

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

153 Central Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.226

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

10A-5

Georgetown

GEO.226

Setting: Major route into town center with concentration of historic and non-historic residential buildings.

Town/City: Georgetown

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

Address: 153 Central Street

Historic Name: Henry P. & Martha Chaplin House & Barn

Uses: Present: single family residential

Original: single family residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1843

Source: deeds, vital records & visual assessment

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Barn, attached

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: excellent

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.52 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 Henry P. and Martha Chaplin House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with a front gable roof built about 1843. It has a side-hall plan with an off-center entrance on its three-bay front façade, which is distinguished by wide corner pilasters and Classical entablatures with tall frieze boards and short returns at the base of the gable. The entrance is flanked by sidelights reaching down to the floor of a piazza with chamfered posts at the front. The piazza wraps around and across the entire south side of the house. Windows have wood lintels across the tops; historic sash has been replaced. The sides of the house carry full entablatures along the roof edge and three windows on each story. On the north side, two windows are skewed to the front, one of which on the first floor is walled in corresponding with the stair space within but maintaining the exterior symmetry. The south side of the house also contains three window bays with two skewed to the rear. Windows on the rear façade are irregularly spaced to accommodate the one-story hyphen between the house and barn overlapping onto the rear of the house. The one-story, gable roof hyphen (little house) contains a chimney suggesting a kitchen use for the section adjoining the house. A wood shed (back house) probably occupied the remaining space leading to the barn. The small two-story gable-roof barn with board-and-batten siding is domestic in scale with stable and vehicle space on the ground level and an area for a cow or cows in the basement. It presents a front-gable façade with central wagon and mow doors flanked by windows. There are additional windows on the south side and rear.

The building is centered at the front of a small lot, set back from the street behind a small yard. A paved driveway on the south side of the house leads to the front of the barn. Another paved parking area has been created on the north side of the house. The rear yard, which extends back to the railroad right-of-way is distinguished by a tall grove of conifers.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The house at 153 Central was the northernmost of three built for members of the family of Eliphalet Chaplin (1777-1825), a fourth-generation descendant of Jeremiah Chaplain (1680-1765), who had bought land in what is now Georgetown in 1731, and a sixth-generation descendant of the immigrant Hugh Chaplin (1603-53). The 1800 map of Georgetown shows Eliphalet Chaplin with a large tract of land on both sides of Central Street, probably inherited from his father Jonathan Chaplin Jr., who had died that year. After Eliphalet himself died in 1825, the inventory of his estate listed real property collectively valued at \$5873, including the 60-acre "old place" with its buildings that he had inherited from his father and 44 acres on the south side of that 60-acre tract with its buildings. Much of Chaplin's real estate was sold at auction on 27 April 1826, but his widow Martha Spofford Chaplin, whom he married in 1802, apparently retained the "old place." In 1852 she sold part of this tract to one of her sons, the shoe manufacturer Henry Prescott Chaplin (1816-95), Henry Chaplin had probably built this house on north edge of his mother's property in 1843, when he married Martha J. Carleton (1821-81).¹

Both Henry P. Chaplin and his older brother George Washington Chaplin (1809-97) were prominent Georgetown shoe manufacturers and listed as such from the 1850 census forward. In 1850 and 1855 Henry Chaplin's household included his wife as well as her brother George, a shoe cutter, and the couple had four children—Alice C., born 1852; Laurence Leslie, born 1855; Wilfred S., born 1857; and Mabel Carleton, born 1865. The 153 Central Street household usually included a domestic servant as well. By 1870 Chaplin is shown with \$15,000 in real property and \$35,000 in personal property, and in 1880 his boot and shoe business made a profit of \$6540. He had \$8000 in capital invested in the business, employed twenty men and five women on a

¹ The existing Massachusetts Historical Commission Form B identifies 169 Central Street (GEO.55) as the Eliphalet Chaplin House, but it includes no title history and is ascribed a construction date of 1860. Eliphalet Chaplin died in 1825, and his name is repeated only as a middle name in generations after him. The 1830 map shows his widow Martha Chaplin in an earlier house that roughly occupied the site of 169 Central Street. Martha Chaplin to Henry P. Chaplin, 7 June 1852, SECD 462:73.

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ten-hour day in all months of 1879 and paid them \$4000 in wages over that year. Chaplin's factory had two sewing machines, and he used \$10,000 in materials—1200 sides of sole leather, 1000 sides of sole leather, 5000 pounds of other leather, and \$300 in other materials. The factory produced 6000 pairs of boots valued at \$12,540 and 4000 pair of shoes valued at \$4,000. He was not the town's largest boot and shoe manufacturer: Alfred B. Noyes and Company employed up to 50 people, paid more in wage, produced more boots and shoes, and was far more profitable, and Chaplin's brother George's firm of Chaplin and Noyes employed as many hands on a somewhat shorter schedule but earned a profit of about \$10,000.

In 1880 the Henry Chaplin household included his four children and a domestic servant, and the census lists his wife Martha "at hospital in Boston for cancer of breast." She died in September 1881, and he remained in the house until his own death in 1895. The 153 Central Street property passed to their son Wilfred, who is shown in the 1900 census as a shoe factory cutter in the house with his wife Helen F. McAllaster, a native of Bedford, New Hampshire, whom he married in 1879, and their four children Carleton, Hester Helen, Henry P., and John H. Chaplin. By 1905 son Carleton was a factory foreman, and daughter Hester was a schoolteacher. Wilfred Chaplin died in 1909, and the 1910 census shows his widow Helen in the house with daughter Hester, a "physical training" teacher, son Henry, a shoe manufacturer, and son John, then sixteen. By 1920 Henry was a shoe factory foreman and John was working as a mechanical engineer.

Helen McAllaster Chaplin is shown at 153 Central Street in the 1932 street directory of Georgetown. She died the next year at the age of seventy-six. Her daughter Hester, still working in physical education, remained in the house until her own death in 1945; she was then the director of athletics at Bradford Academy. In 1946 her siblings sold the 153 Central property to Grace E. Bartlett, a native of Lewiston, Maine, working as an accountant in Cambridge by 1940. She subdivided the 1.2-acre property and sold the house on a half-acre lot in 1952 to Tellef G. and Vivian A. Tellefsen, who in turn sold it to Donald and Muriel Gordon in 1964. David Gordon is the property's current owner.²

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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.

HAVE ON CD

Southern Essex County Registry of Deeds website, salemdeeds.com.

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.

² Henry P. Chaplin, Windsor VT, and John H. Chaplin, Hartford CT, to Grace E. Bartlett, 9 August 1946, SECD 3516:161; Harry P. Chaplin, Windsor VT, administrator estate Hester Chaplin, to Grace E. Bartlett, 27 September 1946, SECD 3516:161; Grace E. Bartlett to Mary E. Barron, Haverhill, 6 November 1946, SECD 3573:502; Mary E. Barron, Haverhill, to Grace E. Bartlett and Gladys B. Semple, Belmont, 6 November 1946, SECD 3573:503; Grace E. Bartlett and Gladys B. Semple to Tellef G. and Vivian A. Tellefsen, 25 July 1952, SECD 3912:356; Tellef G. Tellefsen to Donald E. and Muriel R. Gordon, 25 June 1964, SECD 5182:292; Donald E. Gordon to David A. Gordon, 23 May 2007, SECD 26864:208. The 153 Central property is Lot A on "Plan of Land as Surveyed for Grace E. Bartlett, Georgetown, Mass., 15 February 1952, SECD 473 of 1952.

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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."
Insurance Maps of Haverhill Including Bradford, Groveland & Georgetown, Massachusetts. New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co., 1893; Sanborn Map Co., 1906, 1949.

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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from NE.

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View from SR

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View from SE.

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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 Henry P. and Martha Chaplin House & Barn, built about 1843 appears to be eligible for the National Register as a distinctive example of mid-19th-century domestic architecture designed in the Greek Revival style. The two-story wood frame dwelling has a side passage plan and a gabled front façade embellished with wide corner pilasters and Classical entablatures with tall frieze boards and short returns at the base of the gable. The entrance is flanked by sidelights reaching down to the floor of a piazza with chamfered posts at the front that wraps around and across the entire south side of the house. The sides of the house carry full entablatures along the roof edge. The house is connected to a rare surviving example of a domestic barn.

The house was the northernmost of three built for members of the family of Eliphalet Chaplin (1777-1825), a fourth-generation descendant of Jeremiah Chaplain (1680-1765), who had bought land in what is now Georgetown in 1731, and a sixth-generation descendant of the immigrant Hugh Chaplin (1603-53). Much of Chaplin's real estate was sold at auction in 1826, but his widow Martha Spofford Chaplin, apparently retained the "old place." In 1852 she sold part of this tract to one of her sons, the shoe manufacturer Henry Prescott Chaplin (1816-95), Henry Chaplin had probably built this house on north edge of his mother's property in 1843, when he married Martha J. Carleton (1821-81). Both Henry P. Chaplin and his older brother George Washington Chaplin (1809-97) were prominent Georgetown shoe manufacturers and listed as such from the 1850 census forward. The house remained in the Chapin family until 1946.