

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

9A 24	Georgetown		GEO.103
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**Town/City:** Georgetown

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): Elm Street Area

## Photograph



**Address:** 140 Elm Street

**Historic Name:** Caroline Noyes House

**Uses:** Present: residence

Original: residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1845

**Source:** historic maps, census records, vital records

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
Barn (connected)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

none

**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 2.99 acres

**Setting:** This property is set back from the east side of Elm Street on a lot with mature hardwoods. Elm Street is primarily residential.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Kathryn Grover and Neil Larson

**Organization:** Georgetown Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): January 2010

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GEORGETOWN

140 Elm Street

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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 Caroline Noyes House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with wood clapboard siding and a front gable roof. It is situated on a three-acre lot on the east side of Elm Street. There is a lawn around the house; the rear acreage of the parcel is wooded. A long driveway on the south side of the house connects the street to a barn connected to the rear of the house.

The gabled front façade of the house contains an entrance on the left side embellished with a substantial trabeated architrave. The combination of this signature Greek Revival-style feature with attenuated Classical corner and eave details illustrates the blending of Greek and Federal motifs common in local architecture of the antebellum period. Built ca. 1845, this house is an intact early example of the introduction of the gable-fronted house form in rural areas, a form that became immensely popular in Eastern Massachusetts industrial towns during the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The two-story, three-bay front façade is a full-scale version of the front-gable dwelling; the absence of a front piazza and bay windows associate it with dwellings from earlier periods, as do the six-over-six sashes and chimneys on the front and rear ends. A story-and-a-half kitchen ell is appended to the rear. A two-story wood frame barn with a gable roof is connected to the rear of the ell with its wagon and mow doors exposed on a protruding section of the front façade.

The Caroline Noyes House is a significant example of a mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century village dwelling. The house is intact to its ca. 1845 construction date and is distinguished by original materials, including an original connected barn. It is a contributing component of a historic district on Elm Street.

## 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.*

According to local histories, aside from the road (now Massachusetts Route 133) connecting Georgetown to its parent Rowley to the east and Andover on the west, Elm Street is one of the oldest streets in Georgetown, having been opened to "public travel" about 1686.<sup>1</sup> At that time between ten and twenty families lived in what was known as Rowley second (or west) parish or New Rowley. Beginning in the 1650s Rowley proprietors began to make land grants in the town's western reaches; in 1666-67, the town laid out three thousand acres in the area and granted John Spofford the job of penning cattle "the young cattle of the towne" where they had "been herded this last yeare." Pen Brook is named for these pens, which stood west 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.<sup>2</sup>

By 1800, according to a map showing the town center at that time, various branches of the Nelson family owned large tracts embracing both sides of Elm and Chestnut Street and both sides of East Main Street in this section. All of these branches descended from Thomas Nelson (1615-about 1648), who was among the twenty families who had come to the New World in the winter of 1638 with the Puritan cleric Ezekiel Rogers (1590-166). With Rogers most of these families settled at Rowley, incorporated in 1639.

<sup>1</sup> See, for example, Benjamin F. Arrington, ed., *Municipal History of Essex County in Massachusetts* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1922), 146.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Gage, *The History of Rowley* (Boston: Ferdinand Andrews, 1840), 31-32, 320, 324, 326, 329.

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The extent to which Nelson family lands reached southward is not clear from the 1800 Georgetown map. Caleb G. Tyler is indicated as the owner of both 146 and 140 Elm Street on the 1856 map of Georgetown. In 1850 Caleb Tyler is enumerated as a head of household among other residents of the Elm Street neighborhood. He is 44 years of age and identified as a merchant with real estate valued at \$1,100. His wife, Roxbe Chaplin, age 36, and four children are listed with him. The previous household is headed by his father, Jacob Tyler, a 79-year-old shoemaker with real estate valued at \$1,500. Caleb's mother, Lavinia, and his sister, Selinda, were living in Jacob's household; a second household headed by Betsy Dale also lived in the house. Caleb's household was living in one house and Jacob's was in the other. At this point, who lived in which one is not known for certain, but the smaller of the two, and the one without farm buildings (140 Elm St.), was probably occupied by Caleb's aging parents. And the fact that Roxbe Tyler continued to live at 146 Elm Street after Caleb's death in 1860 indicates their residency there.

Roxbe Chapin Tyler's sister, Caroline Matilda Chaplin Noyes, widow of was living at 146 Elm Street by 1870 when the census placed her and her family in the mix of names in the Elm Street neighborhood. The 1872 map of the town confirms her presence there by identifying the address with "Mrs. Noyes." She was widow of Hiram Newton Noyes, a farmer and shoemaker born in neighboring Bradford in 1809. They were married in 1840, but lived elsewhere in Georgetown prior to Hiram N. Noyes death sometime in the 1860s. Her brothers George Washington Chaplin (born 1809) and Henry Prescott Chaplin (born 1816) were principal shoe manufacturers in Georgetown, as were her sons George Warren Noyes (1842) and Hiram Howard Noyes (1847).

According to a 1922 local history, Hiram N. Noyes went into business with Samuel Little in 1833, two years after Little began shoe manufacture. Historian Henry Mighill Nelson stated that Little set up "trade with Pittsburgh, and, as the population spread westward, with points beyond Western Pennsylvania, and finally, under the firm name of Little & Noyes (Hiram N.), afterwards Little & Moulton, became the leading business house of the town."<sup>3</sup> Thus Noyes was in Georgetown in 1833, but the census indicates that his family did not live at 140 Elm Street until after 1860. (The 1850 and 1860 censuses enumerated the family outside the neighborhood.)

The type and scale of Little and Noyes's shoe production is not known, but it could have been a "central shop," a putting-out system that marked the industry's transition from "ten-footers" (any shoe shop ranging from ten to fourteen feet square was so called) to the factory. According to historian Benjamin Arrington in 1922, about 1830 "there was scarcely a farmhouse (or any other house) but that had in its back-yard a 12x12 foot shoe-shop. It was in these small shops that the countrywide known Georgetown boots and shoes were made until recent years, when they were manufactured in factories."<sup>4</sup> In the ten-footer as many as eight shoemakers (including journeymen and apprentices) made a shoe from start to finish, but in the central shop, which began to emerge about 1820, leather for the upper part of the shoe was cut and put out to men and women in the community to sew; these domestic workers then sent the uppers back, and the central shop sent them out again with soles and thread to finish the shoe, which the central shop then gathered and marketed.<sup>5</sup> According to industry historian William H. Mulligan Jr., the move from the central shop to the factory system took place incrementally as various shoemaking processes were mechanized, and as late as 1870 this transition was still underway.<sup>6</sup> The 1872 map shows both shoe shops and shoe "manufactories" on Elm Street.

As a boot and shoe manufacturing town, Georgetown was far eclipsed by many Essex County towns—chiefly Lynn, the largest producer of footwear in the commonwealth, as well as Haverhill and Marblehead. But an industrial census mandated by the state found that in the year previous Rowley (of which Georgetown was part until 1838) made more boots---32,600 pair---than any other place in the county. The town also made 300,250 pair of shoes, according to this survey, employed 518 men and 192 women, and produced footwear with an estimated value of \$315,360. It is clear that most of this production took place in what soon became Georgetown: according to an 1888 local history, twenty-seven shoe shops operated in Georgetown at the time and produced boots and shoes worth \$221,900, or roughly 70 percent of the estimated value of footwear in Rowley as a whole.

<sup>3</sup> Henry M. Nelson, "Town of Georgetown History," in D. Hamilton Hurd. *History of Essex County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men* (Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis and Co., 1888), 845.

<sup>4</sup> Arrington, *Municipal History*, 254.

<sup>5</sup> Blanche Evans Hazard, *The Organization of the Boot and Shoe Industry in Massachusetts before 1875* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1921), 8-9, 42, 44.

<sup>6</sup> William H. Mulligan Jr., e-mail to Kathryn Grover, 9 December 2009.

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By the 1830s Georgetown was both larger than Rowley and much more focused on industrial development; Rowley remained by and large agricultural.<sup>7</sup>

Though a Massachusetts death record for him has not yet been found, Hiram N. Noyes had disappeared from the census records by 1870. By that time his sons George and Howard had become active in their father's trade.<sup>8</sup> According to Arrington George W. Noyes "became interested" in the shoe industry in 1865 and "was prominently identified with the business for a period of forty-five years." In 1885 George Noyes, Edward A. Chaplin, and George H. Wilson formed the Georgetown Boot and Shoe Corporation. Arrington added, "The name of H. Howard Noyes will always stand high on the list of the town's great and successful shoe manufacturers. He entered the employ of his uncle, Mr. George W. Chaplin, in 1872, and managed the business until 1896. Edward K. Titus, a grandson of George W. Chaplin, was a partner in the business from 1887 to 1899. Mr. Noyes took over the entire business in 1900, and he continued a steadily-increasing business up to 1918 (46 years), when he retired from the shoe business to give his whole time to banking and other financial interests."<sup>9</sup>

The Noyes household on Elm street is described in the 1870 census. Caroline Noyes is recorded as head of household with real property valued at \$2,500 and personal property at \$5,400. Her son Hiram, 22 years, who "works shoemaking" and two daughters, Clara M. and Lizzie M., ages 17 and 11, were listed as her dependents. Following Caroline on the list, either next door or in the same house, her son George, 27 years old, was living with his wife, Mary. His occupation is listed "shoe manufacturing," with only \$500 of real property and \$2,500 of personal property. By 1880 Howard was also a boot and shoe manufacturer, and being unmarried, he remained in the 140 Elm Street household with his mother and sister Elizabeth, a grammar school teacher, and a domestic servant. Caroline Noyes was on the property until at least 1886, by which time Howard had moved to Central Street, and probably died there in 1896. Her daughter, Elizabeth, appears to have gone to live with Chaplin relatives on Andover Street, then with her brother George on Central Street in 1914, and then back to Andover Street, where her brother Howard then lived, by 1930.

By 1900 140 Elm was the home of William H. Poole, who worked at H. Howard Noyes's company, George W. Chaplin and Company. Born in Rowley about 1857, Poole married Susan E. Pool of Rowley in 1879 and by the mid-1880s was living at a house at the corner of Elm and Brook. By 1910 four of the seven members of Poole's household were working in the shoe industry—William on a heeling machine, his wife Susan as a shoe factory stitcher, his son Charles as a heel burnisher, and his sixteen-year-old son James in an unclear shoe factory job. Only eighteen-year-old Ruth, nine-year-old Bainbridge Lowell Pool, and Susan Poole's mother Priscilla were not in the workforce.

The 1914 directory shows William H. Poole and his son Clarence Robert Poole, born in 1886, as shoe workers employed at the F. W. Baker and Company shop on Central Street. Baker, the son of Cornelius G. Baker of 150 Elm Street, started in business with his father in 1890 and went out on his own after 1900. The Baker factory burned in 1917, and Baker rebuilt and partnered with the Salem firm of Cass and Daly to form F. W. Baker Shoe Company.<sup>10</sup> By 1917 Clarence Poole and his brother Bainbridge were working for George H. Wilson Company, which at that time was actually Georgetown Boot and Shoe Company, founded in 1885.

By 1918 William H. Poole had left the shoe industry and had become a railroad station agent. By 1925 the directory lists him at 134 Elm Street, but his son Clarence remained at 140 Elm and appears to have shared the house with the widow Mary A. Field of Georgetown, whose husband William died in 1909 at the age of thirty-four. The couple's sons Maurice and Raymond, a farmhand, also lived at 140 Elm. The Holts probably rented, for they are shown as renters at this address in 1930. The brothers

<sup>7</sup> See Gage, *History of Rowley*, 402-3; Nelson, "Town of Georgetown History," 835; and Blanche Evans Hazard, *The Organization of the Boot and Shoe Industry in Massachusetts before 1875* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1921), 210, which notes that these statistics were gathered and published by John Warner Barber in *Historical Collections of Every Town in Massachusetts* (Worcester: Dorr, Howland and Co., 1839), 66, 201.

<sup>8</sup> A third son, Bainbridge Chaplin Noyes (1822-45), was "a musician of uncommon ability, a leader at one time of the Salem Massachusetts band." See Spofford Family Register, Georgetown Historical Society website, <http://www.georgetownhistoricalsociety.com/GtGen/johnspoffordregister6c.html>.

<sup>9</sup> Arrington, *Municipal History*, 257-58.

<sup>10</sup> Arrington, *Municipal History*, 259.

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Chester, Maurice, and Wilbur Holt were assessed in 1933 for a house, barn, and henhouse. Town records list Arthur W. Cyr as owner of 140 Elm in 1957, and current owners Robert G. and Barbara B. Wilson bought the property in 1979.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> E. F. Bowditch Jr. to Robert G. and Barbara B. Wilson, 31 December 1979, SED 6667:444.

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- Arrington, Benjamin F., ed. *Municipal History of Essex County in Massachusetts*. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1922.
- Assessor's Records. Georgetown Town Hall.
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- Bureau of the Census. United States Census, 1790-1930.
- Direct Tax List for 1798 for Massachusetts, New England Historical Genealogical Society website, [www.newenglandancestors.org](http://www.newenglandancestors.org).
- Gage, Thomas. *The History of Rowley, Anciently Including Bradford, Boxford, and Georgetown, from the Year 1639 to the Present Time*. Boston: F. Andrews, 1840.
- Georgetown, Boxford, Byfield, Newbury, and West Newbury, Massachusetts, Directory*. Boston: W. E. Shaw, 1901-2, 1905, 1909, 1912, 1914, 1916-17, 1918, 1925.
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- 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).
- Resident and Business Directory of Groveland and Georgetown, Mass., for 1885-1886*. Needham, MA: Local Directory Publishing Co., 1885.

**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.
- Map of Georgetown in 1810 and 1840. In Gage, Thomas. *The History of Rowley, Anciently Including Bradford, Boxford, and Georgetown, from the Year 1639 to the Present Time*. Boston: F. Andrews, 1840. 320.
- "Map of New Rowley Surveyed and Drawn by Philander Anderson 1830." Georgetown Historical Society.
- Map of Georgetown. 1856. In Walling, H. F. *A Topographical Map Essex County Massachusetts*. Boston: Smith and Morley, 1856.
- Atlas of Essex County*. Philadelphia: D. G. Beers and Co., 1872). Plates 59 and 61.
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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 Caroline Noyes House is a significant example of a mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century village dwelling. The house is intact to its ca. 1845 construction date and is distinguished by original materials, including an original connected barn. It is a contributing component of a historic district on Elm Street.

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View from NW

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View from SW



Aerial view from W