

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13/33/7 Tyngsboro 313

Town Chelmsford
 Place (neighborhood or village) North Chelmsford

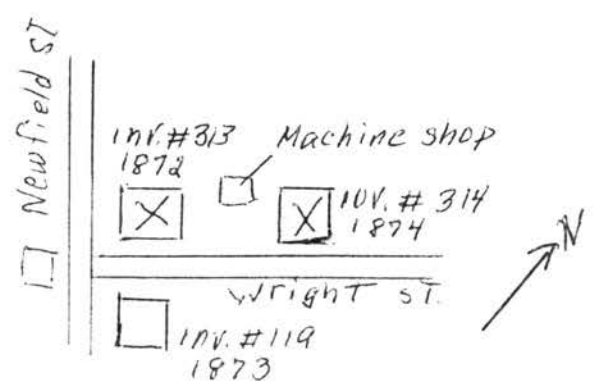
Address 37-39 Wright St.
 Historic Name Fletcher/O. Wright House
 Uses: Present 2 family residence
 Original residence, probably 2 family
 Date of Construction 1872
 Source tax records



MA_Chelmsford_WrightStreet_37-39_IMG_0182 CHC_05

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.



Style/Form
 Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation long granite slabs
 rear additions: same with concrete
 Wall/Trim clapboard
 Roof main house: ridge: front to back
 rear addition, behind main house: 1 story ridge front to back;
 extreme rear addition: flat
 Outbuildings/Secondary Structures
 shed: b. 1900 to be John Bradley's machine shop

Major Alterations (with dates)

1990 "repair & replace 2 existing porch decks, front & side"; 208 sq. ft & 36 sq. ft.

Condition good
 Moved no yes Date

Acreage 5921 sq. ft.

Setting This house stands at the corner of Wright & Newfield Streets, in a residential area. A paved parking area is between Newfield St. & the house porch on its left rear side. Another house stands to its rear on Shaw St. Beyond a lawn on the right side is a shed which is perhaps John Bradley's machine shop.

Recorded by Jane B. Drury
 Organization for the Chelmsford Historical Commission
 Date (month / year) July 2007

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 original, main house has paired brackets under the eaves, and plain corner posts. It is typical of many other houses of this period in Chelmsford.

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.

Very little is known about the first and second owners of this building at 37-39 Wright Street, at the corner of Newfield St.. It was built for Otis D. Wright in 1872. He and his wife, Josephine, resided in this house before moving to the newer house next door at 25-27 Wright St. Otis mortgaged this property to Charles Flint in 1872 and sold it to Herman Flint in 1877. However, it was Charles, who was living there in 1889. Herman Flint was unmarried and living in Boston in 1895 when he sold the property, and Louis Gaudette, an iron moulder, rented the house.

There is no record of Otis Wright or either Herman or Charles Flint becoming voters in Chelmsford.

John & Ellen Bradley were living next door in 1896 when he, John Bradley, purchased this house. In April 1896 her son George married Mamie Huntoon, and the newly weds with their infant son Harold lived next door with the Bradleys until moving to this house in 1898. Two more Hodge children were born here: Helma, who became a nurse, and Millard. Born in Stoneham, George Hodge worked several years as a shipping clerk at George C. Moore's nearby mill, but by 1911 he had become an iron moulder. About this time the Hodge family returned to 25-27 Wright Street to be with her widowed mother, Mamie Bradley. This house, located at the corner of Wright and Newfield Streets, was again rented out, for a short time to John C. Hobbs, a carpenter. He was followed by Elias F. DeLaHaye, a civil engineer.

By 1919 John & Sarah Hiley and their grown son Arthur were here in one apartment and Alexander & Rosie Gervais and their family were in the other apartment. John Hiley was another iron moulder, and Arthur was a bookkeeper. The Hileys remained here until 1925. The Gervais family lived here longer than the Hileys. Alexander Gervais worked as a carpenter. With them in the apartment were Frank, Joseph, May, Maryann, and Harold Gervais. Frank, an auto mechanic, soon married Jennie but they remained here. Joseph, also an auto mechanic, also married, and he and Jennie also stayed here. Harold became a surveyor and he & his wife Rena, stayed here until about 1928. Alexander Jr. worked as a clerk, and his sisters Mayann was a mill operator and Mary was a bookkeeper.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES see continuation sheet

Middlesex North-District Registry of Deeds: Bk. 90, pg. 494 mortgage of land

Chelmsford records: Vital Records; Assessors' Records; Building Inspector records; street directories

1875 Beers Atlas; 1889 Atlas

Raymond G. Gauthier, 14 Shaw St., 12/21/1988

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

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The Gervais family remained at 37-39 Wright Street until about 1932, when the Hodge family returned here, the house next door at 25-27 Wright St. having become too "dilapidated".

In 1937 Stewart Mackay, purchased the property but continued to rent it out. George & Mamie Hodge were living here, having moved from 25-27 Wright St. By 1943 George had retired and that year their son Millard moved back in with them. Millard was working as a chipper and caulker. Charles Egerton, a tractor driver, and his wife Margaret, a clerk, lived in the other part of the house. In 1945 Millard Hodge moved back to Cart Path Rd. to be with his wife. Charles Egerton had joined the Sea Bees, but a by 1946 he was again back in the house, working as a salesman. Stewart MacKay died, leaving the property to his housekeeper, Essie Young, as he had the house next door. Around 1950 the Egertons left, but George and Mamie Hodge remained in 37 Wright St. until Mamie developed stomach cancer and died in May 1945, aged 80 years. The following year George entered a nursing home, where he died in 1962 of heart disease. In 1957 or 8 the owner of the property, Essie Young moved in to 37 Wright St. from the house next door. She worked as a practical nurse. By 1960 Samuel & Theresa Neil were living in 39 Wright St. He worked in the local mill as a wool sorter. They were still living there in 1970 when Essie Young had moved out, and Alphe & Olive Tremblay moved into Essie's apartment. Alphe Tremblay died in 1977 and Samuel Neil two years later, but their widows continued to reside here. However, in 1981 or 2 Olive Tremblay, aged 76, moved into a nursing home, but Norman & Patricia Tremblay took up residence in her apartment. Norman Tremblay sold auto parts, and Patricia worked as a nurses aide. They remained there until the 1990s. In 2007 it is still owned by descendants of Essie Young.

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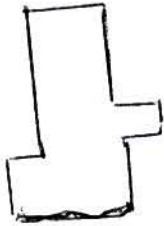
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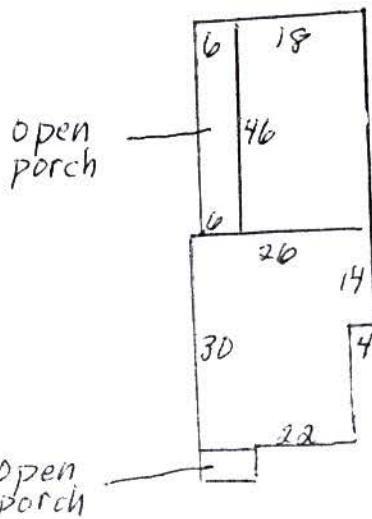
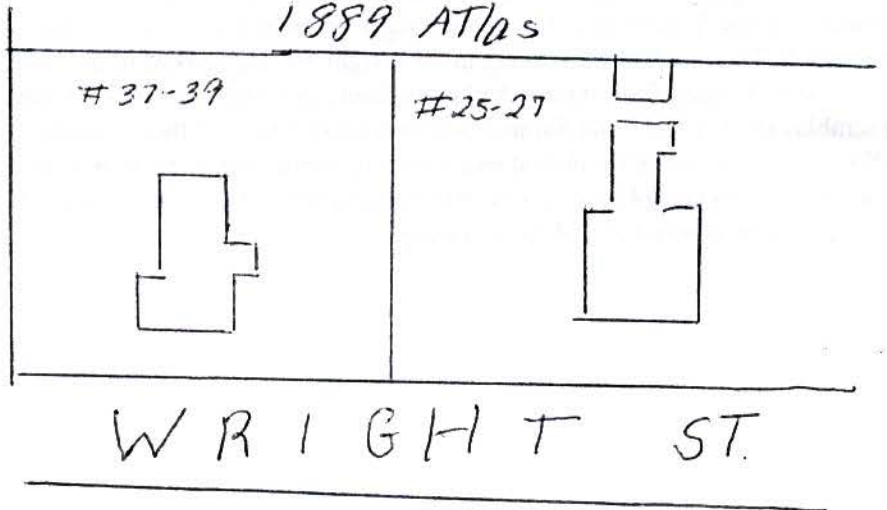
Alterations

ca 1937 "restored to liveable condition"; piazzas added to east side
soon after piazza enclosed & windows installed.
before 1988 piazza removed
1990 2 porches repaired with new floors (decks)
208 sq. ft. & 36 sq. ft.
existing concrete & granite footings used
new column bases on 4 existing porch columns

1875 ATLAS



1889 ATLAS



ASSESSORS
4/15/2007

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Wright St. side



Newfield St. side



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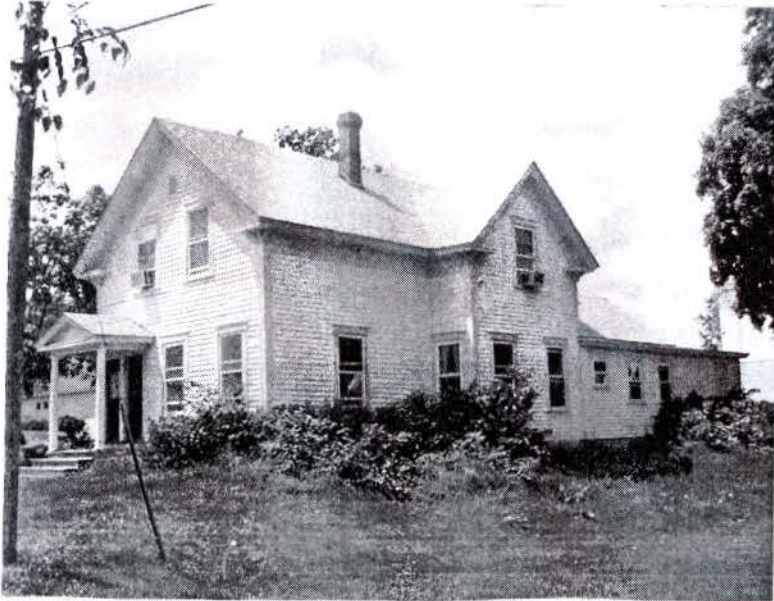
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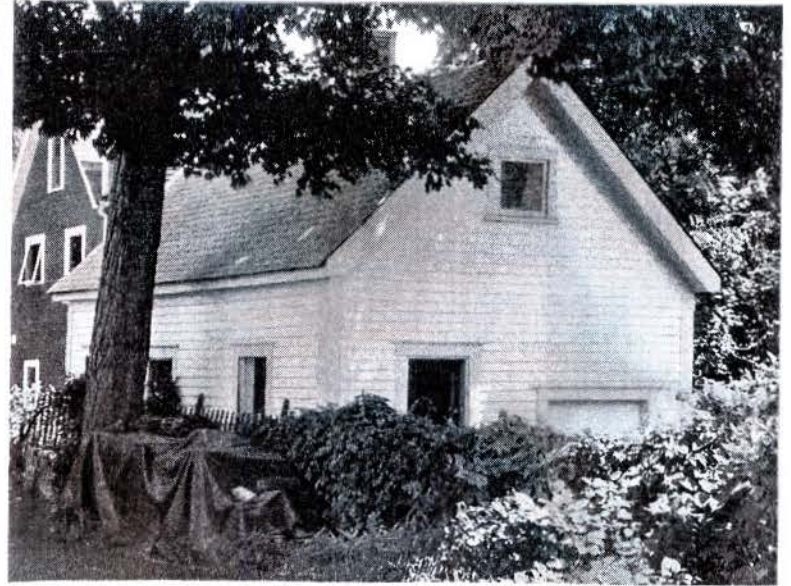
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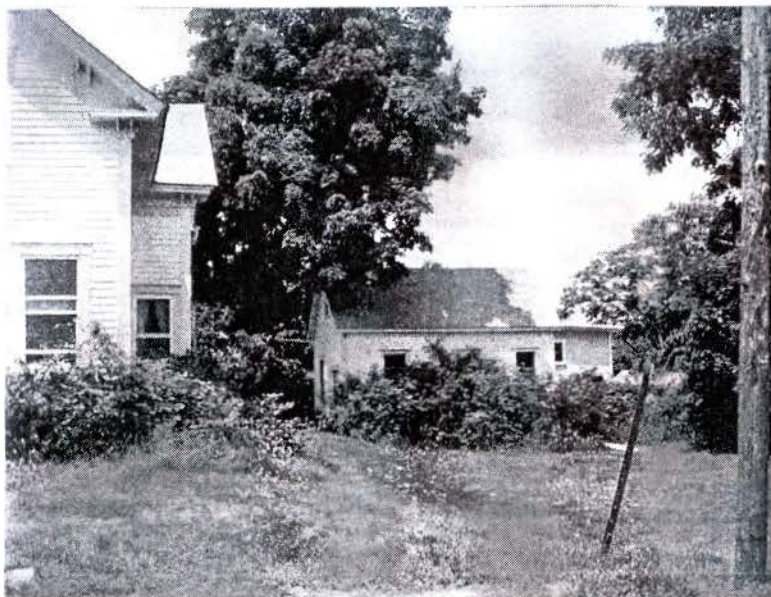
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From Wright St



John Bradley's "new" machine shop



From Wright St.



From Wright St.
House right side + Bradley machine shop

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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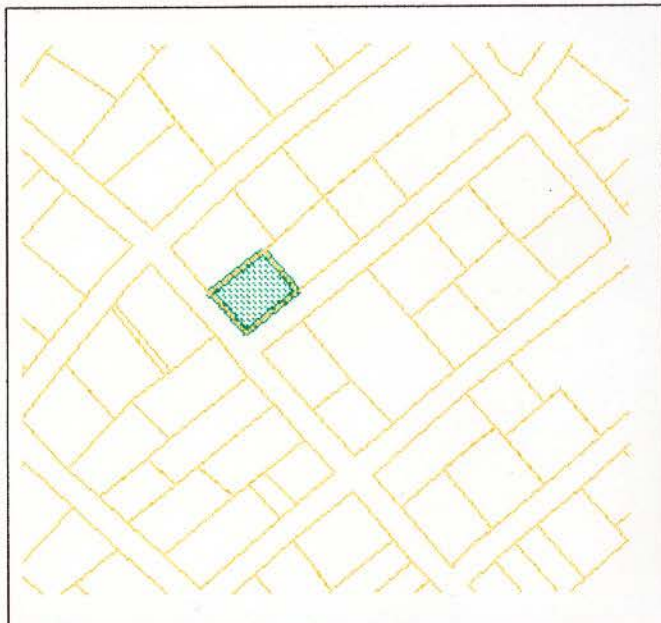
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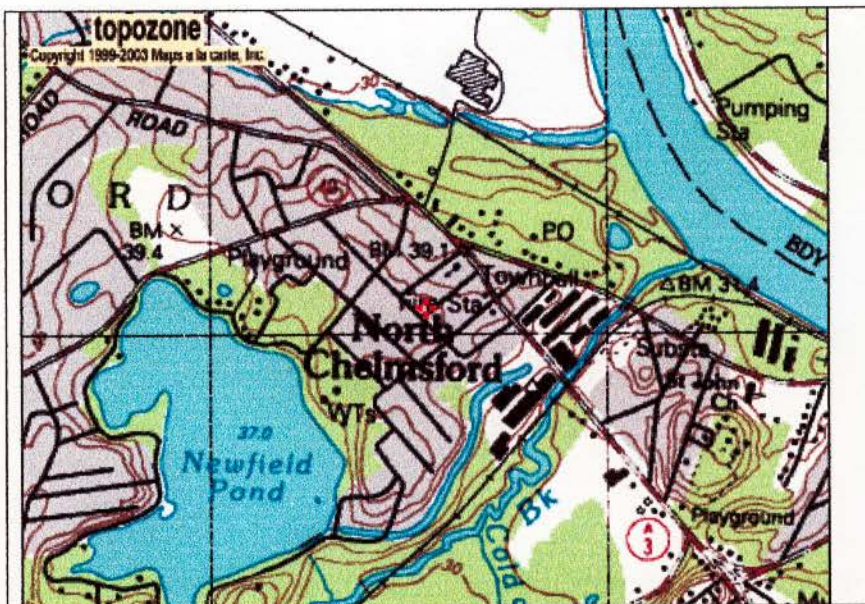
Locational Information



37-39 Wright St. from GIS Map, Town Assessor's Data Base



37-39 Wright St. from Maps.live.com



Topozone excerpt from Billerica USGS quadrangle.

Decimal coordinates as provided by Topozone: 42°38'41" W 71°23'02" N

37-39 Wright Street
Deed Summary

Middlesex Probate Docket #279678	Will 1947	Estate Stewart MacKay to Essie L. Young
Bk. 899, Pg. 130	05/20/1937	Central Savings Bank, Lowell, to Stewart MacKay 5921 sq. ft. & buildings Lot 1 - 1937 Brooks, Jordan & Graves plan
Bk. 898, pg. 301	04/29/1937	George Y. Hodge to Central Savings Bank, Lowell less than \$100 land & buildings: intersection of northwesterly line Wright St. & northeasterly line of Fletcher St. Lots 1 & 2 - 1937 plan
Middlesex Probate #	1921 Administration	Estate of Ellen G. Bradley to George Y. Hodge
Middlesex Probate	1907 Will	Estate of John Bradley to George Y. Hodge
Bk. 401, pg. 017	07/27/1896	Charles H. & Martha J. McIntire to John Bradley \$1 land & buildings: corner of Wright & Fletcher (Canal) Streets [Lots 1 & 2 on 1937 Bank plan]
Bk. 262, pg. 270	03/02/1895	Herman W. Flint, Boston, unmarried, to Martha J. McIntire, Lowell \$1 land & buildings: corner of Wright & Fletcher Streets [Lots 1 & 2 on 1937 Bank plan]
Bk. 127, pg. 350	12/10/1877	Otis D. Wright to Herman W. Flint \$1150 land & buildings: corner of Wright & Fletcher Streets [Lots 1 & 2 on 1937 Bank plan]
Bk. 90, pg. 494	12/23/1872 mortgage paid 1/24/1878	Otis D. Wright to Charles W. Flint land: junction Wright & Fletcher sts. except: land sold to Albert R. Choate



37-39 Wright Street

7/21/2007 W. Drury



37-39 Wright Street

10/12/2007 F. Merriam

