

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

**Town:**            Tewksbury

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

## Photograph



**Address:**            507 Whipple Road

**Historic Name:** Ebenezer French House

**Uses: Present:**    Single Family Residential

                          Original:    Single Family Residential

**Date of Construction:** c1850

**Source:**            Vital Statistics & Deeds

**Style/Form:**        No Style

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation:        Not Visible

Wall/Trim:         Vinyl Siding

Roof:                Asphalt Shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Garage (c1948)

**Major Alterations (*with dates*):**

Replacement Windows & Siding (Late 20<sup>th</sup> Cen)

Wrap-around porch (1890-1910)

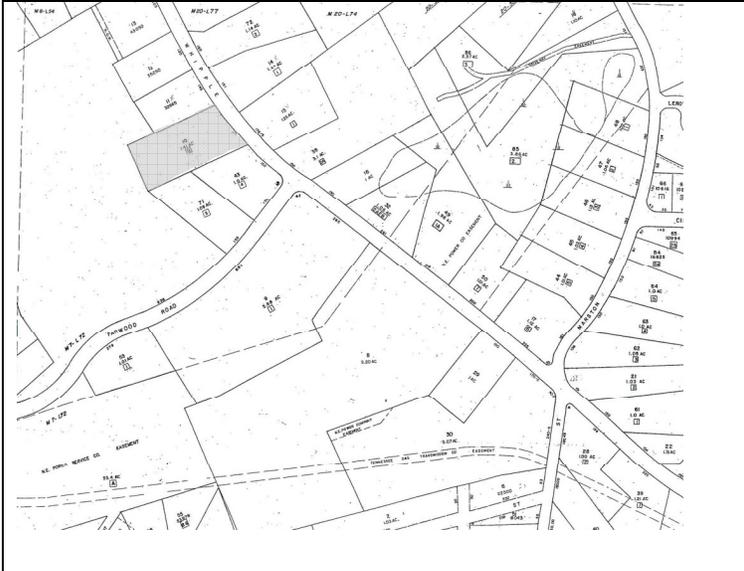
**Condition:**        Fair

**Moved:** no | X |    yes | |    **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acreage:**            1.41 Acres

**Setting:**            Located in a formerly rural area developed in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as a suburban residential area.

## Topographic or Assessor's Map



**Recorded by:** Julie Ann Larry

**Organization:** ttl-architects

**Date (*month / year*):** August 2010

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY

507 WHIPPLE ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.*

A metal fence encircles the boundary of the house at **507 Whipple Road**. The simple vernacular house is one-and-a-half stories in height and set back far from the road on a slight knoll. The two by three bay building is rectangular in plan on a foundation that is not visible from the street. A one-and-a-half story ell is located to the rear (west) of the house. A smaller one story ell projects from the rear (west) of the first ell. The walls are clad in vinyl siding. The front gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. A narrow brick chimney pierces the ridge of the roof. A porch on the front (east) of the house shelters the side hall entrance. To the south of the entrance is a pair of 1/1 sash replacement windows flanked by shutters. Similar individual windows are irregularly located on the remaining elevations. The hipped wrap around porch roof is supported by square columns. A small garage with a two garage doors is located to the west of the house and attached to the westernmost ell. The side gable garage also has a painted brick chimney projecting from the ridge of the asphalt shingle roof. Thick stone walls to the rear (west) of the house are visible in aerial images and may be the foundations of a former barn.

## 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 French family first settled in Tewksbury in the early 1700s and members of the family owned extensive amounts of land in the vicinity of French, Astle, Whipple and North Billerica roads.

Ebenezer Beard French (1819-1876), the son of Edmund French (TEW.39) and brother of Joshua F French (TEW. XXX), married his wife Maria c 1850. Earlier that year in the Federal Census he was living with his father on his farm at the corner of French Street. Ebenezer French lived on Whipple Road, then Billerica Road, with his family and operated a farm. The house, now much altered, probably was constructed c1850, although assessor's records indicate c1800. An interior investigation and additional research would be needed to determine an earlier construction date and an owner previous to Ebenezer.

The Ebenezer & Maria French had eight surviving children. After Maria's death in 1876, his son John F French inherited the farm on Whipple Road. John French had two wives: Addie Felker (1881-1896) and [Jennie A] Amanda (1898-1921); and four children: Irving, Herbert, Austin, and Jesse John. According to property valuations from 1890 John F French had a house and barn on 72 acres.

After John French's death, his widow sold the farm to Jesse and Austin in 1922. Jesse French occupied 499 Whipple Road (TEW.XXX) and his brother Austin occupied their father's house at 507 Whipple Road. Together the brothers owned in 1948 about 91 acres, a barn, greenhouses, storage buildings, a garage, workshop, water tower, and a 'gas outfit'. Their farm was known as French Bros. Austin married his wife Marian c1919 and died in 1975. Austin was the chairman of the assessors for the Town of Tewksbury and his wife was a trustee of the Town's public Library. His widow deeded the house to Alvin and Bernice French of 555 Whipple Road in 1976. Historic maps indicate that a large L-shaped barn was located to the rear (west) of the French house. Although none of the French Farm's outbuildings remain, there appears to be stone foundations, probably from the L-shaped barn, to the west of the house.

Additional owners include: Alvin & Bernice French (1976); James & Anne Peabody (1976-2001); and Thomas Payne & Charlotte Marton (2001-2009).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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- 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.
- Atlas 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.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Ye Towne Book*. Town of Tewksbury. 1934.
- Patton, Harold J. *Ask Now of the Days that are Past*. Higginson Book Co. 1964.

