



# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY

1304 SOUTH 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 house at **1304 South Street** is two-and-a-half stories in height. The five by one bay building is rectangular in plan with a shed-roof rear ell, creating a salt-box form. A small one-story enclosed porch is attached to the west elevation. The building rests on a granite foundation. The walls are clad in wood clapboards. The side gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. Two large square brick chimneys pierce the northwest slope of the side gable roof. A projecting front entrance has a gable roof. The centrally located door is flanked by full height sidelights. On either side of the entrance is a pair of 8/12 double hung sash windows. The windows are flanked by sidelights.

A two-car garage is located to the west of the house. The garage has a gable front roof clad in asphalt shingles. The clapboard walls rest on a concrete foundation.

## 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 house at 1304 South Street is located near the Andover town line. South Street at one time continued eastward into Andover but was terminated by the construction of Interstate 90. Deed research indicates the homestead was purchased in 1833 from Enoch Foster. The land purchase likely included the house, as the dwelling appears on the 1831 map at the end of South Street near the town line. According to *Ye Towne Book* this historic home was built c1800. The house was for most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the homestead of Benjamin Burt and his son Benjamin Wallace Burt who moved to Tewksbury from Wilmington in 1833.

Benjamin Burt [Burt] married in 1828 to Mary Ann Brown. They had a son, Benjamin Wallace Burt in 1832. The following year they moved to Tewksbury and Burt purchased 100-acres from Enoch Foster. The Burt's had three more children: William Brown Burt (1836-1905), Mary Griffin (1838-1850), and Jacob Lewis (b.1842).

In August of 1857 a tornado that former near Round Pond in Tewksbury crossed through the orchards of Jacques, Kittredge, Morey, Oliver Carter, Caleb Livingston, Samuel Thompson families, crossed the Burt's farm, destroying a corner of the barn and removing the sheds that connected the farmhouse to the barn.

Benjamin Burt died in 1890 and his wife Mary died in 1882. Their sons Jacob and William had both married and moved to houses of their own, but their son Benjamin lived with them in 1870 and 1880. Benjamin Wallace continued to farm the family's homestead on South Street after his father's death. Burt was also a lumber dealer, along with his brother William with whom he owned part interest in a lumber mill. In 1890 Benjamin Burt owned the house, two barns, 215-acres, three horses, five cows, two pigs, 400 cords of cut wood and 40,000 feet of lumber. He also owned a half interest in an additional 80 acres with his brother Jacob and a half interest in 45-acres with his brother William, as well as the saw mill.

Benjamin W Burt died 1916-1919. Additional owners include: James H Lord (c1924-1937); Andover Savings Bank (1937); Jennie Perkins (1937-1953); Dana & Dorothy Perkins (1953-1954); Fielding Land Development Trust(1954-1956); Bernard & Margaret Harcourt (1956-1995); and Paul & Priscilla Harcourt (1995-2009).

Historically the Burt House on the banks of the Shawsheen River was associated with several adjacent parcels of land including: the 100-acre homestead lot of Benjamin W Burt (1833); 134-acre acquired by Benjamin Burt from Jon Abbott in 1888; an additional six-acres known as Grey Meadow acquired by Benjamin Burt from Jacob L Burt and William B Burt in 1891;

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ten-acres in Andover acquired by Benjamin Burt from Joanna Erving in 1891; and 27-acre lot known as the Grey Plain or Baldwin Plain acquired by Benjamin Burt from Jacob L Burt in 1897.

The large Burt homestead was partially subdivided in 1952 into small house lots along South Street. While the farmland was subdivided in to house lots, the Burt House remained on a 1.38 acre lot with an outbuilding and barn. The barn was removed 1952-1956. In 1956 a plan was developed for the "Moonlight Park" subdivision to the northwest of the house, however the current configuration of Moonlight Drive and Sunset Circle were developed in 1965<sup>1</sup>. Moonlight Drive and Sunset Circle were laid out in 1965.

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From Patton's *Ask Now of the Days that are Past*. 1964.

<sup>1</sup> Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds. Plan Book Volume101 Page 158.