

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY

227 WHIPPLE ROAD

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 simple vernacular house at **227 Whipple Road** is L-shaped in plan. The one-and-a-half story building has a one-story enclosed porch on the south side and a one-story addition on the north. The house rests on a concrete foundation. The walls are clad in clapboards. The gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. A gable front wall dormer projects above the eave. There are two brick chimneys, one on the rear elevation, and one painted exterior end wall chimney on the north elevation of the enclosed porch. Windows are predominately 2/1 double-hung sashes. Entrance to the house is through the enclosed porch.

The remains of a large wholesale greenhouse operation formerly associated with this property include the tall brick chimney of the greenhouse shop, part of a gable front wood frame greenhouse, and a gable front concrete block shed. There is also a two car garage to the west of the house. The side gable garage is clad in wood clapboards and sits on a concrete foundation. Aerial images indicate there were five greenhouses, three to the east of the shop and two connecting the shop to the garage.

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.

Tewksbury's prominent industry at the turn of the 20th century was commercial gardening. Along Whipple, North, Pleasant, Marshall and Main Streets, resident's developed greenhouses and market gardens to grow carnation and other commercial flowers. The greenhouses at 227 Whipple Road may have been constructed 1900-1910, but they were definitely built by 1930 when they were operated as Lee's Greenhouses by Mrs. Elizabeth Lee, the wife of Arthur Lee, a loom fixer in a mill in Lowell. Evelyn Whitehead (1899-1969) was the daughter of Arthur and Elizabeth Lee. The Lee's moved to Whipple Road, then Billerica Road, 1900-1910. As a young women Evelyn worked as a stenographer in an office. Evelyn married Ralph Whitehead, a salesman, 1930-1940 and they lived on Whipple Road with her parents. Ralph and Evelyn continued to operate the greenhouses in the 1950s and 1960s. According to Town valuations, the property included in 1948 and 1965 10-acres, the house, 2-car garage, three greenhouses, and the boiler room garage.

The Evelyn Whitehead Estate sold the property to Joan McCool in 1970. However, the greenhouses were operated c1975 as Lee's Greenhouses by Lee and Veronica Taylor.

Additional owners include: Joan McCool (1970-2010).

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.

_____. *Ye Towne Book*. Town of Tewksbury. 1934.

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

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