

# Chelmsford Historical Commission

By GEORGE ADAMS PARKHURST

The new Chelmsford Center Historic District which includes 41 homes, churches, Town-owned buildings, and business establishments has been accepted for listing in the National Register of Historic Places according to a communication received from Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary of State.

Benefits resulting from this listing include grant-in-aid eligibility for property owners, recognition, protection, and federal tax incentives for the rehabilitation of income producing property under the Tax Reform Act of 1976.

Pre-applications for fiscal year 1981 grants can now be filed by owners of property located within the bounds of this National Register District. However, the filing deadline for this year is April 30, 1980.

This Historic District that has been included in the National Register is not to be confused with the local Historic District that was established a few years ago. Although they both include many, but not all, of the

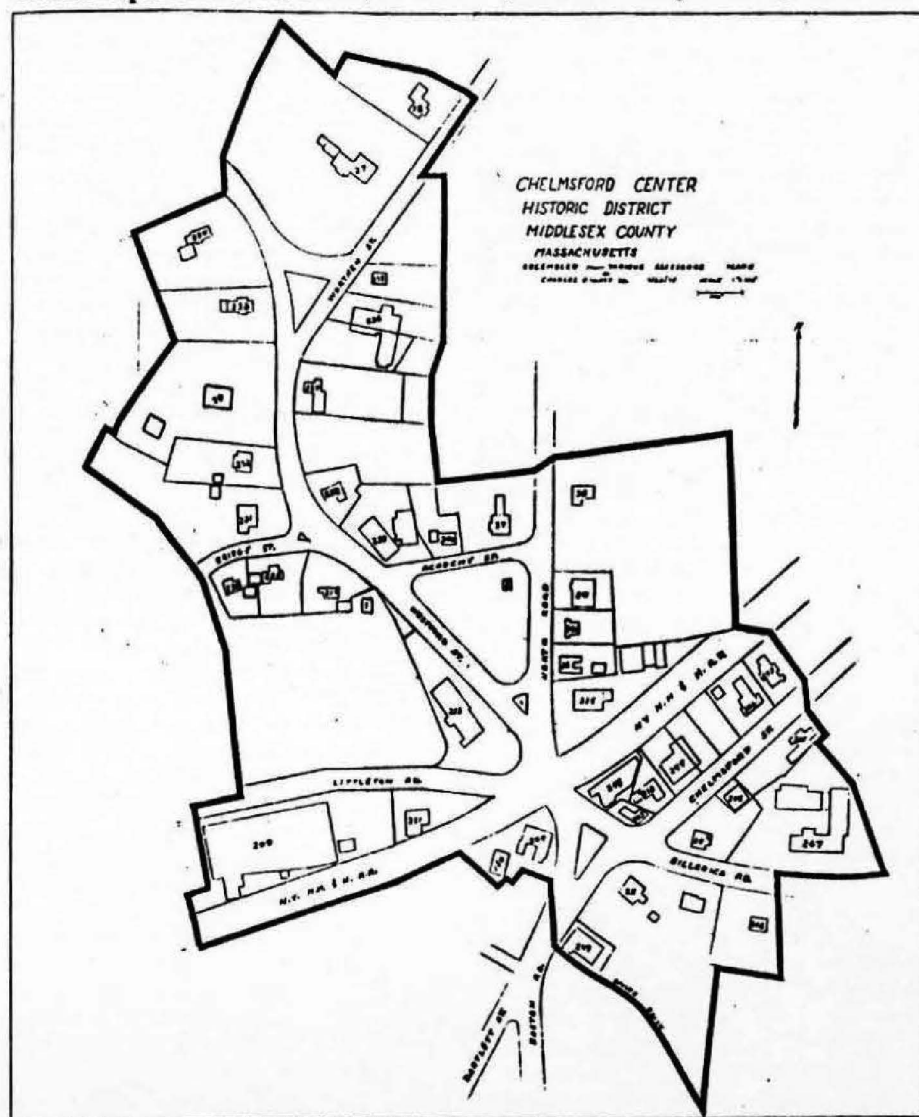
same buildings, they exist for entirely different purposes and are overseen by two separate commissions. In the case of the recently approved National Register District, inquiries should be directed to J. Perry Richardson, chairman of the Chelmsford Historical Commission. The local Historic District, which is primarily concerned with the exterior appearance of its buildings, is the responsibility of the Historic District Commission. Both of these are official town committees but receive their authority under different Acts of the Massachusetts Legislature.

Another organization with a similar sounding name is the Chelmsford Historical Society. This is a private corporation and is not part of town government.

In addition to the new Chelmsford Center Historic District, there are three other Chelmsford properties listed in the National Register. They are the Middlesex Canal, the Olde Chelmsford Garrison House, and the Fiske House in Central Square.



Central Square in Chelmsford, circa 1900. (Photo courtesy of George Parkhurst)



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