

FORM B – BUILDING

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

018-0034

Salem

WNH.142

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

Town/City: Wenham

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

Photograph



Main (South) and east elevations.

Address: 26 Cherry Street

Historic Name: George and Eliza Howe House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1840-1856

Source: style; 1856 map

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Not known.

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Rear ells? (L 19^h c?) – Dormers (20th c) – Replacement sash, enclosed side porch (L 20th c / E 21st c)

Condition: Very good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.5 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

26 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.

26 Cherry Street occupies a very narrow and deep lot on the north side of Cherry Street, near its intersection with Cedar Street. The house is set close to the street on a flat lot that is maintained chiefly in lawn. A paved driveway extends along the east side of the building, which consists of a main block and a set of rear ells with parallel gable roofs. The first (inner) ell is 1½ stories high, while the rear ell rises only one story.

Measuring 25 feet wide by 32 feet deep, the rectangular main block rises from a brick foundation to a front gable roof with gable returns and a small interior chimney high on the west slope. Walls are sheathed with wood clapboards and trimmed with sill boards, wide corner boards, and a high entablature. Windows typically have 6/6 replacement sash and Greek Revival molded trim. The façade of this side hall plan house contains an offset, recessed entrance with a single-leaf door, full height sidelights, pilasters, and a high entablature with a peaked lintel; there are two windows to its east on the first floor and two windows symmetrically placed in the half story above.

The main block's east elevation has four symmetrically placed windows on the first floor and a modern shed-roofed dormer positioned near the back, flush with the wall below that contains three double-hung sash. The east elevation of the first ell also has a shed-roofed dormer, above a one-story projection (formerly a porch) with a hip roof and three windows facing east. The one-story rear ell has an offset entrance with a gabled hood and three individual windows on its east elevation.

The west elevation of the main block has a rectangular bay extension rising from a concrete block foundation to a hip roof; one window faces the street, another is centered on the west wall. Two slim gabled dormers project from the roof of the main block. The inner ell has one square-shaped window near the center of its west elevation. The end ell has five irregularly spaced windows facing west, and one on the partial wall facing the street.

Well maintained and well preserved, 26 Cherry Street is a fine example of a modest Greek Revival cottage in Wenham. The modestly ambitious design is notable for its front gable form and side-hall plan, brick foundation, its attentively detailed and recessed entrance, robust wall trim, period window moldings, and original or early ell. The house is very similar to 24 Cherry Street (WNH.141) 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 1856, 29-year-old cordwainer George Howe of Wenham purchased the house at 26 Cherry Street from Benjamin and John Putnam. (Essex South Deed Book 527, p. 28) George and Eliza Howe lived here until they sold the property to Robert D. Burns of Beverly in 1889. (Essex South Deed Book 1249, p. 90) Burns worked as a shop foreman in a shoe factory in Beverly.

Robert and Mary Burns lived here until they sold the property in 1908 to Arthur Ober of Salem. (Essex Deed Book 1941, p. 20). The 1910 census indicates that 50-year-old Ober was working as a carpenter at the County courthouse and lived here with his wife, Carrie, and their four children. The 1920 census indicates that the family was still at this address: Carrie (now Holmes); Ruth Bly – 22; Helen – 20, working at "Milling" at a machine shop; Grace; Walter; and, Eleanor. The 1932 city directory lists Carrie Holmes and student Eleanor Holmes living at this address. Carrie Davis Ober Holmes died in 1962 and was buried in Wenham.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WENHAM

26 CHERRY STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNH.142

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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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 Tax Assessor records.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGE



Entrance detail.

WNH.142

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, 26 Cherry Street is individually eligible under Criterion C as a fine example of a modest Greek Revival cottage in Wenham. The modestly ambitious design is notable for its front gable form and side-hall plan, brick foundation, its attentively detailed and recessed entrance, robust wall trim, period window moldings, and original or early ell.