

BENJAMIN ASHLEY HOUSE
1238 Riverdale Road
West Springfield
Hampden County
Massachusetts

HABS MA-305
MA-305

HABS
MA-305

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BENJAMIN ASHLEY HOUSE

HABS No. MA-305

Location: 1238 Riverdale Road, West Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts.

Materials: Field notes include measurements and a questionnaire (historical data gathered at the site) completed by field members Max R. Kipepell [?] and Otto E. Hermes in March of 1938.

Questionnaire (transcribed from the handwritten field notes):

Date: 11 March 1938.

Worker: Max R. Kipepell [?], Architect, 121 State Street, Springfield, Mass.; and Otto E. Hermes, Architect, 12 Harwich Road, West Springfield, Mass.

Name of building: Ashley Studios (Old Ashley House). 1238 Riverdale Road, West Springfield, Mass.

Date built: About 1760. No record available (May be later date)

Architect and builder: Unknown. No record available.

Original Owner: Benjamin Ashley.

Subsequent owners: The Ashley family until

Present owners: Antique Furniture Shop (Ashley Studios). Same address.

No records to be found anywhere.

Benjamin Ashley, early settler of that part known as the Meadows of the Chicopee Plain within two miles of the Great River, he set out the trees on Ashley Street going from the house to Chicopee on his side of the river by the bridge; he died in 1772.

His wife died in 1782 and they were the original owners. (no records). Child Moses drowned in the old Great pond nearby in 1792. Child Davon [?] died in 1809.

The Ashley family David, John, and Benjamin were the subsequent owners and descendents of the family until 1900.

The Great River was what is now the Connecticut River and the property came to Rod Ashley by grant of Meadows by Wm. Py... Clark in March 1660.