

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



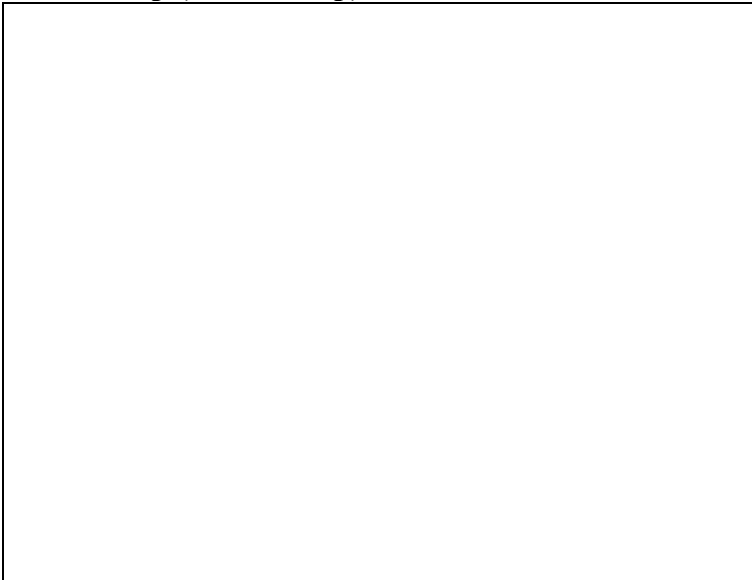
View from NW.



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)



# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

176 West Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.323

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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

6D-112

Georgetown

GEO.323

**Setting:** Densely developed area on historic road leading out of town along spit of land between two major ponds.

**Town/City:** Georgetown

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

**Address:** 176 West Main Street

**Historic Name:** Foster-Weston House

**Uses:** Present: single family residential  
Original: single family residential

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1845

**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:**  
None

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):  
Second entrance added, late 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Window sash replaced

**Condition:** fair

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.42 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 Foster-Weston House is a two-story wood frame two-family dwelling with a cross-gable roof built about 1845. It has an unusual cross-wing plan with the front of the story-and-a-half wing in line with the gable front of the "upright" section and the entrance positioned at the intersection of the two parts. The entrance is contained in an exterior vestibule, a popular feature in early nineteenth-century domestic design in Georgetown. The doorway is distinguished by sidelights and a trabeated architrave. A chimney on the party wall between the house and wing evidently is intended to function on both sides, which places it in an awkward location near the entrance. The main two-story section of the house is a hybrid of end house and hall-parlor type plans. There are two window bays on the street end and one bay on the rear. Another chimney probably was located on the rear wall of a room south end of the house; a more recent stove chimney has been added to the south end. The balanced fenestration on the east façade has been upset with the loss of a window and the asymmetrical addition of a second entry when a second dwelling unit was created the house. The hood mounted on ornate brackets dates this alteration to the late nineteenth century.

The house is situated in center of and close to its road frontage where a stockade fence and foliage screen it from view. A driveway enters from West Main Street east of the house and terminates in a parking area. Mature trees line the side and rear lot lines.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

No house was extant on the southerly side of West Main Street when the 1830 map of Georgetown was drawn, although it appears to have been part of the large farm owned by Samuel Weston and his heirs, who had houses on the other side of the road (see GEO.324). The house numbered 176 West Main Street is depicted on the 1856 map and associated with J. Foster. The shoemaker Jonathan Foster and his family are enumerated among Westons in this neighborhood in the 1850 and 1855 censuses. Born in New Hampshire about 1809, Foster had married Mary Poor in Rowley in 1833; they were living in Boxford by 1840. The 1850 census credits Foster with \$400 in real property, but this property was apparently elsewhere in the town; he may have rented this West Main Street house from the Westons. Jonathan and Mary Foster's household included six children aged fifteen to two years of age in 1850.

By 1860 Jonathan Foster and his family had been replaced in the house by George S. Weston, grandson of Samuel Weston. Samuel Weston (1761-1828) acquired the seventy-acre farm, with a history that extends back into the early eighteenth century, in 1804 (see GEO.324). Born in Rowley, Samuel Weston was married to Mehitabel Cowdrey (1787-1827) in Rowley and moved to Reading by 1791, when their oldest child, Samuel, was born. Of their next children, Cutler, Fitch, Olive, and Orin were all born in Reading, and son Flint was born in Rowley West Parish in 1807, three years after his father bought the farm. After Samuel Weston died, sons Cutler, Finch and Orin continued to work the farm. The 1830 map associates one house with the estate of Samuel Weston (175 W. Main St., GEO.19), evidently occupied by Cutler, and a second house linked to Orin and Fitch Weston (185 W. Main St., GEO.324).

George Spofford Weston (1837-1909) was Orin and Lavinia Spofford Weston's son. George S. and his wife, Harriett A. Dow Weston, were childless when the federal and state censuses recorded the household in 1860 and 1865. In 1870 their household expanded after they adopted son Charles H. (b.1867) and daughter Grace M. (b.1869). In his 10 January 1870 will, Orin Weston bequeathed the so-called "Foster Place" where his son lived to his married daughter Lucy Richmond Weston. (George S. Weston and his family apparently moved in with his widowed mother.) Lucy R. Weston had married William Moore Gay of Pittsfield in 1866. The 1880 census describes him as a Congregational clergyman and gardener living at 176 West Main Street with his wife and their two children, Willard and Edith, born in Connecticut between 1868 and 1870. The Gays and their daughter

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Edith, by then a stenographer, were living on West Main Street in 1900, and after William M. Gay died in 1906 his widow Lucy stayed in the house until she died in 1925. Later that year her son Willard, then living in New Rochelle, New York, sold the property to Bainbridge Morse of Haverhill.<sup>1</sup>

Born in Georgetown in 1858, Bainbridge Morse was the son of shoemaker John G. Morse and his wife Martha Buckminster Morse. In 1881 he married Ida Louise Morse, the daughter of Charles R. and Amelia Morse, and they lived in Haverhill, where Morse ran a gentlemen's clothing store. They were still residing in Haverhill in 1930, and their daughter Greta Weston Morse was living at the West Main Street address with her husband, Georgetown native Richard Booth Larkin, a dentist, and their two children, Thelma L. and Bainbridge. They were renting part of the house to Edith M. Larkin, possibly Richard B. Larkin's sister-in-law, and her two young children. The Larkins appear to have lived at 176 West Main Street until Richard Larkin died in 1955, although they never owned the house. When Bainbridge Morse died in 1935, the property was conveyed to his grandchildren Bainbridge Larkin and Thelma L. Richardson. In 1975 Richardson sold 176 West Main Street to Kenneth L. and Irene Jackson, who owned it for four years. Current owner 176 West Main Street Georgetown Realty Trust acquired the property in 2003.<sup>2</sup>

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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).

<sup>1</sup> Willard W. Gay, New Rochelle NY, to Bainbridge Morse, Haverhill MA, 30 September 1925, SECD 2658:163. This deed states that the 176 West Main property is the same as item 4 in Orin Weston's will.

<sup>2</sup> Thelma L. Richardson, individually and as trustee under will Bainbridge Morse, Haverhill MA, to Bainbridge M. Larkin, Vista CA, 8 February 1960, SECD 4653:554; Bainbridge M. Larkin, Vista CA, to Thelma L. Richardson, 29 February 1960, SECD 4653:555; Thelma L. Richardson to Kenneth L. and Irene Jackson, 1 April 1975, SECD 6136:617; Kenneth L. and Irene Jackson to Donald S. and Nancy S. Hennigar, 30 July 1979, SECD 6616:512; Edward J. Byron and Paula Brewer-Byron, Salem MA, to Richard A. Birarelli, trustee 176 West Main Street Georgetown Realty Trust, 16 January 2003, SECD 35140:602. The property is shown on "Plan on Land in Georgetown, Mass., Owned by Thelma Richardson," November 1974, SECD 104 of 1975.

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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from NE.

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