

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



View from SE

Locus Map



Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
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10-10

Georgetown

GEO.108

Town/City: Georgetown

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
East Main Street Area

Address: 196 East Main Street

Historic Name: Isaac and Hannah Smith House

Uses: Present: residence

Original: residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1870

Source: historic maps

Style/Form: Classical Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Rear addition

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.95 acre

Setting: The house is on a slight rise on the northeast side of East Main Street on a lot with mature hardwoods. This section of East Main Street is primarily residential.

Recorded by: Kathryn Grover and Neil Larson

Organization: Georgetown Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): January 2010

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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.

Isaac and Hannah Smith House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with wood clapboard siding and a cross gable roof. The one-acre property is located on the north side of East Main Street with the front of the house situated close to the road; the front half of the lot is maintained as mown lawn with ornamental plantings; the rear of the lot is forested.

The house first appears on the 1872 Georgetown map. It was designed using a cross-wing plan with a front gabled façade containing two window bays and the entrance at the front of the east side wall sheltered by a porch terminating at the front of a short cross wing. The wing is balanced by a cross-gable wall dormer on the west side. The façades are framed by corner pilasters with plain entablatures along the roof lines. Windows contain nine-over-six sashes. A two-story addition has been made to the rear, probably encasing or replacing a smaller kitchen ell built with the house. The porch has been recently rebuilt.

Isaac and Hannah Smith House is a distinctive example of a cross-plan house, which is an unusual form in the local context. It retains its plain Classical decoration, notably corner pilasters and simple entablatures at the roof.

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.

East Main Street, now Massachusetts Route 133, is the earliest road in Georgetown and connects the town to its parent Rowley to the east and Andover on the west. Beginning in the 1650s Rowley proprietors began to make land grants in the town's western reaches, the area that came to be known as Rowley second (or west) parish or New Rowley and ultimately Georgetown. In 1666-67, the town laid out three thousand acres in the area and granted John Spofford the job of penning "the young cattle of the towne" where they had "been herded this last yeare." Pen Brook is named for these pens, which stood east of Elm Street. In 1732 families in the area successfully petitioned to form the Second Church of Rowley (ultimately Georgetown's First Congregational Church) and built a second meetinghouse at the junction of Elm and East Main Streets in 1769. In 1838 the General Court of Massachusetts incorporated Georgetown, which embraced most of the second parish.¹

By 1800 the site of 196 East Main Street was part of a larger tract owned by Job Brocklebank (1755-1824), part of the fourth generation of descendants of the immigrant Samuel Brocklebank (1628-76), who came with his widowed mother Jane (1605-68) and brother John among the twenty families who had come to the New World in the winter of 1638 with the Puritan cleric Ezekiel Rogers (1590-1660) and settled with Rogers at Rowley. In 1660 Brocklebank was granted land in the Rowley west parish and built his first home at what is now 108 East Main Street in 1670. Job Brocklebank married his cousin Mercy Brocklebank (1768-1821) in 1788; his father David (1724-56) and her father John (1738-1819) were brothers.²

The 1830 Georgetown map shows this section of East Main Street, although no house is shown on the site between "D. Brocklebank" (David Brocklebank (1789-1859), one of Job Brocklebank's children) on the west and "M. Merrill" on the east. The first map to show a house at 196 East Main Street is 1872, which labels the house "I. Smith." Isaac Smith, born about 1829 in Massachusetts, was a shoemaker about who very little has so far been determined. His wife Hannah, born about 1824 in New Hampshire, was a shoe binder, and the couple had two children—Alonzo, born about 1851 in Massachusetts, according to the census, and Emma (sometimes Emmagene), born in New Hampshire about 1853. The Smith family appears to have been living

¹ Thomas Gage, *The History of Rowley* (Boston: Ferdinand Andrews, 1840), 31-32, 320, 324, 326, 329.

² "Brocklebank Genealogy," *The Essex Antiquarian* 12, 2 (April 1908): 54-57.

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on or near the site of 196 East Main Street by 1860, but Smith's real estate is valued at four hundred dollars; by 1870, clearly living at this address, Smith's real property was valued at two thousand dollars. Those figures suggest the house was either built or substantially improved between 1860 and 1870.

The 1884 map labels the house "E. Smith," most likely Erastus Smith (ca 1820-1903). Born in Livermore, Maine, Erastus Smith was the son of Josiah and Catherine Adams Smith and a brother-in-law of Jewett P. Adams (1807-89), who had moved from Wilton, Maine, to Georgetown by about 1870 and lived in the Marlboro section of town, just southeast of 196 East Main Street. Jewett Adams's son Jophanus (1832-1913) had come to Georgetown by 1855, when he married Laura Ann Brocklebank, one of David Brocklebank's nieces. Jewett's sons Lyman H. (1843-1909), Mighill (born 1836), and Warren (born 1845) also settled in Georgetown, probably about the time their father did; Lyman served in Maine's famed Sixteenth Regiment of Infantry during the Civil War. This branch of the Adams family, descended from the immigrant Henry Adams of Braintree, had probably come from Rowley or nearby towns: both the name Jewett and Mighill are surnames of founding Rowley families.³

It is possible that Isaac Smith, born about 1828, was a brother of Erastus Smith. Whatever the case, the Isaac Smith family appears in no other Georgetown listing after 1870. In 1871 he and his wife family sold 196 East Main Street to Edwin Adams, a nephew of Jewett Adams, and two years later Edwin sold the property (including buildings) to Lyman H. Adams, one of Jewett's sons.⁴ By 1880 Erastus Smith was living at 196 East Main next to the family of his cousin Lyman Adams. Erastus's wife Judith Cummings Smith died in 1880, and Smith then lived with his daughter Agnes M., who married two years later. Though the 1880 census does not suggest as much, the Smiths may have lived in the same household as the Adamses, for by 1900 Erastus, then eighty years old, was living in the Lyman Adams household. He died in 1903 in Haverhill.

Lyman H. Adams was, like his father, a farmer, and his wife Sarah Ann was also a native of Maine. It is possible that either his family or the family of his son Harry Oakes Adams, born in Auburn, Maine, in 1871, lived at 196 East Main Street after the turn of the century. In 1909 Lyman Adams died. His death certificate states that he died of dementia with a contribution cause being "irritation from a bullet wound received in Civil War 20 yrs." Harry Adams was a shoemaker and by the mid-1910s a rural letter carrier. In 1925 his mother deeded 193 East Main Street to her son Harry, and by 1930 Adams, his wife Gertrude, and granddaughter either lived next door to or shared 196 East Main with the family Bainbridge Lowell Poole. Poole, born in Georgetown in 1900, was the son of shoe worker William H. Poole, grew up at 140 Elm Street, and married Harry Adams's daughter Pearl, born in 1901. In 1946 Harry Adams's widow Gertrude sold the property to the Pooles, and the estate of Pearl Poole sold the house out of the family in 1982.⁵

³ For the Jophanus Adams lineage, the Colby Connection website, <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=SHOW&db=dmcolby&recno=7224>; George Thomas Little, comp., *Genealogical and Family History of the State of Maine* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1909), 4:1944-45.

⁴ Isaac and Hannah Smith to Edwin Adams, July 1871, SED 829:179; Adams to Lyman H. Adams, 9 April 1873, SED 878:66.

⁵ Ellen S. Adams to Harry O. Adams, 1925, SED 2643:21; Gertrude E. Adams to Bainbridge Poole, 23 February 1946, SED 3443:505; Frances A. McDonnell for estate of Pearle A. Poole to Peter F. and Terry Turner, 31 August 1982, SED 6973:200.

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[Delete this page if no Criteria Statement is prepared]

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 _____

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

Isaac and Hannah Smith House is a distinctive example of a cross-plan house, which is an unusual form in the local context. It retains its plain Classical decoration, notably corner pilasters and simple entablatures at the roof.



View from W

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View from E



Aerial view from SE