

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by:
Organization:
Date (month / year):

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

61 50

TEW 14

Town: Tewksbury

Place: (neighborhood or village)
Tewksbury Center

Address: 55 East Street

Historic Name: The Stone House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residential

Original: Single Family Residential, Post Office,
Cobbler Shop

Date of Construction: 1841

Source: MHC Form & Style

Style/Form: Gothic Revival

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation:

Wall/Trim:

Roof:

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage (former Cobbler Shop?)

Major Alterations (with dates):

Condition: Fair

Moved: no | X | yes | | Date _____

Acreage: 1.0 Acres

Setting: Located in a primarily single family
residential area near the village center on a major travel
corridor to I-93.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSURY

55 EAST STREET

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 five by two bay stone house at **55 East Street** is one-and-a-half stories in height. The paired gable Gothic Revival dwelling faces west and is set close to the street. The side gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. Two interior end chimneys pierce the eastern slope of the roof. The main end gables and paired front dormers feature decorative vergeboards. The paired gables also feature clapboard siding. A projecting entry portico features an S-curved roof and lattice cladding. Windows are 2/2 sash windows. A rear one-story ell is also constructed of stone. The 20th century addition that extends to the west is wood framed with clapboard siding, a gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles, skylights, and large fixed pane windows. To the rear of the lot is a side gable carriage barn that has been altered with replacement doors and windows.

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 stone house at 55 East Street was for many years the residence of James Fairgrieve (1851-1910) and his family. James Fairgrieve married his wife Penelope c1874. They had two surviving children, Arthur and Ethel. James was the station agent for the Tewksbury Center Railroad station and later also the telegraph agent. James was also the Town's postmaster from 1887-1889 and 1893-1897. The post office was operated out of his house on East Street.

James' son, Arthur Fairgrieve served as the acting station agent in 1901 and as a clerk at his grocery store, Fairgrieve & Co. on Main Street opposite the extant Town Hall. He also served, like his father, as the Town's Postmaster 1914-1930. His sister Ethel served as the assistant postmaster. Arthur lived over his store at 986-988 Main Street.

In 1949 Penelope Fairgrieve sold the house to her two children. In 1964 Ethel (Fairgrieve) Jackson sold the stone house to Donald and Pauline Bagby.

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.
- Atlas of Middlesex County 1875. FW Beers.
- Altas 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.
- Hurd, D. Hamilton. *History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts with Biographical Sketches of many of its Pioneers and Prominent Men*. 1890.
- Patton, Harold J. *Ask Now of the Days that are Past*. Higginson Book Co. 1964.
- _____. *Ye Towne Book*. Town of Tewksbury. 1934.

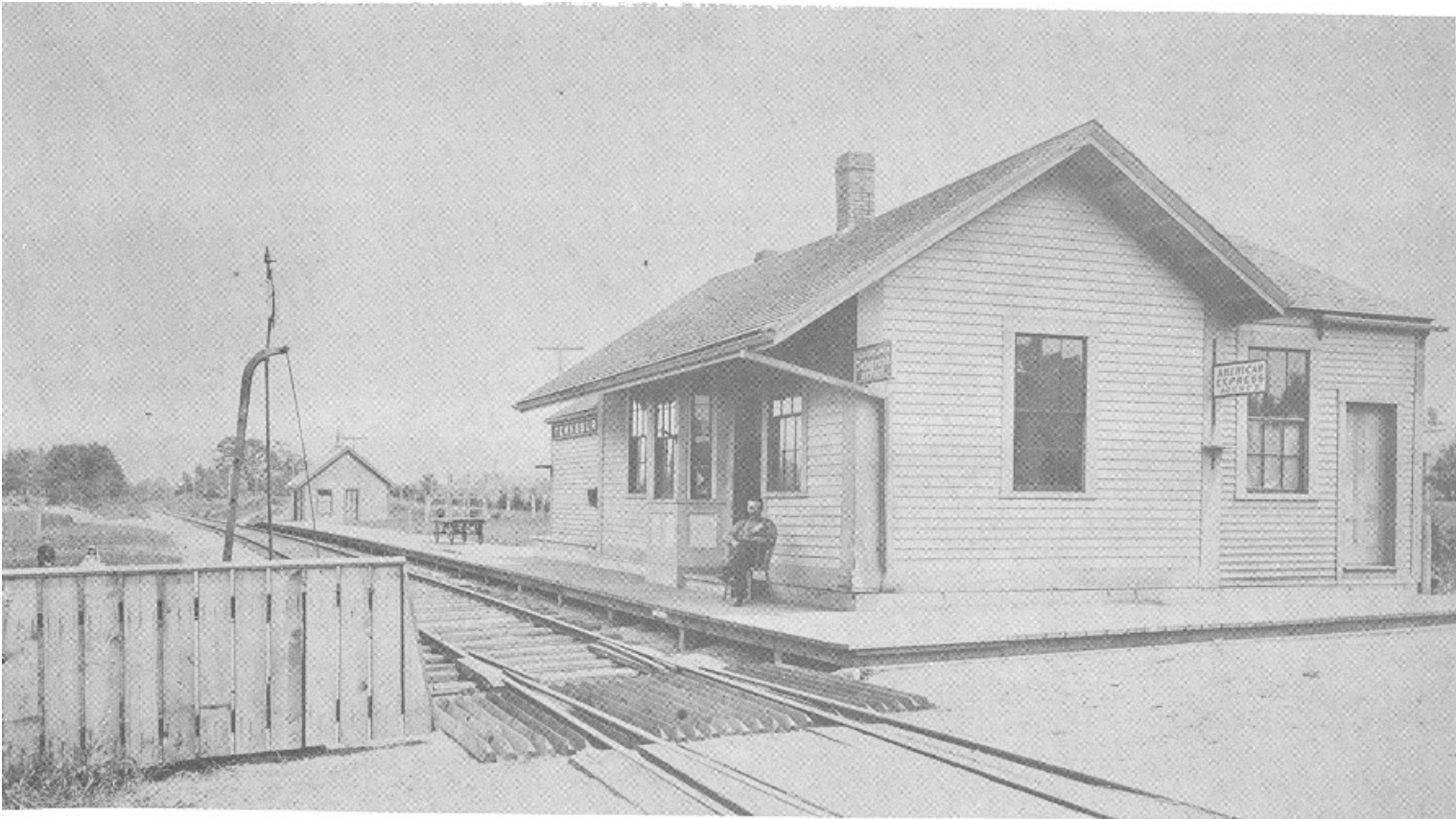
INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

Tewksbury 55 East Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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From Patton's *Ask Now of the Days that are Past*. C1888 image of the Tewksbury Center Railroad Station. Station Agent James Fairgrieve is seated in front of the station and his children Arthur and Ethel are visible beyond the fence on the left.