

# FORM A - AREA

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

19	Salem	F	See Data Sheet
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## Photograph



L to R: 9, 11, 13 and 15 Friend Court.

**Town/City:** Wenham

**Place (neighborhood or village):** Friend Court

**Name of Area:** Friend Court

**Present Use:** Single-Family Residences; Multiple-Family Residences

**Construction Dates or Period:** ca. 1870 to 1955

**Overall Condition:** Good to Fair

**Major Intrusions and Alterations:** Replacement Windows, artificial siding, modern garages (all L 20<sup>th</sup> to E 21<sup>st</sup> century)

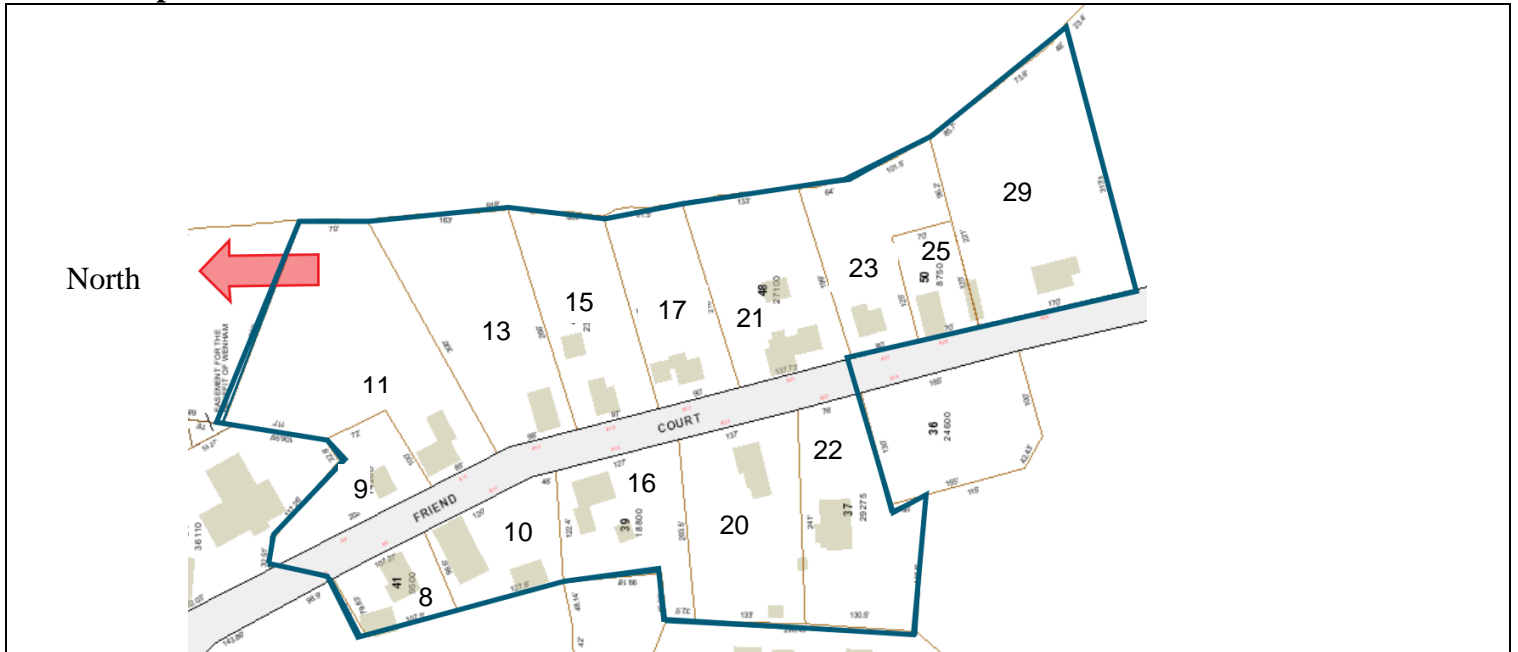
**Acreage:** 8.03

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

**Organization:** Wenham Historical Commission

**Date (month/year):** June 2017

## Locus Map



see continuation sheet

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

Wenham FRIEND COURT

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

F

See data sheet

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, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

Friend Court is a linear area along the eponymous street, a dead-end road that extends southward from Main Street (Route 1A). The area is bordered by the village commercial and civic center on the north (including the Town Hall at the west corner of Friend Court and Main Street and the Wenham Fire Department and Police Station at the east corner). A modern townhouse development (built in 1991 and part of The Maples retirement community) borders the area on the northwest, while the Wenham Country Club wraps around the southwest and south edges of the area. Remnants of a fieldstone wall line the southwest end of the road. The eastern side of the Friend Court Area is bordered by a large open parcel of woodland and meadow.

Friend Court traverses a long, gradual rise up to the south from Main Street, and begins a short descent at its southern end. The terrain also slopes gently down from west to east across the area. Friend Court has an asphalt-paved sidewalk with an asphalt curb along most of its western edge, and an asphalt sidewalk without a curb along its northeast edge. Houses are regularly spaced in their front and side setbacks, typically being set relatively close to the street and to each other. Occasional outbuildings are generally positioned in a rear corner of their lot.

The Friend Court area contains 14 residential buildings. The majority are modest wood-frame, gable-roofed buildings, usually 1½ or 1¾ stories, and occasionally 2½ stories, high, and constructed in the Italianate and Queen Anne styles. Wood clapboards and shingles are the most prevalent siding materials; all roofs are clad with asphalt shingles. Foundations are typically brick or granite. Most of the houses have front gables, and a distinctive group clustered in the middle of the area displays simple but decorative ornament on their raking fascia boards. Doors and windows feature both flat and molded casings. Decorative porches are common; some have been enclosed. Two mid-20<sup>th</sup> century capes and a Colonial-style ranch house (all very simply articulated) have been infilled at the southern end of the area, and a boldly contemporary house now occupies 22 Friend Court.

The area is moderately well preserved, with the most common alterations including synthetic siding and replacement windows, the latter of which are prevalent. Seven of the properties include outbuildings, most of which are historic-period garages or barns. Representative and distinctive buildings are described below, in ascending order of street address. Wood clapboard siding is assumed unless otherwise noted.

The William E. Porter House, 11 Friend Court (Ca. 1870) (WNH. 198) is a 2½ story, side-gable house with a center entrance, rendered in a distinctively Italianate style. (Photo 1) Three bays long and two bays deep, it is trimmed with wide flat corner boards and fascia; the façade displays a hooded entrance with carved brackets and a diminutive angled bay window above. A small, full width porch on the south elevation connects to a two-story, gabled rear ell. (Photo 1)

The substantial house at 10 Friend Court (Ca. 1890) (WNH.197) (Photo 2) is a 2½ story side-gable house positioned with its end to the street. The L-shaped building has a main block that is 6 bays long and 2 bays wide, with a center entrance on the façade (south) elevation and long shed dormers on the façade and rear elevations. A side ell is set back on the west side and has an asymmetrical 4-bay façade. A one-story, hip-roofed porch spans the facades of both the main block and ell. Architectural details such as window casings, center doorway, and the front porch posts and balustrade, appear to be modern renovations.

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

Wenham FRIEND COURT

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

F

See data sheet

The six houses on Friend Court constructed between ca. 1884 and ca. 1895 (i.e. 8, 9, 13, 15, 20, and 21 Friend Court) share design features. The Charles Trowt House, 20 Friend Court (Ca. 1895) (WNH.203) (Photo 3) is notable for its distinctively decorated raking fascia boards, a feature displayed on two other Queen Anne houses in the area (#s 13 and 15). This modest, 1¼ -story, front-gable house has an offset entrance that is integrated with a one-story rectangular bay window and an L-shaped porch. The entry porch's hip roof is supported by decoratively turned posts. Raking fascia boards on the façade are incised with a star pattern. A 1½ story ell projects from the rear of the right (north) side of the building.

The Fred and Mary Stanton House, 21 Friend Court (Ca. 1890) (Photo 4) has a similar form to #20, but has a more formal Italianate articulation. The L-shaped main block has a 1¼ story front-gable façade and an original 1½ story side ell to the north, an offset entrance flanked by an angled bay window on the facade, and a full-width, L-shaped porch connecting the façade and the north ell. Walls are trimmed with slender corner pilasters and molded fascia boards, a band of patterned wood shingles above the half-story windows on the façade, and a small pointed arch window in the gable peak of the façade. A substantial ell with a front-gabled end wing extends to the south of the main block. The Harry B. and Lena Pulsifer House, 8 Friend Court (Ca. 1895) (WNH.195) shares the same 1¼-story size and L-shaped corner porch. (Photo 5) The Arthur C. Stanton House, 13 Friend Court (ca. 1890) (WNH.199) and the Walter L. Barker House, 15 Friend Court (ca. 1890) (WNH.200) are similar in size and scale to the above-listed houses, yet are differentiated with asymmetrical, gable-front rooflines (Photos 6 and 7).

The only historic barn that remains in the Friend Court Area is the modestly-sized Walter L. Barker barn, 15 Friend Court (ca.1900) (Photo 8), which is positioned in a back corner of its lot. The 1½ story, front-gabled structure has wood shingle siding with flat trim; the façade contains a pair of sliding barn doors and a single window in the half-story.

Original and/or early garages in the Friend Court area are modest in size and design. Representative of this building type is the Alexander Begg garage, 25 Friend Court (Ca. 1915) (WNH. 207). (Photos 10 and 11) This long, narrow garage has one vehicle bay, exposed rafter ends, a hip-roofed front section with wood shingle siding, and a slightly wider, gable-roofed rear section with vertical board siding. Its side windows contain large 1/1 wood sash with flat casings. The garage at 9 Friend Court (Photo 12) is set in a back corner of its parcel. The small, front-gable building features clapboard siding with flat trim and casings, one vehicle bay, one window centered in the north side elevation, and a concrete block foundation.

The mid-20<sup>th</sup> century development of Friend Court is represented by the house at 29 Friend Court (Photo 14), which is now clad in vinyl siding. This Colonial Revival-style ranch has a low-pitched, side-gable roof, a small gabled front ell at its north end, and an asymmetrical façade with an off-center entrance and a large multi-paned, three-part picture window. A small side ell (possibly an enclosed porch) extends to the south, with a side-gabled roof and an offset entrance onto the front parking area.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this relates to the historical development of the community.*

Friend Court likely developed during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century as a passageway leading from the town common. As shown in the 1856 atlas, namesake John P. Friend lived at what was likely 6 Friend Court (no longer extant). Friend sold his property to Jeremiah Choate in 1871. (Essex Deed Book 813, page 295) The deed makes reference to an earlier deed from 1849 that uses "the center of the passageway" as a boundary point. (Essex Deed Book 413, page 104) The Friend Court roadway first appears on maps in the 1884 atlas as a small unnamed lane off the east side of Main Street between Town Hall and the Union Block store (now the site of the firehouse). The 1900 federal census lists the street as "Friend Street." In 1905, "a new street called Friend Street" is used as a boundary line for the sale of property at 15 Friend Court. (Essex County Deed Book 1805, page 324) The name "Friend Court" began to be used as early as 1901, as noted in the 1901 city directory.

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

Wenham FRIEND COURT

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

F

See data sheet

Through its history into the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Friend Court was home to working-class people and their families. Some properties, specifically 10 Friend Court, appear to have been used as rental properties over many decades, while other properties were owner-occupied. Residents were employed locally; a sampling of occupations noted in census data include: motormen or stable foremen working for the local electric streetcar railway; crossing tender for the steam railroad; an ice wagon owner; and a grocery store proprietor. Additional professions indicated in census data include two janitors, housekeepers, a "moulder" at a shoe machinery factory, a "shoe laster," a shoe repairman, an electrician, a house carpenter, and a tree surgeon. Of interest is the William and Christine Beck family who emigrated from Denmark with their six children in 1906. The 1910 census indicated that they were renting a dwelling on Friend Street and had added two more children to their family since their arrival in the United States. William was employed as a machinist in a machine shop at that time, but does not appear at this location in later census takings.

Residents who did own their houses generally resided here for long periods of time, often taking in boarders. Twentieth-century census data show that more than half of the residents were renters. Given the large number of families listed in census data for many of the dwellings, it is possible that several of the houses were divided into multi-family units soon after construction. 16 Friend Court is at present a multi-family dwelling. Beginning in the 1970s, 10 and 11 Friend Court were converted to condominiums. At present, the remaining buildings are single-family homes.

The William E. Porter House, 11 Friend Court is the oldest house on the street, and first appears on the 1884 atlas as the home of W. E. Porter. Carpenter William Porter (1832-1889) and his family appear in the 1870 census at this approximate location, indicating that the house had been constructed by that time. The family also appears in the 1880 census at this location with the addition of son George, age 22, also listed as a carpenter.

Several of the houses – numbers 9, 10, 13, 15, and 21 -- were constructed between the time of the 1884 atlas and an 1892 photograph, giving Friend Court much of its current appearance. (See Figure 1.) 8 Friend Court was added to the street shortly thereafter, ca. 1895.

The 1910 atlas includes the Simeon Dodge House, 9 Friend Court (ca. 1890) (WNH.196). The 1910 atlas identified the house as that of "S. Dodge heirs." Owner Simeon Dodge (1840-1905), employed in boot and shoe repair, and his family appear in the 1900 census. Given the large size and similar form to multi-family factory housing elsewhere in Essex County, 10 Friend Court was likely originally constructed as a multi-family dwelling. No names are attributed to the building in any of the atlases, perhaps indicating that no owner was in residence. The Arthur C. Stanton House, 13 Friend Court appears in an 1898 photograph in the collection of the Wenham Museum with an outbuilding and windmills. In 1910, the house was identified as the home of "A. G. Stanton," which is likely Arthur C. Stanton, his wife, Ida, and their daughter. Stanton, who owned his home, appears in the 1910 and 1920 census as a janitor. At the time of the 1930 census, Stanton was working as a hardware salesman. The Walter L. Barker House, 5 Friend Court is identified as owned by "W.L. Barker" on the 1910 atlas. The name Barker does not appear in census data at this location from 1880-1940. A contractor named Walter L. Barker (1864-1919) lived in Beverly during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that Barker had constructed 5 Friend Court. (Further research will need to be undertaken confirm this speculation.)

The Fred P. and Mary Stanton House, 21 Friend Court (ca.1890) (WNH.204) first appears on the 1910 atlas. Fred C. Stanton, and his wife, Mary, appear at this location in the 1910 and 1920 censuses. Fred Stanton was the proprietor of a grocery store at 152 Main Street, around the corner from his house. Stanton's store was constructed in 1897. (Janes: 89-90). According to his advertisement in a 1901 city directory, Stanton sold tea, coffee, spices, fruit, flour, confectionary, vegetables, pork products, tobacco products, and newspapers.

The Henry Moulton House, 16 Friend Court (ca. 1895) (WNH.201) and the Charles Trowt House, 20 Friend Court, were constructed before 1910, when they make their first appearance in an atlas. Henry Moulton, "shoe laster," is listed as the owner of a house on Friend Street in the 1900 census and living with his wife, Abbie, and his sister, Loretta Trouwt, a dressmaker. "A. Moulton" is listed beside 16 Friend Court in the 1910 atlas. Henry and his sister appear in the 1910 census as renters but no longer resided on Friend Court in 1920. In 1910, 20 Friend Court appears as the home of

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

Wenham FRIEND COURT

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

F

See data sheet

Charles Trowt and family. In 1900, Charles Trowt, employed as a foreman at a stable, resided with this wife and children in a property he owned on Friend Street. According to the 1910 and 1920 censuses, Trowt worked as a foreman for an electric railway. This could very well be the Naumkeag Street Railway Company that arrived in Wenham in 1896. The stables and car barns for the railway were located on Main Street, directly across from Friend Court.

The Alexander Begg House, 25 Friend Court (ca. 1915) (WNH.207) was constructed circa 1915. Deed research indicates that the Herbert Jaquith sold Alexander Begg a parcel of land in 1915. (Essex Deed Book 2317, page 279). According to census data, Alexander Begg and his wife were born in Scotland and emigrated in 1907 and 1909, respectively. Begg appears in the 1920, 1930, and 1940 censuses as a self-employed blacksmith living in a house he owned. In the later censuses, a second household and boarders shared the house.

Cape Cod-style houses were added at 17, 23, and 29 Friend Court in the early 1950s. 22 Friend Court appears to have been a circa 1955 Ranch-style dwelling that was dramatically remodeled into the Contemporary style circa 2009, when assessor's data shows alterations were made.



**Figure 1.** From L to R: 9, 11, 13, 15, 21 (in distance), 10, and 6 (at far right -- moved in 1988 for town hall parking lot.) Dated Jan. 23, 1892. Credit: Wenham Historical Association & Museum, Conant Photograph #0379.



# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

Wenham FRIEND COURT

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

F

See data sheet

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**Figure 2.** From Left to Right: 11, 9, 10, 8, 6 Friend Court. Undated (after 1892 - before 1907). Credit: Wenham Historical Association & Museum, reproduced in Janes, *Images of America*, Page 96.

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Wenham Tax Assessor records.

# INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

Wenham FRIEND COURT

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area Letter Form Nos.

F	See data sheet
---	----------------

## AREA DATA SHEET

Assessor's #	MHC #	Street Address		Constructi on Date	Style	Acreage
019-0041	WNH.195	8 Friend Ct	Harry B. and Lena Pulsifer House	Ca. 1895	Queen Anne	0.21
			Garage	Ca. 1925	No style	
019-0043	WNH.196	9 Friend Ct	Simeon Dodge House	Ca. 1890	Italianate	0.32
			Garage	Ca. 1920	No style	
019-0040	WNH.197	10 Friend Ct	House	Ca. 1890	Italianate	0.37
			Garage	Post-1950	No style	
019-0044	WNH.198	11 Friend Ct	William Porter House	Ca. 1870	Italianate	1.1
019-0045	WNH.199	13 Friend Ct	Arthur C. Stanton House	Ca. 1890	Queen Anne	0.84
019-0046	WNH.200	15 Friend Ct	Walter L. Barker House	Ca. 1890	Queen Anne	0.55
			Walter L. Barker Barn	Ca. 1900	No style	
019-0039	WNH.201	16 Friend Ct	Henry Moulton House	Ca. 1895	Queen Anne	0.43
			Garage	Post-1950	No style	
019-0047	WNH.202	17 Friend Ct	House	1953	Cape, Colonial	0.45
019-0038	WNH.203	20 Friend Ct	Charles Trowt House	Ca. 1895	Queen Anne	0.67
019-0048	WNH.204	21 Friend Ct	Fred P. and Mary Stanton House	Ca. 1890	Italianate/Queen Anne	0.62
			Outbuilding	Post-1950	No style	
019-0037	WNH.205	22 Friend Ct	House	Ca. 1960	Ranch/ Contemporary	0.67
019-0049	WNH.206	23 Friend Ct	House	1951	Cape, Colonial	0.53
	WNH.207	25 Friend Ct	Alexander Begg House	Ca. 1915	Queen Anne	
			Alexander Begg Garage	1915-1930	Craftsman	0.19
019-0051	WNH.208	29 Friend Ct	House	1953	Ranch, Colonial	1.08

**INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET**

TOWN Wenham NAME OF AREA FRIEND COURT

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

A	See data sheet
---	----------------

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1. 11 Friend Court. WNH.198.



Photo 2. 10 Friend Court. WNH.197.



Photo 3. 20 Friend Court. WNH.203.



Photo 4. 21 Friend Court. WNH. 204.



Photo 5. 8 Friend Court. WNH.195.



Photo 6. 13 Friend Court. WNH.199.



**INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET**

TOWN Wenham NAME OF AREA FRIEND COURT

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

A	See data sheet
---	----------------



Photo 7. 15 Friend Court. WNH. 200.



Photograph 8. 15 Friend Court barn



Photo 9. 16 Friend Ct. WNH.201.



Photo 10. 25 Friend Court. WNH.207.



Photograph 11. 25 Friend Court garage



Photograph 12. 9 Friend Court garage.

**INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET**

TOWN Wenham NAME OF AREA FRIEND COURT

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

A	See data sheet
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Photo 13. 23 Friend Court. WNH.206.



Photo 14. 29 Friend Court. WNH.208.