

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

61 49

Town: Tewksbury

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)
 Tewksbury Center

Address: 71 East Street

Historic Name: William H Kelsea House

Uses: Present: Two-Family Residence
 Original: Single-Family Residence

Date of Construction: c1870

Source: Style & Historic Maps

Style/Form: Italianate

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Asbestos Siding

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
Siding (mid 20th cen)

Condition: Fair

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

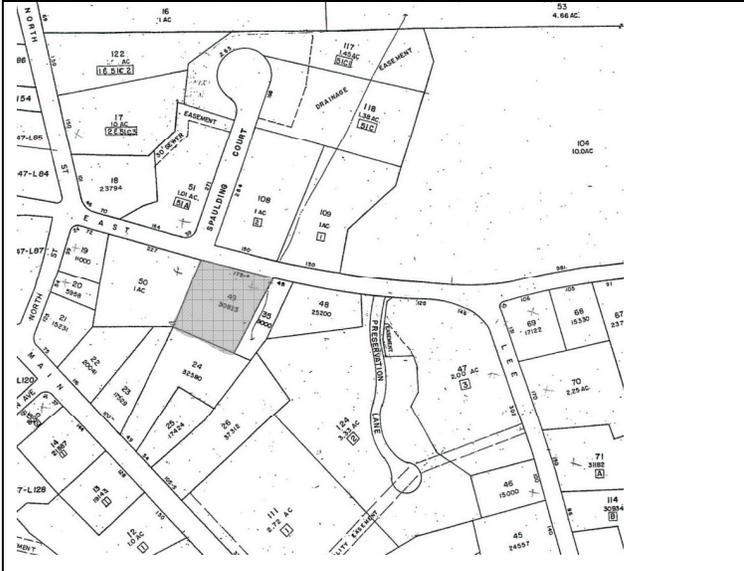
Acreage: 0.71 Acres

Setting: Located in a primarily single family residential area on a major travel corridor to I-93.

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

71 EAST STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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 Italianate Style house at **71 East Street** is set on a flat lot close to the edge of East Street. The rectangular building rests on a granite foundation. Character defining features include: the two story bay window, the projecting portico supported by turned posts, and the paired doors. The gable front roof is highlighted by the carved verge boards. A square brick chimney pierces the north slope of the asphalt shingle clad roof. The walls are clad in asbestos siding. Fenestration is primarily 2/2 wood sash windows, except for the tall narrow 1/1 sash windows in the two story bay. A one story rear ell projects from the rear (west) of the dwelling.

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.

A building on this lot c 1875 was owned by William H Kelsea. The lot originally continued through the block south to Main Street. A building to the rear (south) of the house was a cabinet shop. The property was sold in 1883 by M Etta and Cristy Kelsea to Porter Mears.

The house was occupied 1883-1907 by the Porter Mears family. Porter Mears (c1832-1900) was the son of Ira and Nancy Mears. In 1890 Porter owned a house, mill building, blacksmith shop, horse, buggy, and four lots of land totaling 14 acres. Porter Mears died in 1900 and his widow, Susan remained in the house. In 1907 Susan Mears sold the dwelling to Lydia & Albert Foster, a printer from Lowell.

Additional owners of the house include Homer (1886-1973) and Myra Darby from 1929-1971. Homer was the Superintendent of Streets for the Town of Tewksbury and in the 1950s a janitor at Tewksbury High School. His parents operated the Town Poor Farm on North Street. Their children Floyd, Irma and Vernon all worked in the 1940s as florists at Frank I Carter's greenhouses. The house was later owned by his daughter Vesta Darby (1919-2007).

The Darby daughters sold the house to Louise & Daniel Gemmell in 1989.

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.
- 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.
- North Middlesex County Registry of Deeds.