

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

10/42

Georgetown

GEO.109

Town/City: Georgetown

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Marlborough

Photograph



View from NW

Address: 215 East Main Street

Historic Name: Samuel T. Hardy House

Uses: Present: residence

Original: residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1870

Source: maps, census records

Style/Form: Second Empire

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asbestos cement shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

none

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.57 acre

Setting: This property is on the southwest side of East Main Street on a lot sloping away from the road and with mature hardwoods. This section of East Main Street is primarily residential.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Kathryn Grover and Neil Larson

Organization: Georgetown Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): January 2010

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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 Samuel T. Hardy House is a one-story wood frame single dwelling with wood clapboard siding and a mansard roof. It is located on a half-acre parcel on the south side of East Main Street in the Marlborough section of the town of Georgetown. The house is surrounded by a mown lawn and mature ornamental plantings. A one-car garage is sited near the southwest corner of the house.

A house appears on this site as early as 1850, and portions of it may have been incorporated in the existing building. However, a more detailed inspection of the premises would be needed to determine this with any certainty.) The dominant feature of the house is its mansard roof and dormers topped by a tall hipped section that may have been added later. There are no brackets decorating the roof edge—a common feature of such roofs, although the entablature appears to have been rebuilt. The front façade contains an entrance on the right side, with a braced gabled hood that was added much later, with two windows to its left. The east wall contains four windows and the west side only two towards the rear, the blank space in the front corresponding with the location of an interior staircase. A one-story flat-roof kitchen ell is appended to the rear.

A detached one-story wood frame garage is located at the end of a driveway running along the west side of the house. The front gable façade contains a single vehicle bay with overhead door.

The Samuel T. Hardy House is a rare example of a house having mansard roof in the town.

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.

East Main Street, now Massachusetts Route 133, is the earliest road in Georgetown and connects the town to its parent Rowley to the east and Andover on the west. Beginning in the 1650s Rowley proprietors began to make land grants in the town's western reaches, the area that came to be known as Rowley second (or west) parish or New Rowley and ultimately Georgetown. In 1666-67, the town laid out three thousand acres in the area and granted John Spofford the job of penning "the young cattle of the towne" where they had "been herded this last yeare." Pen Brook is named for these pens, which stood east 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.¹

On the 1830 map of Georgetown, no house is shown on the site of 215 East Main Street, which is located among a number of properties associated with the Merrill family. They all were descendants of Nathaniel Merrill, who came to Newbury from England in 1635. Thomas Merrill (1702-74) settled in what is now Georgetown about 1743. He is said to have purchased a saltbox house from Joseph Nelson which stood "about a half mile below the old meetinghouse," built in the early 1730s in the Marlboro district surrounding East Main and Tenney Street, which survived at least until 1909.²

¹ Thomas Gage, *The History of Rowley* (Boston: Ferdinand Andrews, 1840), 31-32, 320, 324, 326, 329.

² Samuel Merrill, *A Merrill Memorial: An Account of the Descendants of Nathaniel Merrill, An Early Settler of Newbury, Massachusetts* (Cambridge, MA, 1917-28); 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: 848. Nelson stated that Thomas Merrill bought "the Joseph Nelson house in Marlboro district, now the Jacob F. Jewett house."

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In 1856 the town map shows a dwelling at 215 East Main Street associated with "Wid. Cheney," who was Louisa (or Lois) Hannaford Cheney, widow of Abner Cheney (1780-1832). Her death is not recorded in Massachusetts, but she had died by 1854 when Nathaniel Merrill, the administrator of her estate, sold a tract to Samuel Thurston Hardy. The 1872 map labels a house on this site "S. Hardy," for either Samuel Hardy (born 1782) or, more likely, his son Samuel Thurston Hardy (1831-1906). The Hardy family was in Georgetown by 1850 and living in this neighborhood. The elder Hardy was a farmer. He married Clarissa Washburn of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, and in 1857 their daughter Eunice, born in Claremont, New Hampshire, about 1827, married Phineas E. Merrill. Phineas E. Merrill was a son of Benjamin Merrill (1780-1853) and grandson of Thomas Merrill, and he was probably then living in his family's 1730s homestead. There is no marriage record in Essex County for Samuel T. Hardy.

Samuel T. Hardy purchased an additional, adjoining tract from Jacob Jewett, who lived just southeast of this house, in 1864. Neither the senior Samuel Hardy or Samuel T. Hardy is listed in this neighborhood in the 1870 census, but Samuel Sr.'s wife Clarissa, then eighty years old, was living in the household of her daughter Eunice and son-in-law Phineas Merrill. She died, a widow, in 1879. The next year the census shows Samuel T. Hardy alone in a household; the census notes that he was then "absent on a fishing cruise." The house is labeled "S. Hardy" on the 1884 map, but what became of him and the rest of his family is not yet known. By 1885 Phineas and Eunice Hardy Merrill were living at the corner of Tenney and Searl Streets. Who occupied 215 East Main Street after the mid-1880s to the mid-1900s is not known. At some point Henry Prescott Poor, born in Georgetown in 1858, owned the property and sold it to the shoe worker Roy Charles Spaulding, who may have lived there with his wife Beatrice and sons Roy and Warren by 1930. Spaulding was the son of farmer Charles Spaulding and grew up nearby on Tenney Street. Directories and other records do not assign house numbers to properties this far east on East Main Street, so it is not possible to know through these sources which house Spaulding occupied. He was living on East Main Street as late as 1942. Spaulding's sons transferred title to the property to current owner Robert L. Spaulding in 1978.³

³ Nathaniel Merrill, administrator, to Samuel T. Hardy, 23 March 1854, SED 1334:451; Jacob Jewett to Samuel T. Hardy, 19 November 1864, SED 1795:503; Henry P. Poor to Roy C. Spaulding, SED 2434:137; Warren H. and Roy C. Spaulding Jr. to Robert L. Spaulding, 23 October 1978, SED 6530:651.

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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.

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View from NE

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View from SE



Aerial view from NW