

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

018-0028 Salem WNH.137

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

**Town/City:** Wenham

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): Wenham Village

## Photograph



Façade (south) and east elevations.

**Address:** 18 Cherry Street

**Historic Name:** Elbridge and Mary Gerry House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1840-1855

**Source:** 1856 map, deeds

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Not known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite, cut

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Garage

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

Dormer (late 19<sup>th</sup> c), side and rear additions (20<sup>th</sup> c)

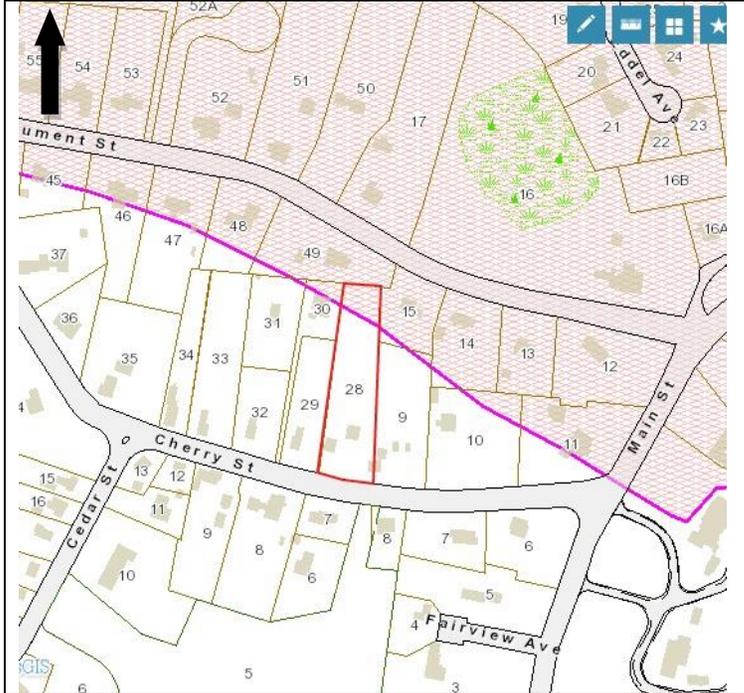
**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.04 acre

**Setting:** Densely built residential neighborhood, principally developed from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> through early 20<sup>th</sup> c. Located at eastern end of main thoroughfare between Wenham village and western part of town.

## Locus Map



Map #s are last digits of parcel #s, not street #s.

**Recorded by:** Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero

**Organization:** Wenham Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2017

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WENHAM

18 CHERRY STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNH.137

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

18 Cherry Street is located on the north side of Cherry Street, on a long narrow lot with a moderate setback from the street. Maintained chiefly in turf, the parcel slopes gently up to the north and is screened by a hedge along the street edge. Granite posts flank openings for a paved driveway on the east side of the parcel and a walk to the front entrance. The building consists of a main block, rear ell, and side addition. A garage stands to the northeast of the house.

The five bay by two main block measures 39 feet long by 16 feet wide and rises 1½ stories from a granite block foundation to a side gable roof with gable returns and twin interior chimneys. Walls are clad with wood clapboards and trimmed with sill boards, corner boards, and a fascia with narrow cornice molding. Windows typically have 2/2 sash and flat casings.

The five bay façade contains a center entrance with originally full-height sidelights, flat casings, and a hip-roof hood with elaborately carved Victorian brackets. A low, shed roofed dormer runs nearly the complete length of the façade. The east elevation of the house has a large enclosed sunroom with rubble foundation, hip roof, and banded 1/1 windows. A two-story gabled ell with narrow paired windows on the second story extends from the northeast end of the main block. The west elevation of the main block has one window centered in each story.

Set near the center of the lot, behind the house, the garage has a side gable roof, clapboard sheathing, and three vehicle bays (the center of which is filled in) with double-leafed hinged doors.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*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.*

18 Cherry Street appears to have been constructed in the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century for Elbridge Gerry, a cordwainer. The 1855 Massachusetts census includes Gerry (ca. 1817- ) living here with his wife Mary (ca. 1830- ) and young sons Elbridge and Albert. Notable local historian and town clerk Wellington Poole, then a 24-year-old cordwainer, was also living with the family. Three years later, Elbridge and Mary sold the house to cordwainer Warren Jones. (Essex South Deed Book 573, Page 72) Jones (1827-1916) married Lydia Emily Cook (1829-1905) in 1853. (Lydia is possibly the Lydia Cook who lived at #30 Cherry Street as they share a birth year. See Form WNH.143) In 1860, the census lists the Jones family at this residence, including daughter Lizzie, born in 1855, and 14-year-old apprentice Henry Cook. (Henry may have been a relative; in 1870 he was living with his aunts at 30 Cherry Street.) Records indicate that Warren Jones also worked as a carpenter and laborer over the next decades. Warren Jones died in 1916 and the property was sold in 1918 to Arthur Jones and Robert C. Jones. (Essex Deed Book 2516, Page 450). In 1930, Robert Jones lived here with wife Clara, and children Robert, Barbara, and Marjorie. Robert Jones worked as a draftsman at United Shoe Machinery Company in Beverly. The Jones family sold the property in 1985.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

City Directories. 1870, 1888, 1901, 1909, 1918, 1924, 1932. Ancestry.com.

Essex South Plan Book 22, Plan 31. "Plan of Land Belonging to Porter Farm "Fosterfields" and Others. 1909.

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Massachusetts Census. 1855, 1865. Ancestry.com.

Massachusetts death indices. Ancestry.com

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WENHAM

18 CHERRY STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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Massachusetts marriage indices. Ancestry.com  
United States Census for 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940. Ancestry.com.  
Walker, George H. & Co., *Atlas of Essex County*. Boston: George H. Walker & Co., 1884.  
Walker Lithography and Publishing Company. *Atlas of the Towns of Topsfield, Ipswich, Essex, Hamilton and Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts*. Boston: Walker Lithography & Co., 1910.  
Wenham Historical Association & Museum, Inc. *Wenham in Pictures and Prose*. Wenham: Wenham Historical Association & Museum. 1992.  
Wenham Tax Assessor records.

## SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGE



Garage. Façade (south) elevation.

**National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form**

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible       Eligible **only** in a historic district
- Contributing to a potential historic district       Potential historic district

Criteria:     **A**     **B**     **C**     **D**

Criteria Considerations:     **A**     **B**     **C**     **D**     **E**     **F**     **G**

Statement of Significance by Stacy Spies  
*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The neighborhood located at the intersection of Cherry Street and Cedar Street is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. The district retains integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association. Consisting of well-preserved houses dating from ca. 1790 through ca. 1915, the Cherry Street-Cedar Street district meets Criterion A for its association with the development as a neighborhood of farmers and tradespeople. Houses are typically well-preserved one and two-story frame dwellings on stone foundations. The majority of houses in the district feature vernacular Greek Revival, gable-front forms. Several of these houses retain Greek Revival details such as door surrounds. Vernacular forms of Federal, Georgian, and Colonial Revival styles are also represented. 10 Cedar Street is a contributing feature of this district.

Cherry Street developed during the 17<sup>th</sup> century as an east-west connector between two major north/south roadways: Main Street and present-day Topsfield Road. Eighteenth and nineteenth-century deeds refer to Cherry Street as "the road to Topsfield." With the growth of Wenham village during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the village expanded westward along the "the road to Topsfield" between Main Street and present-day Monument Street. Cedar Street was laid out ca. 1825 and was known as "the road to North Beverly." The earliest residents were farmers. However, by the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, residents were more typically tradespeople, especially cordwainers, and, without a need for agricultural land, constructed their houses on small lots near the village center. During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, residents, in addition to shoe workers, included streetcar drivers, laborers, and teamsters.