

FORM B – BUILDING

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

018-0033

Salem

WNH.141

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: 24 Cherry Street

Historic Name: Samuel and Elizabeth Plummer House

Uses: Present: Vacant

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1844-1856

Source: visual, deeds, Walling, 1856

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Rear ell (L 19th c), shed dormer (20th c), replacement sash (L 20th/E 21st c)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.79 acre

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

Locus Map



Map #s are last two 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

24 CHERRY STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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.

24 Cherry Street is set close to the north side of Cherry Street on a long, narrow, rectangular lot. Principally maintained in lawn, the parcel has a long paved driveway down its east side. The building consists of a 1½ story main block with a two-story rear ell.

Measuring 22 feet wide by 30 feet deep, the two bay by four bay main block rises from a foundation of monumental granite blocks to a front gable roof with brief cornice returns and two short chimneys near the ridgeline of the west slope. Walls are sheathed with clapboards and trimmed with sill boards, wide corner boards, and a high frieze with two bands of molding. Windows are typically 6/6 double-hung replacement sash with molded casings.

The façade (south elevation) has an offset, recessed entrance with a single-leaf door, full-height sidelights, and channeled casing with bulls-eye corner blocks and a flat center panel in the lintel. Channeled casings and bulls-eye corner blocks also trim all three windows on the façade: a tri-partite window on the first floor and two single windows symmetrically placed in the half-story.

The symmetrical east elevation has four window bays with flat, Greek-Revival style moldings; two pedimented dormers are roughly centered on the roof. The asymmetrical west elevation has two windows with Greek Revival molding towards the back on the first floor and a very low, shed-roofed dormer with three small windows. The taller, two-story rear ell is flush with the west wall of the main block. It displays irregular fenestration on its west elevation: two windows on the first floor and one on the second. The more regular east elevation has two window bays framing a center doorway with a simple braced hood.

Well preserved and largely intact, 24 Cherry Street is modest in scale and style, yet clearly represents an ambitious aesthetic intent. It is a carefully detailed example of small-scale, early 19th century housing in Wenham. The design is notable for its compact front-gable form, recessed main entrance, bold trim, tri-partite facade window sash, and monumental granite block foundation. The house is very similar to 26 Cherry Street (WNH.142) in construction date and design.

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.

In 1844 cordwainer Samuel T. Plummer (1816-1889) purchased this property on Cherry Street from carpenter William B. Morgan. (Essex South Deed Book 348, Page 40) He purchased the adjacent lot to the east in 1855 (Essex South Deed Book 521, p. 181) Plummer appears in the 1850 census with wife Elizabeth (1814-1915) and children Orin, Sarah, Caroline, Mary, and Julia. Samuel Plummer died in 1889. Elizabeth Kimball Plummer lived to be 101 years old and died in 1915.

The Plummer heirs sold the property in 1917 to Alice Gould Eaton and W. Murray Eaton. (Essex South Deed Book 2371, pp. 126-7) Murray Eaton was a foreman working in Beverly. The 1920 census includes Murray, his wife Alice and their two children Ellen and Forrest. In 1930, Ellen was working at a public school teacher.

24 Cherry Street is a good example of a Greek Revival design in Wenham. Although in fair condition, the building is largely unaltered from its original design. Of note are the bullseye corner blocks and channeled trim around the windows and doors.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WENHAM

24 CHERRY STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Beers, D.G. & Co. *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. 1872.

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

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Walling, Henry Francis. *A Topographical Map of Essex County, Massachusetts...* Smith & Worley, 1856.

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. See page 117 for photo that includes house.

Wenham Tax Assessor records.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGE



Photo 2. Entry detail.

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 17th 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 18th 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 19th 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 19th century and into the first decades of the 20th century, residents, in addition to shoe workers, included streetcar drivers, laborers, and teamsters.

Additionally, 24 Cherry Street is individually eligible under Criterion C as a carefully detailed example of small-scale, early 19th century housing in Wenham. Well preserved and largely intact, 24 Cherry Street is modest in scale and style, yet clearly represents an ambitious aesthetic intent. The design is notable for its compact front-gable form, recessed main entrance, bold trim, tri-partite facade window sash, and monumental granite block foundation.