

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

47 141           

**Town:**            Tewksbury

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*)  
                  Tewksbury Center

**Address:**            82 Pleasant Street

**Historic Name:**    John T Gale House

**Uses:** Present:    Single-family Residence

                  Original:    Single-family Residence

**Date of Construction:** 1920-1930

**Source:**            Census Records

**Style/Form:**        Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation:    Concrete

Wall/Trim:        Clapboards

Roof:              Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

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

**Condition:**        Good

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

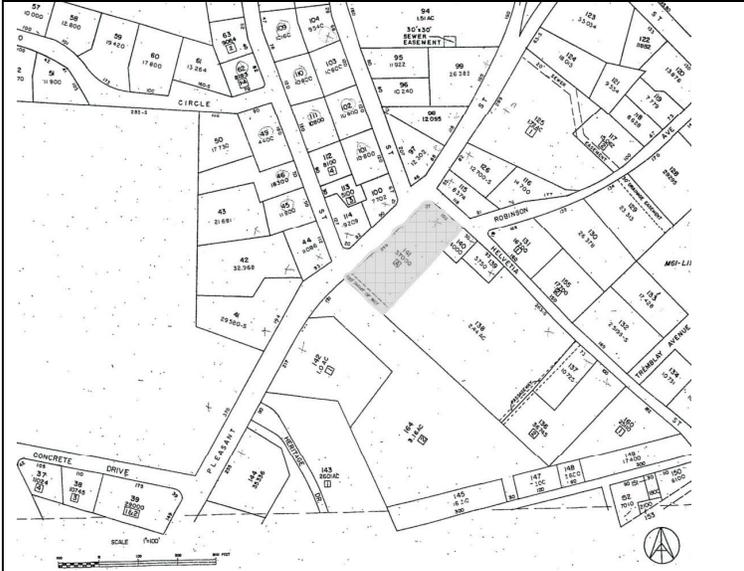
**Acreage:**            0.85 Acres

**Setting:**            Set on a relatively flat lot on the edge of the village center.

## 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

82 PLEASANT 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.*

**82 Pleasant Street** is a two-and-a-half-story Colonial Revival Style dwelling located at the corner of Helvetia Street. A one story hip roof addition is located to the west of the house. Additionally a one-and-a-half story addition projects from the southwest corner of the five by two bay dwelling. The rectangular dwelling rests on a concrete foundation. Despite the installation of vinyl replacement windows, the house retains the side gable roof, entry portico, and full cornice details that characterize the Colonial Revival Style. The roof forms are sheathed in asphalt shingles. The walls are clad in clapboards. The entry portico features a gable roof with a full pediment supported by smooth round columns on a brick stair. The primary fenestration is 6/1 double hung vinyl sash windows. Additional fenestration includes the third floor quarter-round windows on either side of the exterior end wall chimney. The large addition to the southwest features a full width engaged porch supported by turned posts, a picture window, a cupola, a full width shed dormer on the rear (south) roof slope, and a secondary entrance. An in-ground pool is located to the west of the addition.

## 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.*

The residence is one of several residences near the corner of Pleasant and Helvetia Streets that are associated with the Gale family. John T Gale of Lowell purchased a large lot of land from Perry Jefferson (MHC# TEW.39) in 1904. The deed indicates that the land came with the promise to lay out a portion of a new road (Helvetia Street) from Chandler Street to Pleasant Street.

Between 1890 and 1915 the Town of Tewksbury began to develop as a market gardening community. Greenhouses for nurseries and market gardening were constructed throughout the town to grow produce to sell in nearby cities. John T Gale Sons Wholesale Florist was established on the west side of the newly laid out Helvetia Street c1905. Between WWI and WWII Tewksbury became known as a carnation town as many of the town's green houses produced flowers commercially. The existing garage building at 35 Helvetia Street was built during this period of expansion for the local floral industry c 1930. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century many of these greenhouse operations were abandoned. While some greenhouses have been completely demolished and others remain unused and deteriorating, the Gale greenhouse operation is still active. The existing greenhouses were installed in 1981. Cut flowers grown by John T Gale Sons include sweet peas and snap dragons.

John T Gale was born in England in 1875 and immigrated to America c1885<sup>1</sup>. He was living in Tewksbury by 1900 where he was working as a laborer in a nursery. In 1901 he lived on Main Street. He married his first wife, Edna Harper in 1903 and their daughter Thelma was born the same year. They had three additional children: John Harper (1909-1999), Richmond (1911), and Edna (1913). Edna Harper Gale died c1914 and John T Gale married his second wife, Zorah, c1915.

Gale and his family members built several houses nearby including the John T Gale House at 82 Pleasant Street (built 1920-1930) TEW. ; the Thelma [Gale] Green House at 11 Helvetia Street TEW. ; the Richmond T Gale House at 17 Helvetia Street, and the John Harper Gale House at 24 Helvetia Street.

The John T Gale house at **82 Pleasant Street** was built according to the Town's Assessment records c 1925. From Census records it can be determined that the house was built between 1920 and 1930. John T Gale died in 1976 and his wife Zorah died

<sup>1</sup> 1910 United States Federal Census Record. Other census records indicate a different immigration date. In 1900, immigration in 1890 while the 1920 and 1930 census indicates an immigration in 1891.

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in 1975. After their deaths the ownership of the house was left to John T Gale's four children. The house was sold by the Gale heirs to James and Gail Graham in 1976. In 2004 the house was sold to Keith and Nancy Anderson.



(L-R) John Harper Gale, Richmond Gale, Thelma Gale, Edna Gale [circa: 1919-1920] Tewksbury Historical Society Collection, 2001<sup>2</sup>

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

The Lowell Suburban directory of Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro and Westford. Salem, MA: Henry M Meek. 1896-1897. 1905. 1911. 1913. 1915. 1917. 1919. 1922. 1925. 1927. 1930. 1932. 1937. 1940. 1945. 1949. 1951. 1953. 1959. 1961. 1968. 1971. 1972. 1975.

Tewksbury Street Directory. Mass: (s.n.) 1901. 1912.

Valuation of the Real and Personal Estate of the Town of Tewksbury for the Year. 1890. 1940. 1960.

Tewksbury List of Residents. 1965. 1975.

North Middlesex County Registry of Deeds.

Ancestry.com

Tewksbury Advertiser 2/11/99

<sup>2</sup> The Tewksbury Town Crier Sunday, January 11, 2009 10:06 AM EST

[http://www.homenewshere.com/articles/2009/01/31/tewksbury\\_town\\_crier/news/doc496956a3679e8853664739 prt](http://www.homenewshere.com/articles/2009/01/31/tewksbury_town_crier/news/doc496956a3679e8853664739 prt) 4/2/2010