

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

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|----------|--------------|--|---------|
| 13/19/13 | Nashua South | | CLM.381 |
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 12-14 Middlesex Street

Historic Name: Thomas J. Adams House

Uses: Present: mixed-use

Original: multiple-family dwelling

Date of Construction: between 1831 and 1856

Source: 1831 and 1856 maps of Chelmsford

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: unknown

Wall/Trim: brick veneer/vinyl siding

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Detached garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 2000 replacement siding and windows

Ca. 1990 front addition

Ca. 1990 rear enclosure

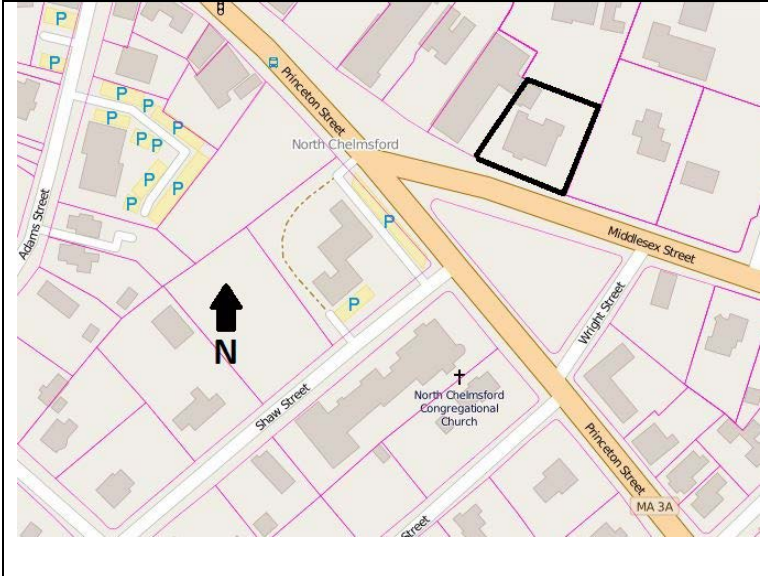
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .35 A

Setting: The building is located approximately 25' north of Middlesex St across from its split from Princeton St. The building encompasses most of the parcel with a flat grassy area in the front and an asphalt-paved drive along the east and rear. The garage is to the northeast of the building. The surrounding area includes 19th and 20th c. 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

12-14 MIDDLESEX STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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 2.5-story building is clad in brick veneer and replacement vinyl siding with vinyl trim and has a side gable roof with gable return that is covered with asphalt shingles. An internal brick chimney is located near the west end of the ridgeline. The primary (south) façade is six bays wide and clad in brick veneer. Replacement, single, one-over-one, double-hung windows are present in all bays of the second story and the two west bays of the first story. The east two bays of the first story feature a large casement window flanked by two narrower casement windows that are not part of the original fenestration of the building. The center bays feature two replacement single entry doors that are sheltered by a pediment porch hood supported by round columns. The space around the doors has been infilled with replacement vinyl siding. The east and west walls are four bays deep and clad in replacement vinyl siding. The west wall features single windows in each bay, including two single windows in the half story. The east wall features a one-story addition that was constructed ca. 1990. The addition is clad in brick veneer and has a flat roof enclosed with a railing. A concrete ramp leads from the driveway to the main entry of the addition on its south wall.

The building includes wings off of the east and west sides of the rear wall. The west wing is one-story tall and two bays deep. The south bay includes an entry door sheltered by a side gable hood; the north bay includes a single window. The cross gable, east wing is 2.5-stories tall, but slightly shorter in overall height than the main mass of the building. The wing is two bays wide and four bays deep. The bays include single windows except for entry doors in the second and third bays from the south on the east wall. The entries are accessed by a set of concrete and brick steps, and both are sheltered by a one-story, two-bay porch.

The building is an altered example of a mid-nineteenth century residence that retains historic integrity of 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.

A building does not appear in this location on the 1831 map of Chelmsford, but is present on the 1856 map of the area; therefore, between these dates. The 1856 map does not assign an owner to the building, but the 1875 and 1889 maps note that Thomas J. Adams owned the property. Thomas Adams owned numerous parcels across North Chelmsford including much of the land between Middlesex Road and the Boston, Lowell & Nashua Railroad to the northeast. The 1855 Massachusetts State Census lists Thomas J. Adams (1805-1881) living in North Chelmsford and working as a farmer. The 1860 U.S. Population Census shows that Adams owned \$19,000 in real estate and \$13,200 in personal estate. He also established the Reed Factory (CLM.4) on Dunstable Road as well as kept a tavern with his brother Benjamin, who also owned a number of lots throughout North Chelmsford. After Adams's death in 1881, his property is noted on the 1889 map as the T.J. Adams estate.

The 1907 Sanborn map shows the building was split into two residences and a carriage house was located behind the house. Adams's heirs, Emma M. and Mansur William Adams granted a quit claim deed for the property in 1919 to Mark Ingham. Although Ingham took ownership of the property in 1919, he lived in the house as early as 1905 according to city directories. The 1920 census lists Ingham (born ca. 1865 in England) living on Middlesex Street with wife Emily (born ca. 1866 in England) and a servant, Anna Benson (born ca. 1892 in Sweden). At this date Ingham was an agent for the worsted mill. In the 1920s William Picken took ownership of the property and is listed in the 1930 census residing on Middlesex Street. In addition to William (born ca. 1882 in Connecticut), his wife Nellie (ca. 1890-1965), and children Robert (born ca. 1918) and Cynthia (born ca. 1922) lived at this address. In 1930 Picken was listed as an office manager at the worsted mill. In 1950 the building continued to be fully residential. After Nellie's death in 1965, the property was sold to Priscilla Cooke (1921-2009) in 1966. Her husband, Kenneth, was a dentist with an office on Vinal Square. In 1967, the Cookes' residence was listed on Westford Street. In 2000 Cooke sold the property to current owners Dina and Panagiotis Tsiklis.

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