

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

10B 38

Georgetown

GEO.81

Town/City: Georgetown

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Elm Street Area

Photograph



View from SE

Locus Map



Address: 21 Elm Street

Historic Name: William B. & Mary L. Hammond House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1872

Source: town maps; visual analysis

Style/Form: Classical Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

none

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 2.0 acres

Setting: This property is on the west side of Elm Street north of its intersection with Chestnut Street. Elm Street is primarily residential.

Recorded by: Kathryn Grover and Neil Larson

Organization: Georgetown Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): January 2010

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GEORGETOWN

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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.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The William B. & Mary L. Hammond House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with wood clapboard siding and a front gable roof. It is situated on the Elm Street frontage of a trapezoidal two-acre lot, which was subdivided from the larger neighboring property (17 Elm St.) around 1872 when the current house was built, possibly incorporating materials from an earlier store and shoe shop dating from the 1830s. The house is sited near the north lot line along which a driveway runs to the rear of the parcel where a work yard containing trailers and temporary buildings is located. The southwestern corner of the property contains wetlands and is forested. Yard space along the street frontage and on the north and south sides of the house is dedicated to parking.

The two-bay gabled front façade of the house contains an entrance on the north end embellished with a flat hood supported by massive scrolled brackets. This feature, as well as the attenuated Classical corner and eave details, is common to late-19th-century domestic architecture in industrial towns in eastern Massachusetts. The long side walls contain multiple window bays. An enclosed porch spans the full extent of the north wall, where a secondary entrance is located; it abuts a small, square kitchen ell that is offset north of the rear corner of the house so that it communicates with the porch. The ell has a flat-pitched gable roof similar to those on the kitchen ells of older houses in the neighborhood, and the sloping terrain of the lot exposes the masonry basement at grade on the west and south sides. The south side of the house has a one-story box bay window at the west end that is supported by the basement exposed below on the west wall. Existing two-over-two wood window sash appears to the original.

The William B. & Mary Hammond House is a distinctive example of a late-19th-century village dwelling, and it may have been created from an older and historically significant store and/or shoe shop that served a number of town and church functions. The house is essentially intact to its ca. 1872 construction date and is distinguished by original materials. It is a contributing component of a historic district on Elm Street.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to local histories, aside from the road (now Massachusetts Route 133) connecting Georgetown to its parent Rowley to the east and Andover on the west, Elm Street is one of the oldest streets in Georgetown, having been opened to "public travel" about 1686.¹ At that time between ten and twenty families lived in what was known as Rowley second (or west) parish or New Rowley. Beginning in the 1650s Rowley proprietors began to make land grants in the town's western reaches; in 1666-67, the town laid out three thousand acres in the area and granted John Spofford the job of penning cattle "the young cattle of the towne" where they had "been herded this last yeare." Penn Brook is named for these pens, which stood west of Elm Street. In 1732 families in the area successfully petitioned to form the Second Church of Rowley (ultimately Georgetown's First Congregational Church) and built a second meetinghouse at the junction of Elm and East Main Streets in 1769. In 1838 the General Court of Massachusetts incorporated Georgetown, which embraced most of the second parish.²

By 1800, according to a map showing the town center at that time, various branches of the Nelson family owned large tracts embracing both sides of Elm and Chestnut Street and both sides of Main Street in this section. All of these branches descended

¹ See, for example, Benjamin F. Arrington, ed., *Municipal History of Essex County in Massachusetts* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1922), 146.

² Thomas Gage, *The History of Rowley* (Boston: Ferdinand Andrews, 1840), 31-32, 320, 324, 326, 329.

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from Thomas Nelson (1615-about 1648), who was among the twenty families who had come to the New World in the winter of 1638 with the Puritan cleric Ezekiel Rogers (1590-166). With Rogers most of these families settled at Rowley, founded in 1639.

The first building to appear on this site is depicted as a store on the 1838 map of Georgetown. It belonged to Benjamin Winter, who lived next door (17 Elm St.) and perhaps also operated a shoe factory in the building. An 1888 local history states that the second floor of the building was used for "vestry purposes and social meetings for some years" prior to the Congregational Church's construction of a vestry building in 1836 and was then used in the 1840s for a school.³ An 1856 map shows a building marked "shop" there. Dependents of the Winter family likely had been residing in at least part of the building for decades. In particular, Mary Winter, a presumed niece, and her husband David Bridges, a show worker, who were enumerated next to the Winters in the 1860 and 1870 censuses. In 1872 two unlabeled buildings are shown on the site, which are bracketed with the Benjamin Winter house at 17 Elm Street; the larger one resembles the footprint and location of the existing building, and it is at this time that William B. Hammond, its next owner, appears in Georgetown. While a physical inspection of the building may reveal early 19th-century materials in the house, in its existing condition it represents late 19th-century domestic architecture.

A house labeled "E. A. Hammond" is shown on the 1884 map, and a bird's eye view of 1887 identifies it as the W. B. Hammon [sic] residence and depicts the house much as it appears today. The former reference is to Edward A. Hammond, who died in Peabody in 1872; the latter is his son William Blaney Hammond, publisher of the Georgetown *Advocate*. The elder Hammond was a painter and toward the end of his life a sexton; and there is nothing to associate him with Georgetown other than his name posthumously linked to the house. William B. Hammond clearly lived in the house in the 1880s and perhaps as early as 1872 (with his father?), but only then as an unregistered tenant. The 1880 Georgetown census makes clear that Hammond and his family were living at 21 Elm Street by that year. In his household were his wife, Mary L., his daughter Susan, who was seventeen years old and worked as a compositor, no doubt on the *Advocate*, her stepsister Bessie, and his wife's sister Lucy L. DeWolfe, who is shown as a pantmaker. In 1888 historian Henry M. Nelson identifies this house as the W. B. Hammond house and stated that it was originally owned by Benjamin Winter.⁴

The Hammond family was living in Danvers in 1840. William began his career as a printer in the office of the Salem *Gazette* but left in 1857 "on account of dissatisfaction with a two-faced foreman," his journal notes. In 1859 he worked for the South Danvers *Wizard* but left to join the Union Army in October 1861; he contributed letters relating his experiences for publication in the *Wizard*. Hammond served in the battles at Roanoke Island (February 1862), Secessionville (June 1862), and Fort Wagner (July-August 1863) as well as at the siege of Petersburg (June 1864). Just after the Roanoke Island battle Hammond was assigned "special duty" on the *Progress*, apparently an army newspaper:

After breakfast . . . I went to see what kind of trap I was going to get into. I walked into the office as any printer would, went up to the presses and looked at them, then poked along to the typos to see what kind of set they were, when I had the pleasure of shaking hands with Benjamin Arrington, one of my fellow apprentices at the Gazette office. It was by his recommendation that I was sent for. Liking the look of things, I "hailed off my coat and rolled up my sleeves" and into the metal I pitched.⁵

Hammond served in the Union army for three years and by 1870 was living in Peabody, Massachusetts, where he was a printer and, by 1880, a newspaper publisher as well. William B. Hammond, then living in South Danvers, married Georgianna Staples of Haverhill in 1860. By 1877 Georgianna had died (though no death record seems to exist for her in Essex County or in Peabody) and Hammond had moved to Georgetown, where that year he married Mary Louise DeWolfe, a native of New Brunswick who had emigrated the year before. According to local historian Henry Nelson, Hammond was certainly working and probably living in Georgetown by 1872.

September 23, 1874, W. B. Hammond, of Peabody, who had been running a job printing office in Odd Fellows Block for about two years, issued the first number of the Georgetown *Advocate*. The following year he entered into partnership

³ Henry M. Nelson, "Town of Georgetown History," in D. Hamilton Hurd. *History of Essex County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men* (Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis and Co., 1888), 1: 835-36, 824.

⁴ Nelson, "Town of Georgetown History," 1: 846.

⁵ Hammond to Wizard, 13 April 1862, quoted in "William Blaney Hammond," *South Danvers Observer* 3,1 (Summer 1895): 2, Peabody Library (Salem, MA) website, http://www.peabodylibrary.org/history/South_Danvers_Observer_Summer_1895.pdf. This piece provides much of the biographical information on Hammond. The current location of Hammond's journal is not known. Benjamin Arrington may have been the same man who wrote a history of Georgetown published in 1922.

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with the present town clerk, H. N. Harriman, who for some time previously had been a member of the State Constabulary, and located at Salem, the firm greatly enlarging the size of the paper. They print a weekly edition of about twelve hundred copies, have a well-appointed office, issue a sheet deservedly popular, from its typography and general make-up, the files of which will, to the future local historian, be invaluable. A steam-power press is used.⁶

Hammond's widow and the couple's four daughters remained at 21 Elm. By 1910, the eldest daughter, Bessie had moved, but Ruth (born 1880) and Grace (born 1885) were both working as teachers and living at home as was the youngest child, Bertha (born 1888), who was a bank bookkeeper. The family remained at this address until 1916 or 1917, when Mary Louise and Ruth Hammond moved to Pond Street. By 1925 the house at 21 Elm was the home of Janet McIlwraith, who also operated a variety store from the house. McIlwraith came from Scotland in 1918 and by 1930 was working in a shoe factory; her sister Abbie Smith, also a shoemaker, had come to the United States in 1911 and lived with her. In 1933 town assessor's records show the sisters owning a house, barn, and brooder house at 21 Elm. By 1960 Alma B. Smallwood, probably from Peabody, owned the house and its two-acre lot, and she sold it twenty years later to current owners F. Peter and Gretchen DuLong.

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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.

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⁶ Nelson, "Town of Georgetown History," 1: 846.

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[Delete this page if no Criteria Statement is prepared]

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 _____

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

The William B. & Mary Hammond House is a distinctive example of a late-19th-century village dwelling, and it may have been created from an older and historically significant store and/or shoe shop that served a number of town and church functions. The house is essentially intact to its ca. 1872 construction date and is distinguished by original materials. It is a contributing component of a historic district on Elm Street.

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View from NE



Aerial view from NE