

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

10/14

Georgetown

GEO.110

Town/City: Georgetown

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Marlborough

Photograph



View from S

Locus Map



Address: 222 East Main Street

Historic Name: Moses and Mary Merrill House

Uses: Present: residence

Original: residence

Date of Construction: c. 1826

Source: censuses, local histories

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Central pavilion added south side
Large additions on west, north and east sides

Condition: fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.5 acres

Setting: The house on this property is sited at the top of a steep rise from the north side of East Main Street on a lot with mature hardwoods. This section of East Main 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 Moses and Mary Merrill House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with wood clapboard siding and a gable roof. It is situated on a promontory on the north side of East Main Street. The 1.5-acre property extends quite a distance north and is forested. It is accessed by a driveway originating in the southwest corner of the lot where a detached one-car garage is located.

The south façade was presumably the front, although today what was the central entrance bay is covered with a short, two-story pavilion with a front gable roof. There is a doorway in the west side of the pavilion. There are two window bays on either side of the pavilion, which contain six-over-one replacement sash. A center chimney indicates that the original house had a traditional two-room plan with a kitchen ell that seems no longer to exist. Recent owners have constructed large one-story flat roof additions designed in the Modern style on the remaining three sides of the house. A small wood frame garage is sited along the driveway southwest of the house.

The Moses and Mary Merrill House is an important relic of the early 19th-century development of the crossroads known as Marlborough where the Merrill family settled and later generations established farms and shoe shops.

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

The 1830 map of Georgetown shows a house labeled "M. Merrill" on the site of 222 East Main, and it was the house of Moses Merrill (1805-79), part of the sixth generation of descendants of the immigrant Nathaniel Merrill (possibly 1601-55), who with his brother John was one of the earliest settlers of Newbury, Massachusetts, in 1635. Moses Merrill's great-grandfather Thomas (1702-74) was the first of this branch of the family to settle in what became Georgetown and is said to have lived "about half a mile below the old meetinghouse" in a 1730s saltbox house he acquired from Joseph Nelson near the East Main-Tenney Streets intersection.² Moses's grandfather Thomas (1737-1820) lived in this homestead, which remained in the family until 1898 and was torn down in 1905..

Moses Merrill's father John (1763-1816) died when he was eleven years old, and where he, his mother Mehitabel Hale Merrill, and his siblings lived has not been determined. Moses married Mary Nelson Lowell in Rowley in 1826, and his mother died in 1839. The 1840 census shows Moses Merrill in this area of Georgetown and very likely in this house. The composition of age

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), 196.

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and gender in the household matches the more precise 1850 census, which shows Moses Merrill as a shoemaker with five hundred dollars in property, his wife Mary Nelson Lowell, and his children Moses Jr. (born 1827), George W. (born 1829), Lyman (1834), Mary (1837), Charles (1839), Henry (1842), and John M. (1846). In the 1870 census Moses's real property is valued at eight hundred dollars. He still worked as a bootmaker, as did his son George, who was living in his household; his son Moses, who had married, was enumerated next in a separate household.

In 1879 Moses Merrill died, and in the 1880 census his widow Mary is shown alone in a household enumerated just before that of her son George. George W. Merrill then worked as a bootmaker and band musician. By 1901 George and his brother Herbert had moved to Central Street. Mary N. Merrill died in 1904, and in 1907 her heirs sold the property to Martha A. Dummer, widow of the farmer Samuel Dummer of Rowley. She is shown on East Main Street in the 1909 directory, with her son Arthur Coleman Dummer, a watchmaker in Waltham, and in the 1910 census in the household by herself.

Martha Dummer died in 1910, and her son Arthur moved to Waltham but seems to have inherited 222 East Main Street. In 1915 he sold the property to Fred G. McKinnon, a shoe factory cutter born about 1860 in Massachusetts who was probably renting the house. By 1925 McKinnon moved to Central Street. By 1930 the house had been acquired by the widow Sarah J. White Cloutier. Born in Nova Scotia in 1854, Cloutier emigrated in 1874 and in 1880 in Lynn married shoemaker Casimir Cloutier, who came from Quebec to the United States in 1873. He died in 1909. By 1930 his widow and two of the couple's four children were at 222 East Main Street. Cloutier's daughter Viola, born in 1887, sold the property to Everett T. and Bessie T. Noyes in 1948.³

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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.

³ Heirs of Mary N. Merrill to Martha A. Dummer, 1907; Arthur Coleman Dummer to Fred G. McKinnon, 1915, SED 2290:51; Viola Cloutier to Everett T. and Bessie T. Noyes, 16 November 1948, SED 3633:305.

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.

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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__Neil Larson and Kathryn Grover_____
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Moses and Mary Merrill House is an important relic of the early 19th-century development of the crossroads known as Marlborough where the Merrill family settled and later generations established farms and shoe shops.

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View from SW



View from W

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View from SE

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View from E



Aerial view from W