

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

144 Pond Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.296

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

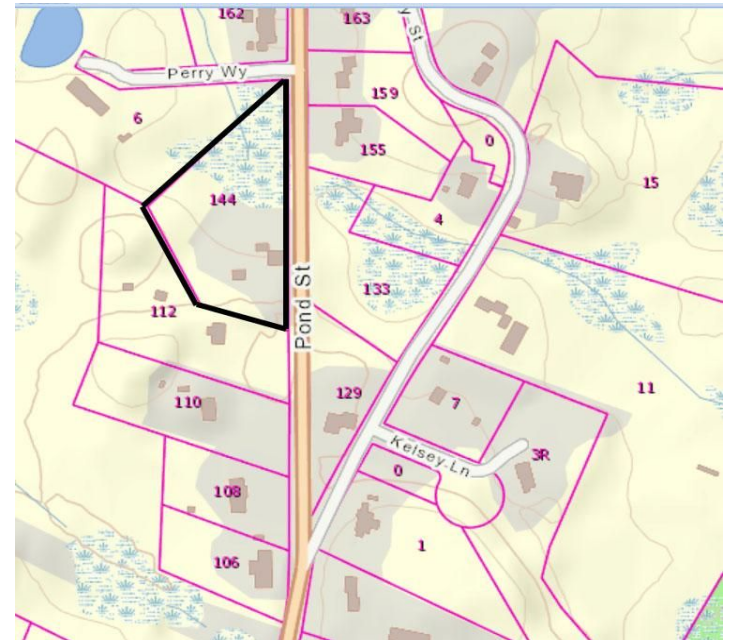
FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



View from SE.



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

12-6

Georgetown

GEO.296

Setting: Rural road with historic farmhouses and in-fill residential development.

Town/City: Georgetown

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

Address: 144 Pond Street

Historic Name: Bessom-Chase-Dole House

Uses: Present: single family residential

Original: single family residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1840

Source: deeds & visual assessment

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Domestic barn, shoe shop & poultry house (attached)

Garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Front porch added, late 19th century

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 2.12 acres

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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 Bessom-Chase-Dole House is a two-story wood frame single-family dwelling with a gable roof built about 1840. Its bilaterally symmetrical form and center-hall plan a room-and-a-half deep has a five-bay front façade with a center entrance. The second story contains only four windows aligned with those below them; the space above the center entrance is windowless. Two-over-two wood window sash appear to have installed in the late nineteenth century when the broad piazza fronted by turned posts was added; the entrance also was altered at this time. Wide corner boards and pronounced friezes at the bases of plain Classical cornices traditional in the area are a modest reflection of the prevailing Greek Revival style. There are three windows per floor on the south end, with another apparently added to the rear of the first floor later, and two per floor on the north end. Both ends have single attic windows centered in the gables. The basement is at grade on the north end and wood-framed with a door and two small windows contained at that level; the window at the rear of the first floor has been changed.

A small story-and-a-half barn with a gable roof and unpainted wood shingle siding is attached to the northwest corner of the house, and its basement also is exposed on the north side where two doors hanging on tracks provided access to stables. A poultry house with a shed roof abuts the east end of the barn in this depressed area north of the house. The south side of the barn, with the main level at grade, contains an off-center hanging-track vehicle door offset by two windows. Attached to the southwest corner of the barn is a two-story, gable-roof outbuilding with a narrow rectangular plan and four windows in the second story, which may have originated as a shoe shop. A later two-car garage is located southwest of the house.

The house is situated on high ground at the southerly end of a polygonal lot with a long road frontage; a wetland occupies the north end of the property and is wooded. Sited close to the road, the farmstead is in the midst of a small open yard; a driveway enters the property south of the house and loops around to the barn in back and has a leg leading to the detached garage.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In February 1840, Amos Pillsbury, who owned a large tract of land on both sides of Pond Street north of Pentucket Pond, sold a 3.25-acre tract on the west side of Pond Street to Elizabeth G. Bessom for \$30.¹ She was the wife of Rowley shoemaker William Bessom, who was born in Marblehead. The 1840 census shows him in Georgetown, and the 1850 census lists him with \$500 in real estate. Elizabeth was born in Bradford and was the daughter of Moses and Judith Porter; she married Bessom in 1838. The Bessoms had no children, and they are shown together in the Pond Street house with no roomers or boarders. In 1860 Elizabeth G. Bessom was working as a shoe binder.

After his wife died in 1874, William Bessom sold 144 Pond Street to Amos P. Chase of Groveland; William Bessom died in Georgetown in 1878.² Chase is shown in this neighborhood in the 1880 census with his wife, Elizabeth Rowe Chase, whom he married in Amesbury in 1850. Chase was also a shoemaker, and the 1900 census shows the couple alone in their household; the 1901 directory shows Chase on Pond Street.

Chase sold 144 Pond Street in 1903 to Orinda H. Hall of Lynn, who sold it about eighteen months later, and by March 1908 it had become the property of Annie T. DeQuoy of Boston. The 1910 Georgetown census shows her as a 40-year-old farmer on Pond Street living with her 12-year-old son Stanley Wildes DeQuoy. She was born Anna Tarleton Wildes in 1869 in Georgetown and was the daughter of Jeremiah Jewett Wildes and his second wife Sarah Ellen Tarleton of West Newbury. In 1898 she

¹ Amos Pillsbury to Elizabeth G. Bessom, 22 February 1840, SECD 317:79.

² William Besson to Amos P. Chase, Groveland MA, 22 August 1874, SECD 910:197.

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married wife French-born caterer Leopold I. DeQuoy of Boston, and the couple lived on Washington Street in that city in 1900 with their son and six lodgers. Leopold, Annie, and Stanley DeQuoy are shown in a house on Pond Street "beyond Pillsbury" in the 1916 and 1918 directories. Leopold DeQuoy died in 1919, and the 1920 census shows Annie DeQuoy in the house as a farmer living with son Stanley, a poultry farmer. They remained at 144 Pond Street until 1928, when DeQuoy sold the property to Clement H. Dole, whose family owned it until 1982.³

The son of Alfred H. and Catherine Dwyer Dole, Clement Huntington Dole was born in 1904 in Bradford, and he is shown in his parents' household, also on Pond Street, in the 1920 census with his four siblings. In 1924 he was working as a farmer when he married Dorothy Dean, a native of Medford then living in Georgetown. The 1930 census shows Dole with \$3000 in real property in a household with his wife, their two children Caroline and Clement H., and two boarders. Clement Dole continued to be shown as a farmer at 144 Pond Street through 1957. He died in 1972, and in 1980 his widow deeded the property to her children. Two years later they sold the property to John E. Pearson and Barbara M. Myatt (now Pearson), who are the current owners of 144 Pond Street.⁴

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Georgetown, Boxford, Byfield, Newbury, and West Newbury, Massachusetts, Directory. Boston: W. E. Shaw, 1901-2, 1905.

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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).

³ Annie T. DeQuoy to Clement H. Dole, 17 April 1928, SECD 2761:562.

⁴ Dorothy D. Dole to Carol Ann Roberts, Georgetown; Clement H. Dole Jr., Camden ME; and Ronald D. Dole, Boxford MA, 7 January 1980, SECD 6714:379; Carol Ann Roberts, Georgetown; Clement H. Dole Jr., Camden ME; and Ronald D. Dole, Boxford MA, to John E. Pearson and Barbara M. Myatt, 9 September 1982, SECD 6976:698; John E. and Barbara M. Pearson to John E. and Barbara M. Pearson, 16 November 2000, SECD 16699:312. See also "Plan of Land in Georgetown, Mass. as Surveyed for Carol Ann Roberts, et als.," 24 July 1982, SECP 173:18.

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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from SE.

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View from NE.

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View of garage from east.

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Aerial view from south. Source: bing.com/maps.

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

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

The Bessom-Chase-Dole House, built about 1840, is a distinctive surviving example of a mid nineteenth-century farmhouse with connected outbuildings, including a shoe shop, in the local Georgetown context. Essentially intact, the two-story wood frame single dwelling has a bilaterally symmetrical form, center-hall plan a room-and-a-half deep with chimneys positioned between the front and rear rooms. The exterior design of the house reflects a modest application of Greek Revival-style elements somewhat altered by the addition of a piazza with turned posts and two-over-two window sash later in the 1800s. The house, barn, shoe shop and poultry house are all connected in an assemblage.

The house was built by shoemaker William Bessom and his wife, Elizabeth G. Porter Bessom. He had come from Marblehead, where the Bessom family was well established as fishermen and shoemakers. His wife was born in Bradford and was the daughter of Moses and Judith Porter. In 1860 Elizabeth G. Bessom was working as a shoe binder. After his wife died in 1874, William Bessom sold 144 Pond Street to Amos P. Chase and his wife, Elizabeth Rowe Chase, from Groveland. Chase was also a shoemaker, evidently working from his home. Later owners were employed as farmers. In 1928 Clement H. Dole purchased the farm and his family resided there until 1982.

The property appears to meet National Register criteria A and C as a significant surviving nineteenth-century house with connected outbuildings associated with important people and activities in the history of Georgetown.