

In Area no. North Chelmsford	Form no. 127
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

1. Town Chelmsford
Address 47 Gay Street
Name Adams/Swain House
Present use residence

Present owner Robert & Patricia Kahl

3. Description:
Date between 1831 - 1845
Source map, deeds, tax list
Style cape

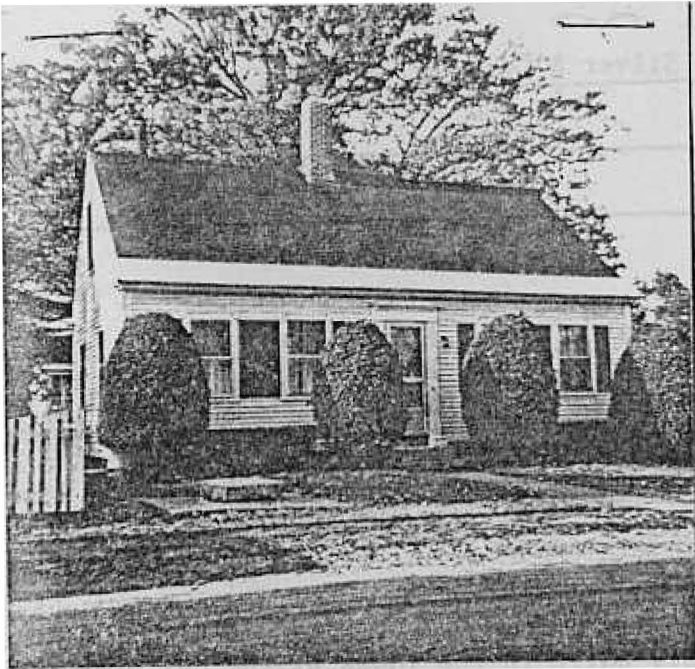
Architect _____
Exterior wall fabric lapped clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) garage:rt. ear of lot
Other features old well: left (west) side
of front yard - covered by a granite block
on a large granite square in the ground

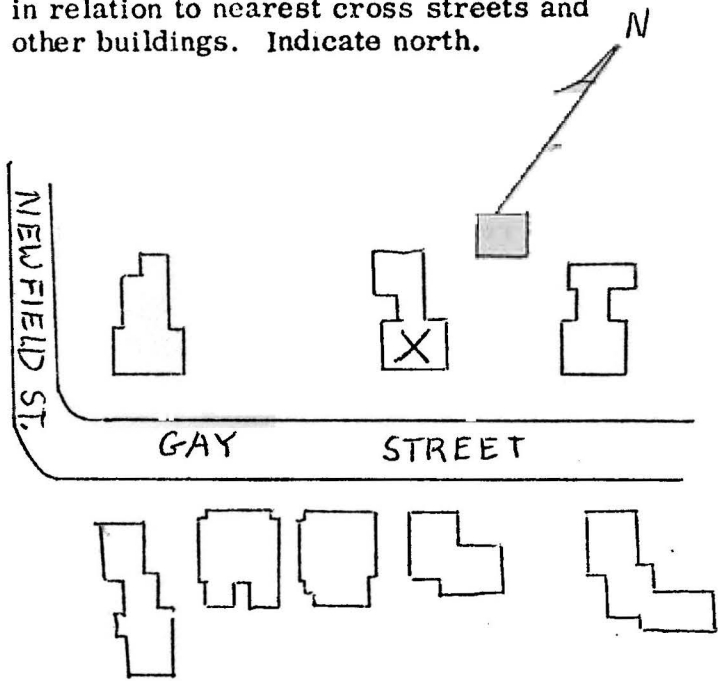
Altered see attached Date _____
Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
19795 sq. ft.
One acre or less x Over one acre _____
Approximate frontage 107 feet
Approximate distance of building from street
ca 23 feet

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury
Organization Chelmsford Historical Commission
Date April 8, 1985



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



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

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) probably Gay, Silver & Co.

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation		Recreation
Agricultural	_____	Education		Religion
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement		Science/ invention
The Arts	_____	Industry	x	Social/ humanitarian
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation
Communication	_____	Political	_____	
Community development	x			

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

This factory workers' home was probably built in the 1840s by the Gay, Silver & Co., which made machinery for textile mills. In 1857 the house was sold by this company to Abial C. Adams and remained in his family until 1976.

Abial C. Adams, a carpenter, resided here with his wife Elisabeth (or Hannah) and their two children. As an adult, son Willie worked as a machinist and lived here with his mother for several years after Abial's death of consumption in 1874. Abial and Hannah's daughter, Susie E., with her husband Edwin Swain, a draftsman and machinist, also resided here. Her daughter, Bertha, a teacher, was the legal owner of the house from 1909 until her death in 1954.

In 1976 a descendant of Abial C. Adams sold the residence, ending almost 120 years of ownership by the Adams/Swain/Grant family.

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

Middlesex No. Dist. Reg. Deeds: Bk. 11, pg. 198 (1857)

Tax/Real Estate Valuation records

1889 Walker's Atlas; 1875 Beer's Atlas; 1856 Walling's Map; 1893 Norris Drawing

Annual Town Reports: 1927, 1928

Street Directories: 1898/99, 1905, 1915/16, 1917/18, 1922, 1943

Register of Voters List: 1877-1883, 1892-1898

Vital Records

Building Inspector & Assessors' records

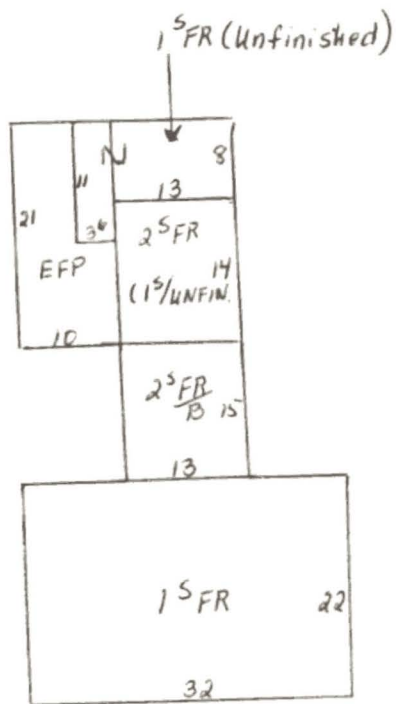
Mrs. Doris Gaudette, 55 Gay Street

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: North Chelmsford	Form No: 127
Property Name: Adams/Swain House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.



1889 Atlas



1875 Beers Atlas

11/9/1970 Revaluation Card

1. If 1875 Atlas is correct, left (west) side of main house was added between 1875 - 1889. However, it is not always correct, and tax records 1861 - 1909 indicate no such change. The full cape is like that of several in neighborhood, which were that way when built.
2. 1 story addition (rear of ell) - added after 1889. Concrete foundation.
3. "Modern" hood - over doorway on right side of ell, near main house.
4. No major changes since 1949.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

47 Gay Street

Bk. 2223, pg. 111	12/02/1976	Fred Eugene & Anna Marie Grant to Bryan D. & Anne McAndrew, 47 Gay Street, & David F. & Priscilla G. McAndrew, 224 Dunstable Rd. \$31,900 land & buildings
Bk. 1049, pg. 404	7/23/1946	Bertha A. Swain, unmarried, to Anna Marie & Fred Eugene Grant land & buildings - 3 parcels
Bk. 863, pg. 352	5/31/1935	Walter E. Swain, unmarried, George J. Swain, Gladys E. Grant, to Bertha A. Swain 1. land & buildings - northwest side Gay Street 2. land - southeast side Washington St., adjoining #1 3. land - south side Washington St., adjoining #1 & #2
Middlesex Probate Docket #198784	1934	Estate of Edwin Swain
Middlesex Probate Docket #197266	1933	Estate of Susan E. Swain
Bk. 436, pg. 572	6/19/1909	Susan E. Swain, daughter of Abial C. Adams, to Bertha A. Swain 2/3 part: 1. land & buildings - northwest side Gay Street 2. land - southeast side Washington Street 3. land - south side Washington Street
Bk. 436, pg. 571	6/19/1909	Willie Adams, son of Abial C. Adams, deceased, to Susan E. Swain 1/2 part: 1. land & buildings - northwest side Gay Street 2. land - southeast side Washington Street 3. land - south side Washington Street
Middlesex Probate Docket #26	1874	Estate of Abial C. Adams to Willie Adams & Susan E. Swain
Bk. 11, pg. 198	6/01/1857	Gay, Silver & Co. to Abiel C. Adams \$975 land & buildings reserving: water rights



47 Gay Street

8/7/2004 F. Merriam