

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13/19/10	Nashua South		CLM.380
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 10 Middlesex Street

Historic Name: Picken Printing Company

Uses: Present: industrial/commercial
Original: industrial/commercial

Date of Construction: 1950

Source: Official Tercentenary Souvenir Program 1655-1955

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete block

Wall/Trim: concrete block/brick veneer/vertical board

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
1984: rear and 2nd story additions
Ca. 2000 replacement windows

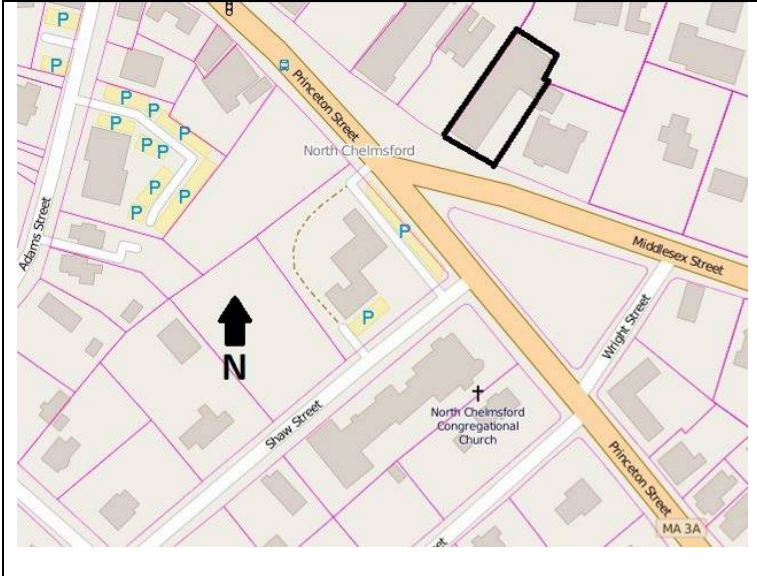
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .25 A

Setting: The building is located on the north side of Middlesex St against the sidewalk. The building encompasses most of the parcel with an asphalt-paved driveway along the east side of the building. The surrounding area includes 19th and 20th c. commercial and residential developments.

Locus Map



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

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

10 MIDDLESEX STREET

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 building is constructed of concrete block with brick and wood trim. The primary (south) façade is four bays wide and is clad in brick veneer on the first story and vertical wood siding on the second story. The main entry is located on the west bay via a one-bay, front gable, brick projection. The other three bays include replacement single casement windows with false muntins. The second story of the façade is clad in siding with signage for the insurance company. The two story portion of the building is two bays deep and includes two, single, replacement, one-over-one, double hung sash windows on the second stories of the east and west walls. This second story is a later addition. The remaining one-story portion of the building is an additional five bays deep with historic, single, windows in the center bays, a replacement garage door and an entry door in the north bays. A taller, one-story addition was constructed at the rear of the building in 1984. The addition is also constructed of concrete block and features over-sized garage doors on its south wall. The historic photograph below shows the building as constructed in 1950.

The building is a common example of a mid-twentieth century, utilitarian type commercial/industrial building. It retains historic integrity of location, setting, 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.

As noted in the *Official Tercentenary Souvenir Program 1655-1955* pamphlet and show below, the building was constructed in 1950 and the third location for the Picken Printing Company. The company began in 1920 in a small building on Newfield Street, and then relocated in 1930 within the Southwell Combing Company building on Foundry Street. The 1940 US Population Census lists William T. Picken (1883-1960) as the owner of the company and living on Middlesex Street with wife Nellie (1889-1965) and Robert (1918-1986), who was then a shipper in the woolen mill. The advertisement in the *Souvenir Program* shows that William and Robert were working at the company along with Robert's wife Jane (1918-1999), who was then the company's proofreader.

The Picken Insurance Agency continues operations at the Middlesex Street address. The former printing company printed numerous local publications, including several local history books by George Adams Parkhurst.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Chelmsford Historical Commission. *History of Chelmsford 1910 – 1970*. Chelmsford Historical Commission, Chelmsford, MA. 2011.

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

Official Tercentenary Souvenir Program 1655-1955. Available in the local history room of the Chelmsford Public Library.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Lowell, MA. 1950.

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From the Official Tercentenary Souvenir Program 1655-1955, showing previous locations of the company and the building at 10 Middlesex Street, as constructed in 1950. Available at the Chelmsford Public Library.