

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

019-0052 Salem WNH.163

**Town/City:** Wenham

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

## Photograph



East and façade (north) elevations.

**Address:** 8 Patch Avenue

**Historic Name:** Austin and Mabel Patch House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1897

**Source:** visual, maps

**Style/Form:** Queen Anne

**Architect/Builder:** Not known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Garage

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): side porch (late 20<sup>th</sup> C)

**Condition:** Very good

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

**Acreage:** 1.43 acre

**Setting:** Secluded, L-shaped private way connecting Main Street (Route 1A) and Larch Row, surrounded by dense residential development lining the adjacent streets to the north and east, and by large open lots to the south and west.

**Locus Map** Map #s are last digits of lot #s.



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

**Organization:** Wenham Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2017

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WENHAM

8 PATCH AVE.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.*

8 Patch Avenue stands at the bend of the "L" in Patch Avenue, facing north down the roadway towards Main Street. The irregularly shaped parcel is maintained chiefly in lawn; it is flat immediately adjacent to the house and slopes down to the west and south along the perimeter of the lot. A gently curving brick pathway extends between the street and the front entrance. Set close to the roadway, the house consists of a main block with a two-story rear ell and a large side porch that are visible from the street. A small gable-front garage is set near the northwest corner of the house.

Measuring 29 feet wide by 38 feet deep, the substantial main block rises 2½ stories from a granite block foundation to a front gable roof with gable returns. Walls are sheathed with clapboards and trimmed with flat sill boards, corner boards, and fascia. Windows typically have 2/2 or 4/4 sash with molded casings. Two slender chimneys rise asymmetrically from the interior of the main block, one from the ridge near the front of the house, and the other towards the back on the west slope.

The two-bay façade contains an offset entrance with a single leaf door sheltered by a gabled and pedimented portico supported on turned posts with carved sunburst brackets. A pair of contiguous windows is centered above. The western bay has a two-story bay window with angled sides, decorative wood shingling, and a bold cornice. The half-story of the façade flares out slightly at the base, over a horizontal cornice that is trimmed with a dentil band; it is sheathed with decorative wood shingles and contains two windows.

The west elevation is dominated by a petite three-story tower with decoratively shingled walls, dentilled fascia, and pyramidal roof. A deep, shed-roofed porch extending from the south end of this elevation may be a later addition. The east elevation of the main block has three symmetrical window bays. The east elevation of the two-story, gabled rear ell has a two-bay, shed-roofed entry porch with chamfered posts at the first floor and one window bay on the second floor.

A small, one-car garage is atypically positioned at the front of the parcel, to the northwest of the house. The front gable structure has a low pitched roof without gable returns, ship lap siding with flat trim, and a double-leaf, solid wood door in the front gable end. One 6/1 window is centered on the east elevation; other elevations are not visible from the road.

Well preserved and maintained, 8 Patch Avenue is a handsome example of vernacular Queen Anne design in Wenham. Although imposing in size and setting, the composition is comparatively restrained. The building is notable for its variety of siding materials and textures and for the picturesque front porch, two story bay window, and three-story tower. The early garage is also notable.

## 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.*

Austin C. Patch (1860-1938) grew up next door at 10 Patch Avenue with his parents, Henry and Elizabeth, and his siblings Charlotte, Henrietta, Charles, and George. By 1880, Austin was working as a "morocco dresser," i.e. a person who finishes, colors, and polishes leather. In 1884, Austin and Amos Gould, Jr. opened a morocco factory at 158 Main Street. The factory processed sheep skins that were then sent to Haverhill for further processing. The factory was out of business by 1900, when Austin was reported as working as a motorman for the electric railroad (trolley), a job he would hold until his retirement.

In 1887, Austin married his wife Mabel (1862-1944). The couple had three children: Roland, Mary Louise, and Lawrence. In 1897, Austin's father Henry died and it is likely around this time that the house at 8 Patch Avenue, then called "Patch's Court,"

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was constructed for Austin and his family. Austin's brother Charles lived at 10 Patch Avenue, and his brother George resided nearby on Main Street.

By 1930, Austin had retired and was living at 8 Patch Avenue with Mabel, their daughter Mary Louise, son-in-law Fred Campbell, and grandson Austin. Fred Campbell worked as a salesclerk at the prestigious jeweler Shreve, Crump & Low in Boston's Back Bay. The property passed out of the family in 1972.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Wenham Tax Assessor records.

## SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Photo 2. Façade (north) and west elevations.



Photo 3. Garage. East and façade (north) elevations.

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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.*

8 Patch Avenue is a contributing feature of the eligible Larch Row Historic District. The neighborhood along Patch Avenue and Larch Row near Main Street is eligible as a historic district under Criterion A at the local level. Developed during the 1840s and populated nearly entirely by cordwainers in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, this neighborhood is representative of the dramatic rise in the shoemaking trade in Wenham during the middle decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This densely-developed neighborhood allowed residents access to workshops and small factories on nearby Main Street in addition to ten-footer shops located on site. The buildings feature Greek Revival stylistic features popular during that time. The buildings all retain integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association.