

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

|          |       |  |         |
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| 018-0035 | Salem |  | WNH.143 |
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**Town/City:** Wenham

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

## Photograph



Façade (south) and east elevations.

**Address:** 30 Cherry Street

**Historic Name:** Joseph and Mary Cook 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: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Barn

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

Front vestibule (L 20<sup>th</sup> c?); expansion of rear ell and dormers (E 21<sup>st</sup> c)

**Condition:** Very 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 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

30 CHERRY STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNH.143

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.*

30 Cherry Street occupies a large, nearly rectangular lot on the north side of Cherry Street, opposite its intersection with Cedar Street. Positioned close to the road, the house stands on a flat lot maintained principally in lawn. A modest barn is located to the northeast of the house, accessed by a gravel driveway. The house consists of a main block and a large, perpendicular rear addition that spans most of its rear elevation.

Measuring 32 feet wide by 28 feet deep, the rectangular main block rises 1½ stories from a granite block foundation to a side gable roof with twin interior chimneys; there are no gable returns. The rear wing has a perpendicular gable roof that is nearly as high as the main block; it was enlarged and renovated in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. The high-post walls are sheathed with clapboards and trimmed with a wide sillboard and narrow flat cornerboards and fascia boards. Windows typically have 6/6 double hung sash and casings with narrow band molding.

The symmetrical five-bay façade has a high-post wall, a gabled and pedimented center entrance vestibule, two windows on each side on the first floor, and two gabled and pedimented dormers. On the nearly identical two-bay side elevations, windows are vertically aligned only on the southern bay. The rear wing has a band of three small windows and an offset gabled entrance portico with square wood posts on the first floor; two gabled and pedimented dormers project from the east slope of the roof. The west elevation of the rear wing has two asymmetrically placed windows on the first floor and a substantial chimney rising from the base of the roof.

Set behind the northeast corner of the house, the 2½ story barn has a side gable roof, wood clapboards on the façade and wood shingles on the side elevations, and narrow flat corner boards and fascia boards. A wide lean-to bay extends from its west elevation. The asymmetrically-composed façade has a large center door on a rolling track, a small hayloft door centered above (both doors are constructed of vertical wood boards), and a 6/6 window to each side on the ground floor level. The symmetrical east elevation contains three 6/6 windows: two on the first floor and one in the half story.

Well maintained, 30 Cherry Street is a modest example of vernacular, late 19<sup>th</sup> century construction. The design is notable for its simple form, conservative five-bay façade, and surviving historic barn. Significant alterations include the front entrance vestibule and dormers on the main house and the large rear addition, which have reduced the architectural integrity of the house.

## 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.*

30 Cherry Street was likely the home of Joseph and Mary Cook. Joseph Cook (ca. 1909-1878) married Mary Peabody in 1833. The couple was living at 30 Cherry Street by 1850, when they were enumerated in the 1850 census. At that time, Joseph Cook worked as a shoemaker. Cook appears in subsequent censuses at this same location. "J. Cook" appears on the 1856, and 1872 maps as the owner of 30 Cherry Street. James Cook died a widower in 1878. Nancy Cook (1816- 1901) appears as the owner of the house on the 1884 map. At the time of the 1880 census, Nancy lived here with her sister Betsy F. Cook, age 59, and her nephew Henry A. Cook, age 34, a shoe cutter. These three family members were still living at this address at the time of the 1900 census.

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The neighborhood saw changes around 1909 when real estate developer Lester E. Libby purchased a large parcel of land north of Cherry Street that would become the Monument Street houses. The parcel on which 30 Cherry Street is located was part of that large purchase. Libby sold the house and lot to John Remsen, a house carpenter, and his wife Margaret in 1909. (Essex South Deed Book 1985, p. 556) John Remsen appears on the 1910 map as owner of the house. The 1910 census indicates daughter Jennie, son-in-law David Howard, a grocery store salesman, and grand-daughter Isabelle lived with them. Jennie and her family continued to live in the house after John's death in 1918 and Margaret's death in 1925. Isabelle became a chemist and was working for "Harvard Medical" in 1940.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Wenham Tax Assessor records.

## SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGE



Photo 2. Barn.

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**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. 30 Cherry Street is a contributing property to 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.