

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



View from SW

Locus Map



Recorded by: Kathryn Grover and Neil Larson

Organization: Georgetown Historical Commission

Date (month / year): January 2010

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

10/30

Georgetown

GEO.111

Town/City: Georgetown

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Marlborough

Address: 234 East Main Street

Historic Name: Ralph and Martha Dole House

Uses: Present: residence

Original: residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1820

Source: historic maps, family history

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

none

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.75 acre

Setting: This property occupies a triangular plot on the east side of the intersection of East Main and Tenney Streets.

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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 Ralph and Martha Dole House is a two-story wood frame cross-wing single dwelling with wood clapboard siding and a cross-gable roof. It is situated on the north side of East Main Street at the east side of its intersection with Tenney Street. The triangular three-quarter-acre property is bounded on two sides by the roads. The house is surrounded by mown lawn; a driveway enters the rear of the property from Tenney Street and terminates in a parking area. .

This house is identified with the Dole family on the 1830 town map, and was probably the home then of the families of both Ralph Dole (ca 1779-1860) and his son Richmond (1804-76). As it currently exists, the building retains no features that decisively associates it with the early nineteenth century; however, it could have originated as the west-facing two-story, three-bay wing with an entrance in the now-blank area of wall on the north side. A more detailed inspection would be needed to verify this supposition.

Under this scenario, the two-story wing on the east side of the house, with four window bays facing East Main Street, was added later, perhaps as a commercial or shop annex. The current entrance to the house is located within a porch on the west gable end of this wing where the two sections conjoin. A wider space in the center of the south, or East Main Street façade of the wing also may have been the location of an earlier entrance. More recent renovations have obscured any other evidence. The wood clapboard exterior, as well as windows and doors have been replaced. The east and north sides of the wing have no windows; the north gable end of the house has two window bays, while the east side has glass sliding patio doors centered on the first story and two widely-spaced windows on the second story.

The Ralph and Martha Dole House is a historic landmark of the early 19th-century development of the crossroads known as Marlborough where the Merrill family settled and later generations established farms and shoe shops. It has been extensively altered and does not contribute significantly to the historic area.

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

The 1830 map shows this section of East Main Street with a house on the site of 234 East Main Street labeled "P. Dole." It seems likely that the "P." was meant to be "R.," for by 1856 the same building is labeled "R. Dole."² R. Dole is Ralph Dole (ca.

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

² "P. Dole" could have signified either Ralph Dole's uncle Peabody Dole (born 1756), who was living in New Boston, New Hampshire, by 1803 and for whom no Essex County death record exists, for Peabody Dole's son (and Ralph Dole's cousin) Peabody Dole (1807-79), who

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1779-1860), who descended from one of the ancient families of Newbury. His father, Greenleaf Dole (1750-1829), graduated from Harvard College in 1771 and taught school in the west parish (later Georgetown) from about 1773 at least through 1779. He appears to have left Georgetown shortly afterward: he was living in another part of Rowley in 1790 and in Andover by 1820; he died in Andover in 1829. In 1803 Ralph Dole married, probably in the Georgetown part of Rowley, Martha Palmer (1782-1868), whose parents, John and Martha Friend Palmer, lived near the intersection of East Main and Tenney Streets. Both died in the early 1830s. Martha's brother John Palmer Jr. (born 1780) lived at 6 Tenney Street, and her sister Sarah (born 1788) married Eliphalet Spofford, whose son Sumner lived at 2 Tenney Street.

The 1830 census enumerates the households of Ralph Dole and his son Richmond consecutively in what is clearly the Marlborough district of Georgetown. The 1830 village map shows only one Dole household in the neighborhood, and it seems likely that the families lived together at 234 East Main; Richmond had married Clarissa Merrill in 1828, and they then had one teenage male in their household, perhaps a brother. There were three in the Ralph Dole household as well.

By 1840 the Ralph and Richmond Dole households are separated by a Merrill household in the census. By that year, it seems likely that Richmond had moved across East Main Street; the 1856 village map labels both 234 East Main and a house across from it "R. Dole." The 1850 census shows Ralph Dole as a seventy-one-year-old farmer owning real estate valued at two thousand dollars in a household with his wife Martha. He died in 1860, and Martha Palmer Dole died in 1868.

Between Martha Dole's death and 1870, the Dole property at 234 East Main Street was sold to Jewett P. Adams (1807-1889), who moved to Georgetown from Wilton, Maine, by the time the census was compiled in the latter year. Jewett P. Adams was born in Temple, Maine, and his ancestors had lived in that state since 1650, though some part of his family had probably lived in Rowley or nearby towns: both the name Jewett and Mighill, the first name of one of Jewett's sons, are surnames of founding Rowley families.³ No genealogy, however, connects his branch to the immigrant Robert Adams of Newbury, Massachusetts, some of whose descendants also lived in Georgetown at the same time.⁴

The first member of Jewett Adams's family to settle in Georgetown was Jophanus (1832-1913), a horse dealer and stable keeper who married Laura Ann Brocklebank, a descendant of one of the village's most prominent founding families, in Georgetown in 1855. Jewett and his sons Mighill (1836-97), Lyman (1843-1909), and Warren (1845-91) followed Jophanus by 1870; Warren settled in Rowley, but Jewett, Lyman, and Mighill lived in Georgetown for the rest of their lives. The 1872 village map labels 234 East Main "J. Adams." The 1884 map identifies the property with "T. Adams," but no Adams with that first initial appears to have lived in Georgetown according to the 1870 and 1880 censuses and the 1885 town directory. The initial was perhaps supposed to be "J."

The 1870 census shows Jewett P. Adams as a farmer owning \$1700 in real estate and \$200 in personal property. His household included his wife Sophia, who died by 1873 (though no Georgetown death record exists for her), and his 1880 household included only himself and his second wife Lydia R. Foster Adams, then seventy-one years old.

Soon after Jewett Adams's death in 1889, his heirs sold the land and buildings "comprising the homestead of Jewett P. Adams," to Jewett's son Jophanus.⁵ The deed states that the property was on the north side of the Georgetown-Rowley Road (East Main Street) at the junction of Byfield Road and Tenney Street. Jophanus Adams lived from at least until 1880 until his death at 5 Elm Street, so he most likely rented 234 Elm Street. By 1925 the property had been acquired by the widow Florence Tourtillot, born in New Hampshire about 1865. The 1930 census shows her on East Main Street living with her daughter Florence, who worked in a shoe factory, and her son-in-law George R. Boyd, an auto mechanic born in Vermont about 1897. In 1920 Boyd was living in

was born in Georgetown but appears to have lived and died (in 1879) in Danvers. A Paul Dole also lived in Georgetown, but not in the Marlborough district.

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 See Andrew N. Adams, *A Genealogical History of Robert Adams, of Newbury, Mass., and His Descendants, 1635-1900* (Rutland, VT: Tuttle Co., 1900).

⁵ Heirs of Jewett P. Adams to Jophanus Adams, 22 July 1890, SED 1286:213.

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his father Robert's household at 36 Elm Street (not extant). In 1925 Tourtillot deeded the property to Boyd, and it remained in his family until his death about 1995, when his executor sold 234 East Main Street to Dexter A. Doane.⁶

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MAPS

- "Map of the Centre of Georgetown in 1800." In Perley, Sidney H., "Centre of Georgetown in the Year 1800." *The Essex Antiquarian: A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Biography, Genealogy, History, and Antiquities of Essex County, Massachusetts* 2, 7 (July 1898): 201.
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⁶ Jophanus Adams to H. Eugene Merrill, SED 1374:454; Florence L. Tourtillotte to George R. Boys, 17 April 1925, SED 2634:477; Laura A. Boyd, executor, to Dexter A. Doane, 31 October 1995, SED 13322:568.

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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__Neil Larson and Kathryn Grover_____

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

The Ralph and Martha Dole House is a historic landmark of the early 19th-century development of the crossroads known as Marlborough where the Merrill family settled and later generations established farms and shoe shops. It has been extensively altered and does not contribute significantly to the historic area.

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View from S



View from NW

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View from E



Aerial view from S