

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

19 22

Town: Tewksbury

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 666 Whipple Road

Historic Name: Joseph & Sophie Coutu House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residential

Original: Single Family Residential

Date of Construction: c 1931

Source: Lowell Registry of Deeds

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder:

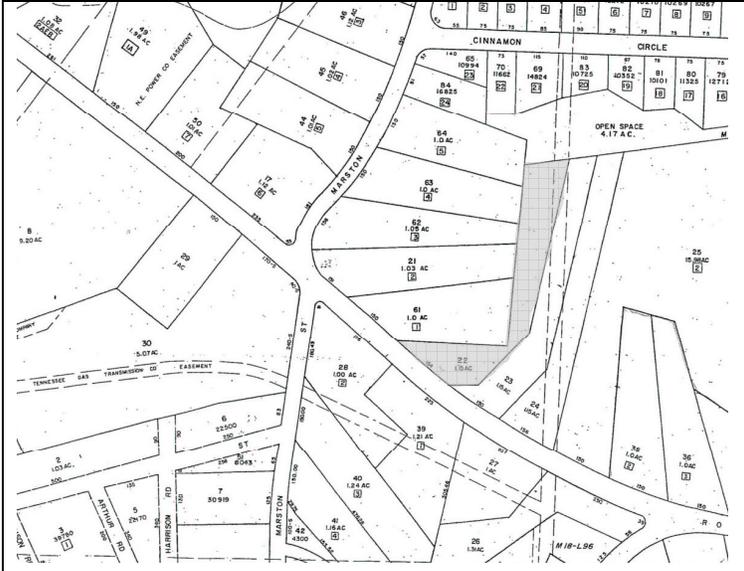
Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Siding

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Replacement Siding and Windows (late 20th Century)

Condition: Fair

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

Acreage: 1.15 Acres

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

Recorded by: Julie Ann Larry

Organization: ttl-architects

Date (*month / year*): August 2010

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY

666 WHIPPLE ROAD

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.

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 **666 Whipple Road** is one-and-a-half stories in height. The three by two bay building is rectangular in plan on a stone foundation. The walls are clad in vinyl siding. The gambrel roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. Two gable front dormers pierce the west side of the gable roof. Each dormer features a single 6/1 sash window. A full width shed dormer extends across the rear of the house. A projecting front addition on the front (west) of the house shelters the front entry door which is flanked by sidelights. The gable porch roof is located above wall. On either side of the entrance is a pair of projecting bow windows. On the sides (north and south) are paired 6/1 sash windows. To the north of the house is a single-car garage. The garage features a paneled overhead door, a small cupola, and eave returns. The garage walls are clad in wood clapboards and the gable front roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles.

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.

Located on land once part of Franklin Chapman's 30 acre-farm that was later owned by the Obrzut family¹. According to the Assessor's records the house was built c1927, however it was given to Sophie [Obrzut] Coutu and her husband by her parents Albert & Mary Obrzut, with whom they were boarding in 1931². According to deeds, Albert deed the 1/2-acre lot to his daughter and her husband Arthur Joseph Coutu, a chauffeur in 1931 and there is no mention of a dwelling.³

The Obrzut family had moved from Lowell to Tewksbury in 1916. Albert (b1866) and his wife Mary (b1876) were Polish immigrants who came to the USA with their oldest Daughter Stella in 1901/1902. According to the 1920 Federal Census most of the oldest Obrzut children worked in a cotton mill: Stella (20) as a spooler; Eddie(18) as a fixer; Helen(16) as a spooler; and Sophie(14) as a doffer. As a doffer Sophie would have replaced bobbins full of freshly wound cotton thread with an empty bobbin on the large industrial spinning machines. Joseph Coutu died 1963. Arthur inherited after his mother died c1965.

Additional owners and occupants include: occ. Kathleen & Francis King, a machinist c1965; Arthur Coutu (1965) 1721/232; Roger & Norma Rocheleau (1965-1973); Gloria & Paul B Jones, a rubber molder (1973-1999); Michelle McDonald & Thomas White (1999); Roger Rocheleau (2002); and Susan & John Stadtman (2002-2009).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

¹ The Obrzut family' farm that included 24 acres when it was sold in 1949 by Mary Obrzut, the widow of Albert (d 1948) to the Surette family. Arthur Coutu purchased land from Obrzut at 727 Whipple Road? Arthur then sold sever parcels to Rocheleau in : 1/2 from Obrzut to Joesph Coutu 801/466; Lot B from plan of land belonging to J Arthur Coutu surveyed 1947 by JC & WT Monahan 70/99 this lot sold to Joseph & Sophie from her dad 1947 1070/459, and a lot shown on a plan of land belonging to J Arthur Coutu surveyed 1948 by JC & WT Monahan 72/90 this lot sold to Joseph & Sophie from her dad 1948 1093/124.

² *Lowell Suburban Directory*. 1931

³ Arthur Coutu sold sever parcels to Rocheleau in 1965: 1/2-acre originally deeded from Obrzut to Joesph Coutu 801/466; Lot B from plan of land belonging to J Arthur Coutu surveyed 1947 by JC & WT Monahan 70/99 (deeded to Joseph & Sophie from Obrzut in 1947 1070/459); and a lot shown on a plan of land belonging to J Arthur Coutu surveyed 1948 by JC & WT Monahan 72/90 (deeded to Joseph & Sophie from Obrzut in 1948 1093/124).

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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.
Lot A On A Plan Of Land Belonging to Roger Rocheleau. Noeth Middlesex County Registry of Deeds. N.P.: 1867. Plan Book 105 Map No. 133