

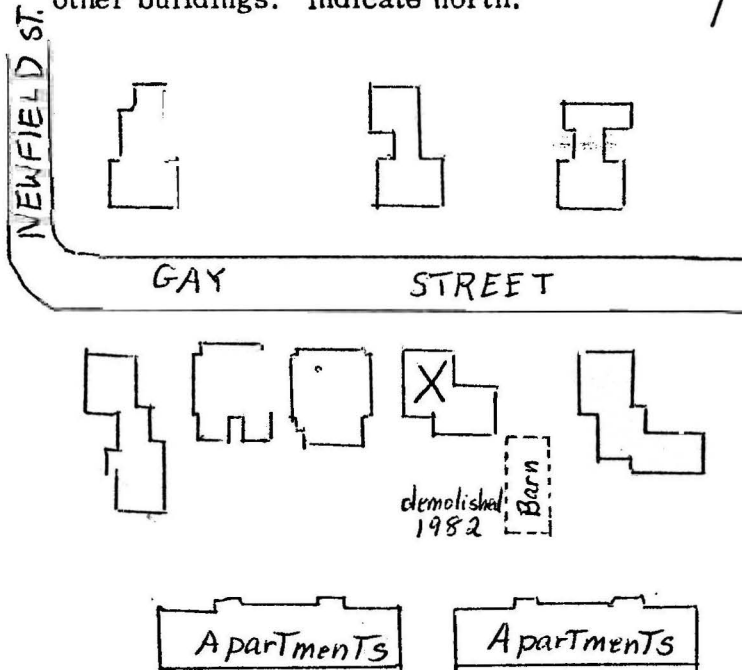
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston



1 Town Chelmsford  
Address 48 Gay Street  
Name D. A Grow House  
Present use residence  
Present owner Kevin & Nancy Gaudette

3. Description:  
Date probably 1855  
Source deeds, map  
Style Greek Revival  
Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
Exterior wall fabric siding - ca 1980  
Outbuildings (describe) \_\_\_\_\_  
Other features inset main entrance doorway:  
right side of facade

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



Altered see attached Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_  
5. Lot size:  
9,900 sq. ft.  
One acre or less x Over one acre  
Approximate frontage 90 feet  
Approximate distance of building from street  
ca 28 feet

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury  
Organization Chelmsford Historical Commission  
Date February 24, 1985

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

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Willard M. Kennon

Original use dwelling

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

This house was built about 1855 for Willard Kennon, a partner of Gay, Silver & Company, which was one of the first, if not the very first, in America to manufacture worsted machinery. He and his wife, Mary, probably lived here briefly before selling it. In 1861 it was purchased by D. Alonzo Grow, a machinist, whose wife Maria had been a North Chelmsford operative at the time of their marriage. However, she died a year and a half after they moved into this house. Later that same year Alonzo married her sister Sophronia. The dwelling remained in the Grow family 58 years until 1919, when Everett Small, a former railroad man but then a machinist, whose wife had inherited the property, sold it.

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

1856 Walling's Map; 1875 Beer's Atlas; 1889 Walker's Atlas  
 Middlesex No. Dist. Reg. Deeds: Bk. 2, pg. 314 (1855); Bk. 18, pg. 483 (1854)  
 Waters, History of Chelmsford, pg. 669  
Chelmsford Vital Records to 1850; Town Clerk's records; Assessors' records  
Tyngsboro Vital Records to 1850  
 Chelmsford Street Directories: 1898/99, 1905, 1915/16, 1917/18, 1919, 1920  
 Mrs. Estelle McEnaney, Mrs. Kevin Gaudette  
 1952 Insurance Maps of Lowell, Including Dracut & Chelmsford, Sanborn Map Co.

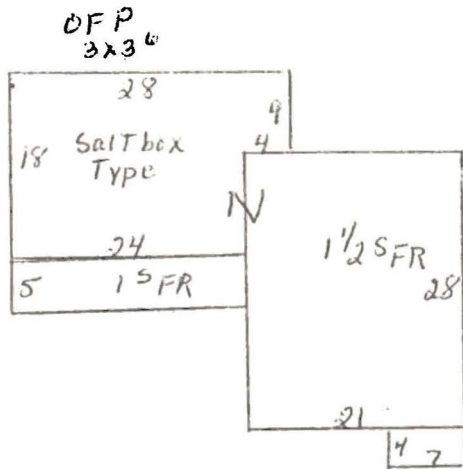
INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

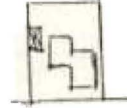
|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Community:<br>Chelmsford        | Form No:<br>129 |
| Property Name: D. A. Grow House |                 |

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

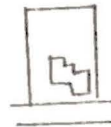
3. Alterations:



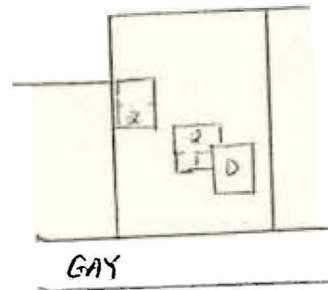
Revaluation Sheet  
11/9/1970



1889 Walker's Atlas



1875 Beer's Atlas



1952 Sanborn  
Insurance Map

Siding: ca 1980

Unattached barn: rear of house  
demolished summer of 1982

1983: wall between kitchen & porch removed & replaced by archway; new ceilings

1 story addition in front of ell: before 1952

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

46 - 48 Gay Street

|                   |            |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bk. 2390, pg. 347 | 9/04/1979  | James Benson Wells, Loudonville, N.Y., to<br>Susan A. Connors, 48 Gay Street<br>\$1<br>9,900 sf. & buildings - east side Gay St.                                     |
| Bk. 1829, pg. 497 | 1/05/1968  | Mildred O. Norton to<br>James Benson Wells & Estelle B. Wells,<br>101 High St.<br>9,900 sf. & buildings - east side Gay St                                           |
| Bk. 1262, pg. 3   | 7/20/1954  | Margaret M. Gagnon to<br>Mark H. & Mildred Norton<br>9,900 sf. & Buildings - east side Gay St                                                                        |
| Bk. 810, pg. 2    | 12/10/1931 | Helena E. McNamara, Dracut, to<br>Margaret M. Gagnon<br>9,900 sf. & buildings - east side Gay St                                                                     |
| Bk. 810, pg. 1    | 12/10/1931 | George E. & Margaret M. Gagnon to<br>Helena E. McNamara, Dracut<br>9,900 sf. & buildings - east side Gay St<br>formerly Silva Street                                 |
| Bk. 668, pg. 97   | 9/13/1922  | Harriet J. Vasselin to<br>George E. & Margaret M. Gagnon<br>9,900 sf. & buildings - east side Gay St<br>formerly Silva Street                                        |
| Bk. 600, pg. 366  | 5/14/1919  | Everett F. Small to<br>Harriet J. Vasselin<br>1) 9,900 sf. & buildings - east side Gay<br>St., formerly Silver or Silon St.<br>2) 2,700 sf. - adjoining 1st lot.     |
| Bk. 28, pg. 197   | 6/12/1861  | Horace W. Woodward to<br>Alonzo Grow<br>\$25<br>1) Lot No. 4<br>9,900 sf. & buildings - east side Gay St<br>formerly Silon St.<br>2) 2,700 sf. - adjoining Lot No. 4 |
| Bk. 15, pg. 505   | 7/26/1858  | Willard M. Kennan, machinist, to<br>Horace W. Woodward<br>1) Lot No. 4<br>7200 sf. & buildings - east side of<br>Silver St.<br>2) 2,700 sf. - adjoining Lot No. 4    |
| Bk. 2, pg. 314    | 1/01/1855  | Caleb Wight, Westford, yeoman, to<br>Willard M. Kannan, machinist<br>\$1000<br>Lot No. 4: 7200 sf. land - on Silver St.                                              |

North: bk. 17, pg. 52      9/19/1846      Lincoln Drake, Easton, Gentleman, to  
Caleb Wight, Westford, farmer  
\$33  
Lot No. 4: 7200 sf. land - on Silver St.

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The Second Lot - addition to locus

Bk. 15, pg. 414      10/12/1855      H.W.B. Wightman to  
Willard M. Kennan  
\$54  
2,700 sf. land

Compiled by J.B. Drury  
November 1983



