

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

93/357/14	Billerica		142
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Town Chelmsford
 Place (neighborhood or village) Chelmsford Center

Address 85 Acton Road
 Historic Name Young/Smith House
 Uses: Present 2 family residence
 Original 1 family residence
 Date of Construction 1887-1888
 Source Lowell Weekly Journal
 Style/Form

Architect/Builder Eugene Prescott, contractor

Exterior Material:

Foundation large fieldstones cemented together
 Wall/Trim vinyl siding
 Roof ridge, front to back

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

barn: b. 1893, 1 story with loft, became a garage sometime after 1945, before 1971.

Major Alterations (with dates)

many decorative brackets removed 1910-20
 ca 1974 & 6 vinyl siding
 1 porch removed: ca 1963
 1972 another porch replaced
 1976 shed between house & barn removed

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 1.97 acres

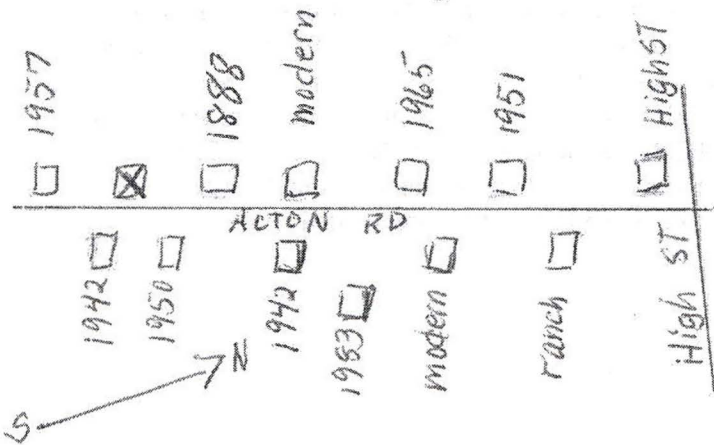
Setting It stands on busy Rt. 27 surrounded mostly residences. The land behind the house slopes downward to a swampy area, which comes up in a small ravine between this house and #77 Acton Rd. A paved driveway leads from Acton up beside the left side of the house to the barn



MA_Chelmsford_ActonRoad_85_IMG_3040
 11/24/2006 CHC_2006_3 FSM

Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by Jane B. Drury

Organization for Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 2006

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

This 2½ story house with attic, originally built as a 1 family home, has been greatly remodeled into a 2 family residence. The house as it originally looked had decorative brackets, some of which were removed about 1910. The chimney is located just below and to the left of the roof ridge.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE see continuation sheet

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 June 1887 Louis A. Young, of Providence, R.I., purchased land for two houses from Thomas W. Marshall. The 1st of these houses was erected at 85 Acton Rd. in 1887-88. The 2nd was built next door later in summer/fall of 1888 at 77 Acton Road. In the fall of 1887 Eugene Prescott was given the contract to build both houses, and in November the foundations were being laid. The residence at 85 Acton Rd. was completed during the spring of 1888 and by June it had its first tenant, "Mr. Burdett, who is in the employ of the Byfield company" (forerunner of the Chelmsford Ginger Ale Co., which was on Littleton Rd.). The barn & shed were erected at the same time as the house.

In 1893 George Smith purchased the property at 85 Acton Rd. and soon moved there. He worked in Lowell as a teamster or "job wagon." George T. Parkhurst and his wife moved in as newly-weds and renters on Sept. 1902, just one month before Mr. Smith sold the dwelling. The people living next door were also newly-weds. James Menzies lived at 85 Acton Rd. some of the time while he owned it. By Apr. 1910 he had sold it and returned to Lowell. Alfred and Ida Jefts came from Lowell and purchased the 85 Acton Rd. property from Mr. Menzies, and the Jefts family remained there until 1921, when they moved down the street into his parents' house. The next owners/residents were Leroy C. Bliss and his wife Charlotte. He was a steam fitter/engineer for the Chelmsford Spring Co. (later named the Chelmsford Ginger Ale Co.). The Blisses moved to North Rd., and in 1923 Harlow & Eva Pierce purchased and moved into 85 Acton Rd. They remained there four years before moving to Turnpike Rd.. Harlow was a fruit and vegetable peddler. About five years after buying 85 Acton Rd., Fred and Charlotte Butters and their daughter Dorothy moved in, having come from Lowell. He was a chauffeur.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES see continuation sheet

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds: 6/16/1887 Bk. 189, pg. 512; Plan Bk. M, plan 77; Pl. Bk. 89, plan 85

Chelmsford tax records: Assessors' records; street directories

Eleanor Parkhurst: Aug. 1975

Ruth Jefts: April 1980; May 1982

Maxine McKittrick: May 1982

Maureen Perry: Dec. 10, 1985; April 14, 2006

Lowell Weekly Journal: Nov. 4, 1887; June 15, 1888; June 22, 1888; Sept. 28, 1888

Lowell Sun: Feb. 10, 1981

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town: CHELMSFORD Property Address: 85 ACTON ROAD

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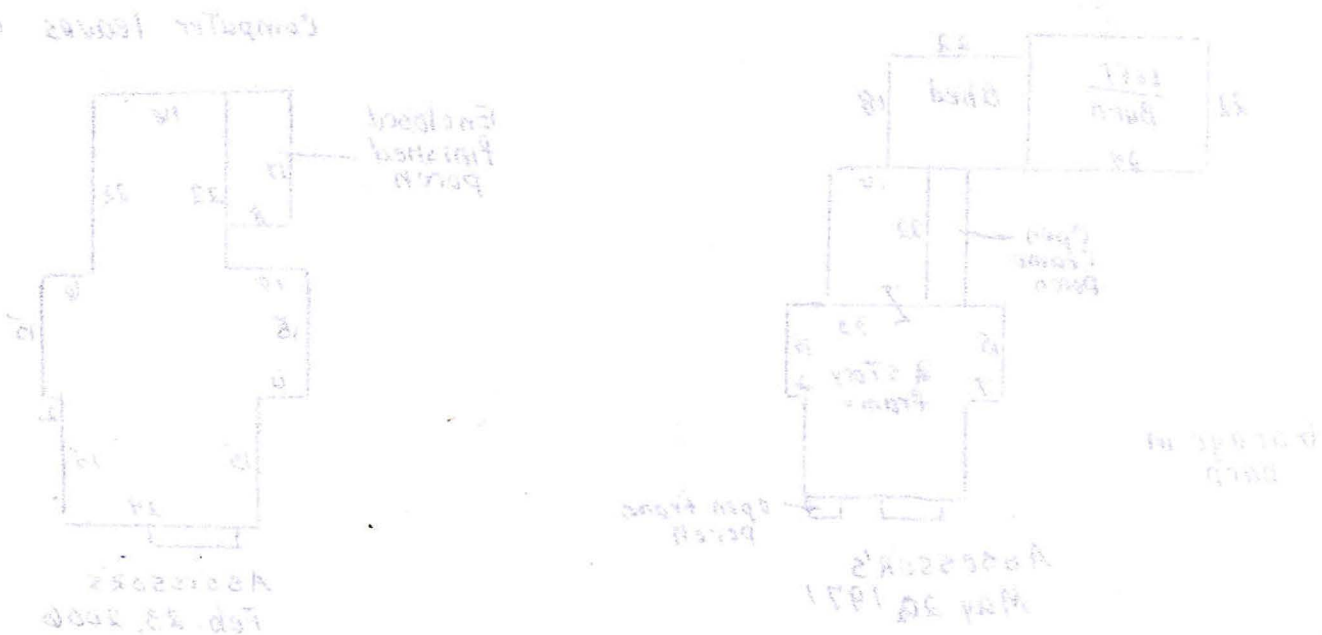
Area(s) Form No. 142

History

It was probably during the late 1920s that the house was converted into a two family home. By 1943 - 6 when the McKittrick family was residing upstairs there, it probably had not yet been greatly changed. The "footprint" of the building has remained mostly the same. The barn became a garage in 1957-58. In 1958, when the Perrys purchased the house, it still had two apartments but were really for one family. Philip and Maureen Perry and their children Pamela & Brian lived on one floor, while Maureen's parents, H. Clarence & Eva Dane, lived in the other. Philip Perry worked for the Bedford Railroad, and Maureen was a nurse. In Jan. 1973 Philip Perry died suddenly, so Maureen then shared the house with her father and her children. Clarence Dane died in February 1981 at age 84, having lived in Chelmsford "for more than 60 years." He had retired as Captain of the Chelmsford Fire Department 19 years earlier. He was a veteran of World War I, serving in the U.S. Army. During the freak snowstorm on May 9, 1976 a tree came down on the shed at the rear of the house, resulting in the shed being removed.

Alterations

- ca 1915 many brackets removed
- late 1920s change from 1 family to 2 family house
perhaps some exterior changes
- ca 1963 porch removed: front left corner. It had carpenter ants.
- late 1972 2nd porch, left side, behind main house, replaced
- 1974 vinyl siding on rear & north sides. A year or two later the front and south sides were done.
gingerbread was covered over
- May 9, 1976 large tree came down on the shed. As a result, there is now a small gap between the house and what little remains of the shed. New windows were placed on the rear of the house and porch as a result.
- 2004 vinyl siding put on barn

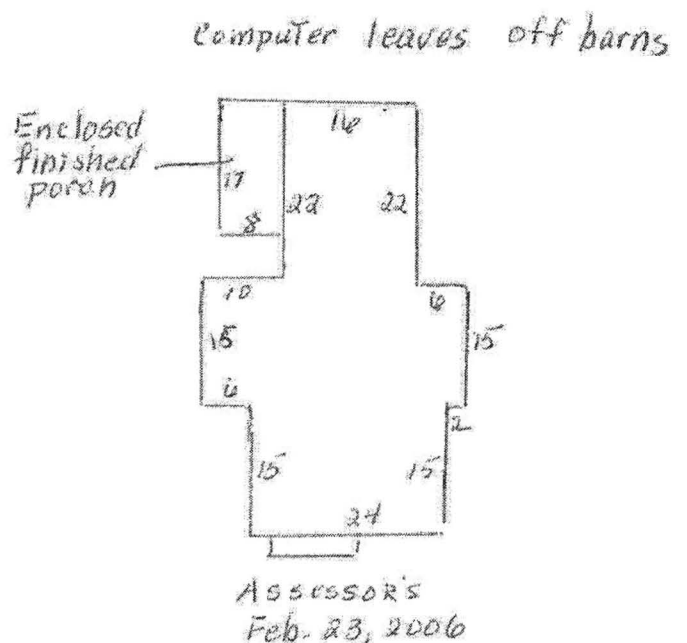
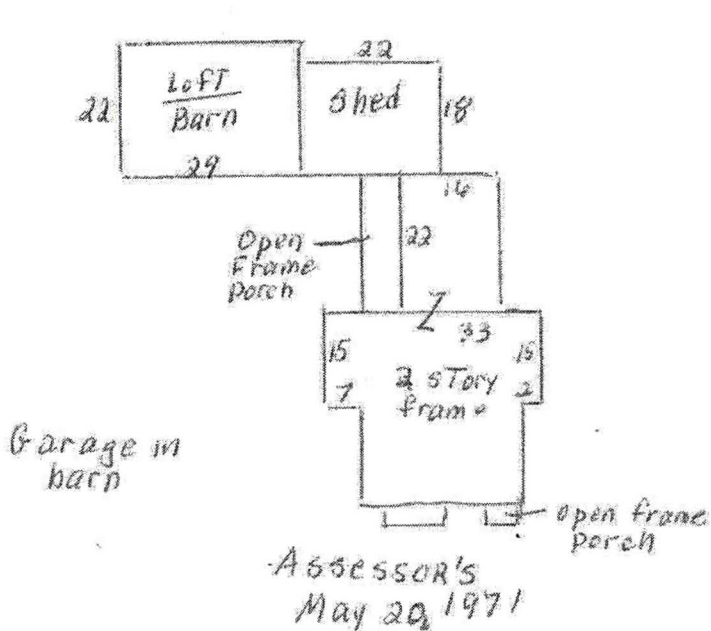
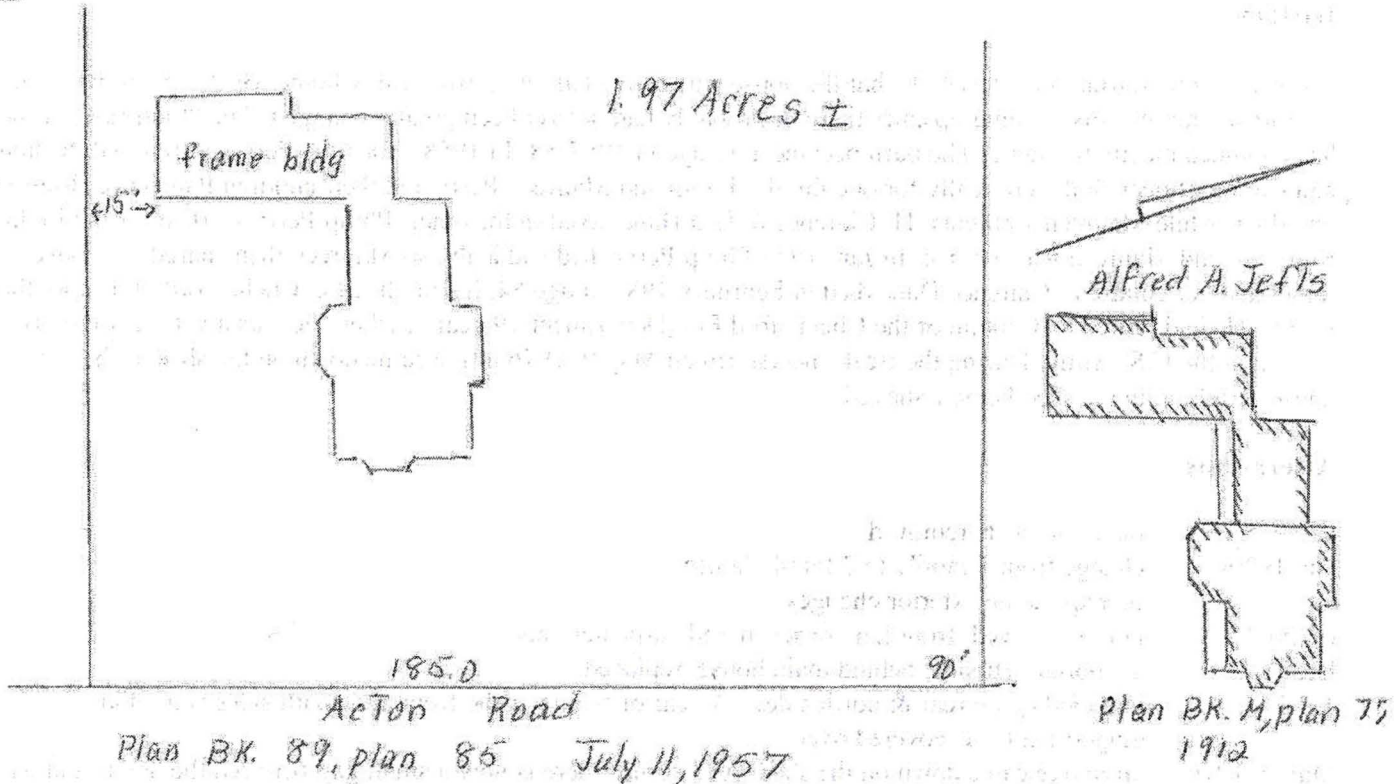


INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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 Property Address: 85 ACTON ROAD
 Area(s): Form No.:

Alterations



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
CHELMSFORD

Property Address
85 ACTON ROAD

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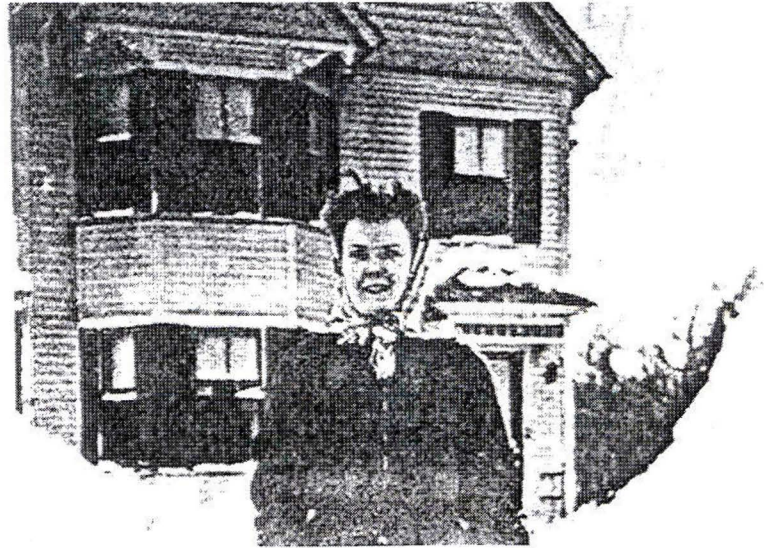
Alterations



ca 1910-12



Feb. 1945



Feb. 1945



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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CHELMSFORD

Property Address
85 ACTON ROAD

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Area(s) Form No.

April 25, 2006



Front



Front



Front & Right



Front Entrance

85 High Street
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

- Bk. 9325, pg. 239 06/03/1998 Maureen J. Perry, unmarried, to
Pamela Sue Vaughn & Maureen J. Perry
1.97 A. & buildings, 85 Acton Rd.: west side of Acton Rd
Lot B. on Sansone plan, Pl. Bk. 89, Plan 85
bounded northerly by Lot 2
same: 1993 Maureen J. Perry Trust, bk. 6604, pg. 50
- Bk. 6604, pg. 50 08/04/1993 Maureen J. Perry, unmarried, to
Maureen J. Perry & Pamela S. Vaughn, co-trustees of
Maureen J. Perry Trust
1.97 A. & buildings, 85 Acton Rd.: west side of Acton Rd
Lot B. on Sansone plan, Pl. Bk. 89, Plan 85
bounded northerly by Lot 2
same: 1958 Perry deed (to her late husband), bk. 1400, pg. 297
- Bk. 1400, pg. 297 04/28/1958 Ignatius Paul & Rose M. Sansone to
Phillip J. & Maureen J. Perry
1.97 A. & buildings, 85 Acton Rd.: west side of Acton Rd
Lot B. on Sansone plan, Pl. Bk. 89, Plan 85
bounded northerly by Lot 2
same: portion of 1953 Furlong deed, Bk. 1252, pg. 252
- Bk. 1252, pg. 253 11/10/1953 Barbara M. Furlong, Lowell, unmarried, to
Ignatius Paul & Rose M. Sansone
land & buildings: west side of Acton Rd.
bounded northerly by Lot 2, Young Plan, Pl. Bk. 8, Plan 37
part of premises: Lot 1, & part is southerly of Lot 1,
1893 Young plan, Pl. bk. 8, plan 37
except:
1950 Sansone to Raby deed, bk. 1144, pg. 585 &
1953 Sansone to Marchand deed, bk. 1221, pg. 383
same: Sansone deed of even date
- Bk. 1252, pg. 252 11/10/1953 Ignatius Paul Sansone to
Barbara M. Furlong
land & buildings: west side of Acton Rd.
part of premises: Lot 1, & part is southerly of Lot 1,
1893 Young plan, Pl. bk. 8, plan 37
portion of premises: 1947 Wells deed, bk. 1082, pg. 449
- Bk. 1082, pg. 449 12/06/1953 Norman F. & Doris A. Wells to
Ignatius Paul Sansone, Boston
land & buildings: west side of Acton Rd.
part of premises: Lot 1, & part is southerly of Lot 1,
1893 Young Plan, Pl. bk. 8, plan 37
same: 1946 Dunsford deed, bk. 1053, pg. 302
- Bk. 1053, pg. 302 09/13/1946 Donald A. Dunsford to
Norman P. & Doris A. Wells, Quincy
land & buildings: west side of Acton Rd.
part of premises: Lot 1, & part is southerly of Lot 1,
1893 Young Plan, Pl. bk. 8, plan 37
same: 1945 Kalergis deed, bk. 1033, pg. 265

Bk. 1033, pg. 265	11/29/1945	James G. & Norma B. Kalergis, Lowell, to Donald A. Dunsford land & buildings: west side of Acton Rd. part of premises: Lot 1, & part is southerly of Lot 1, 1893 Young Plan, Pl. bk. 8, plan 37 same: 1945 Murphy deed, bk. 1022, pg. 266
Bk. 1022, pg. 266	05/05/1945	Thomas J. & Grace L. Murphy, Lowell, to James G. & Norma B. Kalergis, Lowell 2 adjoining parcels & buildings: west side of Acton Rd. 1. 82,380 sq. ft.: Lot 1, 1893 Young Plan, Plan bk. 8, plan 37 2. northwest of Parcel 1 excepting & reserving: 1913 Co. Commissioner taking, bk. 500, pg. 45 same: 1942 Hodgson deed, bk. 982, pg. 541
Bk. 982, pg. 541	08/29/1942	S. Myron & Hazel Hodson, Lowell, to Thomas J. & Grace L. Murphy 2 adjoining parcels & buildings: west side of Acton Rd. 1. 82,380 sq. ft.: Lot 1, 1893 Young Plan, Plan bk. 8, plan 37 2. northwest of Parcel 1 excepting & reserving: 1913 Co. Commissioner taking, bk. 500, pg. 45 same: 1941 Butters deed, bk. 959, pg. 296
Bk. 959, pg. 296	04/25/1941	Fred H. & Jennie M. Butters to S. Myron & Hazel M. Hodson, Lowell 2 adjoining parcels & buildings: west side of Acton Rd. 1. 82,380 sq. ft.: Lot 1, 1893 Young Plan, Plan bk. 8, plan 37 2. northwest of Parcel 1 excepting & reserving: 1913 Co. Commissioner taking, bk. 500, pg. 45 same: 1926 Pierce deed, bk. 744, pg. 492
Bk. 744, pg. 492	12/13/1926	Harlow E. & Eva E. Pierce to Fred H. & Jennie M. Butters, Lowell 2 adjoining parcels & buildings: west side of Acton Rd. 1. 82,380 sq. ft.: Lot 1, 1893 Young Plan, Plan bk. 8, plan 37 2. northwest of Parcel 1 excepting & reserving: 1913 Co. Commissioner taking, bk. 500, pg. 45 same: 1922 Bliss deed, bk. 672, pg. 274
Bk. 672, pg. 274	11/18/1922	Leroy C. Bliss to Harlow E. & Eva E. Pierce 2 adjoining parcels & buildings: west side of Acton Rd. 1. 82,380 sq. ft.: Lot 1, 1893 Young Plan, Plan bk. 8, plan 37 2. northwest of Parcel 1 excepting: Co. Commissioner taking, if any same: 1920 Jefits deed, bk. 626, pg. 129
Bk. 626, pg. 129	05/08/1920	Alfred A. Jefits to Leroy C. Bliss 2 adjoining parcels & buildings: west side of Acton Rd. 1. 82,380 sq. ft.: Lot 1, 1893 Young Plan, Plan bk. 8, plan 37 same: 1910 Menzies deed, bk. 449, pg. 85 2. northwest of Parcel 1 same: 1912 Young deed, bk. 481, pg. 126

Bk. 449, pg. 85	04/18/1910	James Menzies, Lowell, to Alfred A. Jeffs, Lowell 82,380 sq. ft. & buildings: on road from Chelmsford to So. Chelmsford Lot 1, 1893 Young Plan, Plan bk. 8, plan 37 same: 1902 Whitney deed, bk. 350, pg. 87
Bk. 350, pg. 87	12/01/1902	Hiram Whitney Westford, to James Menzies, Lowell 82,380 sq. ft. & buildings: on road from Chelmsford to So. Chelmsford Lot 1, 1893 Young Plan, Plan bk. 8, plan 37 same: 1902 Smith deed, Bk. 349, pg. 144
Bk. 349, pg. 144	10/22/1902	George H. Smith to Hiram Whitney, Westford 82,380 sq. ft. & buildings: on road from Chelmsford to So. Chelmsford Lot 1, 1893 Young Plan, Plan bk. 8, plan 37 same: 1892 Young deed, Bk. 246, pg. 338
Bk. 246, pg. 338	07/20/1893	Franklin K. Young, Somerville, to George H. Smith, Lowell 82,380 sq. ft. & buildings: on road from Chelmsford to So. Chelmsford Lot 1, 1893 Young Plan same: 1893 Tyler deed, Bk. 241, pg. 485
Bk. 241, pg. 485	03/24/1893	James L. Tyler, Jr., Somerville, to Franklin K. Young, Somerville 82,380 sq. ft. & buildings: on road from Chelmsford to So. Chelmsford Lot 1, 1893 Young Plan same: 1893 Tyler deed, Bk. 241, pg. 485
Bk. 241, Page 485	04/24/1893	James L. Tyler, Jr., Somerville, to Franklin K. Young, Somerville 82,380 sq. ft. & buildings: on road from Chelmsford to So. Chelmsford Lot 1, 1893 Young Plan same: 1893 Young deed, Bk. 240, pg. 559
Bk. 240, Pg. 559	02/02/1893	Louis A. Young to James L. Tyler, Jr., Somerville 82,380 sq. ft. & buildings: on road from Chelmsford to So. Chelmsford Lot 1, 1893 Young Plan same: part of 1887 Marshall deed, Bk. 189, pg. 512
Bk. 189, Pg. 512	06/16/1887	Thomas W. Marshall to Louis A. Young, Providence, R.I. 3 parcels of land & buildings 1. 2 1/3 A. near Robbins Hill same: 1875 Sewall Parkhurst deed, Bk. 114, pg. 516 2. 253,291 sq. ft.: south side of rd. past Solomon Parkhurst house Lot 1 & 2: R.W. Baker 1875 plan same: 1875 Solomon Parkhurst deed, Bk. 113, pg. 164 3. 3 A.: west side Acton Rd. part of: 1843 Fiske to Adams deed, So. District Bk. 427, pg. 136 part of: estate of Maria Bartlett, dau. of Joel Parkhurst same: 1883 Bartlett deed, Bk. 160, pg. 232

Lowell Weekly Journal

Nov. 4, 1887 - Mr. Louis F. Young has just let the contract to Eugene Prescott for the erection of two neat and substantial houses on the Acton road a few rods south of its intersection with the road to Robin's hill. It is intimated that this may be but the beginning of Mr. Young's enterprise in this line and locality.

Workmen are busy putting in the foundations for Mr. Young's houses on the Acton road.

June 15, 1888 - Mr. Young's new house on Littleton street has a tenant - Mr. Burdett, who is in the employ of the Byfield company. Mr. Soderberg's dwelling on the same street is nearly ready for occupancy, and C.E.A. Bartlett's new tenement, a little nearer the village, is being rapidly pushed forward.

June 22, 1888 - By one of those lapses to which the best regulated pens are liable, that of the writer coolly transplated 3 new houses from their proper location on Acton street to Littleton street, a fourth of a mile distant. By the same agency he now restores the missing structures to their respective sites, trusting that they will remain undisturbed by cyclone, fire or the vagaries of a correspondent's pen.

Sept. 28, 1888 - Mr. Louis Young is building a second dwelling house on Acton street, near the one erected by him last year.

Apr. 17, 1891 - George Wright, the new blacksmith, has hired a tenement of L.A. Young on the same street. (Acton street.)

Apr. 27, 1900 - One of the "Young" houses, so-called, on Acton street was disposed of Saturday afternoon at foreclosure sale. It was knocked off to the mortgagee by Auctioneer Wooley of Groton for \$2100.

85 Acton Road

Maureen Perry Dec. 10, 1985

2 families – when Sansone & McKittrick owned it
1 family – when Butters lived there

Eleanor Parkhurst August 1975

My father, George Thomas Parkhurst and my mother moved into this house in September 1902 as newly-weds. The people living next door were also newly-weds. I believe these two houses were built at the same time, perhaps by the same builder.

Ruth Jefts

April 1980

ca 1910 Menzie sold to Jefts, Ruth's parents

they lived there from the time Ruth was 2 years old until she was in 5th grade; they then moved to her grandparents' house at 43 Acton Rd., and stayed there 3 years. It (85 Acton) was a 1 family house.

Jefts sold to Roy Bliss. It remained a 1 family house when Bliss had it.

Clarence Dane lives there now, and it is he who probably made it into a 2 family house.

May 1982

ca 1910 her father bought from Mr. Menzies. It was a 1 family house

made into 2 family house after Roy Bliss, who bought from Jefts

Carl & Max McKittrick lived upstairs 1946. Estabrook was downstairs

narrow back porch., & side porch - on the left

porch was in front of door, not across whole side of house

brackets removed by Jefts

ca 1921 Jefts moved into Grandfather Jeft's house

sold by Eleanor Parkhurst, & later became a church parsonage

Maxine McKittrick May 1982

was a shed & barn attached, now is a garage

Lowell Sun February 10, 1981

Clarence Dane H. Dane

...retired firefighter

CHELMSFORD – Clarence H. Dane, retired captain of the Chelmsford Fire Department, died Tuesday at the Roger Williams Hospital in Providence. He was 84 years old. Born August 9, 1896 in Malden, he had been a resident of Chelmsford for more than 60 years, making his home at 85 Acton Road. He retired from the fire department 19 years ago, and had also worked as a paperhanger and a painter for many years. He was a member of the Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Chelmsford, a member of the Chelmsford Senior Citizens and the Chelmsford Fireman's Relief Association. He had served with the United States Army during World War I. He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Maureen Perry of Chelmsford and Mrs. William J. Faber (Constance) of Glastonbury, Conn.; two sisters, Lillian Cornell of Tynsboro and Alice Carpenter of Chelmsford; a brother, Walter Dane of LaPuente, Calif.



