

**FORM B - BUILDING**

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

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

|        |           |  |     |
|--------|-----------|--|-----|
| 7/4/18 | Tyngsboro |  | 295 |
|--------|-----------|--|-----|

**Town** Chelmsford

**Place** (neighborhood or village)  
North Chelmsford

**Address** 204 Dunstable Rd.

**Historic Name** Arthur Trubey House

**Uses: Present** single dwelling

**Original** Residential

**Date of Construction** 1890

**Source** tax records

**Style/Form**

**Architect/Builder** Arthur Trubey

**Exterior Material:** shingles over clapboard

**Foundation** uncut granite blocks

**Wall/Trim** shingles over clapboard

**Roof** ridge front to back

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures** none

**Major Alterations** (with dates)

See continuation sheet

**Condition** Fair

Moved  no  yes Date

**Acreage** 2 acres

**Setting** residential See continuation sheet



MA\_Chelmsford\_DunstableRoad\_204\_IMG\_3023  
11/24/2006 CHC\_2006\_1 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**

Joan I. Monahan

**Organization**

for Chelmsford Historical Commission

**Date** (month / year)

October 2006

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION see continuation sheet

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

The Arthur W. Trubey house at 204 Dunstable Rd., North Chelmsford, Ma. is mostly similar with other houses in the area. Being one of the first houses built in that time period it was strongly built to withstand the harsh winters. It had 2 chimneys one for their stove and one for a wood stove. There are two dormers on the second floor The one in the front contains one window and one on the right side of the house over the second kitchen, contains two windows.

### 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.*

The house at 204 Dunstable Road was built by Arthur William Trubey on land he had purchased from his father, John C. Trubey.

Arthur William Trubey was born in Plymouth, Devon, England on March 8, 1868. He was the son of John C. Trubey and Emily (Spurr). He came to America with his family and arrived in Boston on August 15, 1871 at three years of age. Arthur was the second born of six children. He became a citizen on August 20, 1892.

Arthur attended the Chelmsford schools and he graduated from Andover Academy in Andover, Mass. He taught both the elementary and secondary grades at the Princeton Street School and was the principal of the North Chelmsford School for 10 years. He was the Instructor of Mechanic Arts and Drawing at the Dover, New Hampshire High School and also at the Gilbert School, Winsted, Conn. He also was the Director of Industrial Arts at the State College in North Adams, Mass., and Instructor of Architectural Drafting at the Franklin Technical Institute in Boston. Arthur's other teaching positions were teaching Manual Arts at the Middlesex

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES see continuation sheet

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds: Deed Bk. 251, pg. 345; Deed bk. 972, pg. 565; Deed bk. 1380, pg. 27; Deed bk. 1742, pg. 571

Chelmsford tax/revaluation records; vital records; (building permits-none found) Chelmsford assessors' records; BDM index;

National Archives in Waltham

Bertha Trubey May 2004, May 2005

Lillian (Trubey) Dowd multiple times 2004,2005,2006

Chelmsford street directories

House visited by Joan Monahan August 2006

Waterwheel picture taken by Clarence A. Trubey about 1900

Lillian (Gray) Roberts July 2005, May 2006

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  
204 Dunstable Road

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Arthur W. Trubey of 204 Dunstable Rd. N. Chelmsford  
Citizenship records dated August 20, 1892

W. Elisha A. Shaw reading at Chelmsford  
 and Charles F. Lumbert, reading  
 at Chelmsford, both  
 in said County, and both citizens of the United States of America, on oath, severally depose  
 and say, that we have known Arthur W. Trubey, the foregoing  
 petitioner, for more than five years last past, during all which time he has resided within  
 the United States of America, and at least one year thereof in said Commonwealth,  
 that he has during that time behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the  
 principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order  
 and happiness of the same; that he arrived in the said United States while a minor afore-  
 said, and resided in said United States ~~eight~~ years before he arrived at the  
 age of twenty-one years, and we verily believe it has been, for three years past, his bona fide  
 intention to become a citizen of this United States.

Elisha A. Shaw  
 Charles F. Lumbert

Middlesex, ss. Aug 20<sup>th</sup> 1892. Signed and sworn to  
 Edward M. [unclear]

Arthur W. Trubey, do solemnly swear that I do absolutely and  
 entirely renounce and abjure all allegiances and fidelity to every foreign prince, potentate,  
 state and sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to Victoria, Queen  
 of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, whose subject I have  
 heretofore been, that I have never been of any of the orders of nobility, nor borne any  
 hereditary title, and that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America.  
 So help me God.

Middlesex, ss. Police Court of Lowell.  
 Sworn and admitted a citizen.  
 Arthur W. Trubey  
 Aug 20<sup>th</sup> 1892.  
 Edward M. [unclear]

Police Court - Lowell Mass. Minor Series Vol. 1885-1892 Pet. No. 737A



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Chelmsford

Property Address  
204 Dunstable Road

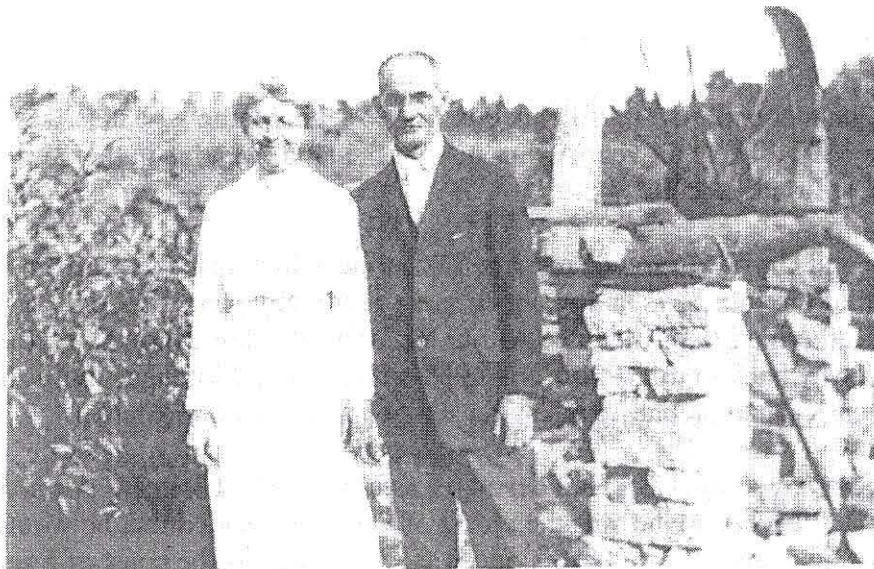
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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Clarence Trubey, Jr. with his flight crew      circa 1943

Arthur, his brothers and uncles all had large gardens behind their homes. Running water did not reach this part of Dunstable Road until the 1920's. So they all got together and built a water wheel that pushed the water ¼ mile, through a pipe, from Deep Brook to their gardens. At harvest time Arthur always had a vegetable stand in front of his house where he would sell eggs and produce from his garden. The water well from which they got their drinking water was also about ¼ of a mile from their houses. Water for cooking, washing, drinking and bathing all had to be drawn from that well and carried into their houses. Arthurs's house was the only one that did have a chemical toilet in the basement. All the other Trubey houses had outhouses.



Arthur and Ellen Trubey standing by the water well.

Their house was through the field to their right and the water wheel for their gardens was down the embankment to the brook off the their left.

circa 1928



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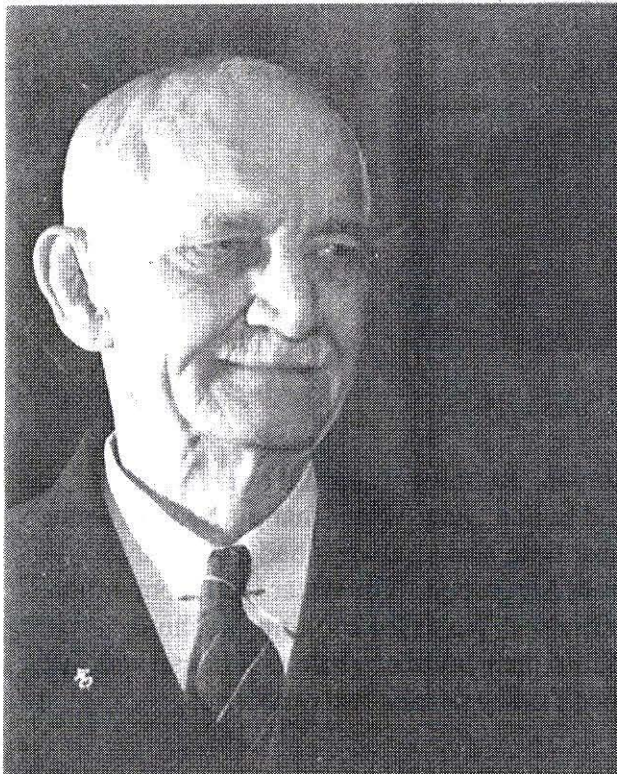
Town  
 Chelmsford

Property Address  
 204 Dunstable Road

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Training School in Chelmsford. While living at 204 Dunstable Road, he served as superintendent of Sunday Schools in North Chelmsford and assisted Mr. James Kiberd "Uncle Jim" with starting the first Boy Scout troop here in the East right in North Chelmsford. Troop number One of North Chelmsford.



Arthur W. Trubey circa 1938



The Arthur W. Trubey House circa 1900

During his time at the Princeton School, he met and married Ellen Cook from Wells, Maine who also was a teacher at the school and they married in 1893. The next year Arthur bought the land from his Father and started building his home at 204 Dunstable Road.

Arthur and Ellen had two sons, Clarence and Cryril. Clarence married Katherine Minetta Heckbert, from Prince Edward Island, Canada. They had six children, four boys and two girls and spent many years living in Arthur's home. The names of the children were Katherine Ellen, Clarence Arthur, Jr., John Wesley, Alton Clay, Lillian Alta, and Donald Edward. This explains why back in the 1920's and 1930's there were 2 kitchens in this house so that the cooking could be done much easier than preparing meals for ten people in just one kitchen.

All four brothers served in WW2. John, served on the USS Hall destroyer as a fire control officer. Alton and Donald were also in the Navy. Clarence Jr. "Buddy", who was the oldest of the boys decided that he would go into the Air Force. He was the co-pilot of his plane, "Little Girls" and was shot down off the coast of France. His body was never recovered.



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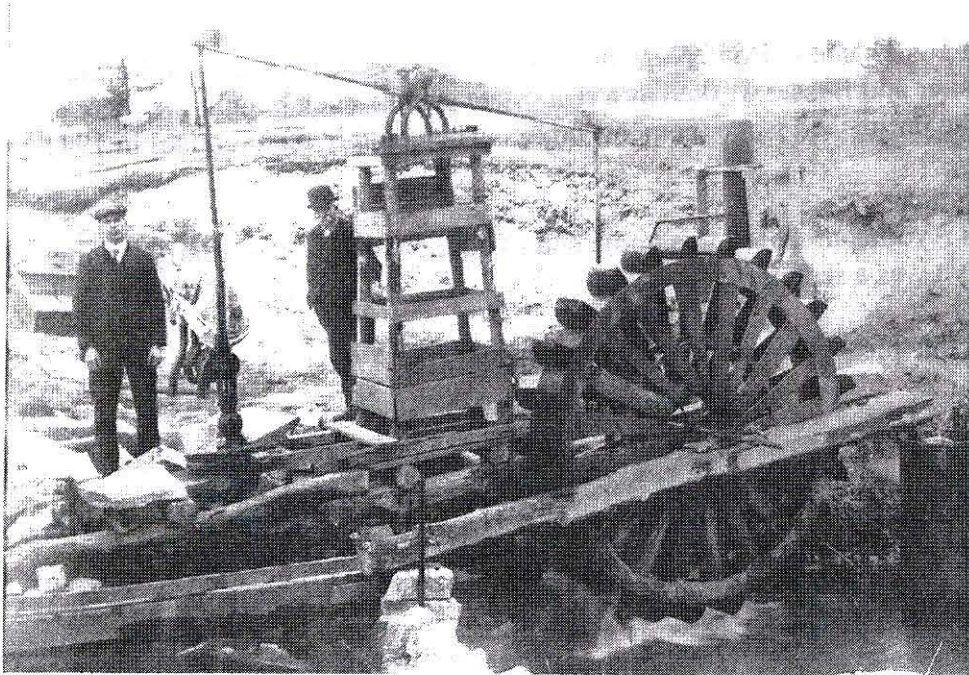
Property Address  
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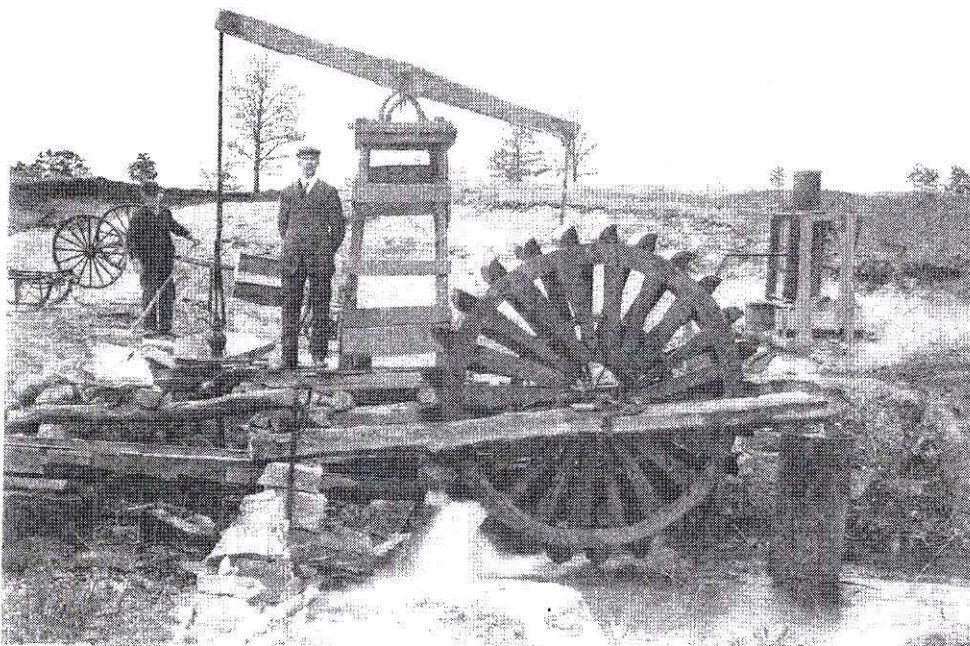
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Arthur W. Trubey house at 204 Dunstable Rd., N. Chelmsford, Ma



circa 1900



circa 1900

These pictures show the Trubey waterwheel that pushed water about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile, through a pipe, to the gardens by their houses. In the background of the top picture you can see their houses in the distance. The man standing to the left is Walter Ernest Trubey, Arthur's younger brother and to the right is John C. Trubey, Arthur's Father. The house you can see over Walter Ernest is Arthur Trubey's house.



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The next owners of Arthur's home at 204 Dunstable Road No. Chelmsford, Mass were Leonard and Bessie Shawcross. Leonard worked as a broker and Bessie worked as a real estate agent. They bought the premise in 1941 and shortly after tore down the unfinished stone (cement) house. They bought the premises in 1941 and lived there until 1957.

In 1957 Harry J. Ayotte and Jacquelyn Ayotte purchased this home and lived there until 1966. Harry Ayotte was a pipe fitter and his wife Jacquelyn was a secretary.

In 1966 this house was sold again and this present owner lives there today.

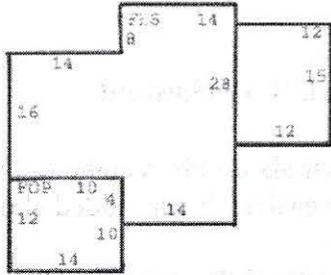
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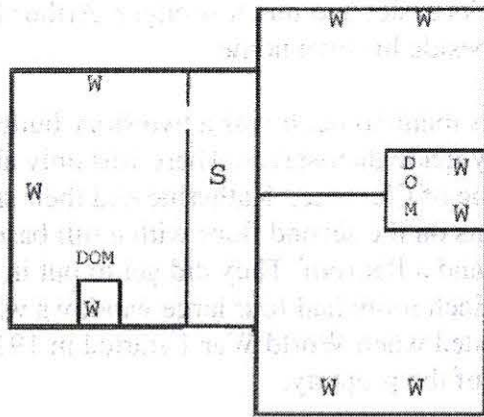
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| Subarea Code | Summary Description   | Gross Area | Living Area |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------|
| BAS          | First Floor           | 804        | 804         |
| FHS          | Half Story, Finished  | 616        | 370         |
| FOP          | Porch, Open, Finished | 160        | 0           |
| UBM          | Basement, Unfinished  | 160        | 0           |

Source Town of Chelmsford Assessors' office 5/2006

Arthur Trubey House 204 Dunstable Rd. No. Chelmsford

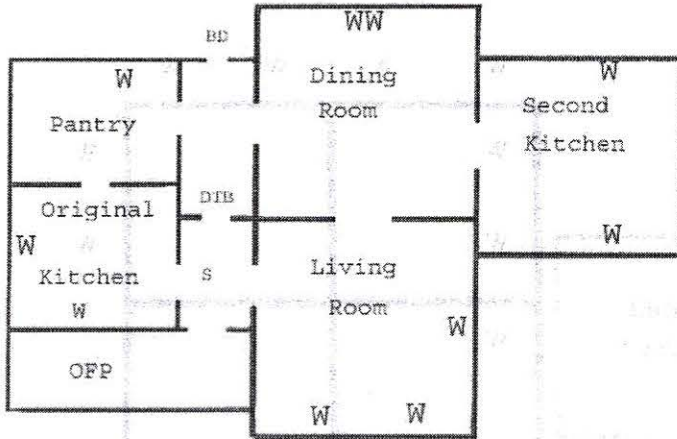


Second floor bedrooms

W Window

S Stairs to first floor

DOM Dormer



First Floor

W Window

BD Back Door

DTB Door to basement

S Stairs to second floor

OFFP Open front porch

Arthur's home from 1920 into the 1950's as remembered by Lillian (Trubey) Dowd. The front porch was smaller than it is today. It was enlarged by Mr. Shawcross in the 1950's as Lillian remembers.



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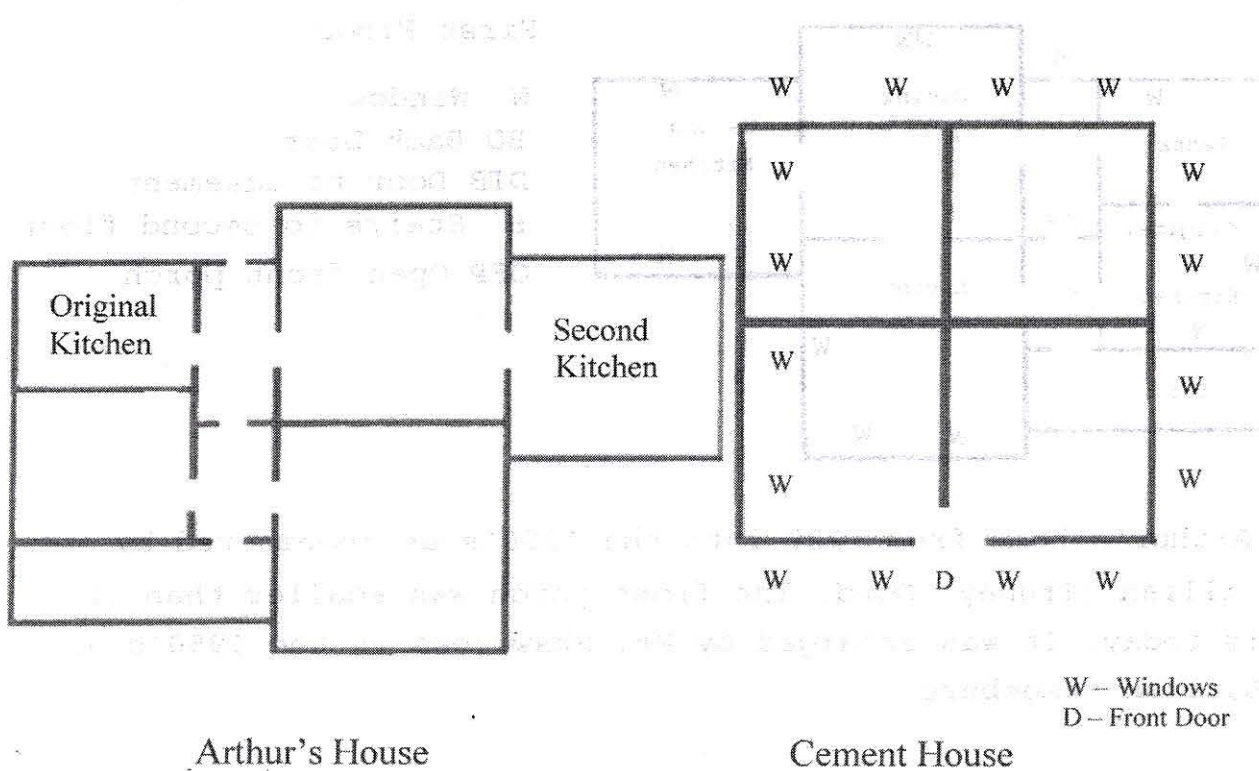
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**Major Alterations Continued** Arthur Trubey House 204 Dunstable Road, N. Chelmsford

Arthur's original home only had one kitchen. When Clarence, Katherine and their six children came to live with Arthur and Ellen he added a second kitchen to make cooking for 10 people easier. It was added about 1900.

During the early 1900's Arthur and his brothers tried to get a business of their own off the ground. They started a cement block business behind Arthurs house and made all of the cement blocks near the water wheel. new technology at that time made it possible to make cement blocks easier and much stronger. Arthur had started to build a large cement home for Clarence and his family beside his own home.

This shows the location of Arthur's cement house in relation to his main home. It was a two story building with a full basement, constructed from the cement blocks that they made themselves. There was only about a 16 inch distance from Arthur's main home. It was to be the home of Clarence, Katherine and their six children. It was to have four rooms on the first floor and four rooms on the second floor with a full basement or cellar. The construction got as far as the basement, outer walls and a flat roof. They did get to put in the 2 by 4 wooden dividers that would have been the walls of each room. Each room had four large windows with granite slabs over each window for good support. Construction ended when World War 1 started in 1914. The cement home was torn down in the 1950's by a future owner of the property.





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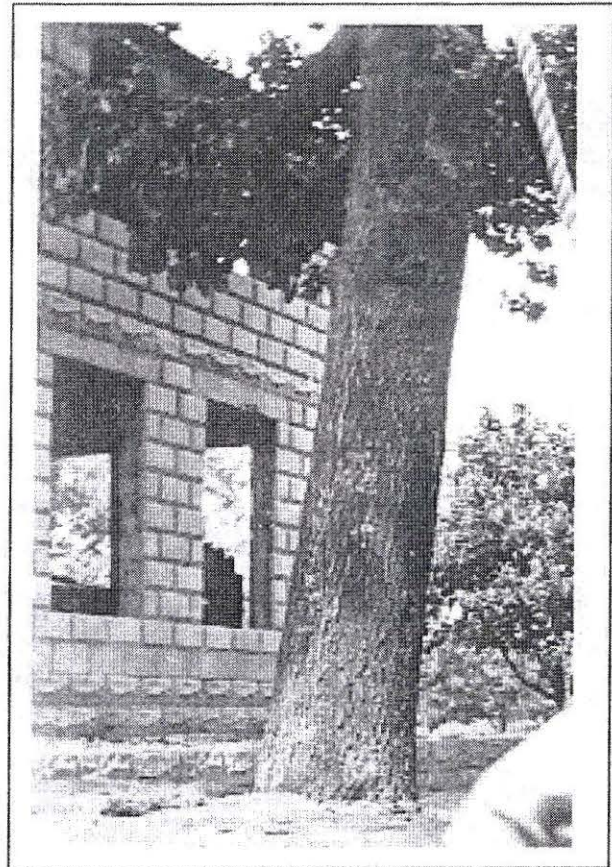
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Arthur W. Trubey's stone house at 204 Dunstable Rd. N. Chelmsford, MA



This picture was  
taken in 1927



There are only 2 known pictures that show the stone house in the background. In the close up picture you can see rows of cement blocks with a pattern or design from the molds that they used.



Taken 1925



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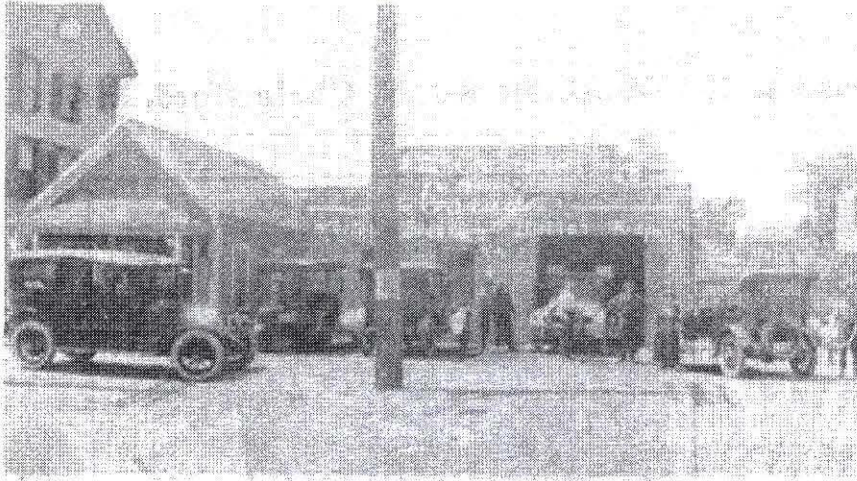
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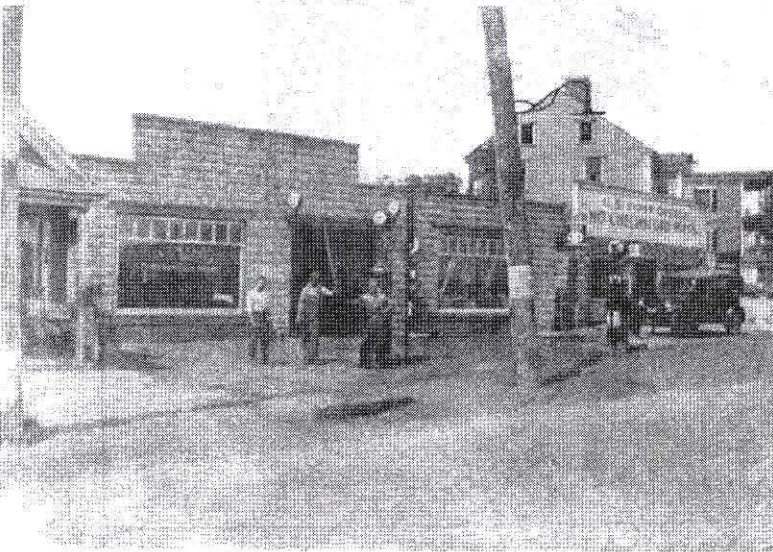
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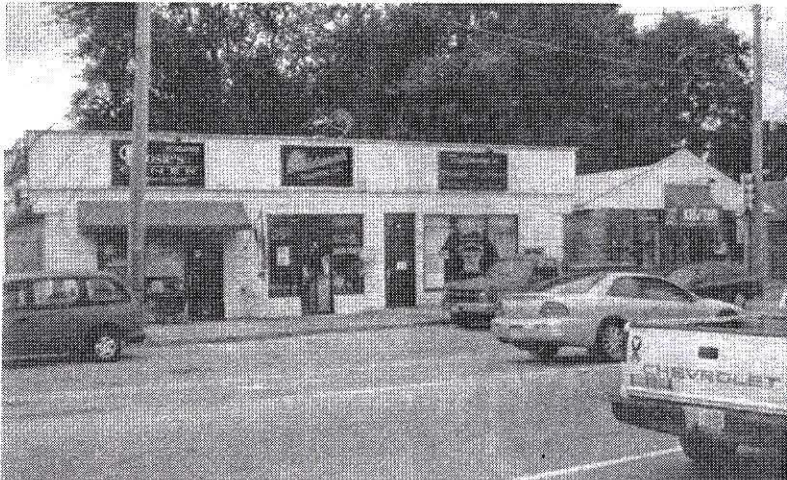
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West side of Vinal Square about 1915



West side of Vinal Square about 1925



West side of Vinal Square Sept. 2006

Cement blocks were also made behind Arthur Trubey's house at 204 Dunstable Rd. to make this building which still stands in Vinal Square in 2006. It is the former location of the North Chelmsford Post Office..



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**House Setting Continued** This home is set back from the main road with no paved driveway. According to deeds for this home the driveway is a "right of way" on the left side of the home which is not used. What can be considered the driveway today is a strip of land on the right side of the home running right up to the front door. The land out front and around the Arthur Trubey home at 204 Dunstable Rd. is unkept



circa 1900

and mostly overgrown with grass and weeds compared with other nearby homes. The land behind this home that is part of the Deep Brook Reservation looks quite different from when Arthur lived here. It now contains many tall trees and underbrush. During the time Arthur Trubey lived here, the land was quite open and contained many of their vegetable gardens. At the location of the waterwheel that pushed the water  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile through a pipe to their gardens, you could see most of the Truby Houses in the distance.



September 2006

In the bottom picture the person is standing approximately where Walter Ernest Trubey, on the left is standing in the picture above. Walter Ernest was Arthur W. Trubey's younger brother and the man to the right is John C. Trubey, Arthur's Father.



Arthur W. Trubey House 204 Dunstable Rd., No. Chelmsford, MA.  
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

|                    |           |   |
|--------------------|-----------|---|
| Book 1742, pg. 571 | 3/21/1966 | Harry J. Ayotte & Jacquelyn M. Ayotte to<br>Present Owner, of Woburn, unmarried<br>Land & buildings thereon<br>15,464 sq. ft.               |
| Book 1380, pg. 27  | 8/15/1957 | H.V. Higley of Veterans' Affaire to<br>Harry J. Ayotte & Jacquelyn Ayotte<br>Land & buildings thereon<br>15,464 sq. ft.                     |
| Book 1376, pg. 464 | 1/28/1957 | Lowell 5 cent Savings Bank to<br>H. V. Higley,<br>Administrator of Veterans' Affairs<br>Public Auction<br>Land & buildings thereon          |
| Book 1254, pg. 216 | 5/3/1954  | Leonard & Bessie Shawcross to<br>Gardner R. Spaulding, unmarried, of Chelmsford<br>\$8,000<br>Land & buildings thereon<br>15,464 sq. ft.    |
| Book 972, pg. 565  | 12/31/44  | Middlesex Bank to<br>Leonard & Bessie M. Shawcross<br>Public Auction<br>Land & buildings thereon<br>15,464 sq. ft.                          |
| Book 875, pg. 105  | 11/8/1935 | Arthur Trubey & Ellen A Trubey 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mortgage<br>Middlesex Co-op bank<br>\$3,500.00<br>Land & buildings thereon<br>15,464 sq. ft. |
| Book 251, pg. 345  | 2/10/1894 | John Trubey to<br>Arthur W. Trubey<br>Land sale to build a house and live on<br>No actual contract with a bank found                        |





West side of Vinal Square about 1915





**MOTHERS' DAY:** Pictured above is a Mothers' Day gathering at the home of Mrs. Clarence Trubey, 7 Washington St., North section. (L-R) Mrs. Barbara Mueller holding daughter Cynthia, Mrs. Katherine Gray, Mrs. Katherine Trubey, and Mrs. Lillian Roberts, holding daughters Donna and Sandra. Mrs. Katherine Trubey is the oldest (great-grandmother) mother of Katherine Gray, who is mother of Lillian Roberts and Barbara Mueller. (Photo by Jim Grant)

*Newsweekly 5/14/1964*









204 Dunstable Road

11/24/2006 F. Merriam