

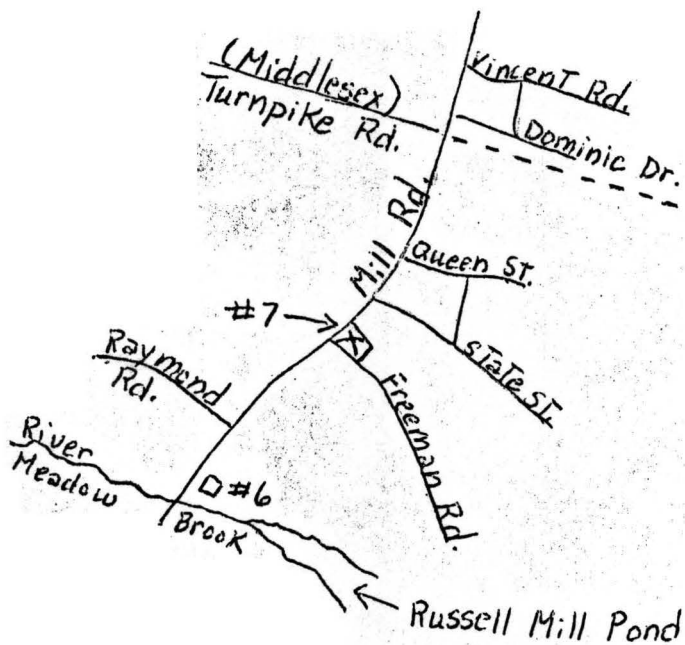
FORM B - BUILDING

In Area no.	Form no.
	7

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

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 7-8A, 6-9A

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



1. Town Chelmsford

Address 171 Mill Road

Name Adams/Hodges House

Present use residence

Present owner Arland & Lydia Atkins

3. Description:

Date probably about 1775

Source see attached sheet

Style Georgian

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric butted clapboard
playhouse

Outbuildings (describe) attached ell & barn

Other features pegged construction

beehive oven, orig. floor, exposed bear

Altered see attached Date 1960's, 1974

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre
160 ft. - Mill Rd.

Approximate frontage 163 ft. - Freeman Rd.

Approximate distance of building from street

25 feet

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury

Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission

Date January 30, 1976

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

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Benjamin Adams

Original use residence - farm

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Town farm (poorhouse) - 1871

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal		Conservation	Recreation
Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education	Religion
Architectural		Exploration/ settlement	Science/ invention
The Arts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industry	Social/ humanitarian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commerce		Military	Transportation
Communication		Political	
Community development			

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

This house was built by Benjamin Adams, a farmer, probably about 1775. In 1754 Deacon Benjamin Adams deeded part of his homestead to the four young children of his deceased son John, including half of his center chimney dwelling. Three of these grandchildren conveyed their portion to their brother Benjamin, who probably then built the present house (two chimneys) In 1831 his widow sold the house to Jonas Johnson, who came from Harvard, Mass.

The Hodge family held ownership of the property for the longest time in the history of the house. Farmers from Sharon, Mass., Benjamin and Benjamin F. Hodges purchased it in 1838, and Benjamin F. Hodges sold it in 1875. In 1871 the poor house, which stood a short distance down the road, burned, and the inmates were given refuge at 171 Mill Road until 1872, when the town purchased the farm at 110 Billerica Road (# 21)

Charles Cowley owned the property from 1900 to 1906, shortly before his death, though he remained a resident of Lowell. A prominent attorney in Lowell, he is best remembered as the author of the first published history of that city.

Architecturally this house is of interest, because it is an example of a transition between the center chimney house and the two chimney - center hall house. The two original chimneys stand in the rear wall, but the area of the center chimney is replaced with a small, plain, rudely finished room instead of with a center hall. The stairway to the second floor leads up from a vestibule by the front door, as in the old manner. Other Chelmsford examples of this architecture are found at 55 Spaulding Road (#35), 79 Elm Street (#101), and 109 Billerica Road (#22). No construction features indicate that these houses were originally center chimney houses.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)
1831 map
1856 Walling's map
1875 Beer's Atlas
Water's History of Chelmsford (1917)
Cowley, History of Lowell, A City of Spindles
"Contributions of Lowell Historical Society" 1907-1908, pg. 292
Northern Middlesex Registry of Deeds"
Regist. Deed Bk. 61, p.395; Bk. 11, p.309 Plans of Land
Bk. 13, p.3 Hannah Adams to Jonas Johnson 12/8/1832
Bk. 4, p.509 Dea. Benjamin Adams to Benjamin Adams 2/22/1754 3/73

Altered:

floor left room - originally the kitchen, now the dining room.

Floor replaced in 1960's by floor boards from attic (original floor ruined by goats in 1950's).

April 1974 - horsehair plaster ceiling removed to reveal rough hewn beams. Old square nails in sawed lathes supporting ceiling; pegs used in the beams. Construction indicates that either the wall were re-done when the closed ceiling was put in, or the ceiling was closed from the beginning.

Main entrance door - old, but not the original door.

floor right room - during 1960's dado was installed, floor boards turned, ceiling beams exposed.

All floors - boards restored in 1960's.

Small room behind stairs:

1st floor (den) - new walls & sliding door; 20th Century.

2nd floor (bath) - 20th Century; butted woodwork replaced by mitered.

Cellar - modern cement floor.

originally sheds

1st room - made into kitchen before 1960.

rear rooms - made into laundry & bedroom after 1960.

Shape of the modern tar sidewalk indicates an outside door from the right side of the ell that must have been removed quite recently, though no outline of it can be traced in the clapboards.

Original doors - removed

171 Mill Road

Registered Deeds:

Book 87, pg. 351	9/ 4/1969	Arland A. & Lydia Atkins
Book 61, pg. 395	2/13/1961	S. Anthony & Carol Jean diCiero, Boston
Book 44, pg. 249	1/19/1951	H. Arthur & Shirlye S. Hames
Book 11, pg. 309	9/30/1921	Jon Nilsson

Northern District:

Book 448, pg. 153	3/31/1910	Israel Lauziere to Jons Nilsson "Livingstone farm" land & buildings
Book 390, pg. 16	4/28/1906	Charles Cowley, Lowell, to Israel Lauziere, Lowell \$1000 "Livingstone farm" land & buildings
Book 323, pg. 61	9/24/1900	Stephen P. Wiley estate (Sheriff's sale) to Charles Cowley, Lowell \$ 729.16 3 lots (1 Dracut, 1 Billerica)
Book 144, pg. 492	4/14/1881 MORTGAGE	George W. & Phebe A. Livingstone to Stephen P. Wiley, Billerica \$1484.72 21 acres land & buildings
Book 109, pg. 189	4/ 3/1875	Benjamin F. Hodges to Phebe A. Livingston, Lowell \$2200 21 acres land & buildings
Book 23, pg. 331	4/10/1860	Ivory H. & Amanda J. Howe to Benjamin F. Hodges \$1537.50 21 acres land & buildings
Book 17, pg. 23	5/ 2/1838	Jonas & Roland Johnson, yeomen, to Benjamin & Benjamin F. Hodges, yeomen, of Sharon \$3500 60 acres land & buildings
Book 18, pg. 415	3/10/1854	Benjamin F. Hodges to Betsy W. Howe, wife of Ivory H., husband- man \$1700 21 acres & buildings

- Book 13, pg. 3 12/ 8/1831 Hannah Adams, widow, to
Jonas Johnson, Esquire, Harvard
\$3100
140 acres - dwelling house, barn &
other buildings
4 acres - meadow on River meadow brook
- Book 5, pg. 543 1/14/1774 Sarah Adams, singlewoman, to
Benjamin Adams, yeoman
20 Pounds
1/6th part of grandfather Benjamin
Adam's farm
Reserved - use of 1/3rd part by mother
Esther Spaulding
- Book 5, pg. 300 2/10/1772 Ephraim Adams, labourer, to each other
Benjamin Adams
23 pounds
1/6th part of Benjamin Adams deceased,
lands, meadows & buildings deeded to
to children of John Adams, deceased
- Book 4, pg. 567 1/20/1768 John Adams, labourer, & Elijah & Esther
Proctor, yeoman, to
Benjamin Adams
40 pounds
2/6th parts of Benjamin Adams deceased,
lands & buildings deeded to children
of John Adams, deceased.
Reserved - use of 1/3rd part by mother
Mrs. Esther Spaulding.
- Book 4, pg. 509 2/22/1754 Benjamin Adams, yeoman, to
children of deceased son John Adams
Benjamin - 2 shares
John, Ephraim, Esther, Sarah - 1 share
each
90 acres - part of his homestead
4½ acres - River meadow
Bridle way for carting hay through
land of Joseph Adams, Sr. & Jr.
Westerly end of dwelling house to
middle of chimney, & ½ of cellar
under west end, reserving use of
other part of the cellar.
small piece of land near west end of
the house.
½ of barn and yard.
north half of corn barn & westerly
half of its cellar.
garden spot.
Reserving - use of 1/3 part by Esther
Adams, widow of son John, deceased

Diary of Rev. Ebenezer Bridge

15 Apr. 1760 - Visited Jo Adams Junr. yet Very ill & low - & very much disturbed on accot. of an affair wth Lucy Adams years ago, wch turns out, a s I always feared it would. I am to go there next day after tomorrow upon the same accot. I pray'd wth him.

17 Apr. PM I visited Jo Adams Junr. upon affair, wch he mentioned to me on Tuesday past - I went over to Deacon Adams & Visited him, & his Wid^o D^r. I then told the Deacon & his wife & D^r Lucy my buisness - wch was to ask Lucy to go over to Jo Adams's & to hear wt he had to say to her - They consented y^t she sho^d go, and she Went. And when they were together I spake to him & told him That If he had anything to say to her, to go on. Upon Which He Called her by Name, and addressing himself to her, He Said that he acknowledged to her That he had been guilty of great sin and falsehood in Denying y^t he was y fath^r of y^t child, w^{ch} she had laid to his charge - He now was sensible He had dishonored L Wounded religⁿ disgraced her, & wounded his own sould, and he humbly asked forgiveness of L, & all his pple - & of her in particular - upon w^{ch} She told him She forgave him & prayed L to forgive Him - Henry Spaulding & his wife were present, as Witnesses p^r desire - Henry was at Deacon Adams's with me - after discoursing somewt by was Exhortation - I dismissed Lucy - then y wife Jo Adams Jun^r came in, I discoursed with her & her husband relative to y affair - Then prayed wth him, as a sick man & came home.

Apparently the Lucy mentioned in Bridge's Diary is Lucy Adams, daughter of Deacon Benjamin and Abigail Parker, born June 8, 1724. She died suddenly May 24, 1782, age 58 years (listed in death notice as dau. of Benjamin & Abigail, with no mention of her being a widow; nor is there any marriage given for her in Vital Statistics). On July 2, 1747 a daughter Mary was born to Lucy (no father listed).

Deacon Benjamin and his first wife Mary Parker had a daughter Marah, born Dec. 27, 1715. On April 27, 1743 Marah (Mary) married Henry Spaulding; she died April 29, 1807, age 91 or 92.

Identification of Jo Adams Jun^r :

John Jr. ? No.

Deacon Benjamin and Mary had a son John, who was born April 16, 1711; married Esther Perham Nov. 24, 1743; John died Dec. 16, 1753. John and Esther had a son John, who was born June 28, 1746. John Jr. therefore was only 14 years old in 1760 at the time of the confession and only 1 year old when the child was apparently born. John Jr. was Lucy's step nephew.

Joseph Jr. ? Maybe

There were at least 5 consecutive generations of Joseph Adams's:

	Capt. Joseph,	son Capt. Samuel & Esther; b. Nov. 27, 1672; died Jan. 22, 1717.
?	Joseph	son Capt. Joseph & Mary; b. July 8, 1698; d. (bur.) sometime-after-1735 June 9, 1772, age 74 yrs.
?	<u>Joseph</u>	son Joseph & Mary; b. July 8, 1724/1726; d. Sept. 17, 1796, apoplexy.
	Joseph	son Joseph & Lydia; b. Nov. 5, 1758; d. Jan. 17, 1842-3.
	Joseph	son Joseph & Lucy; b. May 16, 1786

Joseph Jr. died only 12 years after the confession, when he was "very ill & low. His wife was alive at the time of the confession, and apparently Mary Stratton Adams died a widow in 1778, age 76 years (buried Mar. 14). However, his father was dead at the time of the confession, so he was probably known as Joseph Sr. in 1760, and his son Joseph known as Joseph Jr.

Joseph 3rd was probably known as Joseph Jr. in 1760. He was married 2 years after the affair apparently took place, and he was 34 years old in 1760 at the time of the confession, when his wife Lydia was also alive (she died 1799, age 76 yrs.)

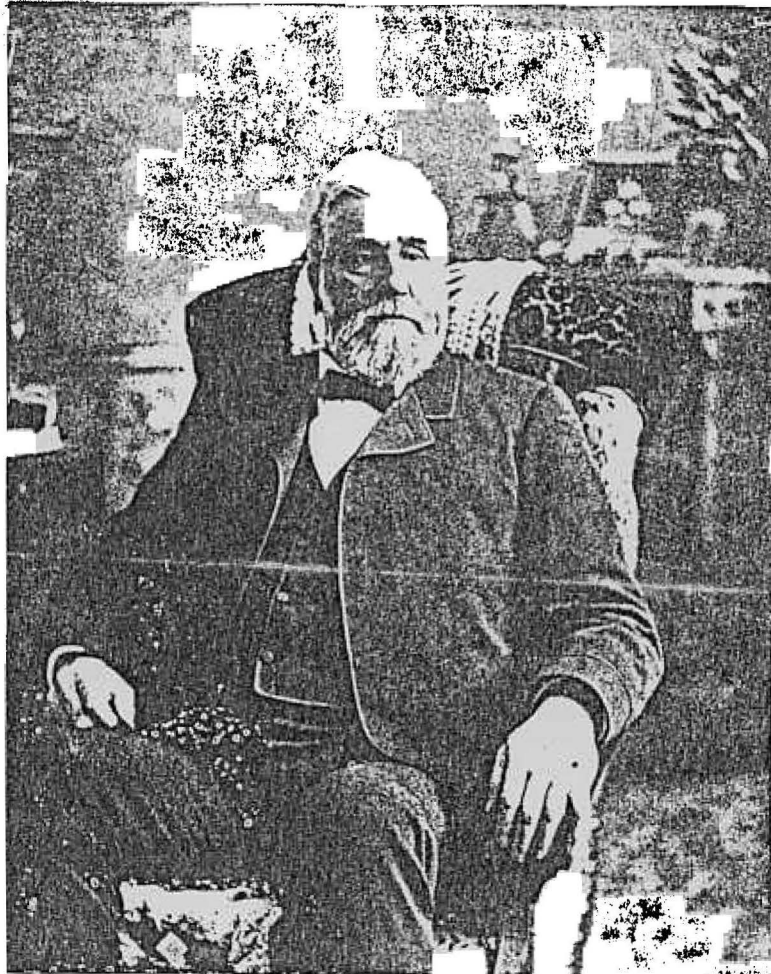
In 1754 Deacon Benjamin deeded the land on which 171 Mill Road would later be built to the children of his deceased son John. This land was bounded at one point by land of Joseph Adams and Joseph Adams Jun^r.

Joseph 3rd was a cousin of Lucy and two years younger than she.

CHARLES COWLEY.

Mr. Charles Cowley was born in Eastington, Gloucestershire, England, Jan. 9, 1832. His father came with his family to Massachusetts in his youth, and settled as a manufacturer in Lowell. On July 4, 1845, though but a boy, he attended the Workingmen's Mass Convention at Montvale, Woburn, and was one of only three survivors of that meeting who dined together in Boston fifty years afterward. He was educated at the public schools in Lowell and under private tutors, and before he came of age he became editor of the Lowell Daily Courier. In 1854 he entered as a student the law office of Josiah G. Abbott and Samuel A. Brown, and was admitted to the Middlesex Bar May 16, 1856. In that year E. D. Green published a volume entitled "A Hand-Book of Business in Lowell," with a History of the City, written by Mr. Cowley, which has long been out of print. In 1857 he was chosen a member of the School Board, and served three years. In July, 1858, he wrote what is known as the "Historicus Letter," which inaugurated the battle for corporation reform. In 1861 he was chosen Captain of the Wamesit Rifles, a volunteer military company of Lowell, but soon after resigned, and was appointed to a place in the paymaster's department in the navy. He first performed duty at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and then was assigned to duty as Paymaster on board the Lehigh, one of the monitors which bombarded Battery Wagner, Fort Sumter, and other defences of Charleston, S. C.

In June, 1864, he was relieved from service as Paymaster, and transferred to the flagship Philadelphia, and to the staff of Admiral Dahlgren, with whom he remained until the close of the war, as general law officer of the South Atlantic blockading squadron. He participated in the boat attack on Fort Johnson and was with the fleet brigade in the battles of Honey Hill and Gregory's Landing. After he retired from the service he published "Leaves from a Lawyer's Life Afloat and Ashore." Owing to the service rendered by him as Judge Advocate, Admiral Dahlgren urged his appointment as Naval Solicitor and Judge Advocate General, a position which was finally given to John A. Bolles, of Massachusetts, the son-in-law of General Dix. At the close of the



CHARLES COWLEY

war, he returned to the practice of his profession in Lowell. Since that time he has argued about sixty important cases before the full bench of the Supreme Court. In 1868 he published a "History

of Lowell," and made a tour of Europe. In 1875 and 1876 he was a member of the City Council and of the Overseers of the Poor, and edited the "Revised Charter and Ordinances of the City of

JOHN C. BURKE.

Lowell, with Appendix." In the latter year, also, he edited "The Proceedings in the City of Lowell at the Semi-Centennial Celebration of the Incorporation of the Town of Lowell, March 1, 1876." In 1877 he edited Admiral Dahlgren's notes on "Maritime International Law," and in 1878 published "Famous Divorces of All Ages." In 1879 he published "Our Divorce Courts," "Reminiscences of James C. Ayer," and a Historical Sketch of the Courts of Middlesex. He has published other works too numerous to mention, and all the while has actively pursued his profession, and taken an active interest in various social questions and in the welfare of the laboring man. In 1885 Norwich University conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws. In 1869 he drew a bill to incor-

porate the Grand Lodge of Knights of St. Crispin, and a bill to prohibit the employment of women and minors in factories more than ten hours a day, both of which, after much opposition, finally became laws. His latest work was a Memoir of the Hon. Josiah Gardner Abbott, LL. D.

Charles Cowley

"Contributions of the Lowell Historical Society
Annual Report, 1907-1908, pg. 292

Charles Cowley, Esq. died at his home on the 6th of February, 1908, at the age of seventy-six years.

He was born in Eastington, Gloucestershire, England, January 9, 1832, and came to Massachusetts with his family in his youth and settled in Lowell. He was educated in the public schools of this city. In 1854 he entered the office of Josiah G. Abbott, Esq., and Samuel A. Brown, Esq., as a student of law and was admitted to the bar in 1856. He has been prominently identified with many interests appertaining to the welfare of the city, and was the author of the first History of Lowell which was ever published, besides many occasional addresses.

In June of 1864 he was transferred from his position as paymaster on the board the monitor Lehigh, and attached to the staff of Admiral Dahlgren on the flagship Philadelphia, with whom he remained until the close of the war as general law officer of the South Atlantic blockading squadron. Mr. Cowley was in many respects a very remarkable man. He was a lawyer, a judge advocate in the naval service, a Union veteran, an author, and a man of scholarly tastes and instincts. He had a wonderful memory. He was a man of strong mental capacity, very marked in his likes and dislikes, inflexible in his opinions, somewhat prone to controversy, appreciative of kindness manifested, courteous, and by his family and those who were privileged to know him intimately, highly loved and esteemed.

He was a prominent member of this Society, and an ardent well-wisher for its prosperity. We shall miss him at our meetings in the future. He had his peculiarities, and who of us is exempt, but he was a man of ideas, wide reading, and so far as the early history of Lowell is concerned, he probably possessed more information than anyone at present living. In the presence of relatives, comrades, friends and representatives of the Lowell Historical Society, while the bitter north winds were blowing and with the snows of winter for a covering, he was laid at rest in his dreamless bed."

THE  SUN

Lowell, Mass.

In Memoriam

Saturday, February 2, 1985

Arland A. Atkins

... electro-optical engineer

CHELMSFORD - Arland A. Atkins, 44, 171 Mill Road, Chelmsford, formerly of Hardwick, Vt., died unexpectedly Thursday.

Born June 15, 1940, in Hardwick, Vt., he was the son of Cedric and Earline (Smith) Atkins, who survive him and reside in Hardwick.

He received his bachelor's in physics at the University of Vermont and his master's in electrical engineering at Northeastern University and was employed as an electro-optical engineer at the Itek Corp., in Lexington.

He was a member of the First Parish Universalist-Unitarian in Chelmsford and was the head usher at that church.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, Lydia A. (Morrill) Atkins; two sons, W. Scot Atkins, a student at Rochester Institute of Technology and Peter A. Atkins, a junior at Chelmsford High school; a sister, Arline Robinson of Barry, Vt., and a brother, Alfred Atkins of Cheyenne, Wyo.



771 BRIDELL HILL ROAD

BEL JAMES
HARD WOOD
C. 1770



171 REDBELL HILL ROAD

REDBELL HILL
171