

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13/26/5	Nashua South		CLM.418
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Town/City: Chelmsford

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

Photograph



Address: 23-25 Vinal Square

Historic Name: Cushman's Bakery

Uses: Present: commercial

Original: commercial

Date of Construction: ca. 1910

Source: 1907 Sanborn and historical photographs

Style/Form: no style

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete block

Wall/Trim: concrete block/metal

Roof: flat

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Post-1925 false front roof addition

Ca. 1990 replacement windows and doors

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .24 A

Setting: The building is located on the southwest side of Vinal Square against the sidewalk. A drive is to the south of the building and a parking area is in the rear. 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

23-25 VINAL SQUARE

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 one-story building is constructed of concrete blocks with painted, rusticated concrete blocks on the primary (northeast) façade. The façade is divided into three storefronts. The west and center bays house Rosie's Diner. These storefronts feature anodized aluminum windows and doors. The west bay is sheltered by a fabric awning. The east storefront that houses Tiffany's Nail Salon Spa has three storefront windows and an entry door to the east of the windows. A false front runs the width of the façade and appears to consist of metal panels. The false front is used as a signboard for the commercial entities in the building.

The resource is a fair example of an early twentieth century commercial building 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.

The building does not appear on the 1907 Sanborn map of Vinal Square, but is present on the 1938 aerial map of the area. Photographs from ca. 1915 and 1925 show that the building functioned as an automotive repair garage (see below). The building, therefore, it was constructed ca. 1910. At these dates the garage was under the operation of Walter B. Butler and later by Percy T. Robinson. Deed research traced the ownership history to Ethel Murray and J. Earl Wotton, who obtained this property and several others as heirs to their mother's Ellen B. Wotton estate. In 1935 they Murray and Wotton granted the properties to their sister Ruth G. Robinson, who was Percy's wife. The 1949 city directory lists Cushman's Bakery at 25 Vinal Square; no other businesses are listed with this address in the directory. The Robinsons retained the property until 1983 when Chandler and Marion Robinson sold it to current owner Albert T. Frizzell. The building currently houses Rosie's Diner, a well-known restaurant in the area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Chelmsford Historical Society. Photographic Collection. On file at the Chelmsford Historical Society, 40 Byam Road, South Chelmsford.

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.

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.

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West side of Vinal Square about 1915
Ca. 1915 photograph of 25 Vinal Square. (Chelmsford Historical Society.)