

## 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

10B 65

Georgetown

GEO.114,  
115, 116,  
117

**Town/City:** Georgetown

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

**Address:** 118 East Main Street

**Historic Name:** Edward Sherburne Carpenter Shop  
Spaulding Colonial Reproductions Shop

**Uses:** Present: commercial

Original: commercial

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1880 – 2005

**Source:** historic maps, local history

**Style/Form:** various

**Architect/Builder:** Edward S. Sherburne & Sons, builder

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone, concrete

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

### Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

butcher shop  
Spaulding shop  
Quonset hut

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

none

**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.93 acre

**Setting:** This property is set within a small commercial and institutional district on the north side of East Main Street with mature hardwoods at the rear of its buildings.

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

**Organization:** Georgetown Historical Commission

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

118 East Main Street

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	GEO.114-117
--	-------------

☒ 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 Sherburne/Spaulding shops are located on a one-acre parcel on the north side of East Main Street directly opposite the Chestnut Street intersection. The site comprises four buildings of varying design and construction date aligned along the roadside within a paved parking lot. The rear of the property contains the Penn Brook.

1. Butcher Shop. The oldest building on the property is located at the western end and may have once been associated with the Brocklebank-Nelson-Beecher House next door at 108 East Main Street. At one time in the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century it housed a butcher shop. It appears to be an early- to mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century wood frame shop or store building built on a stone basement, with wood clapboard siding and a gable roof. The gabled front façade contains a central doorway flanked by large six-over-six sash windows. The exterior materials and finish are of a later date. Side walls each have one window located near the front; a hatch for a basement entry is on the east wall.
2. Sherburne Shop. At the east end of the property is a two-story wood frame shop building with wood clapboard siding, a gable roof and two substantial additions. This building likely originated as a workshop for the Sherburnes' turn-of-the-19<sup>th</sup>-century carpentry business as it expanded from their homestead property at 126 East Main Street. The three-bay front façade contains an entrance on the second story, which is reached by a wide wood stair built across the façade. A one-story front-gable shop is attached to the east side of the building. It has two windows and a door on the front and three windows on the east wall. Both sections have Classical corner and eave trim typical of the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century. A large two-story shed-roof extension added to the rear of the two-story shop at some later date roughly doubled its size. A one-story, flat-roof addition to the rear of the small shop did the same for that section. The additions were likely made during the Sherburne era, and they share the same architectural details and two-over-two sash windows as the older front sections.
3. Quonset Hut. A Quonset hut with its roof and end walls covered with corrugated metal sheeting is located east of the Small Shop. It is a WWII-era building type that was erected or moved here at some undetermined time. A central doorway and flanking paired windows are recessed under a deep overhang on the front (south) façade. Strings of dormers are located on the sloping sides. This odd, temporary military building is a rare surviving example and certainly the only example of a Quonset hut in Georgetown.
4. Spaulding Shop. The latest building in the group was likely built when the site became the location of Spaulding Colonial Reproductions in c. 1960. It is located between the Quonset Hut and the Sherburne Shop and reputedly contains a section of the rear shop wing attached to the northeast corner of the neighboring Brocklebank-Nelson-Beecher House (108 E. Main St.), moved to the site at an undetermined date. The one-story wood frame building has wood clapboard siding and a gable roof. The front façade is tucked under a deep overhang with a porch front; two gable dormers are contained in the roof. This building was totally rebuilt in 2003 by the Aulson family. The front façade contains two double-door entrances flanked by large window groups.

The collection of buildings comprising the Sherburne/Spaulding Shops is historically significant and contains a number of distinctive commercial buildings from various periods. Located on East Main Street on Georgetown's evolving commercial thoroughfare, the shops are noteworthy components of the Elm Street historic district. All underwent extensive rehabilitation by the Aulson family in 2003-2005 with the ambition of continuing their use for woodwork manufacturing.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

GEORGETOWN

118 East Main Street

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.114-  
117**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 it 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.<sup>1</sup>

By 1800 the site of 118 East Main Street was part of a much larger tract owned by Solomon Nelson Jr. (1741-1821), one of five members of the large Nelson family who owned land in this section of Georgetown. All of these Nelsons descended from Thomas Nelson (1615-about 1648), whose family was one of twenty who had come to the New World in the winter of 1638 with the Puritan cleric Ezekiel Rogers (1590-166) and settled with Rogers at Rowley. Four of the five Nelsons owning land here descended from Thomas Nelson's son Sergeant Thomas Nelson (1638-1712) and the fifth from the immigrant's son Philip (1636-91). Three, including Solomon Jr., were the sons of Thomas's grandson Solomon Nelson (1703-81) and Mercy Chaplin.<sup>2</sup>

In 1870 Humphrey Nelson sold land and buildings at 126 East Main Street to the shoemaker Edward S. Sherburne, but the sale price, only \$150, suggests that no house stood on the tract at the time.<sup>3</sup> Humphrey Nelson (1810-97) was the grandson of Solomon Nelson Jr. and son of Stephen Mighill Nelson, whose homestead was 144 East Main Street just east of this property. The 1856 map shows an unnamed building in this location; in 1872 and 1884 village maps associate the lot with E. Sherburne. The 1870 census enumerates Edward Sherburne's family—his mother and siblings—with other households in the vicinity of 126 East Main Street if the order of census enumeration that year may be trusted.

Edward Smith Sherburne was born in Rowley in 1849 and was the son of shoemaker and Maine native William M. Sherburne and his wife Ednah Hobson Sherburne of Rowley. In 1850 the family was living in Rowley, and the earliest record so far discovered of the family in Georgetown is of William's death in 1863. Edward Sherburne was working as a shoemaker by 1870, his older brother George was a shoe cutter, and his nineteen-year-old Hannah was a tailoress. Another brother, Herman, born about 1855, left home at some point before 1874 to travel on a flatboat from Cincinnati to New Orleans and explore the plantation South. In 1874 Herman Sherburne wrote and published an account of his trip, now considered an extremely rare book.<sup>4</sup>

In 1871 Edward married Frances L. Robinson (shown as Frank L. in some listings) of Georgetown. The 1872 village map labels a building on the site of 118 East Main Street as "E. Sherburne shoe facty," and by 1880 Sherburne is shown in the census as the manager of a shoe bottoming shop. In that year he was clearly living at 126 East Main Street with his wife and children William E. (born 1864), Amos (1866), and Howard (1868). Another son, Allen, was born in 1882, at which time Edward Sherburne is shown as a shoe contractor. That may mean that Sherburne was making complete shoes for a local manufacturer or that he worked on a putting-out system, sewing uppers or assembling the complete shoe.

By the turn of the century Edward Sherburne had become a house carpenter. In 1910 his sons William, Allen (born in 1882) and Ubert V. (born in 1887), were both house carpenters and all living in their parents' household. A year earlier another son, Arnold

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

<sup>2</sup> "Map of Centre of Georgetown in 1800," in Sidney Perley, "Centre of Georgetown in the Year 1800," *Essex Antiquarian* 2, 7 (July 1898), 101, based on the manuscript map "Georgetown 1800," 1996.07.01, Georgetown Historical Society. This map shows only a northern section of Elm Street and does not show how far south Nathaniel Nelson's tract extended. On the west side of Elm Street Aaron Nelson's tract abutted Solomon Nelson's on the south, but again the map does not reveal how far it extended southward. Perley, "Centre of Georgetown," 105, asserts the probability that Solomon Nelson Jr. built 8 Elm Street for his son.

<sup>3</sup> Humphrey Nelson to Edward S. Sherburne, 8 July 1870, SED 804:1538.

<sup>4</sup> Hermann Sherburne, *Adventures of Two Young Men* (Newburyport, MA, 1874). See Ten Pound Island Book Company website, <http://www.tenpound.com/173/61.html>: 3 pp.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

GEORGETOWN

118 East Main Street

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.114-  
117

Playfair Sherburne, enlisted in the Marine Corps in Boston and was a sharpshooter; in 1912 he was killed in a battle against Nicaraguan rebels.<sup>5</sup> By 1910 Ubert Sherburne had become a mason and William a house painter and continued to reside with their parents in the East Main Street house. Allen continued to work in his father's trade and in 1925 was still living in his childhood home. Between 1925 and 1930 Edward S. Sherburne died, and his widow and son Ubert remained at 126 East Main Street. Georgetown directories from 1914, the first to show street numbers for many residents, showed no numbers after 119 East Main Street; the Sherburnes are shown as living "near" their 118 East Main Street business. Until 1991 126 East Main Street was a tract of more than five acres, included what is now 122 East Main, and abutted 118 East Main.

In 1930, after Edward Sherburne's death, his widow and six of his children transferred title to the "land and buildings including homestead" to Ubert, who owned the property until 1937. In that year he sold the house lot to George D. and Helen E. Wise. By 1933 the part of the property now known as 118 Main Street was owned by the Spofford family who also owned the Brocklebank-Nelson-Beecher House next door at 108 East Main Street. Albert J. Quimby, a postal clerk who came from Haverhill to Georgetown around that time appears to have been leasing #118 for unapparent purposes.

At some point afterward Everett A. and Mary A. Spaulding acquired the property and in 1962 transferred title to it Spaulding Colonial Reproductions. Founded in 1925 by Georgetown native Everett Augustus Spaulding, the company made reproduction furniture in colonial style, some of it modeled after the work of Newburyport cabinetmaker Joseph Short (1771-1819), and was one of five such shops making "fine reproductions" in Georgetown.<sup>6</sup> From 1931 Spaulding, a descendant of Rowley's Brocklebank family, owned and lived at 108 East Main Street, the former Samuel Brocklebank house. Spaulding's factory was at 118 East Main Street, and he used Adams Hall at 5 Elm Street as his showroom for sixty years. The property is now owned by Alan P. Aulson, trustee of Great Rock Realty Trust.<sup>7</sup>

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

- Arrington, Benjamin F., ed. *Municipal History of Essex County in Massachusetts*. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1922.
- Bureau of the Census. United States Census, 1790-1930.
- Field, Jane. *A Brief History of Georgetown Massachusetts 1838-1963*. Rev. ed. 1988. Georgetown: Georgetown Historical Commission, 1988.
- Georgetown, Boxford, Byfield, Newbury, and West Newbury, Massachusetts, Directory*. Boston: W. E. Shaw, 1901-2, 1905, 1909, 1912, 1914, 1916-17, 1918, 1925.
- Hill, Edwin P. "History of Georgetown, Massachusetts." In *Standard History of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Edited by Cyrus M. Tracey, William E. Graves, and Henry M. Batchelder. Boston: C. F. Jewett, 1878.
- Hull, Forrest P. *Georgetown: Story of One Hundred Years, 1838-1938*. 1938. Reprint. Georgetown, MA: Georgetown Historical Commission, 2006.
- Nelson, Henry M. "Town of Georgetown History." In Hurd, D. Hamilton. *History of Essex County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men*. Vol. 1. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis and Co., 1888.
- 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.

<sup>5</sup> "Our Marines Take Fire-Swept Hill," *New York Times*, 6 October 1912 ; "Rebels Crushed/Our Marines Die," *New York Times*, 6 October 1912 .

<sup>6</sup> Jane Field, *A Brief History of Georgetown Massachusetts 1838-1963* (1963; rev. ed. Georgetown: Georgetown Historical Commission, 1988), 36-37.

<sup>7</sup> See William M. Kingsley, trustee, to Paul Cecil Spofford and Joseph Eugene Spofford, 4 August 1933, SED 2957:51; Everett A. Spaulding to Spaulding Colonial Reproductions, 2 January 1962, SED 4866:318; Mary A. Spaulding to Spaulding Colonial Reproductions, 2 January 1962, SED 4866:319.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

118 East Main Street

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	GEO.114-117
--	-------------

Map of Georgetown. 1856. In Walling. H. F. *A Topographical Map Essex County Massachusetts*. Boston: Smith and Morley, 1856.

*Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: D. G. Beers and Co., 1872. Plates 59 and 61.

"Town of Georgetown Mass." and "Village of Georgetown Mass." In *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts* (Boston: George H. Walker, 1884).

"Georgetown, Mass. 1887." Drawn and Published by George E. Norris, Brockton, Massachusetts. Troy, NY: Burleigh Lithographic Establishment, 1887

[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 collection of buildings comprising the Sherburne/Spaulding Shops is historically significant and contains a number of distinctive commercial buildings from various periods. Located on East Main Street on Georgetown's evolving commercial thoroughfare, the shops are noteworthy components of the Elm Street historic district. All underwent extensive rehabilitation by the Aulson family in 2003-2005 with the ambition of continuing their use for woodwork manufacturing.



INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

118 East Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	GEO.114-117
--	-------------



View from SW



View from SE



INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

118 East Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	GEO.114-117
--	-------------



View from SE



View from SW



INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

118 East Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)	Form No.
	GEO.114-117



View from SW



View from SE



INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

118 East Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)    Form No.

	GEO.114-117
--	-------------



View from SE



View from NW

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

118 East Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)      Form No.

	GEO.114-117
--	-------------



Aerial view from S