

FORM B – BUILDING

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

012-0008	Salem		WNH.170
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Town/City: Wenham

Place:

Address: 75 Pleasant Street

Historic Name: Herbert and Betty Cheeseman House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: 1949

Source: Assessor

Style/Form: Contemporary: Mid-Century Modern

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete block

Wall/Trim: Concrete block

Roof: Tar and gravel

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: none

Major Alterations (*with dates*): none

Condition: Very Good

Moved: no yes Date:

Acreage: 2.12 acres

Setting: Wooded, suburban residential development dating from the mid-20th century. Wooded, winding roadway.

Recorded by: Stacy Spies

Organization: Wenham Historical Commission

Date: June 2017

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

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WENHAM

75 PLEASANT ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNH.170

- 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 Cheeseman House faces north toward Pleasant Street on a trapezoidal lot. The parcel, which slopes down to the south, is maintained largely in lawn with scattered shrubs and mature trees. A paved driveway leads from Pleasant Street to the garage at the east end of the basement level. The formal entrance is on the north elevation. The L-plan house is banked into a slope with the basement level fully accessible to the rear (south) yard.

The house measures approximately 55 feet wide by 28 feet deep and is constructed of concrete block. The flat roof has wide, deep eaves with a metal cornice. A wide brick exterior chimney on the north elevation pierces the roof eaves. On the façade, the slab door is framed by full-height sidelights. Located throughout the house are tripartite metal-frame casement windows with unframed surrounds. A small screened porch is centered on the south elevation.

75 Arbor Street is an excellent example of contemporary design from the mid-20th century remarkable for its concrete block construction. The house is well-preserved and retains a high level of integrity.

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.

The Cheeseman house is representative of a small, but notable, trend in the suburban North Shore after World War II away from traditional, Colonial Revival-style dwellings. A high number of these innovative designs were built for scientists and engineers. Of particular note here is the use of concrete block as a building material, the flat roof, and emphasis on the horizontal plane. The house's banked design is especially well-suited to its sloping site.

Herbert L. Cheeseman (1919-2014) married Betty E. Browne (b. 1919) in 1942. Herbert studied mechanical engineering at the University of New Hampshire and worked as a technical engineer for General Electric in Lynn. The Cheeseman Family Trust is the current owner of the property.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

University of New Hampshire yearbook, 1941. Ancestry.com.
Wenham city directory. 1949, 1954, 1961.
Wenham Tax Assessor records.