

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

Town: Tewksbury

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 307 Astle Street

Historic Name: Joshua F French House

Uses: Present: Multi-Family Residence (3)

 Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: c1848

Source: Historic Maps & Atlases, Vital Statistics

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboards

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Barn Demolished after 1911

Condition: Fair

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

Acreage: 1.72 Acres

Setting: Set back from the street in a formerly rural area developed in the second half of the 20th century as a suburban residential area.

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Julie Ann Larry

Organization: ttl-architects

Date (*month / year*): March 2010

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY

307 ASTLE 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.

The large multi-family house at **307 Astle Street** is set back from the road and rests on a nearly level lot. The five by two bay, two-and-a-half story house rests on a granite foundation. The rectangular building is connected to two rear ells. Each is a two story front gable ell. The walls of the building are sheathed in wood clapboards. Side gable roof and ell roofs are clad in asphalt shingles. Each ridge is pierced by a small brick chimney. The main entrance is sheltered by a hip roof projecting from the front (south) façade. The sheltering roof is supported by large carved brackets. The house has been somewhat altered for its use as a multifamily residence; changes include 1/1 replacement windows, the front entry steps, the paired windows on the west elevation and rear ells, and the entry porch at the eastern ell.

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.

According to deeds and boundary maps, Joshua Frost French (1823-1896) occupied a house and seventy-five acres of land bisected by the county road between Wamesit village in Tewksbury and the City of Lowell. According to a family history, Joshua Frost French married Harriet Cram and bought his 75-acre farm in 1848. According to the family history he "repaired the barns and remodeled his house", so the house may predate 1848. It has been heavily altered, but an internal investigation might clarify a construction date.

Joshua Frost French was the son of Edmund French and worked as a youth on his father's Tewksbury farm. He was a member of the Lodge of Freemasons, the First Baptist Church, and served on the Tewksbury School Committee. He married his second wife, Ellen Howe, in 1858 and they had five children, including Eliot H French (b1859). Eliot lived on the farm with his mother after his father's death and inherited the farm with his siblings. Eliot sold the farm in 1925.

Subsequent owners include: Eliot H French (1925); May Bolton of Pelham NH (1925-1945); Clifford & Mabel Bolton (1945-1956); John Shields (1954-1956); Francis Tellier, a general contractor & his wife, Rita (1956-1968), Joel Labell (1968-1986); and Francis & Rita Tellier (1986-)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- U.S. Census Records. 1790-1930.
- 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.
- Atlas 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.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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Two empty rectangular boxes for area and form number.

