

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: 166 French Street

Historic Name: Porter Livingston House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residential

 Original: Single Family Residential

Date of Construction: c1870

Source: Style

Style/Form: Italianate

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Siding

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Barn (c1875)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
Garage (late 20th Cen)

Condition: Fair

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

Acreage: 1.21 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

166 FRENCH STREET

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 side hall Italianate house at **166 French Street** is separated from the street by a split rail fence at the edge of the gently sloping lot. The three by three bay building has been substantially altered by additions, dormers, the exterior chimney on the front façade, and replacement siding and windows. The dwelling has been extended to the east by a screen porch and to the south with a one-and-a-half story two-car garage. The walls are clad in vinyl siding and the front gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. A second chimney extends from the ridge of the roof near the garage addition.

To the rear (south) of the house is a wide two-and-a-half story barn. The gambrel roof dairy barn features three hinged garage doors with multiple glass panes on the north façade. The south façade has a narrow sliding wood door on the first floor and a hayloft door centrally located on the second level. The walls are clad in wood clapboards. The asphalt shingle sheathed roof has wraparound eaves. Windows are 1/1 wood sash windows. A third pedestrian entrance is located on the north end of the east façade sheltered by a projecting gable canopy.

The east and west sides of the property are marked by rubble stone walls.

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.

This house was built before 1875 and owned by Porter Livingston (1818-1902), who owned two dwellings near the corner of Whipple Road and French Street in 1852. Porter Livingston was a farmer and a member of the Lowell Co-operative Milk Association, owning shares in the Assoc.'s creamery that produced butter, cream and cream as well as selling milk. In 1890 Livingston owned the house, barn, a carriage house, 18 cows, and a 96-acre homestead lot, plus three additional lots totaling 57-acres. Porter married Sarah Pinkham in 1843 and they had four children. The gambrel roof barn was probably constructed by Livingston. The roof form became popular after 1872 because it did not require a cross beam that would interfere with mechanized hay storage or a hay track. The shape of the gambrel roof barns also allowed a greater volume for hay storage than traditional gable roof barns.

In 1898 Nils Martin Anderson, a poultry farmer, purchased the six-acre barn lot formerly belonging to Livingston from Aaron Ostermann, who operated a dairy farm at the corner of French Street and North Billerica Road. In 1908, Nils Anderson purchased the house and one-acre from Ernest Bjorkman. In 1935 Nils' widow Hannah sold the house, barn and land to Ralph and Anthony Anderson. Ralph Anderson's half-interest in the farm passed to Ralph Anderson and his wife Hilda in 1976, then to Martin Anderson in 1986.

In the late 1980s the farm was owned by Martin Anderson of California and Gordon and Miriam Neville. In 1999 the farm was subdivided and Anderson Estates was constructed to the rear (south) of the barn. In 2000 the house was acquired by Raymond Macinanti.

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.

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166 FRENCH STREET

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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.

