

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

22 34

## Photograph



**Town:** Tewksbury

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*)  
Wamesit

**Address:** 274 Old Main Street

**Historic Name:** George & Mary Littlefield House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residential

Original: Single Family Residential

**Date of Construction:** c1881

**Source:** Style, Deed Research & Vital Records

**Style/Form:** Italianate

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Aluminum

Roof: Asbestos Shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

Siding (late 20<sup>th</sup> century)

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no |X| yes | | **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acreage:** 0.69 Acres

**Setting:** Situated in a residential area along Old Main Street adjacent to the realigned Main Street that has developed post WWII as a commercial 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

274 OLD MAIN 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 one-and-a-half story dwelling at **274 Old Main Street** rests on a granite foundation. A one-and-a-half story ell extends from the rear of the three by two bay dwelling. A rectangular bay projects from the southwest elevation. A narrow one-story bay projects from and extends across the length of the main form's northeast elevation. The gable front roof forms are sheathed in asphalt shingles. A small gable wall dormer pierces the northeastern eave. The walls of the dwelling are clad in asbestos shingles. The side hall entrance on the front (northwest) façade is protected by a projecting hood supported by large decorative brackets with finials. Fenestration consists of 1/1 replacement sash windows.

A small side gable garage is located to the south of the dwelling. The front (northwest façade features a large sliding barn door, a boarded up window opening, and a swinging pedestrian door. The side gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. The walls are clad in asbestos shingles.

## 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.*

Wamesit is the area near the crossing of the Boston & Lowell line at the junction of Main, Clark, and Beaver Dam Streets. The railroad crossing was also known as Mace's Crossing. The direction of Main Street in Wamesit was altered c1940 with the construction of an overpass over the railroad tracks at Wamesit Station. The section of the historic street that was bypassed became known as Old Main Street.

Built on land formerly part of the Mace Farm, the dwelling at 282 Old Main Street was one of three dwellings built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century by members of the Littlefield family near Wamesit Station. Stephen Littlefield moved to Wamesit from Tewksbury Center 1850-1852. His son Hiram (1826-1896) married c1855. His other son Charles married c1859. Hiram and Charles built homes near their father on Main Street in Wamesit. Charles left Tewksbury and moved to Lowell 1870-1880 where he was a paper box manufacturer.

Hiram (1826-1896) was a farmer. Hiram's wife was the daughter of Judith Mace and John Carter. Her grandfather was Benjamin Mace, the owner of the Abram Mace House at 219 Old Main Street (TEW.XXX) on the north side of the railroad station and tracks. Hiram and his wife Sarah (1828-1891) had three sons. Their youngest son Frank (1861-1889) lived with his parents and helped on the family farm. Frank died before his parents.

Their son Arthur married in 1877 to Irene Davis (Rena Davis) and they had a daughter Alice. Arthur and Rena lived with her parents c1880. In Hiram's will Arthur and his family were left 18 acres, and a 1 acre lots with buildings on it on the east side of Main Street (now 282 Old Main Street TEW.XXX).

Their son George (1857-1891) lived with his father and mother in 1880. He married in 1881 and had four children. In Hiram's will Mary, George's widow, and their children were left 15 acres and a 1-acre lot with a house and barn on the east side of Main Street (now 274 Old Main Street). Deeds describe the parcel as bounded by Arthur Littlefield land, the railroad tracks and Main Street.

Additional owners: Winthrop Bean, the finance commissioner for the Town of Tewksbury & his wife Helen, a bookkeeper for Osterman Coal Co (c1942-c1956); Ralph & Jean Orcles (1956); Walter Riley, an insurance agent and realtor & Peter Riley (1956); Clarence & Alice Biggar (1956-1991); Paul Pereira (1991-2009).

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## 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.

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.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Ye Towne Book*. Town of Tewksbury. 1934.

Patton, Harold J. *Ask Now of the Days that are Past*. Higginson Book Co. 1964.

