

FORM B – BUILDING

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

60-44 Wilmington TEW.291

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

Town/City: Tewksbury

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

Photograph



Address: 110 Lee Street

Historic Name: Dennis J. O'Connell House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1910

Source: MNRD 457/570

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Rubblestone

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Porch rebuilt/replaced and windows replaced 2015–2017

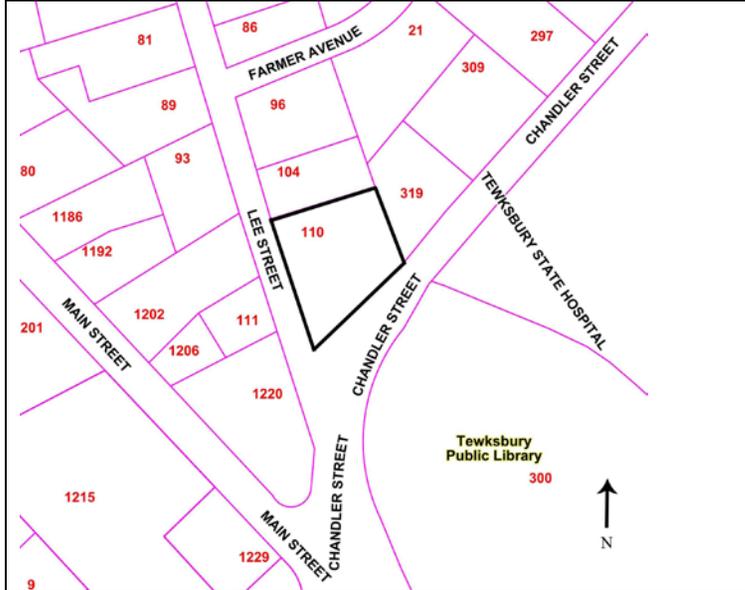
Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .51ac

Setting: The Kiernan House is at the north side of the intersection of Lee and Chandler streets, just north of Main Street in Tewksbury Centre. The house is back from the street edge on an approximately square lot, with an asphalt driveway running east past the south elevation of the building.

Locus Map



Recorded by: V. Adams, G. Pineo, E. Totten, J. Chin, PAL

Organization: Tewksbury Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): March 2020

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY

110 LEE 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.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Dennis J. O'Connell House (ca. 1910) is a west-facing, Queen Anne-style, two-and-one-half-story, side-hall plan house with a rubblestone foundation and an end-gable roof. The walls are clad with wood clapboards, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The entrance is in the north bay of the west (facade) elevation and is sheltered by a full-width hip-roof porch with a gable pediment aligned with the entrance, all supported by square posts. The entrance is filled with a modern replacement door. A secondary entrance is in the west bay of the south elevation under a shed-roof entry porch projecting off a one-story addition. A bay window is immediately west of the south entry. Fenestration consists of eight-over-one wood sash with projecting sills and lintels.

Based on Google street views, between 2015 and 2017, the porch and windows were replaced. In 2015, the windows consisted of two-over-one wood sash, and the porch was enclosed and lit by a ribbon of one-over-one sash.

The O'Connell House is a good example of a Queen Anne-style house constructed on the east side of Tewksbury Centre in the late nineteenth century as large estates began to be platted out for smaller residential lots. Although recently altered by renovations, the style is still identifiable in the building's form and massing.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Dennis and Zelia O'Connell House (ca. 1910) was likely constructed for Tewksbury State Infirmary employee Dennis J. O'Connell (1869–1956) and his wife Zelia, who purchased the property from Angie Kiernan, who had purchased lots 1 and 2 of Frank H. Farmer's property in 1904 (MNRD 382/106, 457/570). The property was part of a larger parcel formerly owned by undertaker Frank H. Farmer, who lived at 18 Lee Street (1898, TEW.17) and owned much of the land on the east side of Lee Street, having purchased it from William Lee in 1889 (see Lee Street Area, TEW.B). Dennis O'Connell likely worked in the power plant for the infirmary, about a half a mile to the east, as his occupation was listed as coal passer (U.S. Census 1920) In 1919, he sold the property to Ida and Chester Brown and moved to a house on South Street, where he and Zelia, an immigrant from Quebec, lived with their nine children (MNRD 604/229; U.S. Census 1920). Chester Brown (1866–1924) was an engineer at the Tewksbury State Infirmary and lived with his wife Ida (b. 1867), an immigrant from New Brunswick (U.S. Census 1920).

In 1924, Ida Brown, then a widow, sold the property to Armenian immigrant George Ahjilian (b. 1874), who arrived in the United States in 1893, just before the Hamidian Massacres began in Armenia (MNRD 706/552; U.S. Census 1930; NY Times 1896). Ahjilian's wife Lucia arrived from Armenia in 1924 (U.S. Census 1930). Prior to living in Tewksbury, George ran a variety store at 423 Central Street (extant, not inventoried in MACRIS) and lived at 47 Tyler Street (not extant), both in Lowell (Sampson & Murdock Co. 1920). In 1930, George sold the property to Patrick and Delia Canavan, immigrants from Ireland (MNRD 787/157). Like many previous occupants of the house, George was employed by the Tewksbury State Hospital, working as an electrician (U.S. Census 1930, 1940). The property remained in the Canavan family, passing to son Joseph, until 1987 when it was sold to Paul and Mary Harrington (MNRD 4051/91). The property changed hands once more in 2015, when it was sold to Stephanie Ogden, the current owner (MNRD 29441/168).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com. *U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.
Middlesex North Registry of Deeds (MNRD). Book/Page (Year). 382/106 (1904); 457/570 (1910); 604/229 (1919); 706/552 (1924); 787/157 (1930); 4051/91 (1987); 29441/168 (2015).
New York Times. "Fifty Thousand Orphans." 18 December 1896, p.3.

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- Sampson & Murdock Co. *Lowell Directory*. Boston, MA: Sampson & Murdock Co., 1920.
United States Bureau of the Census (U.S. Census). *Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920*. (T625, 2076 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.
- ____. *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*. (T626, 2,667 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.
- ____. *Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940*. (T627, 4,643 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.