

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

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|---------|--------------|--|---------|
| 13/26/2 | Nashua South | | CLM.416 |
|---------|--------------|--|---------|

Town/City: Chelmsford

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Vinal Square

Photograph



Address: 15-17 Vinal Square

Historic Name: Ballos Diner

Uses: Present: commercial

Original: commercial

Date of Construction: between 1907 and 1938

Source: 1907 Sanborn and 1938 aerial maps

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: brick veneer/brick veneer

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Ca. 1970 side additions

Ca. 1990 faux Mansard roof addition

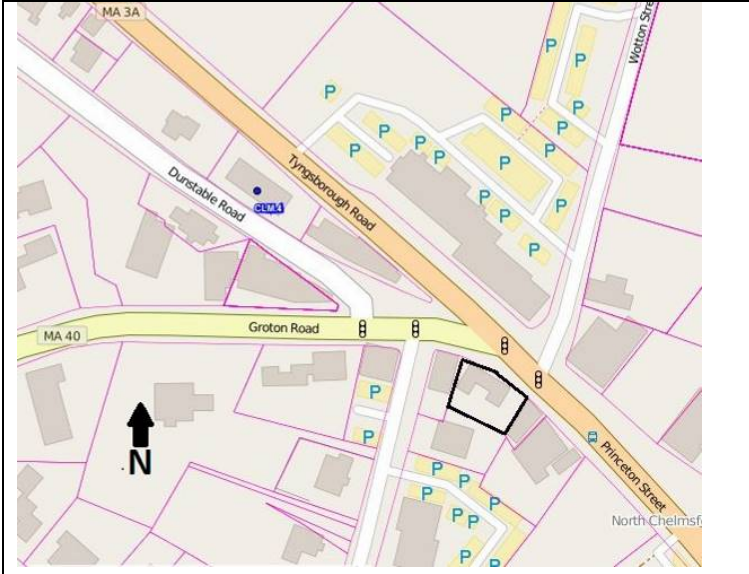
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .1 A

Setting: The building is on the south side of Vinal Sq. and abuts the sidewalk. The building encompasses most of the lot. Mature trees are behind 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

15-17 VINAL SQUARE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CLM.416

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 one-story building has a stone foundation, walls clad in brick veneer with brick trim, and a flat roof with pent roofs over the storefront sections that are clad in asphalt shingles. The primary (north) façade faces Vinal Square and is divided in three commercial sections with the center being slightly higher than the east and west ends. The center section is five bays wide with plate glass windows in the outer bays and the main entry in the center. The west end of the building is two bays wide with a replacement entry door in the east bay and a window in the west bay. The east section is also two bays wide with a large window in the west bay and an anodized aluminum door angled on the corner. The east wall is two bays deep with one-over-one double-hung windows in each bay that are covered with metal bars.

The building is an altered example of a mid-twentieth century commercial resource that retains historic integrity of location and setting.

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 the 1907 Sanborn map of the area, but is present on the 1938 aerial map; therefore, it was constructed between these dates. Prior to this building, two houses that were used as taverns were located on the site that were constructed by William Adams, father and son. The 1950 Sanborn map show the building's footprint before the side wings were added. Deed research traced the ownership history to 1935 when Ethel M. Murray sold this and other parcels to Anna Ballos (1899-1978). City directory research discovered that Anna and husband Charles lived in Lowell, but operated the Ballos Diner at 17 Vinal Square in the 1950s. The 1957 directory lists an office of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company at 15 Vinal and Ballos Diner at 17 Vinal Square. In 1970 Anna granted the property to son Theodore, who retained it until 1983. The building currently houses Veneto Ristorante & Pizzeria in the center and Cash for Gold in the east portion of 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.

Merriam, Fred. *Images of America: North and West Chelmsford*. Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, South Carolina. 2016.

Middlesex North Registry of Deeds. www.lowelldeeds.com.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Lowell, MA. 1907 and 1950.