

FORM B – BUILDING

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

47-136 Wilmington TEW.289

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

Town/City: Tewksbury

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

Photograph



Address: 51 Helvetia Street

Historic Name: Abner Goodwin House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1908

Source: MNRD 417/74

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Vinyl/Vinyl

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Stone wall

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Vinyl siding, late 20th/early 21st century

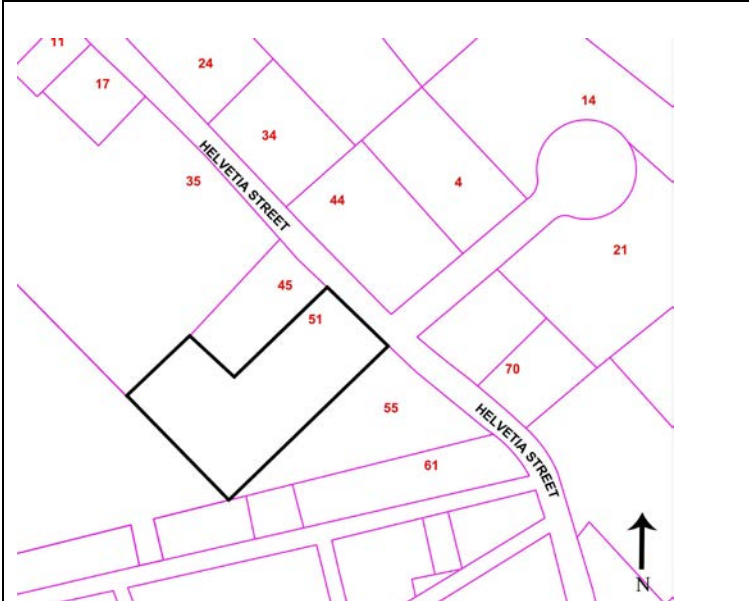
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .84ac

Setting: The Goodwin House is on the southwest side of Helvetia Street on an L-shaped parcel. A nursery with several greenhouses is west of the property. The house is surrounded by a grassy lot with an asphalt driveway running southwest along the southeast elevation of the house. A low stone retaining wall encloses the north and east sides of the lot west of the driveway. A round, rubblestone planter is at the end of the wall at the north corner of the lot.

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

51 HELVETIA 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.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Abner Goodwin House (ca. 1908) is a northeast-facing, astylistic, one-and-one-half story, two-bay-by-three-bay, wood-frame building with a rubblestone foundation and an end-gable roof. The walls are clad with vinyl siding, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney pierces the southeast slope of the roof near the center ridgeline. The entrance is in the center of the northeast (facade) elevation, leading to a nearly full-width, shed-roof, enclosed porch. A secondary entrance is in the center of the southeast elevation, facing the driveway, and is accessed by a wide entry porch. Fenestration consists of two-over-two wood sash and one-over-one aluminum replacement sash with narrow surrounds.

The Goodwin House is a typical example of a small, single-family residence constructed in Tewksbury Centre in the early twentieth century. Like others of its size and type, it has few stylistic elements.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Abner Goodwin House (ca. 1908) was likely constructed for Canadian immigrant Abner Goodwin (1861–1937), who immigrated from New Brunswick in 1887; he was followed by his wife Mary in 1893 (U.S. Census 1910). Goodwin purchased the lot in two transactions, one from Frances W. Jefferson and her siblings who collectively owned 29/36ths of the land, and the other from Charles R. Goddard, acting as guardian for his son Charles R. Goddard Jr., who was entitled to 7/36ths of the property, on the same day in 1908 (MNRD 417/73, 417/74). Goodwin appears to have not occupied the property immediately, as he was listed as living on Shawsheen Street in the 1910 federal census (U.S. Census 1910). By 1920, however, Abner was a widower and living on Helvetia Street with his sons Fred and Frank (U.S. Census 1920). Fred worked as a fireman for the Tewksbury State Hospital about a half-mile to the east, and Frank had a job doing laundry; it is unclear where Frank was working (U.S. Census 1920). Abner lived at the property through his death with son Fred, and the property remained in the Goodwin family until 1982, passing to Frank and his wife Alice, then their son Frank Goodwin Jr. (U.S. Census 1930; MNRD 1129/149, 2340/625, 2566/224). In 1982, Frank Goodwin Jr. sold the property to Janet and Brian Shea, who in turn sold it to Jon DiPalma in 1988 (MNRD 2566/224, 4743/277). In 1989, DiPalma sold the house to Richmond and Randall Gale, whose family owns the nursery and greenhouses to the southwest (4858/85).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex North Registry of Deeds (MNRD). Book/Page (Year). 417/73 (1908); 417/74 (1908); 1129/149 (1949); 2340/625 (1978); 2566/224 (1982); 4743/277 (1988); 4858/85 (1989).

United States Bureau of the Census (U.S. Census). *Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910*. (T624, 1178 rolls). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., ancestry.com database.

____. *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.