

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

04 44			TEW.39
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Town: Tewksbury

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 98 North Billerica Road

Historic Name: Osterman's Dairy Farm

Uses: Present: Single Family Residential

Original: Agricultural Farmstead

Date of Construction: c1889

Source: Deed Research

Style/Form: Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboards

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

7-Bay garage (TEW.XXX)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Older portions of the house may remain that date to 1800 and its ownership by the Edmund French family.

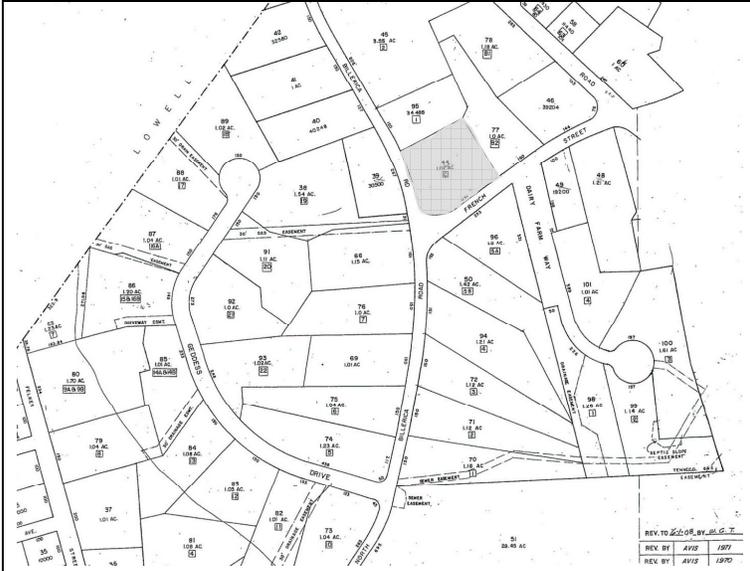
Condition: Good

Moved: no | X | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 1.02 Acres

Setting: Built in a formerly rural agricultural area that was subdivided in the second half of the 20th century for residential development.

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Julie Ann Larry

Organization: ttl-architects

Date (*month / year*): March 2010

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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 largest portion of the sprawling farmhouse at the corner of North Billerica Road and French Streets is a two-and-a-half story Italianate rectangular shaped dwelling on a granite foundation. The three by four bay building has a front gable roof with eave returns facing North Billerica Road. Fenestration consists of paired 6/1 double hung sash windows flanked by shutters symmetrically located on the west and south façades. On the main (west) façade the paired windows are centered on the gable end. TO the north is the side hall entry, protected by a projecting hood. The full-pediment hood is supported by two large decorative brackets typical of the Italianate style and features small paired brackets at the cornice. A single 6/1 sash window is centrally located in the gable end above the paired windows.

To the east the two-and-a-half story building is connected to a narrow two by one bay two-story ell. A porch extends across the south façade of the ell. The shed roof of the deep porch is supported by full height square posts. A one-story gable addition connects to the rear (north) of the narrow ell. This small one story addition connects to a long narrow side gable shed clad in stucco. The first two bays (western bays) of the stucco shed have been expanded by a shed roof dormer on the south slope of the roof. Below the dormer is a secondary entrance. The second entrance is sheltered by a cloth awning and is adjacent to a square six-pane sash window. The remaining three bays of the south elevation of the shed feature a sliding barn door of vertical boards on the eastern end. To the west of the barn door are two 1/1 sash windows with cloth awnings. A small shed dormer is centrally located on the southern slope of the side gable roof. The small dormer has one sash window sheltered by a cloth awning. A galvanized stove pipe pierces the ridge of the shed roof just west of the dormer.

The shed probably connected on the east side to a barn. The area to the east is now encircled by a stockade fence. To the rear of the stucco shed is a one-story shed roof addition clad in board and batten siding. This shed connects to a one-story gable shed on the east within the fenced in area noted above.

To the north of the dwelling is a one-story seven bay wood-frame garage (TEW.XXX) that was used for the farm's dairy delivery business. The garage walls are covered in board and batten siding. The doors include multi-paneled overhead doors and sliding vertical board doors. The side gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. To the side (west) of the garage is an inground pool.

The area around the former farm is noted for its rubble stone walls built from large boulders that formerly marked the farm's agricultural fields. Several stone walls of this type are still present on the site of the farmhouse to the east and north of the house. However in front (south) of the house the lawn and driveway are bounded by a stone wall set in mortar that is more formally capped by long stone slabs.

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.

In 1889 the Edmund French dairy farm was sold by French's widow, Sarah, to Aaron Osterman. Osterman and his family would continue to own and operate the dairy farm for the next 89 years. Osterman would purchase and sell additional parcels of farmland. In the area near North Billerica Road and French Street. In 1891 he conveyed a portion of the French farm in a deed (223/127) to Frank Felker. Additional lots on the farm were parceled out for grandchildren to construct dwellings in the 20th century. The farm extended across the Lowell Town line to the north and occupied all the land in the triangle formed by North Billerica Road, Whipple Road, and French Street. Osterman also owned a large parcel of land on the south side of French Street

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between North Billerica Road and Whipple Road, adjacent to the poultry farm at 166 French Street (TEW.XXX). Osterman substantially improved the French's dwelling.¹

Aaron Osterman was born in 1857 in Sweden to Christian and Pella Anderson. Aaron Osterman left Sweden at age 17 and came to the United States in 1875. He boarded with Mrs. Elizabeth Rogers and worked as a farmhand and as a delivery clerk on a milk route for seven years before purchasing the farm from his employer at the corner of North Billerica Road and French Street c1883. He married his wife Bina [Benadikta] Johnson (1862-1950) in 1885 and they had seven children, five of whom survived to adulthood.

In the 1940s Aaron Osterman owned several small lots of farm land totaling 34-acres in addition to his homestead lot of 34.5-acres. The house, a barn, stable, garage, dairy storage buildings, three henhouses and gas pump were located on the house lot. A second barn was located on the 10-acre Shedd lot. His dairy herd included about 40 head of Holsteins, which he also bred. Osterman sold hay, operated the dairy and a milk delivery route. Aaron Osterman died 1935.

Edwin Wilhelm Osterman (1894-1974) married his wife Hazel P c1920. Edwin, also a dairyman, acquired the farmhouse from his mother after her death in 1950 and lived in the house at 98 North Billerica Road c1965. Edwin Warren Osterman (1921-2004) the son of Edwin and Hazel (1896-2004) was the third generation of the family to operate Osterman's Dairy. He graduated from Tewksbury High School 1939 and Burdette College in 1941.

Edwin, his wife Doris, and his sister Eleanor [Osterman] Caddell sold the Osterman farmhouse to Fred & Linda Ready, the current owners, in 1978.

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- 1865 Map of Tewkesbury with inset.
- Atlas of Middlesex County 1875. FW Beers.
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¹ Cutter, William Richard. *Historic Homes And Places And Genealogical And Personal Memoirs Related To The Families Of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Vol. 4. Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1908.

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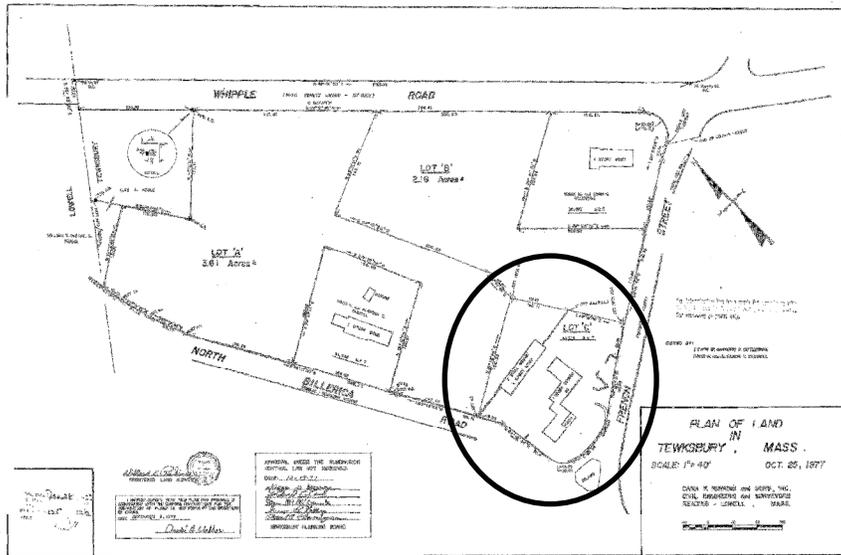
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Seven bay garage.



Aaron Osterman



Bina Osterman



Edwin Osterman



Hazel Osterman