) working as a repair man at an iron foundry. Also living with John and Harriet (1898-1979) were their three young children, John H (1926-1999), Warren T. (1928-2015), and Lorraine E. (1930-2007). In 1944 the Buchanans sold the property to Domenic DiRuzza. DiRuzza retained the property until 1949 when he granted it back to the Buchanan family. No relationship between DiRuzza and the Buchanan family was discovered. The Buchanan family kept the property this time until 1955. At this date they granted the property to Sigmund and Lorraine Lachut; research was not able to determine if Lorraine Lachut was Lorraine Buchanan. The property continues to be a thriving commercial entity with at least three businesses currently in the building.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Genealogical research, including U.S. and Massachusetts census records; birth, marriage, and death records; and city directory records from ancestry.com.

Historic aerial and topographical maps. Available at [historicaerials.com](http://historicaerials.com). Accessed May 2, 2016.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Lowell, MA. 1950.