

P.

FORM B - BUILDING

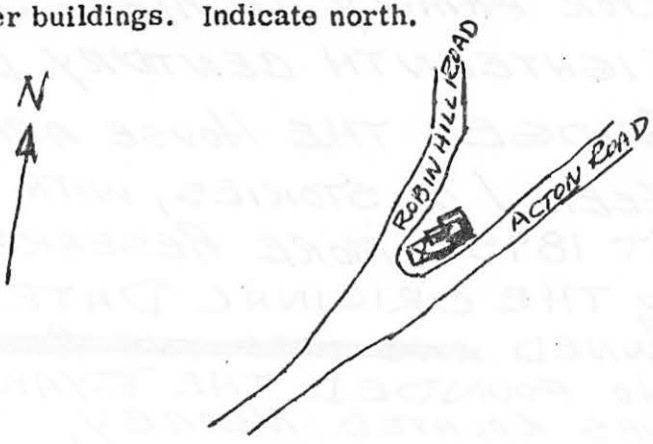
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| In Area no. | Form no. |
|             | 67       |



town CHELMSFORD  
 Address 305 ACTON ROAD  
 Name Lyman Byam  
THE PROCTOR HOUSE  
 Present use RESIDENCE  
 Present owner CATHLEEN E. RILEY  
 Description:  
 Date PRIOR TO 1824  
 Source NORTH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT  
BOOK II, P. 593

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Style \_\_\_\_\_  
 Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exterior wall fabric CLAP BOARDS  
 Outbuildings (describe) ATTACHED BARN  
 Other features \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 "RAISED UP"  
 Altered BED ROOM & ATTIC ADDED Date C. 1895  
 Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 18,776 FT<sup>2</sup>  
 One acre or less X Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approximate frontage 197 FT. ACTON RD  
275 FT. ROBIN HILL  
 Approximate distance of building from street  
2 2.5 FT

|                            |
|----------------------------|
| DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE |
| USGS Quadrant _____        |
| MHC Photo no. _____        |

6. Recorded by J. P. RICHARDSON  
 Organization CHELMSFORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 Date 9/12/83

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) PETER PROCTOR

Original use RESIDENCE

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates COBBLER SHOP C, 1880

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

|                       |     |                            |     |                         |     |
|-----------------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| Aboriginal            | ___ | Conservation               | ___ | Recreation              | ___ |
| Agricultural          | ___ | Education                  | ___ | Religion                | ___ |
| Architectural         | ___ | Exploration/<br>settlement | ___ | Science/<br>invention   | ___ |
| The Arts              | ___ | Industry                   | X   | Social/<br>humanitarian | ___ |
| Commerce              | ___ | Military                   | ___ | Transportation          | ___ |
| Communication         | ___ | Political                  | ___ |                         |     |
| Community development | X   |                            |     |                         |     |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE ORIGINAL OWNER, PETER PROCTOR, WAS IN RESIDENCE IN THIS HOUSE IN 1750, AS THE PROCTOR FAMILY IS MENTIONED MANY TIMES IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY DIARY OF REV. EBENEZER BRIDGE. THE HOUSE APPEARS TO HAVE ORIGINALLY BEEN 1 1/2 STORIES, WITH A BED ROOM ADDED ABOUT 1895. MORE RESEARCH IS NEEDED TO FIRM UP THE ORIGINAL DATE. BY THE HOUSE WAS <sup>LATER</sup> OWNED ~~AND WAS THE RESIDENCE~~ OF EZEKIEL BYAM WHO FOUNDED THE BYAM MATCH FACTORY WHICH WAS LOCATED NEARBY.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

CHELMSFORD MASS VITAL RECORDS TO 1850

NORTH MIDDLESEX REGISTRY OF DEEDS BOOK 11, p. 593

305 Acton Road  
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

|                   |                                    |   |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Bk. 1991, pg. 659 | 11/30/1971                         | Claude J. Harvey to<br>Cathleen E. Riley, 162 Bellows Hill Rd.,<br>Carlisle<br>\$18,500<br>18,776 sq. ft. & buildings thereon         |
| Bk. 1756, pg. 22  | 6/17/1966                          | Trustees of Bradford Realty Trust to<br>Claude J. & Etta M. Harvey<br>18,776 sq. ft. & buildings thereon                              |
| Bk. 1727, pg. 44  | 11/ 4/1965                         | Grace M. Byam, unmarried, to<br>Trustees of Bradford Realty Trust<br>18,776 sq. ft. & buildings thereon                               |
| Bk. 600, pg. 28   | 3/ 8/1919                          | Frank C. Byam to<br>Lyman A. & Grace M. Byam<br>50 sq. rods & buildings thereon   |
| Bk. 264, pg. 562  | 6/ 5/1895                          | Nathan C. Bean to<br>Frank C. Byam<br>50 sq. rods & buildings thereon   |
| Bk. 237, pg. 579  | 9/ 6/1892                          | Heirs of David B. Taylor to<br>Nathan C. Bean<br>\$900<br>50 sq. rods & buildings thereon   |
| Bk. 160, pg. 106  | 5/21/1883                          | Matthias Hutchins to David B. Taylor,<br>Lowell<br>\$2000<br>50 sq. rods & buildings thereon  |
| Bk. 135, pg. 127  | 7/24/1879                          | Eldad P. Bean to<br>Matthias Hutchins, Carlisle<br>\$500<br>50 sq. rods & buildings thereon   |
| Bk. 134, pg. 552  | 7/12/1879                          | Avery Jones, Pelham, N.H. to<br>Eldad P. Bean<br>\$2165, public auction<br>5 parcels:<br>lot 2 - $\frac{1}{4}$ acre & dwelling house  |
| Bk. 128, pg. 581  | 5/ 3/1878<br>Mortgage<br>defaulted | William L. Wilkins to<br>Avery Jones, Pelham, N.H.<br>\$1500<br>5 parcels:<br>lot 2 - $\frac{1}{4}$ acre & his dwelling house         |
| Bk. 23, pg. 37    | 2/27/1860                          | Mary Wilkins, widow, Carlisle, to<br>William L. Wilkins, blacksmith<br>\$475<br>$\frac{1}{4}$ acre & small dwelling house & woodhouse |

Bk. 23, pg. 35                    6/ 3/1858                    Heirs of William Wilkins, to  
Mary Wilkins, widomw Carlisle  
\$475  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  acre & small dwelling house & woodhouse

Bk. 2, pg. 381                    7/10/1854                    John Jr. & Elizabeth B. Parkhurst,  
Charlestown to  
William Wilkins, Carlisle  
\$475  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  acre with small dwelling house &  
woodhouse

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North:Bk.131 pg.236 236 1/1 /1834                    William Byam, yeoman; Lewis Fiske &  
South:Bk.329,p.561                    Stephen Cushing, machinists,Lowell  
to Lucy Bateman, singlewoman  
\$50  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  acre with small dwellinghouse &  
woodhouse

North:Bk. 12,p.486                    5/26/1831                    Ezekiel(trader) & Charlotte Byam,  
Philadelphia, to  
William Byam, yeoman  
\$3000  
3 parcels: land & buildings  
1. real estate lately owned by  
John Bateman  
2. woodland in Westford  
3. Molly Proctor dower  
part: subject to mortgage to Henshaw & Co.

North:Bk. 12,p.398                    5/22/1830                    Ezekiel Byam to  
William Byam, cordwainer  
\$200  
5 parcels:  
1. 4 undivided 7th parts -store &  
other buildings thereon, which is  
Mary Proctor Cook dower  
2.  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre & blacking shop  
3. 4 acres land - purchsed from James  
Robbins  
4. northeasterly portion of Bateman  
House - built by Ezekiel Byam  
5. barn; grainery & part of barn on  
John Bateman land

North:Bk. 12,p.303                    8/27/1829                    Ezekiel Byam, trader, to  
South:Bk.292,p. 98                    Mortgage                    Charles & John Henshaw, Boston  
\$1000  
7 parcels, including:  
3 undivided 7th parts of 44 acres,  
Molly Proctor dower

Bk. 12,p.507                    Assignment                    Charles & John Henshaw, Boston, to  
Stephen Cushing,mill wright, & Lewis  
Fiske, manufacturer, Lowell



North:Bk. 11, p.594  
South:Bk.259, p. 83

11/15/1824

Abel Proctor Heirs to  
John Bateman, gentleman, & Ezekiel Byam  
\$100

1 undivided 7th part - Molly Proctor dower  
8 lots: 47 acres &  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre & buildings  
thereon

North:Bk. 11, p.593

11/15/1824

Peter Proctor Heirs to  
John Bateman, gentleman, & Ezekiel Byam  
\$500

5 undivided 7th part -Molly Proctor dower  
8 lots: 47 acres &  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre & buildings  
thereon

Rev. Ebenezer Bridge Diary

June 25, 1750- My Brother Maccarty went home - I rode ( ) miles with him ; and visited Peter Procter ( ) and Benj<sup>a</sup> Procter & his mother in my way home.

August 14, 1753 - Visited Jon<sup>a</sup> Harwood - Widow Hildreth sick and prayed with her - Dined at Peter Procters -

November 30, 1753 - Attended the funeral of a child of Mercy Barrett's (daughter of Peter Procter who is returned to her father's homse, on account of the bad treatment of her husband) which died yesterday.

October 3, 1757 - Visited Samuell Procters family he very much disordered and abroad - Dined at Lieut. Prockters, Visited Sim. Prockters, Peter Prockter's wife sick, Oliver Adam's' wife yet sick and prayed with them.

October 12, 1757 - Visited Peter Prockter his wife yet sick.

March 12, 1760 - Visited Andrew Betty his Father Tucker very ill and prayed with them - Visited Peter Prockter, discoursed with him and his wife about the contentions of their children then discoursed with their daughter Barrat & their son Simeon upon the same subject - as also I did yesterday with Mrs. Adams their daughter (among other things) and exhorted and peruated them all to be ready to lay aside contention and to come together and live together as brethren and sisters & etc.

February 23, 1769 - Visited Peter Procter & his son Simeon & discoursed somew<sup>t</sup> with s<sup>d</sup> Simeon & Peter Jun<sup>r</sup> about their unxtian quarells & disputes etc

Oct. 19, 1769 - Married Peter Procter & Molly Putnam, fee a Doll.

February 1, 1770 - Visited Peter Procter Jun<sup>r</sup> who has lately carried his wife home, & dined there w<sup>th</sup> company upon y<sup>t</sup> occasion.

July 8, 1770 - Baptized.....Azubah daughter of Peter & molly Procter.

February 20, 1772 - This evening died Peter Procter age 78.

February 22, 1772 - Attended the funeral of Peter Procter.

Lowell Daily Courier

May 4, 1896 - Mr. Lyman Byam is very ill with typhoid fever.

May 20, 1896 - Mrs. John Hutchins of Laurence is with her daughter, Mrs. L.A. Byam.

We noticed in a local paper that Mrs. Hannah Byam, who is nearly 83 years of age, was able to walk around the house, and we would add that she does a good part of the housework besides, especially since the sickness of her grandson.

July 3, 1896 - Mr. Lyman Byam is able to sit up a short time, Monday being the first time he has been out of bed for nine weeks, and it is now hoped he will gain rapidly.

305 Acton Road

Lowell Daily Courier:

Friday, December 20, 1895 South Chelmsford

The remodelling of Mr. Lyman Byam's residence is completed and it is to be furnished next week.

Eleanor Parkhurst, Septemer 1977:

A shoemaker was in the cellar of 305 Acton Road when her mother was going to school where the firehouse is now (1977, on Acton Rd.) The children could see him through the window working. This would have been in the 1880s.

Mrs. Frank Cowdry (Evelyn Byam, daughter of Mrs. Lyman Byam), Sept. 1977:

Wilkins and Bean lived there.

A shoemaker lived in the basement when Mrs. Byam was young. (Mrs. Byam was born 1876). Shoemaker's name was Davis.

A Spaulding lived there at one time, and "Aunt" Rosamond Spaulding was born in the basement.

Frank C. Byam (Lyman's father) never lived in the house; he lived on Maple Road. He had the house raised by Newall Parker, probably in 1895 as home for Lyman and Grace, who were newly-weds.

Originally was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  stories - a basement and first floor.

A bedroom and attic were added

No changes were made in the first story.

Frank C. - put in hot water heat.

Were big wide floor boards.

Before raising: there were fireplaces, including 1 in basement

One family lived in the basement

One family lived on first floor.

Lyman and Grace were married in the house.

Bathroom - installed in the 1920s - was in little room off the kitchen.

House was rented to an Irish family (Gallagher) when Lyman went to Lowell to live on Stevens St. from 1926 to about 1932-4-5; he worked in the railroad yard office then.

Mrs. Gallagher, who was elderly, was walking to the store at corner of Maple and Acton Sts., when she was struck by a car and killed.

Lyman was railroad station agent in South Chelmsford. When it closed, he went to Lowell; from Lowell to the station at the Center; then he retired.

Other South Chelmsford information:

Paignon's "had the first bathroom going" - run by windmill power.

Newall Parker lived on Robin Hill; his son Edgar married 1903.

Newall Parker - first house on the left on Robin Hill Rd.

Spaulding - second house on left on Robin Hill Rd. - Rosamond lived there.

Bean - on right side of Robin Hill Rd., where Match factory monument is.

Baptist parsonage burned ca 1918-19; was nearer curve than present building.

She has seen a picture of a horse shed by the store (corner Maple & Acton Rds.) - the horse shed was attached to the store on the Acton Road side.

There was a grain store in back (burned when Evelyn was a child) - was in back of the church on Acton Rd.; was a long building.

Store was owned by a Gerrish



Mrs. Frank Cowdray, Sept. 13, 1977:

A twenty year old girl lived at 305 Acton Rd. with the Gallaghers; she may not have been related to them.

The back part of the house (corner of the cellar) was hit by a speeding car.

Town clerk's records: Deaths 1932

Vol. 5, pg. 59

Katherine Sarah Gallagher, wife of Daniel J. Gallagher, died Dec.27,1932.

Female, white, age 66, cerebral hemorrhage occuring about 6 weeks after injuries received by being struck by an automobile.

Official death certificate - microfilm

Struck on Oct. 22 in South Chelmsford by car, lacerated scalp, widow, Daniel Gallagher informant. She was born in Nova Scotia: father Patrick Bulger, born in Ireland; mother Margaret Doyle, born in Nova Scotia.

Katherine - buried in Concord.

Chelmsford Directory: Byam

1898/99, 1915/16

Lyman A. - station & express agent, So. Chelmsford R.R. station, house Acton near Robin Hill rd.

1922

Edwin C. - student, boards Lyman A. Byam's

Evelyn F. - boards Lyman A. Byam's

Kenneth H. - student, boards Lyman A. Byam's

Lyman A. (grace M.) - clerk, N.E.N.H. & H. R.R., Lowell), house Acton rd. near Robin Hill rd.

Viola - student, boards Lyman A/ Byam's

Lowell Daily Courier:

August 28, 1903 - Mr. Lyman Byam and family are spending their vacation at Winthrop Beach, Mr. William Robbins of Chelmsford taking Mr. Byam's place as station agent.

Lowell Courier-Citizen:

April 4, 1912 - Lyman Byam, the five year old son of Lyman Byam, the station agent at the South village, met with a serious accident while playing in the barn Wednesday evening, falling and sustaining a complete fracture of the right thigh.



Then followed ( ) association of the poem with illus... extracts and a discussion of the authorship.

Miss Wright followed the reading of her paper with well chosen words of farewell to school officials, teachers, schoolmates and classmates.

Rev. E. C. Bartlett with a few apt words presented the diplomas to the class and to two former members, Misses Bertha Bartlett and Kate D. Greenleaf, who had completed a course prior to the present term.

The benediction was pronounced by Rev. Mr. Williams.

Graduates:

Four years—Roberta Hine Greenleaf, Lucia Haley, Hermon Henry Hill, Addie Asenath Wright, Annie Louise Williams.

Three years—Bertha Greenleaf Bartlett,\* Bessie Alta Byam, Kate Darling Greenleaf,\* Mary Emma Noyes.

Class officers—Hermon H. Hill, president; Roberta H. Greenleaf, secretary and treasurer.

\*Out of course.

Expression both in writing and... tivated and teachers...

FLETCHER—GARLAND.

Sept. 4, 1902 Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock Grace Gertrude was united in marriage to Charles Kimball Fletcher of Portland, Me., at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Garland, in South Chelmsford. To the strains of "On Promise Me" played by Miss E. S. Laine, violinist, accompanied by Miss Emma Fletcher, organist, the bride entered the parlor on the arm of her father, preceded by Master Alexander Garland Park, and Josephine Oliver Fletcher strewing flowers in the pathway of the bride. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Chas. Williams, with Margaret Sloan as bridesmaid, and Mr. Frank R. Jordan of Portland, Me., as best man. One of the prettiest features was the playing during the ceremony of "Sing, Smile and Slumber" by Misses Laine and Fletcher.

The wedding gifts were varied and elaborate. The happy couple left for a short trip, and will reside in Portland, Maine.

introduce experimental work, e of a text-book, or to unfold p tion. Of all the schools I hav six are suitably equipped to do good scientific work in these branches. The methods of instruction may be classified under the four following heads:—

- 1. Classes studying text-books, with intermittent experiments at uncertain intervals, performed by the teacher for illustration only. In one case the experiments were to come after the book work was completed. The results by this

SOUTH CHELMSFORD.

Mrs. Hannah M. Byam Observes Her Ninetieth Birthday.

Mrs. Hannah M. Byam, lovingly called by the village people "Grandma Byam" celebrated her ninetieth birthday anniversary Friday by having a large gathering numbering about fifty, composed of children, grand-children and great grand-children who came from Chelmsford, Lowell, Westford and Maynard. The venerable lady, who is remarkably bright and smart for one of her years, is the daughter of Hannah and Isaac Adams and was born about a mile from her son's home in the village where she has lived for the past sixty years. She is the mother of eight children, of whom only two, Mrs. George P. Mansfield and Mr. F. C. Byam are now living. The rooms were tastefully decorated with beautiful flowers, the principal colors being lavender and white. One choice bouquet came from Mrs. Green of Thornton's Ferry, N. H., and others were sent in by kind friends and neighbors. "Grandma" was the recipient of many pretty and useful gifts, among them being a cake in lavender and white made by one of her granddaughters.

An attractive object in the sitting room was the cradle in which Grandma was rocked in her baby days. An interesting entertainment was given by the children and grand-children in the afternoon, and a delightful time was enjoyed by all. A bountiful collation was served, after which, Grandma presented each family with a card bearing the following inscription:

"With best wishes of Mrs. Hannah M. Byam, Nineteenth Birthday, June 26, 1903."

The following verse was written by one of the nieces:

TO AUNT HANNAH.

Sincere congratulations We send you on this day That marks the ninetieth milestone Passed by you on life's way. With other happy, healthful years May God see fit to bless, Thus adding to a life well spent In loving usefulness.

Hannah Byam was living with her son, Frank Colby Byam, at 305 Acton Rd.

From Bertha Parkhurst scrapbook



Lyman A. Byam traces his descent from the first George through Abraham, Isaac, John and Solomon to his grandfather, Solomon Edwin, and his father, Frank Colby Byam. Solomon Edwin Byam married Hannah Adams, aunt of Amos F. Adams, donor of the Adams Library. She was the oldest (91 years) woman living in town at the time of the 250th anniversary and was born in the old brick Adams house, 24 Chamberlin Road, for which her grandfather, Isaac, is said to have mixed the lime. Her husband was the first station agent in the South section and he was followed in that position by his son, Frank, and his grandson, Lyman, who remain until the station was closed in 1921. In 1896, Mr. Lyman Byam married Mrs. Grace Hutchins, and they have nine children: Evelyn (Mrs. Frank Cowdray, Center section), Edwin (Professor of Modern Languages at the University of Delaware), Viola (Mrs. George Nickerson, Westlands), Rachel (Mrs. Lincoln Meyer, Seattle, Wash.), Amy (Mrs. Henry Valk, Landover, Md.), Arthur (Hartford, Conn.). He has 13 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, who represent the 10th and 11th generations.

Mr. Byam retired several years ago after over 50 years' connection with the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad principally as agent in Chelmsford and in other capacities in Lowell. He has been a deacon of the First Baptist Church for 35 years and was its clerk for a similar period. He was a founding member of the Delphonia Fraternity in the South section, a social and religious study group for men organized under the leadership of the Rev. Hatfield.

and Mrs. G. Gordon Olsen, Mr. and Mrs. John Quigley and a number of other residents of the village and of Kenwood street. They spoke chiefly of wanting to keep the districting as it is. Mrs. George L. Waite, Sr., spoke of her wish to keep her historic house in its proper setting and not opposite a gasoline station.

The decision in detail follows:

The Board of Appeals of the Town of Chelmsford conducted a Public Hearing at the Chelmsford Center Town Hall on Thursday, August 12, 1965, at 7:45 P.M. on the application of Grace M. Byam to construct a Filling Station at 305 Acton Road located at the junction of Acton and Robin Hill Roads. (Chelmsford Assessors' Maps Plat 220 Lot 94.)

The property is located in an R B (Single Residence) District and the above use is a prohibited use.

The Board of appeals by a unanimous vote, voted to deny this application and present the following reason for this decision:

The granting of a Variance on this application would, in the opinion of the Board, be a direct derogation of the intent and purpose of the Zoning By-Law.

Members of the Board present and voting on this application were: Edward F. Murphy, Chairman; Richard L. Monahan; Paul W. O'Neil Stanley J. Polak; and Arthur Pratt.

## Appeal Bd. Turns Down Filling Station Request

The Board of Appeals has unanimously voted to deny the petition of Grace M. Byam for a variance to permit construction of a filling station at 305 Acton road, South section, following a hearing August 12 at which some 35 persons were present.

Atty. John Carragher appeared for Mrs. Byam and displayed a drawing of what the proposed station might be--a colonial-type, brick building with one bay. He spoke of the growth of the South section which would make a station like this desirable; he pointed out what he described as a traffic hazard now existing for motorists coming out of Robin Hill road onto Acton Road and said this would be eliminated by the tearing down of the house and the erection of a low service station; he described several pre-existing non-conforming uses in the immediate area; he spoke of the unsuitability of the location for a dwelling.

Chairman Edward Murphy presided at the hearing. Kenneth Byam Jr., was the only speaker for the petitioner. He said that he was in favor of anything that would improve the appearance of the village and he thought the service station

continued on page 9

## Appeal Board

continued from page 1  
would do that.

Recorded in opposition were Mr.

305 Acton Road

1912 Plan, Bk. M, Plan 9: Frank C. Byam  
1831 map: no  
1875 Beers Atlas: W. L. Wilkins

Brad Parker (telephone), 2/28/1972:

Always a Byam house. Was one story with a cellar - later raised up to 2 stories and attic. Built early 1800's - 1830's or 40's. Stayed in Byam family to 1960s. Ezekiel Byam lived here. His matchshop was within a few 100 feet of this house; shop now gone. Brad has some of his matches. Well water supposed to taste like brimstone. Lyman Byam lived in the house his entire life (Frank was his father). Lyman was born about 1874. Mrs. Lyman Byam is still living, a young 95 years old - thinks clearly though hearing poor, lives with sons and daughters, now is with son Edwin, who knows the most about the house (Randall Dr., Suffield, Conn.)

Mrs. Grace Harris (letter), 3/22/1972:

The Lyman Byam house was built on land connected with the Waites no (new?) road which was built in 1860's known as Acton Road. The house was a cottage style with cellar kitchen. After Acton Road was made the front door and some rooms were built - so facing Acton Rd. Before Lyman Byam was married the house was raised to its present shape. This property was all land belonging to Ezekiel Byam, the one who made the matches. The building of the Acton Rd. for real date, you probably will find in town records. I gave 1860's, because it was before my time a little, because my mother and others used to call it the new road. Mrs. Viola Nickerson of 5 Sunset Ave. can give you some dates on the houses probably and items I don't know, as she lived there, Lyman Byam's daughter.

EDWIN C. BYAM  
SUFFIELD, CONNECTICUT  
06078

March 13, 1972

Mrs. William H. Drury  
24 Buckman Drive  
Chelmsford, Massachusetts 01824

Dear Mrs. Drury:

In response to your inquiry of the 6th I will give you what data I have. My interest lies in genealogy and not in our old house.

First, let me ask what led you to believe that Ezekiel Byam lived in our house? Even Waters called the brick house now occupied by George Waite the Ezekiel Byam house (page 394 of his history). As I understand it, that brick house was constructed by John<sup>6</sup> Bateman (whose dates are 1759-1828) and probably around 1800. Ezekiel (whose dates are 1795-1863) married John's daughter Charlotte, moved in, and John returned to Concord.

My grandfather, Frank Colby Byam, told my mother that our house was built by Ezekiel. I would hazard a guess that it was around 1830. Why he built it is unknown, as is the original purpose of the long wall against the north side of the house. The structure was originally  $1\frac{1}{2}$  stories over a cellar that seems to have been livable. In advance of my parents' marriage on January 1, 1896 (father was born not in 1874, as Brad told you, but on January 1, 1875), his father engaged Brad's great-grandfather, Newell Edgar Parker, a carpenter, to remove the half-story and add a second story and an attic.

My parents occupied the house from 1896 to father's death in 1960 except for some seven years when they lived in Lowell and the house was rented. Mother continued living in the house for a year or so after father's death. She sold the house in November 1965.

The house had a kitchen, pantry, dining-room, "parlor", and bathroom on the first floor; on the second were three bed-rooms. The attic was very spacious, running the entire length of the house. To this structure was attached a shed with former "privy" and attached to the shed was the barn with grain-room, two horse-stables, and carriage space. This barn had a second floor and even part of a third floor, reached by a ladder. Underneath was the barn-cellar, where once were kept hens. The subsequent owners of the house removed the cook-and heating-stove and the pantry, opened up the chimney, installed modern closets, etc. You may wish to visit the house in order to obtain a better idea of the old and the new.

As to the occupants of the old house, it would seem that the town's tax records would reveal their names. In Mother's younger days she knew that a cobbler named Davis lived and worked in the cellar. In cleaning out an almost inaccessible closet at the foot of the cellar-stairs a few years ago I pulled out from the remote darkness a child's old boot (which might well be the cobbler's unfinished task) and I will gladly donate the boot to the Chelmsford Historical Society if it is interested.

According to another tradition that I cannot explain one of the



daughters of (Isaiah) Byam Spaulding and Mary Ann (Richardson) was born in the cellar. Dad always thought it was Rosamond, born 1852, but Grace Parker Harris (Brad's grandmother) thinks it was her sister Mattie (Martha), born 1854. (She married Fred Bean.)

I have had no time to study thoroughly the deeds in the Court House in Lowell, but I will submit the data I did abstract. The transactions will indicate either mere ownership of the land or occupancy of the house.

On June 22, 1838 Jephthah Parker sold 35 acres to Willard Byam (Ezekiel's uncle).

On March 9, 1855 Mary Byam, widow of Willard, deeded 35 acres to Ezekiel Byam. (This must have extended to the former Edgar Lapham's.)

On October 1856, Ezekiel deeded 3 acres to Eldad P. Bean.

In July 1879 Eldad deeded 50 square rods to Matthias Hutchins.

In May 1883 Matthias deeded 50 sq. rods to David B. Taylor.

September/

In ~~August~~ 1892, Martha Taylor, widow of David, deeded 50 sq. rods to Nathan C. Bean, brother of Eldad. (Eldad Bean had a daughter Mary, who married in 1866 Nathan Brown Lapham, the father of Edgar and Wilbur.)

In ~~September 1892~~ Nathan C. Bean deeded 50 sq. rods to Frank Colby Byam.

June 1895.

On March 8, 1919 Frank and wife deeded land and buildings to my parents.

In November 1965 my mother sold the land and buildings.

I hope that I have been of some help to you. In any case I wish your Commission fruitful research in other instances.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin C. Byam

(Member, New England  
Historic Genealogical Society)



### Offering best wishes

—to Mrs. Lyman (Grace) Byam, left, at a party given by her family in honor of her 99th birthday is her daughter Mrs. George Nickerson of Chelmsford. Prior to the party, Mrs. Byam was made

the first honorary Deaconess of the First Baptist Church of South Chelmsford where she has been a member for numerous years.

## First honorary deaconess of First Baptist Church

CHELMSFORD—A festive dinner party was held at the Princeton Lounge in observance of the 99th birthday of Mrs. Lyman A. (Grace) Byam of 5 Sunset Ave. with many of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren in attendance.

Mrs. Byam, the former Grace Hutchins, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Hutchins, was born June 16, 1876 in Westford and was one of five children born to the couple.

Mrs. Byam has one surviving sister, Mrs. Clare Norton of Portland, Conn.

On New Years Day in 1896 she married Lyman A. Byam in the South Chelmsford house they were to share for the next 60 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Byam had 10 children. They were Arzella who died in 1902 at the age of five; Edwin of Suffield,

Conn., Mrs. Frank (Evelyn) Cowdray of Chelmsford, Mrs. George (Viola) Nickerson of Chelmsford, Kenneth of North Chelmsford, Lyman, Jr. of Randolph, Vt., Mrs. Lincoln (Rachel) Meyer of Seattle, Wash., Mrs. Henry (Amy) Valk who died in 1962, Frank who died in 1967, and Arthur of Manchester, Conn.

For over 50 years Mr. Byam was employed as a station agent and has been deceased since August of 1960.

**MRS. BYAM HAS 15 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.**

She has always been active in church work at the First Baptist Church of South Chelmsford where she is the oldest member and where she was presented a citation by Rev. Gary Dusek, pastor, making her the first honorary

Deaconess of that church. The impressive ceremony took place during the service while many members of her family looked on in pride.

During the warmer months, Mrs. Byam resides at her summer home on First Lane at Baptist Pond, So. Chelmsford.

Following the dinner, relatives returned to Mrs. Byam's home where dessert was served.

She received many gifts and floral arrangements in observance of her special day.

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*HER NINETY-NINTH BIRTHDAY* was celebrated June 16 by Mrs. Lyman A. Byam, Sr., of Chelmsford, who was guest of honor (rt., ctr.) at a party at the Princeton Lounge, with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Seated with her are three of her children Mrs. George Nickerson, Edwin C. Byam and Mrs. Frank Cowdray, while behind them are two sons, Kenneth C. and Lyman A. Byam, Jr. (Photo by Tom Belakakis)



# Boy's death spurs residents to seek safety improvements

By CAROL KOPP  
Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD — Residents along Chelmsford's Acton Road have long worried about the dangerous intersection at South Chelmsford center, but the death of a 10-year-old boy 10 days ago has resulted in an active effort to obtain safety improvements.

Acton Road is Route 27, a long, winding artery from Central Square that leads into Acton. Although it is a mostly residential street, and the posted speed limit never goes above 40, traffic is heavy, and even large trucks use it as a route between towns.

The center of South Chelmsford is a cluster of homes around a common, with one small village store. On the winding road, the little center is barely visible to motorists until they are in the middle of it, about to cross Maple Road.

The speed limit at the intersection is 25. But traffic coming from either direction is travelling at a legal speed of 40 just before it comes unexpectedly around the winding road and into the center. There are no traffic lights there, no signs.

IN A LETTER to the

selectmen and to The Sun, Gordon and Bernice Scott requested a traffic study, and action "to prevent any such further accidents in the future."

Bernice Scott said she had spoken to other concerned neighborhood people, and planned to set up a meeting for South Chelmsford residents at Liberty Hall, the South Chelmsford Improvement Association's meeting hall on the common.

"It hasn't become a community project — not yet anyway," she said. "The day after the accident, I was so mad and I thought if I don't write it now nothing will happen."

Cleaning up that intersection had been a community project on at least two occasions in the past, but with no results. The first time was more than a decade ago. The second was prompted by another tragic accident several years ago, in which a young girl was seriously hurt in a hit and run accident, and is just now recovering.

Barbara Engel said it was "a tragic coincidence" that she had made the latest of a series of complaints to the

police department just the day before John Wall was killed.

Her home is near that intersection, and she constantly hears — and sees — the heavy traffic that passes by her home daily. Once, a car crashed into her parked car in the middle of the night and kept going.

"People think they're out of the center, and in the clear on the open road," she said. "They just aren't conscious of where they are."

MARY ELLEN Fleming, president of the South Chelmsford Village Improvement Association, believes that "something must be done — and soon, before school begins again. The association, she said, is "of course backing any effort that is being made to get help."

The immediate need is the school department's new policy of enforcing a walking program for children who live within a mile and a half of the schools they attend. Acton Road is one of those affected by the policy.

The street is scheduled for sidewalk construction, although only preliminary preparation has been done and

there is no guarantee that the work will be completed by the time school opens in September.

The residents wanted the sidewalks there; they have been requesting them for several years. But they fear that school opening day will come before they are completed. The children will be walking to the Byam School, located on Maple Road, right at the center intersection.

"I'm a mother of four," Fleming said, "with one who will be walking to the Byam next year. My fears are multiplied by those of many others."

The solutions suggested by residents include a flashing light system, although the high cost could make it difficult to get them installed.

SELECTMAN JOSEPH B. Shanahan Jr. noted that the town "is eligible to request reimbursement by the state," but it is up to the state's discretion whether to fund that particular project.

Since the accident, residents have noticed a step-up in police cruisers in the neighborhood, but even the

New director new work



### RTE. 27 AND MAPLE ROAD ...in South Chelmsford

speed traps occasionally placed there have proved to be only a temporary deterrent.

A recommendation for a more permanent solution is expected when town Safety Officer John Bell completes a formal traffic study of the area. Just after the July 4 weekend, he will be there to speak to residents about their

own observations.

Officer Bell said he planned to first recommend that large four by four-foot signs with red lettering be placed at the intersection, reading "village center ahead — speed limit 25." But he questions whether even that will help.

"I've been in this racket for a long time," Bell said. "And

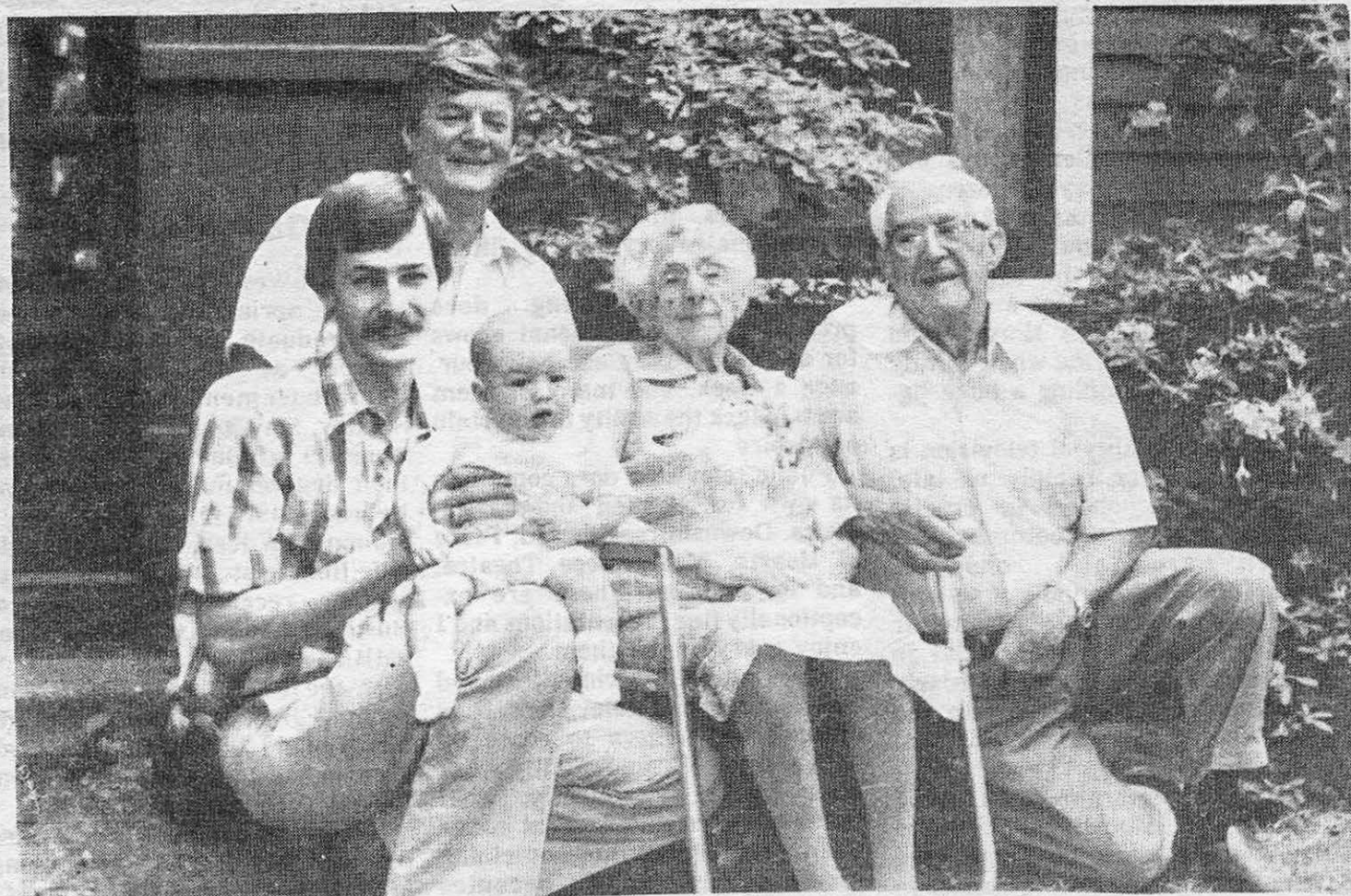
I know that people don't pay any attention to signs." To test that theory, he asked one angry resident who uses the road daily to tell him what the sign just before the intersection read. The man did not know.

If the sidewalks are not constructed in time for school opening, Shanahan said an

alternate route for school children may be considered. The children may be instructed to use Parkerville Road instead of Acton Road, and a crossing guard would be assigned to Parkerville Road.

The traffic officer's report is expected to be presented to the selectmen later this month.





**CMFD-FIVE GENERATIONS OF THE BYAM FAMILY** gathered on June 16 to observe the 103rd birthday of Mrs. Lyman A. Byam, Sr. at her summer home on Baptist Pond. Shown here with Mrs. Byam are (front, L-R) Donald J. Byam, a grandson, with his son and Mrs. Byam's great-great-grandson, Cory Michael; Donald's grandfather, Kenneth H. Byam, Mrs. Byam's son; and in the rear, Kenneth C. Byam, grandson of Mrs. Byam, father of Donald and grandfather of Cory. The mother of 10 children, 7 of whom are living, she also has 15 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren. (Photo by Regina Linsley)

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July 13, 1978

## **Mrs. Byam Has 102nd Birthday Celebrations**

CMFD-Mrs. Lyman A. Byam, a longtime resident of Chelmsford, celebrated her 102nd birthday on June 16 with a family party of 19 at the Old Oaken Bucket in Westford. Attending were close relatives of Mrs. Byam. Later on the same day, a larger party for 38 was held at her summer home on Baptist Pond, complete with a big birthday cake.

Mrs. Byam is in good health, much interested in all affairs of the day, and especially enjoys the visits of her relatives and friends. She is an attendant of the First Baptist Church of Chelmsford.

Lowell Sun, June 25, 1979



Sun Staff photo by Arthur Pollock

## **Celebrating 103**

...On June 16 Mrs. Grace Byam of Chelmsford celebrated her 103rd birthday. Mrs. Byam was guest of honor at a family dinner party in observance of the unique occasion. Born in Westford, she is the widow of Lyman A. Byam and the daughter of the late John and Sarah Hutchins. Her father was a veteran of the Civil War. Mrs. Byam had 10 children, seven of whom are living. She also has 15 grandchildren, 37 great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren. Prior to her marriage at 19 years old, she worked briefly for her aunt at a dried goods shop in Lawrence. She resides with one of her daughter's at Sunset Avenue in Chelmsford and summers at her daughter's home at Baptist Pond in So. Chelmsford.



## Grace M. Byam Dies At 103

CMFD-Grace M. (Hutchins) Byam, of 5 Sunset Avenue, Westlands section, died early Monday morning October 29, at the Lowell General Hospital, aged 103 years. She was the widow of Lyman Andrew Byam. Mrs. Byam was born in Westford, on June 16, 1876, the daughter of the late John and Sarah (Nickles) Hutchins but had been a resident of Chelmsford for the greater part of her life. She was one of the oldest residents of Chelmsford. She is survived by her three daughters, Mrs. Frank Cowdray (Evelyn) and Mrs. George C. Nickerson (Viola) both of Chelmsford and Mrs. Lincoln Meyer (Rachel) of Seattle, Washington; her four sons, Dr. Edwin C. Byam of Manchester, Conn.; Kenneth H. Byam of No. Chelmsford; Lyman A. Byam Jr. of Randolph, Vt. and Arthur W. Byam of Manchester, Conn.; also survived by 15 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

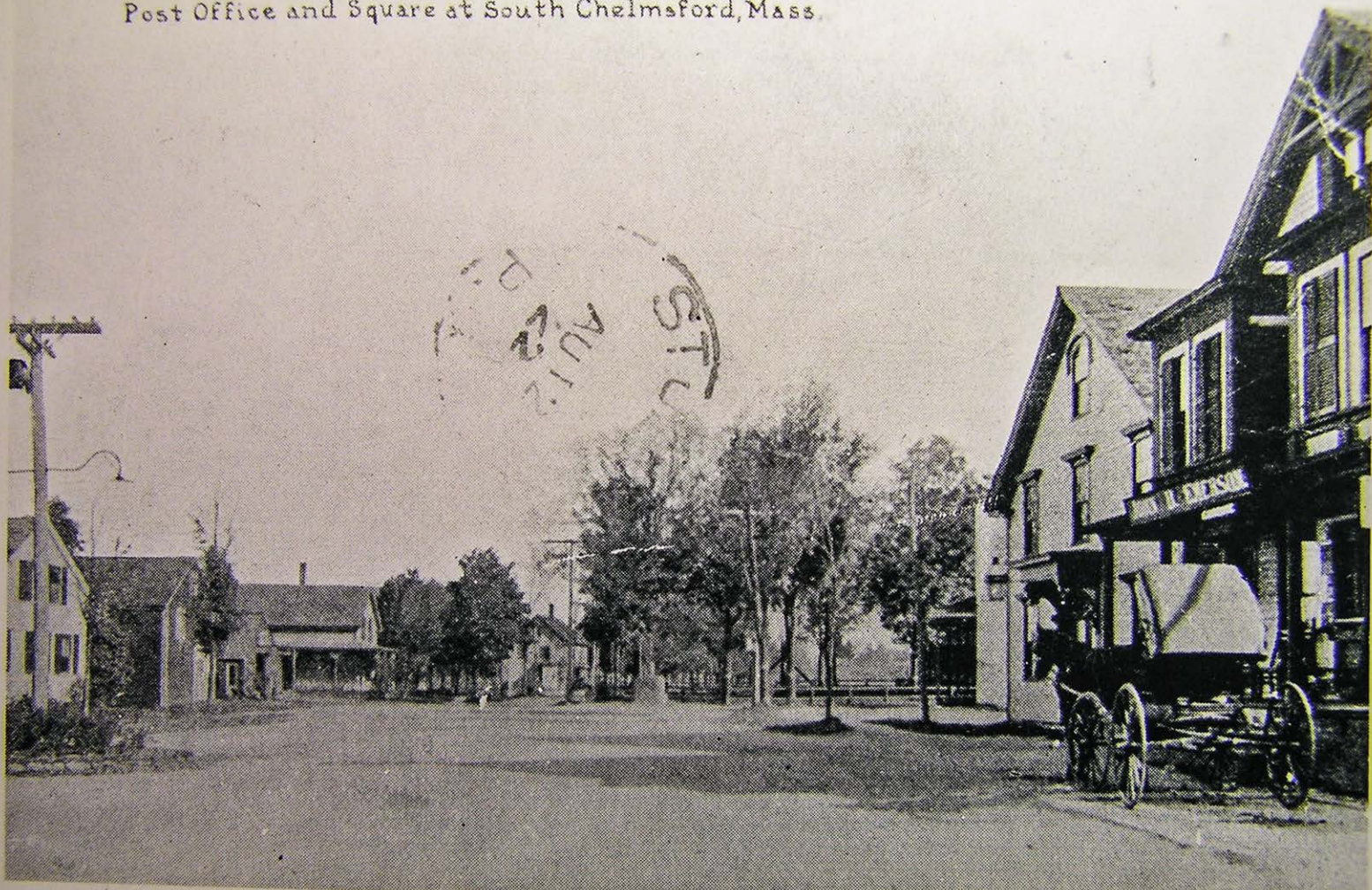
Mrs. Byam was a member of the First Baptist Church of South Chelmsford and held membership in the Women's Federation of that church. She was a member of the Chelmsford Senior Citizens.

Services were held in the First Baptist Church of South Chelmsford here Wednesday morning. Interment was in the family lot in Heart Pond Cemetery.

Friends who wish may make memorial contributions to First Baptist Church memorial fund in her memory, Acton and Maple Roads, Chelmsford, Mass. Funeral Directors Robert T. Morse and Walter F. Bayliss Jr.



Post Office and Square at South Chelmsford, Mass.

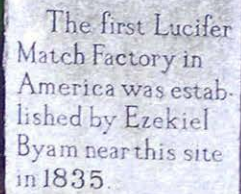


View toward Acton Road #305 prior to 1922, John B. Emerson Store on right





HISTORIC SITE  
OF  
BYAM MATCH FACTORY  
1835

A white rectangular sign with a black border and a circular logo at the top. The logo depicts a factory with smoking chimneys. The text is in a serif font, with the year '1835' flanked by two horizontal bars.

The first Lucifer  
Match Factory in  
America was estab-  
lished by Ezekiel  
Byam near this site  
in 1835.

A rectangular, light-colored stone marker with a small engraving of a matchstick at the bottom. It is surrounded by two small American flags and a basket of colorful flowers.



The first Lucifer  
Match Factory in  
America was estab-  
lished by Ezekiel  
Byam near this site  
in 1835.







Acton Road #305

7/16/2005 F. Merriam







