

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13/34/9	Nashua South	G	CLM.397
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 40-42 Princeton Street

Historic Name: Daniel Austin House

Uses: Present: multiple-family dwelling

Original: multiple-family dwelling

Date of Construction: between 1831 and 1856

Source: 1831 and 1856 maps of Chelmsford

Style/Form: altered beyond recognition

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: asphalt shingle/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Ca. 1940 dwelling

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 1980 replacement siding

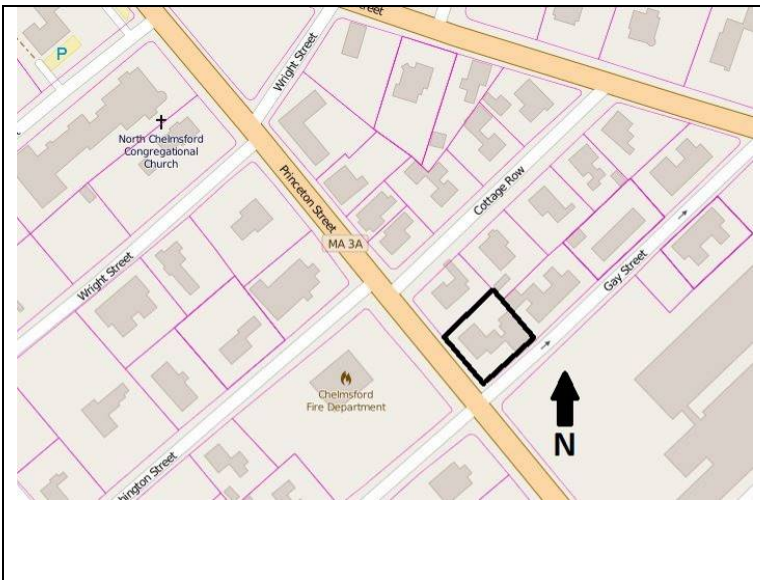
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .19 A

Setting: The house is located at the northeast corner of Princeton and Gay sts., approximately 25' from Princeton St. The small lot has a parking area to the south of the building. A second dwelling was added to the lot ca. 1940. The surrounding area includes 19th c. industrial and 19th and 20th c. 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

40-42 PRINCETON 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.

This building is located at the north corner of Princeton and Gay streets. A plaque on the primary façade states that this is the Daniel Austin House, built ca. 1840. It is a wood-frame, side-gabled duplex. It stands one and-a-half-stories in height and follows a rectangular plan. Brick chimneys are located along the ridgeline of the roof near either end of the building. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the exterior walls are covered with replacement Insulbrick siding. The building rests atop a granite foundation. The primary (southwest) façade faces Princeton Street. The first story is divided into six symmetrical bays with two front entrances comprising the center two bays. Located side-by-side, the two doors each feature sidelights. A front-gable porch roof covers the front entrances. The porch roof is supported by turned columns that likely date to the 1970s or later. Two, one-over-one, double-hung windows are located in the second story of the façade, which are located on either side of the front entrances. The sides of the building extend three bays deep with pairs of windows located side-by-side near the front or southwest side of the building and a single window located toward the rear or northeast end of the wall. The first and second stories have matching counterpart windows located one above the other. Windows on the first story of the primary façade and the sides of the building consist of historic, two-over-two, double-hung, wood windows. A one-story enclosed porch addition is located at the eastern corner of the house. The porch addition appears to date to the early or mid-twentieth century. The plan of the house is similar to that of the building at 30 Princeton Street (CLM.396).

A second dwelling building was added to the lot in ca. 1940 according to available aerial and Sanborn maps.

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

Maps of North Chelmsford from 1856 and 1875 show D.F. Austin as the owner of this property. Daniel Frye Austin (1807-1882) is listed in the 1855 Massachusetts State Census as living in North Chelmsford with wife Martha (born ca. 1807) and son Daniel N. (born ca. 1844). The 1880 US Population Census lists Daniel and Martha continuing to reside in Chelmsford. At this date Daniel is listed as a farmer; however, this small lot would not have been suited for farming. It was not discovered if he owned land elsewhere or if he was a farmhand. Deed research was inconclusive and a chain of ownership after Austin's death was not able to be completed. The 1889 map does not provide an owner's name for the property. A search of late 1890s city directories revealed that Daniel N. Austin did not reside in Chelmsford during this period, therefore, he did not retain the property after his father's death. Since many of the city directories do not provide house numbers, occupants of the house during the early twentieth century are not known. The 1944 directory lists Alice Monette (born ca. 1903), a millworker, at this address. In 1971 Henry D. Brown III purchased the property and it currently remains in the Brown family.

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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 area of North Chelmsford was determined eligible for inclusion in the NRHP by MHC in 1987 for its local level of historical significance. The historic district boundary of Area G roughly includes resources along Middlesex and Princeton streets between Wright Street, Gay Street, and Edwards Avenue. The district is eligible for inclusion in the NRHP at the local level under Criterion A for its association with the industrialization of North Chelmsford in the mid- to late-nineteenth century and under Criterion C for its examples of workers' cottages, modest single-family houses, and elaborate residences owned by local industrialists. The building at 40 Princeton Street retains sufficient historic integrity to contribute to this potential historic district.