

# 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:**            283 Pleasant Street

**Historic Name:** Walter & Harold Smith Greenhouses

**Uses: Present:**    Vacant

                                  Original: Greenhouses

**Date of Construction:** 1932

**Source: Assessor's Records**

**Style/Form:**            No Style

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation:    Concrete

Wall/Trim:        Brick & Glass

Roof:                Asphalt Shingles

## Topographic or Assessor's Map



**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

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

Subdivided from associated dwelling at 279 Pleasant Street (c1969)

**Condition:**            Fair

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

**Acreage:**                2.14 Acres

**Setting:** Located in a formerly rural area developed in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as a suburban residential area.

**Recorded by:** Julie Ann Larry

**Organization:** ttl-architects

**Date (*month / year*):** March 2010

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY 283 PLEASANT 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 greenhouse complex at **283 Pleasant Street** includes a central shop with a tall brick chimney, a long eighteen bay greenhouse to the southwest of the shop, and a twelve bay greenhouse to the southeast of the shop. The building is connected to both greenhouses.

The shop is comprised of a two-story building with a shallow front gable roof and a rear addition with a steeply pitched gable roof. The brick chimney extends from the exterior of the north gable end wall of the rear addition. The gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. Windows include narrow vertical casement windows on the second floor and large fixed display windows on the first floor of the shop. The centrally located entrance is a commercial glass entrance door in a metal frame.

Both greenhouses have gable roof forms and are constructed of metal frames with glass panels.

## 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.*

In 1888 Edgar Smith came to the United States from England. Edgar moved to Tewksbury 1901-1910. In 1910 he lived off Pleasant Street near Whipple and worked as a carpet weaver in a mill. Edgar started an ice business 1912-1915 at his house on what is now Marshall Street. He was later joined in his ice business, Smith Brothers, by his brother Walter who had followed Edgar from England to the United States in 1895. The brothers also started a florist and market gardening business in the late 1920s.

Walter Smith and his wife Eleanor purchased a seven-acre parcel of land on the north side of Pleasant Street from George Marshall in 1917. Smith built a house c1918 at 279 Pleasant Street (TEW.XXX) and a greenhouse on the land c1932. In 1946 Walter sold the greenhouse and house to his son Harold, who worked in the florist business with his father and lived in the house on Pleasant Street with his wife Alma.

In 1969 Harold Smith subdivided the greenhouses from the house and sold the family's greenhouse to Patten & Company, a large carnation greenhouse operation near the corner of North and East Streets.

Additional owners: Thomas & Ada Trainor (1972-1979); Chester C Sullivan (1979); Anthony & Kathleen Samsel (1979-1989); and Kathleen Shiners of Idaho (1989-2009).

## 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.

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.

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

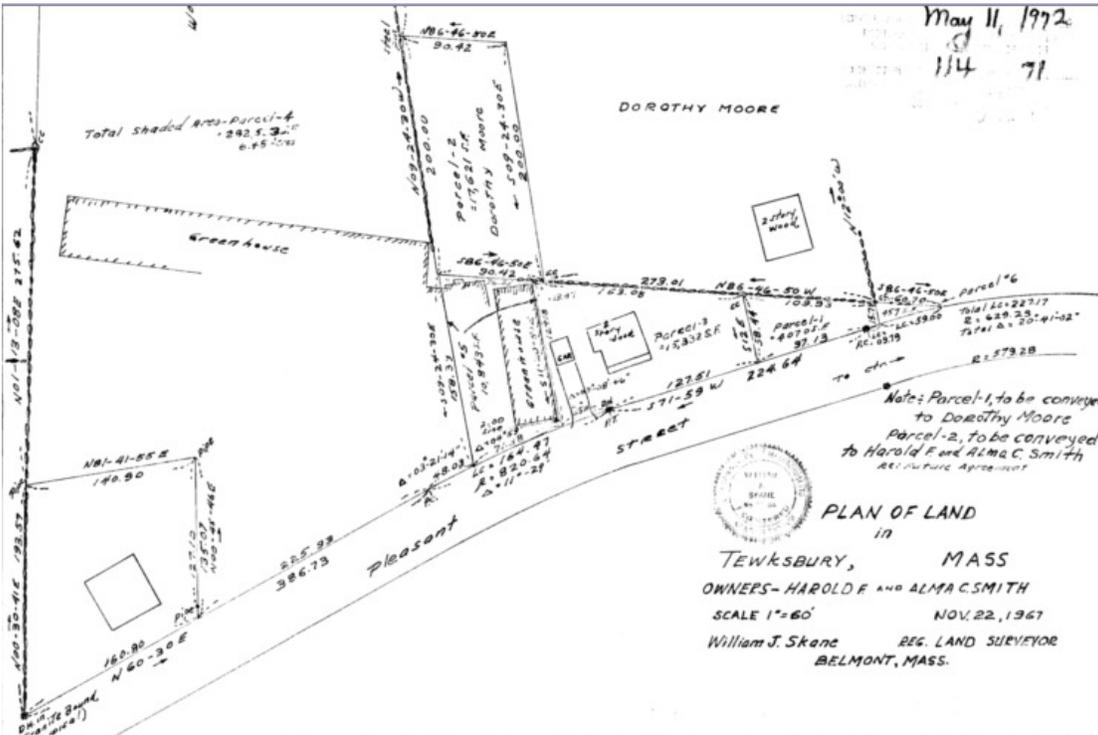
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Middlesex County North Registry of Deeds Plan Book 114, Page 71.