



AREA

FORM NO.

TP

88-3

Town Lowell

Address 643 Westford Street

Historic Name _____

Use: Present 2 family dwelling

Original 2 family dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date 1893

Source Water Records

Style Queen Anne

Architect _____

Exterior Wall Fabric vinyl siding

Outbuildings _____

Major Alterations (with dates) artificial

siding

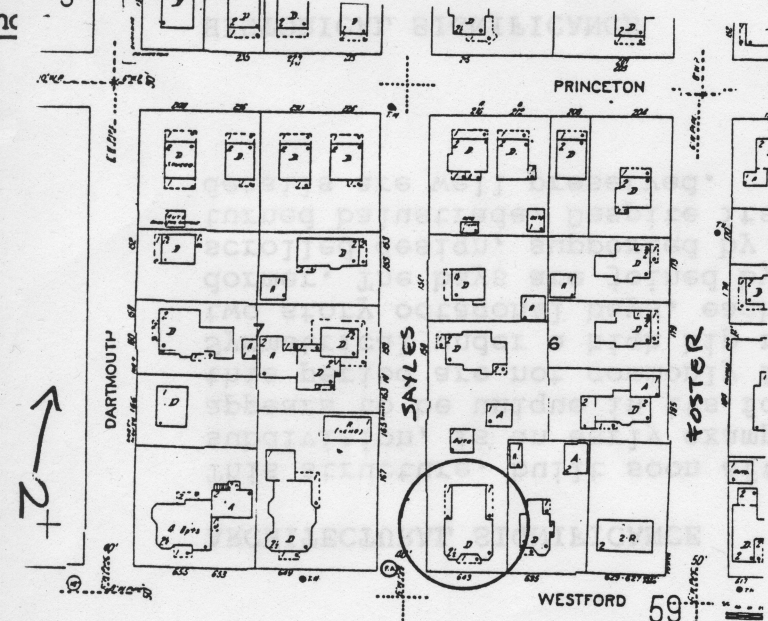
Condition fair

Moved _____ Date _____

Acreage 8,159 sq. ft.

Setting set on fenced corner lot in
suburban setting

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).



MAP REFERENCE _____

MAPS QUADRANGLE _____

SCALE _____

Recorded by Architectural Preservation
Associates

Date December, 1986

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT: This building is an integral part of the proposed Tyler Park historic district.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This structure, built soon after the opening of the Tyler Park Lands subdivision, is an early example of a two family dwelling. It appears to be unique in its form and design as two family houses of this period are not commonly found on the major streets of the area. Symmetrical under a high hip roof, a porch is indented between two, two story octagonal bays, each topped by an overhanging gable dormer. The bays are joined by a low pediment with an ornate scrolled design, supported by columns standing on an elaborate turned balustrade. Despite its artificial siding, the architectural details are well preserved.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This house is interesting because it one of few in the Tyler Park Lands to have been built before that subdivision was recorded. The lot was sold in January 10, 1893, by William H. Bent, its developer, to Charles H. Spencer, a local sign painter. The deed shows that at the time of sale there was already a house on the lot, so Bent may have built this house on speculation in preparation for the opening of his new subdivision a month later. Perhaps this is why the house does not conform to the restriction which ran with the deeds of Tyler Park Lands lots for a fifteen foot setback from the street. The restrictions were designed to insure that the development would be settled by the middle and upper middle classes.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Lowell Water Record 1893

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Grantor's Index Bk. 240. pg. 249

Lowell City Directory 1894

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