

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

013-0125 Salem WNH.167

**Town/City:** Wenham

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

## Photograph



Façade (west) and south elevations.

**Address:** 40 Perkins Street

**Historic Name:** Henry and Louise Woodason House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1903

**Source:** deed

**Style/Form:** Queen Anne

**Architect/Builder:** Not known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and shingles, wood trim

Roof: Slate shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Shed

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Shed-roof ell at rear elevation (20<sup>TH</sup> c).

**Condition:** Very good

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

**Acreage:** 0.5 acre

**Setting:** Suburban streetscape with small-scale residential buildings at edge of village center. Located on a side street connecting Main Street (Route 1A) to secondary roads.

**Locus Map** Map #s are last digits of lot #s, not street #s



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

**Organization:** Wenham Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2017

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WENHAM

40 PERKINS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.*

40 Perkins Street faces west on a corner lots located at the southeast corner of Perkins Street and Porter Street. The property is maintained chiefly in turf with mature trees. The house consists of a large main block with a subsidiary side and rear additions. An asphalt-paved driveway is along at the south elevation.

The rectangular main block rises 2½ stories from a brick foundation. The side-gabled roof is covered with slate shingles and has overhanging eaves. A brick chimney rises from the rear roof slope. A T-plan ell, likely constructed simultaneously with the main block, extends from the north elevation. The façade (west) elevation is three bays wide and one bay deep. A 2½-story box bay with a gabled roof projects from the south end of the west elevation. The center entrance is sheltered by a pedimented frame porch with upper and lower railings.

Walls are clad with wood clapboards and trimmed with wood sill boards and corner boards; a prominent frieze forms pediments on all visible gables. The projecting box bay features a variety of decorative treatments: the cross-gable dormer features miter-cut clapboards; a band of octagonal wood shingles fills the space between the first and second floors and flares out at the first floor; clapboards set in perpendicular patterns fill the space beneath the first floor windows. (Photos 2 and 3.) The porch features a valance of chamfered uprights, turned post columns, and pierced spandrel balustrades. The half-light door is constructed of paneled wood. Windows are mainly 1/1 wood sash with molded casings, and operable louvered wood shutters.

A shed (ca. 1903) located at the east property line south east of the house has a two-light over two-panel wood door on the east elevation and 6/6 wood sash windows. (Photo 4.) The building is clad with clapboards and has an asphalt-shingled gable roof. A pre-fabricated shed of recent construction is located at the northeast corner of the lot.

Excellently preserved and maintained, 40 Perkins Street is a fine example of upper middle class, Victorian period housing in Wenham. The house is notable for its size and scale, lively massing, variety of wall cladding, and ornamental front porch.

## 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.*

Through the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, Perkins Street was a private drive leading from Main Street to the recently-demolished Henry Perkins house that was located at 75 Arbor Street. Perkins Street was officially laid out as a street by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In the late 1890s, market farmer William Cummings sold approximately 19 acres of land near his house at 24 Perkins Street to real estate developer Lester Libby. Henry Woodason and his wife Louise purchased the property at the southeast corner of Perkins Street and "a new street," i.e. Porter Street, in 1903. (Essex South Deed book 1715, Page 138) Henry Woodason (ca. 1856-1930) and his wife Louise (ca. 1857-1933) were born in England. Prior to living in Wenham, Woodason had worked as an estate manager on the South Shore.

While living in Wenham, Henry worked as a head gardener for an estate. Family members residing here with him included wife Louise, daughters Louise L., Elizabeth, and Emily, and sons George and John. George purchased the lot next door to his parents, at 28 Porter Street, in 1912. The Woodason children continued to live at the family home as adults. In 1918, John was working as a chauffeur and lived here with his wife, Helen. Daughters Louise and Elizabeth appear to have never married.

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During the 1930s, Louise worked as a confectioner in a candy store and as a dressmaker. John worked as an automobile mechanic. Elizabeth taught music lessons. The children remained in the house after their parents' deaths in the 1930s. The extended family appears in the 1947 city directory at this address.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

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Wenham Tax Assessor records.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 2. Façade (west), detail.



Photo 3. Façade (west), entrance detail.



Photo 4. Shed. West (main) and north elevations.