

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

013-0029	Salem		WNH.166
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Town/City: Wenham

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

Photograph



Façade (west) and south elevations.

Address: 24 Perkins Street

Historic Name: William Cummings House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1840

Source: visual

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, cut

Wall/Trim: Wood flushboards and clapboards, wood trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: 1½ story frame garage (L 20th C)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): enclosed porch south elevation (20th C); 2-story shed-roof addition at south along rear elevation; replacement windows (late 20th C or early 21st C)

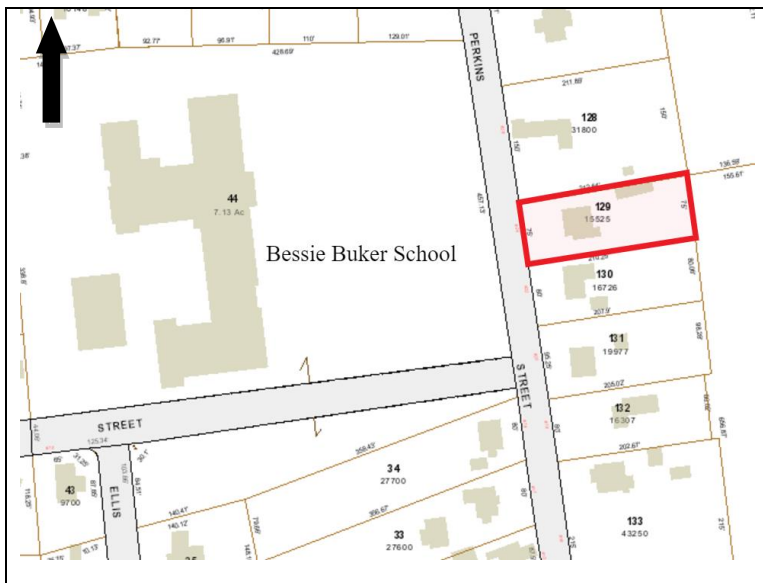
Condition: Very Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .62 acre

Setting: Suburban streetscape with small-scale residential buildings at edge of village center. Located on a side street connecting Main Street (Route 1A) to secondary roads.

Locus Map Map #s are last digits of lots #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 PERKINS STREET

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.

The House at 24 Perkins Street stands close to the east side of Perkins Street on a modest rectangular lot. The parcel is maintained largely in lawn, with scattered shrubs and trees. A paved driveway extends along the north property line. The building consists of a main block with a hipped-roof ell at the south elevation.

Measuring 34 feet square, building is five bays wide with a center entrance on the façade (west) elevation and two bays deep. The main block rises 1½ stories to a side-gabled roof with close eaves and two interior brick chimneys at the ridge. The façade is sheathed with wood flushboards. Side and rear elevations are sheathed with wood clapboards. The center entrance contains a single-leaf paneled wood door with a channeled casing, corner blocks with inset square trim, and half-height sidelights. Window surrounds on the façade feature channeled casings with corner blocks. Secondary elevations have simple molded surrounds. Windows are 6/6 double hung replacement sash.

24 Perkins Street is an excellent representative of Greek Revival period cottages in Wenham. The design is notable for its compact form, side-gable roof, conservative paired chimneys, unusual flushboard façade, and the channeled surround and corner blocks that distinguish the center entrance.

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.

Through the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, Perkins Street was a private drive leading from Main Street to the recently-demolished Henry Perkins house that was located at 75 Arbor Street. Perkins Street was officially laid out as a street by the end of the 19th century.

During the 1850s-1870s, much of the land east of Perkins Street and north of Main Street was owned by farmer Amos Gould, who lived at the northeast corner of Main Street and Perkins St. Given its appearance, the house at 24 Perkins Street was likely constructed between 1840 and 1856. The house location is outside the scope of the 1856 map. Gould's house on Main Street appears on the 1872 map. Without further research it is unclear if the house at 24 Perkins Street was constructed at this location or was perhaps moved from a site on Main Street.

During the 1870s, Gould sold the property to William S. Cummings, a market gardener and milk dealer. Cummings farmed the property until the 1890s when he began to sell off portions of his land to Lester Libby, a real estate developer. In 1918, 24 Perkins Street was the home of the Glavin family. Timothy Glavin worked for the Gypsy Moth Commission and lived here with wife Mary, and their children Aurelia, Ethel, Frederick, Grace, and William. Donald Killam, wife Muriel, and son Donald, Jr. began living at 24 Perkins Street during the 1940s. Killam worked as a chauffeur for the Massachusetts State Highway Commission. The house is now owned by Donald Killam, Jr.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Beers, D.G. & Co. *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. 1872.
City Directories. 1870, 1871, 1886, 1888, 1901, 1909, 1918, 1924, 1932, 1951, 1958. Ancestry.com.
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United States Census for 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940. Ancestry.com.

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.

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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 William Cummings House at 24 Perkins Street is eligible for listing on the National Register as a good example of flushboard construction, a feature of the Greek Revival style popular in Wenham during the mid-19th century. The use of flushboards instead of clapboards is unusual and reflects a sophisticated approach to the style; flushboards were intended to give the appearance of stone, and by extension, of the classical architecture of Greece. The house has undergone some alterations. However, as it is unusual that this wall treatment has remained, it is worthy of preservation. The house is eligible for listing under Criterion C as a good example of Greek Revival design in Wenham.