

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

17-19 Pond Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.291

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## FORM B – BUILDING

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

### Photograph



View from NW.



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-176

Georgetown

GEO.291

**Town/City:** Georgetown

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Pentucket Pond

**Address:** 17-19 Pond Street

**Historic Name:** James & Joseph P. Folsom Double House

**Uses:** Present: two family residential

Original: two family residential

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1840

**Source:** deeds & visual assessment

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

## Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

## Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage, ca. 2015

## Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Side entrance wing added, late 19<sup>th</sup> century

Rear wing porch enclosed & altered, ca. 2015

Vinyl siding added

Window sash replaced

**Condition:** fair

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.40 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 James and Joseph P. Folsom Double House is a two-story wood frame two-family dwelling with a gable roof built about 1840. Its bilaterally symmetrical form and double-pile center-hall plan feature a separate dwelling on each side of the hall with chimneys between front and rear rooms and a one-story cross-gable kitchen wing on the rear that was either divided or shared. The focal point of the five-bay front façade is the center entrance with its hipped-roof hood mounted on large, ornate brackets. Any other decorative features have been obliterated or concealed by added vinyl siding. The hood was added later in the nineteenth century, as was a hipped-roof entry wing on the north end of the building. Prior to this, both gable ends contained two windows on each of three stories. The rear wing has entrances on both sides suggesting that it was divided in two down the ridge line. The entrance on the north side is contained within an exterior vestibule, while the entrance on the south side is tucked under a broad porch, with the roof above it later raised at the wall, flattening the pitch of that side of the roof, and its sides walled in; this porch has been more recently renovated.

The house is situated in the center of the small lot's frontage, set back behind a small yard and with driveways on both sides leading to a parking area and two-car garage in the rear. The story-and-a-half wood frame accessory building with a front-gable roof and a shed dormer raised on the south side was recently constructed replacing an earlier outbuilding in that location.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In March 1835, Samuel Plummer sold a parcel of a little more than 5 acres on what is now Pond Street to John Burbank Savory (1797-1865), a native of Rowley West Parish who lived most of his life slightly northeast of this house on the east side of North Street. In 1811 he had married Rachel Johnson Hale (1798-1881), the daughter of Solomon and Martha Harriman Hale of Bradford. Savory paid \$103.12 for the tract, which suggests it did not contain a house at that time, and no buildings are mentioned in the deed. By the time Savory sold the property in 1842 to his brother-in-law Stephen Palmer (1796-1880), Palmer was living in a house on the lot and paid \$2000 for the property, described as being on the road from Little's Corner to Pentucket Pond and having as its southern border the property owned by Daniel Pierce at 52 North Street, on the north side of the intersection on North and Pond Streets.<sup>1</sup>

Stephen Palmer, the son of John and Sarah Harriman Palmer of Bradford, married Rachel Hale Savory's sister Sarah (1795-1873) in 1825. His parents were both born in Bradford, but by the time he was born in 1796 the family had moved to Derry, New Hampshire, where both parents died. The 1840 census lists Palmer in a household of seven immediately after Daniel Pierce. By 1850 Stephen and Sarah Palmer had moved to Methuen, and he sold in March of that year "the homestead where I now live" to Jacob W. Reed of Groveland for \$1600; it was then ten acres in extent. Reed, who bought and sold property often in these years, sold 17-19 Pond Street and an 0.6-acre lot to James Folsom and Joseph P. Folsom in May 1851.<sup>2</sup> Folsom either renovated or replaced the existing house for two-family occupancy.

Born in Gilmanton, New Hampshire, in 1796, James Folsom is listed in the 1850 census as a carpenter with no real property living in a two-family house with his wife Dolly Watson Folsom, born in New Hampshire in 1790, and their widowed daughter Eliza Ann Folsom Sargent, then 30 years old. The 1856 Georgetown map attached the names J & J. P. Folsom to the house on this site, and by 1860 the families of James and his son Joseph P. Folsom and daughter-in-law Lydia A. Chase Folsom were

<sup>1</sup> Samuel Plummer to John B. Savory, 27 March 1835, SECD 280:189; John B. Savory to Stephen Palmer, 1 October 1842, 334:73

<sup>2</sup> Stephen Palmer, Georgetown, to Jacob W. Reed, Groveland, 26 March 1850, SECD 426:170; Jacob W. Reed, Groveland, to James Folsom and Joseph P. Folsom, Georgetown, 5 May 1851 SECD 445:3.

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sharing 17-19 Pond Street. Joseph P. Folsom was born in Alton, New Hampshire, about 1824. He also was a carpenter, and Eliza Sargent then worked as a shoe binder.

In 1863 Dolly Folsom died, and the 1865 census shows James Folsom as a box maker in one part of the house with daughter Eliza Sargent and Joseph P. and Lydia Folsom in the other with their 9-year-old son Frank C. Folsom. In the same year Eliza Sargent married again, to Boxford farmer Daniel Webster Spofford. The son of Aaron and Rebecca Foster Spofford, Daniel Spofford had enlisted in the 19<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry in August 1861, was wounded at the battle of Antietam in September 1862, and was discharged in August 1864.

In 1868 Joseph's wife Lydia died of consumption just short of her thirty-ninth birthday, and in June 1869 Folsom married Annie Bagley of Amesbury. The 1870 census shows James Folsom as retired, owning \$800 in real property, and living with Daniel and Eliza Spofford, their young son William, and a boarder; James P., now a shoebox manufacturer, is shown with \$1500 in real property with his wife Annie, son Frank, and adopted daughter Lizzie.

James Folsom died in March 1880, and the 1880 census shows Joseph, his wife Annie, their daughter Lizzie, then working as a dressmaker, and a domestic servant in the household. James's son Frank had married Rowley native Lizzie J. Bailey in 1880 and was apparently living nearby. The 17-19 Pond Street property appears to have passed to Daniel and Eliza Folsom Sargent Spofford, who are shown in this neighborhood in the 1900 census and listed on Pond Street in the 1901 and 1905 directories. Spofford was a farmer, realtor, and auctioneer. Eliza Spofford died in 1902, and seven years later Daniel Spofford married the Nova Scotia native and widow Elizabeth Gynan Dow. The 1910 census shows the couple alone at 17-19 Pond Street.

Daniel W. Spofford died in 1919, and in May 1920 his widow sold half the house and its land at auction to Theodore A. Macdonald. Two years later Frank Folsom, Joseph's son and then living in Haverhill, sold the other half of the 17-19 Pond Street property to Macdonald.<sup>3</sup> Like Elizabeth Dow Spofford, Macdonald was from Nova Scotia, and he was living in Georgetown by 1895 when he married Joseph Folsom's adopted daughter Lizzie. The Macdonalds lived at 81 West Main Street through at least 1930 and probably rented 17-19 Pond Street. He was a shoe factory cutter and later a box and shoe factory foreman.

In 1942 Macdonald sold 17-19 Pond Street to Alma C. and Rodney Dresser, who owned the property for almost 30 years.<sup>4</sup> The widow of Winfield P. Dresser, Alma Dresser was a teacher at Central Grammar School and is shown living at 17 Pond Street in the 1957 directory. Her son Rodney Cole Dresser was born in 1916 and was also a teacher and later principal of Topsfield School. In 1971 Alma Dresser sold 17-19 Pond Street to Rutherford Associates of Georgetown, and current owner Phillip S. Mumley acquired the property in 2015.<sup>5</sup>

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## DIRECTORIES

<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth L. Spofford, administrator estate Daniel W. Spofford, to Theodore A. Macdonald, 5 May 1920, SECD 2448:134; Frank W. C. Folsom, Haverhill MA, to Theodore A. Macdonald, 25 May 1922, SECD 2518:456.

<sup>4</sup> Theodore A. Macdonald to Alma M. and Rodney C. Dresser, 25 July 1942, SECD 3307:92.

<sup>5</sup> Alma M. Dresser, Georgetown, and Rodney C. Dresser, Topsfield MA, to Rutherford Associates, Inc., 30 December 1971, SECD 5836:734; Robert DiPietro to Phillip S. Mumley, 17-19 Pond Street, 27 April 2015, SECD 34009:328.

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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 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.

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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from SW.

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Aerial view from east. Source: [bing.com/maps](http://bing.com/maps).