

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13/19/8	Nashua South		CLM.379
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**Town/City:** Chelmsford

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 8 Middlesex Street

**Historic Name:** Adams House Hotel

**Uses:** Present: multiple-family dwelling

Original: hotel

**Date of Construction:** 1901

**Source:** *Images of America: North and West Chelmsford*

**Style/Form:** Federal Revival

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** none

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

Ca. 1940 conversion to apartment units

Ca. 2000 replacement windows

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** .42 A

**Setting:** The building is located approximately 85' north of Middlesex St. The front yard is a flat grassy area with large mature trees that is enclosed with a metal fence. A driveway is along the west side and leads to a rear parking area. The surrounding area includes 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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

8 MIDDLESEX STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CLM.379

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 a stone foundation, an asphalt-shingled steeply-pitched hipped roof, and is clad in wood siding with wood trim. The roof line has a bracketed overhanging eave. The main mass of the building measures approximately 40' by 40' with two rear wings that each measure approximately 30' long by 20' wide. The wings were added to the building ca. 1920. Windows throughout the building are replacement, one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. The primary (south) façade is five symmetrical bays wide with single windows in the outer bays. Entry doors are located in the center bays of the first and second stories. Both doors feature narrow sidelights and modern storm doors. A three bay dormer is located on the half story. The dormer features single windows in the outer bays that are topped with pediment gables, and an entry door is in the center bay. A two-story porch is located across the center three bays of the primary façade. The porch features a brick foundation, round Doric columns on the first and second stories, and wood railings on all three stories. The porch on the second story appears to be temporarily enclosed with screening. The east and west walls of the main mass of the building are four bays deep with single windows in the north two bays and the south bay with paired windows in the other bay. These walls also feature dormers like that of the primary façade. The rear (north) wall includes a single bay, rear gable dormer. The rear wings are three bays deep with single windows in these bays.

The building is an excellent example of the Federal Revival style. The building retains historic integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, and association. Although the windows in the building are replacements, the fenestration layout and window opening sizes have not been altered.

## 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.*

From the early-nineteenth century through 1900 a hotel was located on what is now called Middlesex Street just west of the its split with Princeton Street. The hotel was constructed in 1820 and was known as the Adams House and the North Chelmsford Hotel. On September 16, 1900, a boarder in the hotel named Albert Stevens discovered his kerosene lamp in his room exploded and had set the room on fire. As the fire spread it destroyed the main part of the hotel and part of its ell. At this date the manager of the hotel was Joseph D. Ryan. The 1900 US Population Census lists Ryan (1868-1950) as a hotel keeper living with his wife Ella (1875-1966), two young sons, his father, his sister-in-law who is listed as a chambermaid, a cook, and three boarders.

This building at 8 Middlesex Street was opened in March 1901 to replace the former Adams Hotel. The building has a larger than usual setback from the street. This was necessary in order to be at least 300 feet from the Second Congregational Church on Princeton Street and therefore able to obtain a liquor license. The 1907 Sanborn map shows the building as a boardinghouse. At this date a one-story side porch and rear are shown on the building along with a long, ell-shaped shed behind the building; these features are no longer extant. The Ryan family retained ownership of the property until 1920 when they sold it to the US Worsted Company. The company sold the property, along with several lots in North Chelmsford, in 1930 to Frank DeAmicis. At this date DeAmicis was living on Dunstable Road and employed as a stony quarry engineer. The 1937 City Directory lists several members of the DeAmicis family living on Middlesex Street and working at the Paramount Diner next door that Frank operated. By 1950 DeAmicis divided the building into apartment units so that it no longer functioned as a hotel. The property remains under DeAmicis family ownership.

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**National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form**

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible       Eligible **only** in a historic district  
 Contributing to a potential historic district       Potential historic district

Criteria:     **A**     **B**     **C**     **D**

Criteria Considerations:     **A**     **B**     **C**     **D**     **E**     **F**     **G**

Statement of Significance

The building is recommended eligible for inclusion in the NRHP at the local level under Criterion C as an excellent example of the Federal Revival style that retains historic integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, and association.