

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

018-0029

Salem

WNH.138

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:** 20 Cherry Street

**Historic Name:** Lizzie and Langdon Phillips House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1912

**Source:** 1910 atlas

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Not known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite, uncut

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** None

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

Rear addition (L 20<sup>th</sup> c), front porch deck and rear porches (L 20<sup>th</sup>/E 21<sup>st</sup> c)

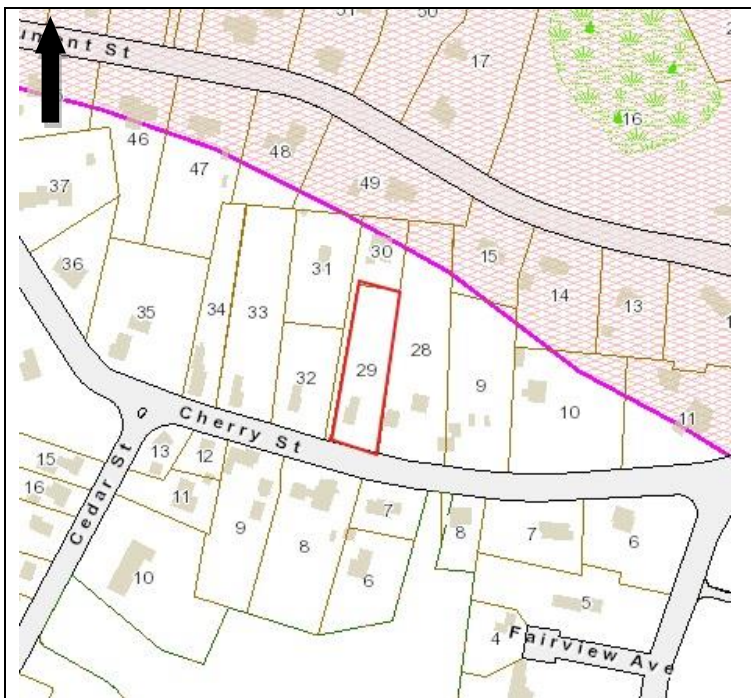
**Condition:** Very Good

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

**Acreage:** 0.5 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

20 CHERRY STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNH.138

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.*

20 Cherry Street is located on the north side of Cherry Street, at the front of a roughly rectangular lot with a moderate setback from the street. A low hedge lines the street edge of the parcel, which is maintained chiefly in turf. The L-shaped house consists of a modestly sized main block and a small rear ell. A paved driveway extends along the east side of the house.

The two bay by two bay main block measures 24 feet wide by 32 feet deep and rises 1½ stories from a fieldstone foundation to a front gambrel roof with brief gambrel returns and a small chimney at the rear. Walls are sheathed with wood shingles and trimmed with narrow corner boards on the façade and a narrow crown molding at the eaves. Windows are typically 1/1 double hung sash on the first floor and 2/2 in the half-story, with molded casings. Three-light casement windows light the basement on the side elevations.

The façade (south elevation) has a recessed porch at the southwest corner, with a square wood post, slightly arched openings on the front and side, and a single-leaf door facing the street. A modern wood deck with wood railing projects beyond the façade and is supported on granite posts. A semi-circular bay window occupies the side bay of the first floor; the asymmetrical half-story has one single window and one set of paired windows.

The asymmetrical east elevation has a single window and an angled bay window on the first floor and two symmetrical, shed-roofed dormers in the half-story. The asymmetrical west elevation features a high horizontal window with leaded glass sash towards the front of the first floor, an angled bay window beyond, and a single shed-roofed dormer above. Centered on the rear of the main block is a small, one-story gabled addition with irregular fenestration and a single-leaf door on its east elevation, and modern porches on the east and north.

Well preserved and maintained, 20 Cherry Street is a good example of modest Colonial Revival housing in Wenham, displaying a locally popular form with a front gambrel roof and a recessed corner entrance porch. The building is also notable for its fieldstone foundation, multiple bay windows, and leaded-glass staircase window on the west elevation. The house is nearly identical to 22 Cherry Street (WNH.140) and 42 Cherry Street (WNH.146).

## 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.*

20 Cherry Street appears to have been built for Elizabeth (Lizzie) Caves and Langdon Phillips on land then owned by her father, John Caves. John Caves died in 1909 and the large house then standing on this site was pulled down or moved. The previous house appears in the 1910 atlas but was replaced around 1912 by two small, identical, residences, 20 and 22 Cherry Street. (Essex South Deed Book 1834, Page 293 and Book 2174, Pages 318-319) Lizzie's older brother Horace Caves and his family lived next door at 22 Cherry Street.

Lizzie was married first to Lewis Goodrich in 1889, with whom she had a son, Earl, in 1903. After divorcing Goodrich, Lizzie married Langdon Philips in 1909. By 1918, Lizzie and Langdon were living at 20 Cherry Street. Langdon worked at the Navy Yard, probably in Boston. In 1923 the Phillipses sold the property to Gwendolen D. Knowlton, wife of Roger Knowlton. According to the 1930 census, Roger worked as a teacher at the Essex County Agricultural School and Gwendolen and Roger lived at this address with their young sons. Roger died in 1976 and Gwendolen died in 1988.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WENHAM

20 CHERRY STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNH.138

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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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



Side (west) 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.