

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

19 Parsonage Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.288

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## FORM B – BUILDING

Source: Mass GIS Oliver Parcel Viewer

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

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

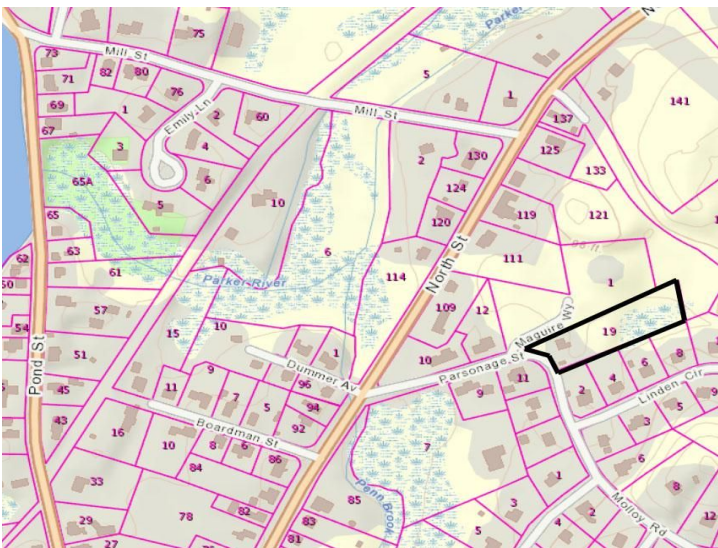
**Organization:** Town of Georgetown Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2017

## Photograph



## Locus Map (north at top)



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

11B-82

Georgetown

GEO.288

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

**Town/City:** Georgetown

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

**Address:** 19 Parsonage Street

**Historic Name:** Riley-Soucy-Dymont House

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

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1850

**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

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

Front porch enclosed, late 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Vinyl siding added

**Condition:** fair

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.01 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 Riley-Soucy-Dyment House is a story-and-a-half wood frame single dwelling with a gable roof built about 1850. It originated with a hall-parlor-with-center-passage plan, later expanded with shed-roof wings on the front and rear. If it had been built with fireplaces, there would have been chimneys on the rear wall of the main section; however, those are not extant. The entrance is positioned off-center on the façade of the shed-roof extension on the front; windows in the upper half-story are visible above the roof. The north end contains single windows centered in both stories, but a later double window occupies the first-floor space on the south end. A shed-roof wing covering two-thirds of the rear wall appears to be a later addition.

The house is sited in the northwest corner of the narrow frontage of a deep lot. It is set back from the street behind a small yard containing a parking area on the street. A wood-frame one-car garage is located in the opposite corner. The side and rear yards quickly end at woods that characterize the rear of the parcel.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

On August 1873 Henry P. Chaplin and Francis Marden sold this acre of land and “the house standing on same” to Patrick Riley for \$400. This area at the edge of the town center is poorly represented on nineteenth-century maps, and no house is shown on this lot, on the northeast side of the bend in Parsonage Street, on any nineteenth-century Georgetown map.<sup>1</sup> The 1873 deed states that the acre lot was part of the “Parsonage,” meaning the First Baptist Society of Georgetown’s parsonage lot, which covered both sides of North Street in this vicinity. It was a sixty-acre farm “which is now improved as a parsonage together with all the buildings thereon” and had been deeded to the Society in January 1823 by the brothers Samuel and Benjamin Plummer, whose family owned a large tract ranging along the east side of Pentucket Pond.<sup>2</sup> A house (or houses) is not specifically mentioned in the deed, but at least one was very likely included among the buildings.

In 1867 a committee appointed by the First Baptist Society sold the old meetinghouse to Edwin P. Perkins and Flint Weston, both of Georgetown, and a house serving as the parsonage at the time (12 Parsonage St, GEO.287) on a 2-acre lot was sold to Catherine Molloy. That same year, the Society deeded the so-called “Parsonage Pasture” of 38.25 acres to Francis Marden of Boxford. Marden sold an undivided half of the pasture tract to shoe manufacturer Henry P. Chaplin of Georgetown in 1872, and in 1873 Chaplin and Marden sold the acre lot with its house to Riley.<sup>3</sup> The form and design of the extant house suggest that it had been constructed by 1850. The physical aspects of at least two other houses built on land owned by Marden and Chaplin, indicate that older houses were moved here from other places (see 83 and 85 North St. GEO.265 & 266) and occupied by shoemakers. It is not known who may have occupied the subject house before Patrick Riley did.

Born in Ulster County, Ireland, about 1835. Patrick Riley was living in Georgetown at least by 1870, when he is shown as a bootmaker with two other Irish immigrant boarders in the home of Patrick and Ann Molloy. Beginning in August 1862 Riley served in Company K of the 33d Massachusetts Infantry, was wounded in Georgia in May 1864, and was discharged the

<sup>1</sup> Henry P. Chaplin and Francis Marden, Boxford MA, to Patrick Riley, 11 August 1873, SECD 886:198.

<sup>2</sup> Samuel Plummer and Benjamin Plumer to Timothy Mors Jr, Solomon Nelson, and John Broklebank [sic], trustee First Baptist Church and Society, 2 January 1823, SECD 261:285.

<sup>3</sup> Edwin P. Perkins and Flint Weston, Georgetown, and Rufus D. Lothrop, Bradford MA, committee for the Baptist Society in Georgetown, to Catharine Molloy, 7 May 1867, SECD 725:901 Baptist Society of Georgetown to Francis Marden, Boxford, 15 June 1867, SECD 816:49; John W. Morrill, Stephen S. Hardy, and Jonathan T. Plumer, committee of Baptist Society in Georgetown, to Francis Marden, Boxford, 17 May 1869, SECD 774:140; Baptist Society in Georgetown to Francis Marden, Boxford, 6 July 1869, SECD 777:35; Francis Marden to Henry P. Chaplin, 1 April 1872, SECD 851:108. These deeds refer to a survey of the Baptist Society’s land conducted by Samuel H. Wadleigh, but no such plan under his name or the society’s name has yet been located at the Southern Essex County Registry of Deeds.

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following May. In 1873 he married Catherine Baren, an Irish immigrant living in Georgetown, and the 1880 census enumerates them after James P. and Catherine Molloy, who lived at 12 Parsonage Street. Still working as a bootmaker, Riley was noted in the 1880 census to be a "sufferer from gun-shot wound in Federal service"; he and his wife had a two-year-old daughter, Catherine. He was a widower when he died of consumption in 1883, and in July that year the executor of his will sold the property at auction to Catherine Molloy for \$425.<sup>4</sup> The 1900 census suggests that the Molloys rented 19 Parsonage Street, as they were enumerated on both sides of the Molloy household.

In 1902 Catherine Molloy's son Patrick J. Molloy deeded 19 Parsonage Street to his sister Catherine, who married Nova Scotian immigrant John W. Ross that year. The Rosses had two children—Katherine Josephine, born in 1902, and John Willoughby, born on 10 January 1905. Catherine Ross died in childbirth; her husband had died five days earlier of heart disease. Their young children were granted title to the house under care of a guardian, and in 1926 they sold the property to John H. Molloy 2<sup>nd</sup> and his wife Elsie, who owned it for only three years. The Molloys sold 19 Parsonage Street in June 1929 to Antoine and Zelia Soucy of Brentwood, New Hampshire, who owned it until 1958.<sup>5</sup>

Born in St. Ulric, Quebec, in 1884, Antoine Joseph Soucy was a laborer working in Fall River when he married Zelia Clarie, who had come from St. Jerome, Quebec, to the United States in 1890. The Soucys lived in Swansea, Massachusetts, when their first child Roger was born in 1912; they had moved to Westford by 1916, back to the Bristol County town of Westport by 1919, and to Brentwood, New Hampshire, by 1922. The 1930 census shows the Soucys on Parsonage Street in Georgetown owning \$1000 in real property. Soucy worked at an electric company, and he and his wife then had seven children—Roger, then 19 and a shoe factory cementer; Arnette, a 16-year-old shoe factory stitcher; Armand, Roland, Arthur, Leo, and Ramona. By the time the 1940 census was taken, Antoine Soucy was a janitor at Charles Marston's shoe factory, daughter Annette was stitching shoes, Armand was a nursery gardener, Roland was 20 years old and working in a shoe shop stitching department, and Arthur, then eighteen, was a pin setter in a bowling alley. In 1958 Antoine and Zelia Soucy sold the house to Gordon B. and Charlene Dymont, who still own the property.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

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

**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.

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.

<sup>4</sup> Orlando B. Tenney, executor will Patrick Riley, to Catharine Molloy, 26 July 1883, SECD 1221:155.

<sup>5</sup> Patrick J. and Susan Molloy to Katie S. Molloy, 7 April 1902, SECD 1669:452; Kathryn J. and John W. Ross, Haverhill MA, to John H. Molloy 2d and Elsie G. Molloy, 23 June 1926, SECD 2685:232; John H. Molloy 2d and Elsie G. Molloy to Antoine and Zelia Soucy, Brentwood NH, 18 June 1929, SECD 2809:573.

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“Town of Georgetown Mass.” and “Village of Georgetown Mass.” In *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts* (Boston: George H. Walker, 1884).



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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



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

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View of garage from west.