

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

39 18 TEW.35

Town: Tewksbury

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)
 North Tewksbury

Address: 1484 Andover Street

Historic Name: Life Farmer Homestead

Uses: Present: 2-Unit Residential

Original: Single Family Residential

Date of Construction: 1802

Source: *Ask Now of the Days that are Past*

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Clapboards

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Barn

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: Good

Moved: no | X | yes | | **Date** _____

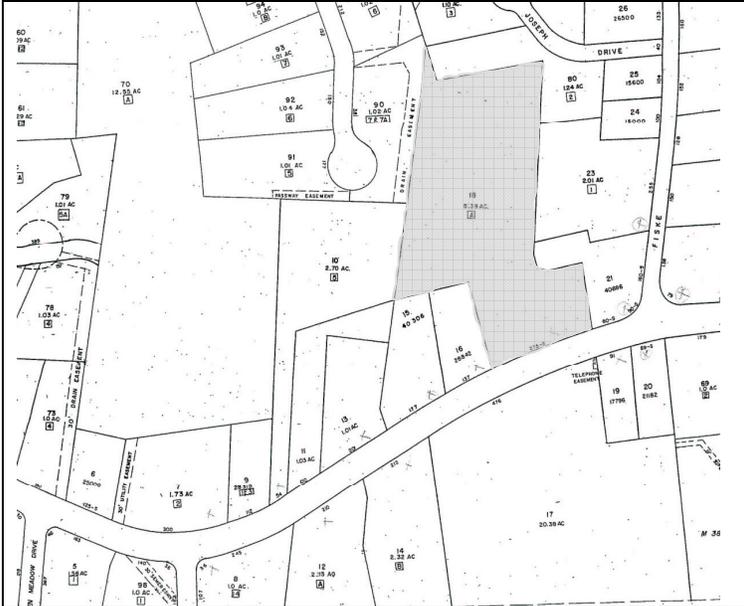
Acreage: 5.39

Setting: Set close to busy Route 133 on a flat site. The area is predominately residential to the west, but increasingly commercial to the east towards Exit 49 on I495.

Photograph



Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Julie Ann Larry

Organization: ttl-architects

Date (*month / year*): March 2010

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY 1484 ANDOVER 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.

Central hall plan with Federal Details

The two-and-a-half story Federal Era house at **1484 Andover Street** is separated from the street by a low wall constructed of spilt granite slabs. The main portion of the side gable roof dwelling is connected to a rear ell. The two story rear ell has a shed roof and is connected to a long narrow one-and-a-half story gable roof addition. In turn this addition is attached to a side gable addition to the west. The roof forms are sheathed in asphalt shingles. The five by three bay main portion of the dwelling rest on a granite foundation. The walls are clad in painted wood clapboards. A brick chimney projects from the ridge of the main roof, a second brick chimney is located on the eastern slope of the long narrow addition, and a third brick chimney is located on the interior end of the small gable addition to the west. Fenestration includes 6/9 wood sash windows and skylights on the western ell. The front (south) entrance is flanked by sidelights under a projecting crown. A secondary entrance on the east side of the house is narrow with transom window above. The door is framed by simple wide post trim and wide lintel trim above the transom windows.

A detached barn is located to the west of the house at **1484 Andover Street**. The two-story gable front barn is cross shaped in plan from a narrow tall addition across the middle of the older gable front portion of the barn, just to the rear of the hip-roof cupola. A second cupola is located on the center of the western section of the cross gable roof of the addition. The main (south) elevation features an asymmetrically located sliding barn door under a transom. A shallow one story shed roof addition is located to the east of the barn. A pair of swinging doors is located on the east façade of this small addition. Two small additions are located to the rear of the barn.

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.

Known locally at the Life Farmer Homestead, the dwelling at 1484 Andover Street is identified in Harold J. Patton's book *Ask Now of the Days that are Past* as constructed c 1802. Life Farmer (1761-1843) was born in Tewksbury to Peter and Edna Farmer. He married Abigail Needham in 1787. They had several children including Life Farmer Jr (1788-1842). Abigail died in 1919 and Life Farmer Sr remarried to Sally Lane of Amesbury in 1921.

Peter, Edna, Life, and Sally Farmer are buried in Tewksbury's central cemetery on the north side of East Street.

In 1872 William Bascom sold the Life Farmer house and land to Hoyt Watson Hilton. Hilton operated a dry goods store, Hilton Keyes & Lewis, and served on the Board of Directors at Mechanics Savings Bank in Lowell in the 1860s before moving to Tewksbury. Hilton is variously listed as born in 1798, 1814, and 1820. He married Mary Woodman (b1821) in 1839. While living in Tewksbury he was a farmer on his land on the north and south sides of Andover Street. In 1890 he owned his house, barn, carriage barn, 18 cows, the 50-acre homestead lot and 59-acres of farmland. The Hiltons employed various farm labourers and servants to help them run the farm and that boarded with the family on Andover Street.

The Hiltons had several children including sons Lucius [Lucien] in 1841 and George V b 1853. Hoyt Hilton died in 1903. Mary died in 1908. Their son Lucius and his wife Louisa lived on the family farm 1910-1915. Lucius was a Civil War veteran serving as a sergeant in Co. G Mass 6th Infantry Reg and Co. S Mass 39th Infantry Reg between 1862-1865.

Lucius' son Henry H Hilton (b1868) graduated from Dartmouth College in 1890 and moved to Chicago at the turn of the 20th century where he was a president of Ginn & Company Publishing. Ginn & Co. was a textbook publisher with offices in Boston and Chicago. In 1896 Hoyt W Hilton transferred ownership of the house on Andover Street to his grandson Henry H Hilton. The

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henry H Hilson family would summer in the house on Andover Street. The Hiltons moved back to North Tewksbury after Mr. Hilton retired. The farm was run by Omer blanchard

After the death of Mary Hilton in 1908 other members of the family lived on the farm opposite the schoolhouse including Henry and Sarah Hilton (1919 and 1949) and George V Hilton (1931). Henry H Hilton died in 1948 and his son Edward Lucius Hilton (1911-1972) sold the house to Janet Randolph in 1954.

Additional owners and occupants include: WH Osgood (1852); John & Donna Nelson (1965); Richard Ericson, a truck driver (1975); Janet Randolph (1954-1989); and Jonathan & Jessica Randolph (1989-2009).



Sgt Lucius[Lucien] Hilton *Ancestry.com*

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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- Directories. 1896-97, 1898-99, 1900-01, 1911-12, 1913-14, 1915-16, 1919, 1927, 1930-31, 1932-33, 1937-38 , 1940-41, 1942-1943, 1949 [Ancestry], 1953, 1955, 1961, and 1967.
- Map of the Town of Tewksbury 1852.Henry F Walling. Boston, MA.
- 1865 Map of Tewkesbury with inset.
- Atlas of Middlesex County 1875. FW Beers.
- Altas of Middlesex County 1889. Geo H Walker & Co.
- List of Residents by Streets, Ages 17 years and over, In the Town of Tewksbury Mass. As prepared by the Board of Registrars (various years 1965-)
- Valuations of the Real and Personal Estate of the Town of Tewksbury.
- Meloy, Marietta. *My Fond Remembrances of North Tewksbury*. Tewksbury Historical Society.

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Life Farmer House c 1964