FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108
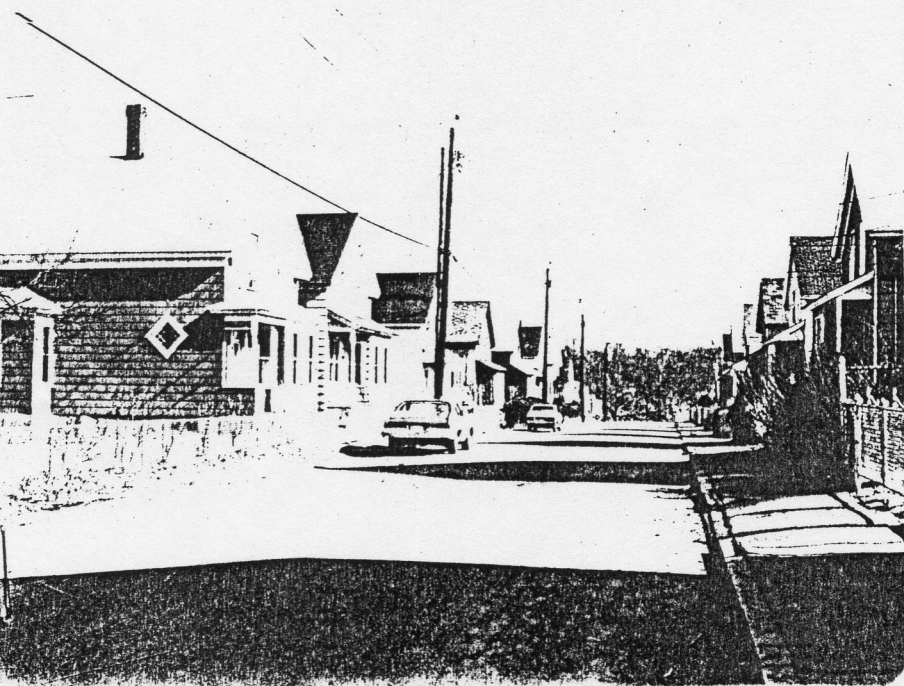
_____Lowell_____

of area (if any) ___Wigginville___

_____

al date or period ___1890's___

_____

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it.
Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed.
Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a
separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)
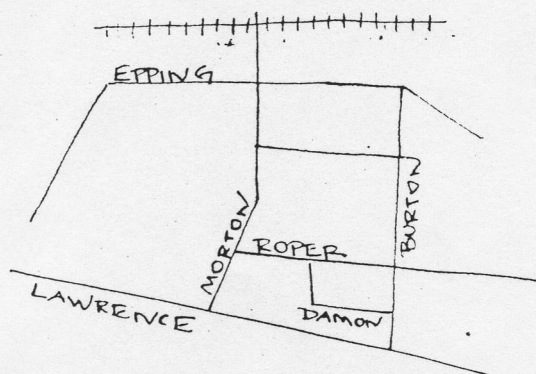
Recorded by___Elizabeth Durfee Hengen___

Organization___DPD Architectural Survey___

Date_____1/81_____

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

Wigginville is a group of approximately 63 houses built c. 1892. They are modest 1½ story sidehall buildings with a 2 bay facade and shed entrance hoods that extend full width over a first story bay. Several houses have diamond stair windows that break up otherwise uniform exteriors. In design and proportion they are similar to other late 19th century workers' housing in the city.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

William Howe Wiggin (1823-1908) was a self made businessman who engaged primarily in real estate and contractual work. Born in Epping, N.H., Wiggin arrived in Lowell in 1838 to work as a builder for his uncle. In 1846 he began his own business; among the buildings he erected are the Abraham Lincoln School, Five Cents Savings Bank, the B&M Depot on Central Street and Wyman's Exchange. He was also responsible for the carpentry work in City Hall and the Armory.

Wiggin bought and developed this area for commercial purposes. By 1895 there was a small church, a school and railroad station. In 1906 it was part of a larger annexation of land from Tewksbury to Lowell.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Illustrated History of Lowell (1890), p. 471-2
Lowell Historical Society files (L.S3.L9.1893-1907, p. 221-3)
Lowell Courier-Citizen, 1/20/1908

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