

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

13 Summer Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.300

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

### Photograph



View from east.



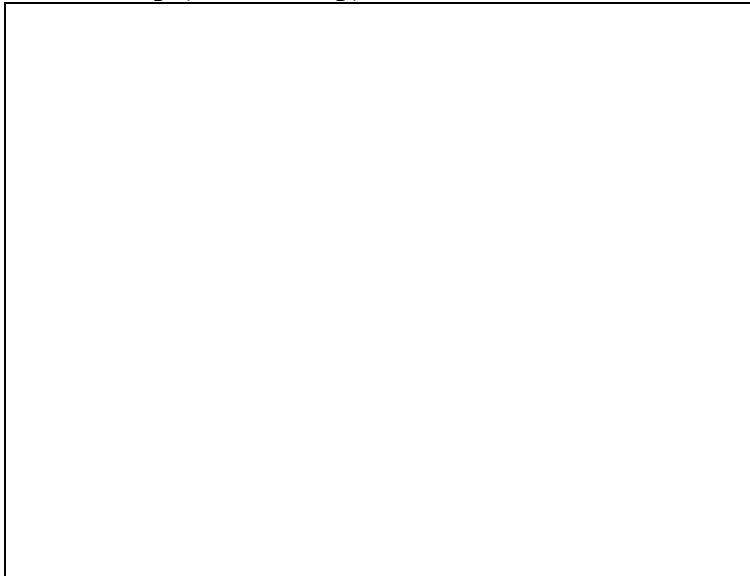
Source: Mass GIS Oliver Parcel Viewer

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

**Organization:** Town of Georgetown Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2017

### Locus Map (north at top)



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

**Setting:** Concentrated neighborhood of single-family homes in town center.

11A-130

Georgetown

GEO.300

**Town/City:** Georgetown

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Georgetown Center

**Address:** 13 Summer Street

**Historic Name:** Ernest & Cora Pleadwell House

**Uses:** Present: single family residential

Original: single family residential

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1929

**Source:** deeds & visual assessment

**Style/Form:** Federal

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

## Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

## Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage (attached)

## Major Alterations (*with dates*):

House moved, ca. 1913

Additions on rear, ca. 1913

**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no ☐ yes ☒ **Date:** ca. 1913

**Acreage:** 0.68 acre

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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.*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Ernest and Cora Pleadwell House is a story-and-a-half wood frame single-family dwelling with a gable roof built about 1829 and moved to its current address about 1913; its original location is not known. Its bilaterally symmetrical form and center-hall plan a room-and-a-half deep has a five-bay front façade with a center entrance distinguished by sidelights and a molded surround with corner blocks. The upper half-story contains five smaller windows aligned with the openings below. Eaves on the front and gable ends are tight to the walls, and one of what likely were two end chimneys is scaled for venting stoves. End walls contain two windows on each story. A shed-roof extension on the easterly side of the rear wall may be original to the house, as may be a one-story cross-gable rear wing attached to the westerly side. However, the wing was altered with the addition of a porch as well as an annex with an eastern window wall and large fireplace chimney connecting to a one-car garage after the house was moved to its current site.

The house is located in the northerly corner of an L-shaped lot with a leg running parallel to and behind properties fronting on North Street. It is situated in the midst of a large open yard with numerous shade trees. A driveway enters the northerly corner of the lot and runs along the westerly boundary beyond the house and to the garage in the rear. The driveway aligns with a road depicted on the 1856 map of Georgetown Center that continues into the rear leg of the L-shaped lot.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

No house appears on the site of 13 Summer Street on any nineteenth-century map of Georgetown, yet town records date the house to 1829, and the deeds can be traced soundly only to 1862 when George Boynton sold one acre of land on the southerly side of Summer Street to David Haskell, who had been living across the street at 12 Summer Street (GEO.299) since 1850.<sup>1</sup> The 1856 map of Georgetown Center depicts this parcel as vacant but outlined by what appear to be roads on its east, south and west sides. Perhaps Haskell, a carpenter, and Boynton before him, had intentions to subdivide the parcel for residential development. However, maps from 1872 and 1884 indicate that if there had been a plan, it never materialized (only a portion of the easterly right-of-way connected to the subject property survives as evidence). The parcel remained vacant, and in 1885 Haskell sold it, by then containing two acres, to George H. Carleton, trustee of the will of Stephen Searle.<sup>2</sup> Stephen Searle Jr., born in 1803, had died in 1884, and his family had lived close to the head of Summer Street, on the west side of North Street, since the 1820s. He, his wife Sally Stickney Searle, and their children Stephen Spofford and Mary Louisa Sophia Searle had lived with the Haskell family at 12 Summer Street in 1855, but when his father, Stephen Sr., died, he and his family moved back to his childhood home.

In 1910, a new trustee of Stephen Searle's will sold the 2 acres to Frank N. Harriman for \$150, which strongly suggests that no house was present at that time. It seems that Harriman, a teamster who lived on North Street, moved the existing house to this parcel from an unknown location. (There are a number of houses on North and Summer streets that appear to predate the parcels on which they are located, which leads to the conclusion that they were moved, perhaps from the redeveloping town center.) Harriman had subdivided the land and sold the 13 Summer Street house and lot in 1913 for an undisclosed amount to May Hazen Brown, who in turn sold it three years later to Cora A. Pleadwell.<sup>3</sup> The deed does not cite the presence of buildings, but the 1918 directory shows Cora A. Pleadwell and her husband at 13 Summer Street, as does Ernest's draft registration record of the same year.

<sup>1</sup> George Boynton to David Haskell, 14 February 1862, SECD 637:94.

<sup>2</sup> David Haskell, Mary E. Haskell, and Annie M. Haskell to George H. Carleton, trustee will Stephen Searle, 22 April 1885, SECD 1149:76.

<sup>3</sup> Robert F. Metcalf, trustee will Stephen Searle, to Frank N. Harriman, 2 November 1910, SECD 2105:598; Frank N. Harriman to May Hazen Brown, 9 May 1913, SECD 2208:99; May Hazen Brown to Cora A. Pleadwell, 17 June 1916, SECD 2335:330.

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Ernest Lawson Pleadwell, born on Prince Edward Island in Canada in 1879, married Cora Amanda Kneeland Messenger in Georgetown in 1904. He and his wife had earlier lived at 124 North Street, and had a son, George, born in 1909. Pleadwell had worked as a baker, then as a shoe factory crimper, and then as a driver by 1914. In 1918 he was working at the Bradstreet Heel factory in Haverhill, and the 1925 directory shows him as a house painter living at 13 Summer Street. In 1938 Cora Pleadwell sold the property to James Frank and Blanche H. DuBois, and the 1940 census shows the elderly couple alone at this address.<sup>4</sup> James Frank DuBois was born in Peacham, Vermont, and he died in Georgetown in 1950. Current owners Elton J. and Sheila K. Hill acquired 13 Summer Street in 1965.<sup>5</sup>

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## DIRECTORIES

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*Ipswich, Boxford, Georgetown, Middleton, Newbury, Rowley, Salisbury, Topsfield, West Newbury Directory 1957*. New Haven, CT: Price & Lee Co., 1957.

## MAPS

"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, 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).

<sup>4</sup> Cora A. Pleadwell to J. Frank and Blanche H. DuBois, 8 August 1938, SECD 3153:165

<sup>5</sup> James A. and Margery C. Blair to Elton J. and Shelia K. Hill, Hanover MA, 6 October 1965, SECD 5308:248.



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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from north.

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View from east.



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Aerial view from north. Source: [bing.com/maps](https://www.bing.com/maps).

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## 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

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

The Ernest and Cora Pleadwell House, built about 1829 and moved to its current address about 1913, is a distinctive example of mid nineteenth-century domestic architecture in the town center. Its story-and-a-half form and center-hall plan a room-and-a-half deep has characteristics in common with other houses from this period in Georgetown. It is not known for whom or where it was built, but it clearly predates the date that it first appears in public records for Summer Street. The property meets National Register criteria A and C as a contributing feature in a potential historic district in the town center, the boundaries of which have yet to be determined.