

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

24 ANDOVER ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.212

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Recorded by: Kathryn Grover & Neil Larson

Organization: Georgetown Historical Commission

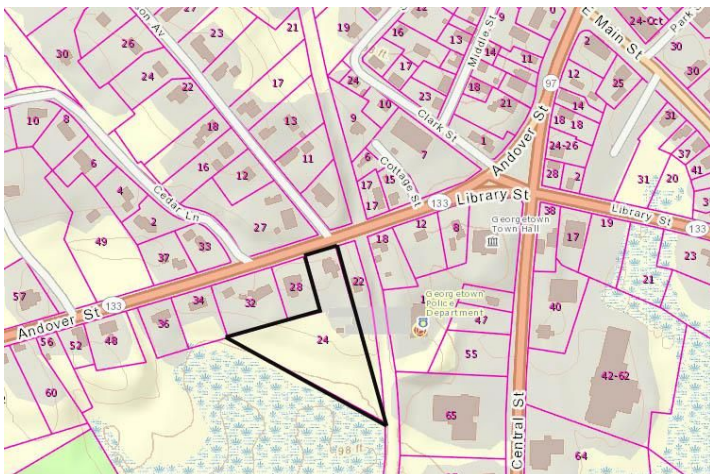
Date: February 2017

Photograph



View from north.

Locus Map



Source: Mass GIS Oliver Parcel Viewer

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

5A-2

GEORGETOWN

GEO.212

Setting: The house is situated in the densely settled center of Georgetown on one of the major arteries leading west through the town.**Town/City:** Georgetown**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):
Georgetown Center**Address:** 24 Andover Street**Historic Name:** Benjamin S. & Sarah Pickett House**Uses:** Present: single family residential

Original: single family residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1830**Source:** historic maps, local histories**Style/Form:** Greek Revival**Architect/Builder:** unknown**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Shed

Major Alterations (*with dates*):Vinyl siding added, late 20th centuryWindow sash replaced, late 20th centuryDeck added to rear, late 20th century**Condition:** fair**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:****Acreage:** 1.50 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 Benjamin S. and Sarah Pickett House, built about 1830, is a two-story wood frame dwelling located on the south side of Andover Street west of Central Street; the rear of the property adjoins the railroad right-of-way on its east side. With chimneys at the gable ends, the house has a plan with two principal front rooms and smaller unheated rear rooms divided by a central passage. The wide front façade has a central entrance distinguished by a trabeated Greek architrave; there is no evidence of there ever having been a porch or piazza. Typical of the region, the eave runs directly above the second-story windows without room for a frieze board and corners lack the wide corner pilasters characteristic of Greek Revival design. Gable ends contain three windows on the first story: two flanking fireplaces in the front rooms and one in the rear rooms. Two windows are widely spaced on the second story with single windows centered in the attic. A wide two-story ell covers the entire rear wall. Its scale and entrances on both sides reflects the long use of the house as a two-family dwelling. A deck has been added to the rear of the ell.

The house is positioned in the front of an acres-and-a-half triangular lot that is all that remains of a larger farm parcel subdivided on the sides and the rear. It is sited on an elevated terrace behind a small yard on Andover Street. A paved driveway enters the property on west side of the house and terminates at a large parking area. An open rear yard contains a small shed and extends back to a wood area in the rear of the lot.

The Benjamin S. & Sarah Pickett House is a representative example of Greek Revival-style domestic architecture in Georgetown. Built ca. 1830 it retains the distinctive form and proportions of large houses of the era distinguished by a trabeated entrance. The building would be a contributing component of an expanded village district.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The house at 24 Andover Street stands on the site of an earlier dwelling shown on the 1830 Georgetown map of that year as the "Wallingford House." This dwelling had been home to Benjamin Wallingford (1739-1805), who manufactured saddlebags, horse collars, harness, and other leather goods on the site. According to local historian Henry M. Nelson, the house was taken down "about 1825," though the 1830 map suggests that the house was still standing at that time. In 1819, fourteen years after Wallingford's death, Georgetown's Nathaniel Nelson bought the Wallingford homestead farm of eighteen acres and a seven-acre woodland parcel from Wallingford's heirs, and in 1833 Nelson sold the homestead tracts to Georgetown farmer Benjamin Scudder Pickett (1777-1856), who sold part of the land on the same day to his son John Bridges Pickett (1804-91).¹ Nelson has stated that B. S. Pickett took the Wallingford house down to build the current 24 Andover Street house. The Pickett property for decades also included 22 and 28 Andover Street, and the family occupied 24 Andover Street until 1971.

¹ Robert and Lydia Huse, Rochester VT, to Nathaniel Nelson, 5 March 1819, SECD 254:149; John and Sarah Richards, Rumney NH, to Nathaniel Nelson, 5 March 1819, SECD 254:150; William and Mary Farnham, Sangerville ME, to Nathaniel Nelson, 22 September 1820, SECD 254:150; Nathaniel Nelson, Rowley, to Benjamin S. Pickett, Rowley, 18 October 1833, SECD 274:188; Benjamin S. Pickett to John B. Pickett, 18 October 1833, SECD 274:189. Background on the Wallingford family appears in "Wallingfords of New England," <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~teschek/wallingford/i0000186.htm>; Henry M. Nelson, "Town of Georgetown History," in D. Hamilton Hurd, comp., *History of Essex County, Massachusetts* (Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis and Co., 1888), 831, 843, and Benjamin F. Arrington, ed., *Municipal History of Essex County in Massachusetts* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co. 1922), 251-52. Later genealogical research indicates that Nelson and Arrington erred in stating that Benjamin Wallingford's father was also Benjamin; the latter Benjamin was instead the son of Samuel and Lydia Poore Wallingford and the nephew of the former Benjamin Wallingford (1707-90), who also lived in Georgetown. Arrington states that the Wallingfords were in the "chaise business" as early as 1782.

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Born in Marblehead, Benjamin S. Pickett was a farmer, and he is shown in the 1850 census as owning \$1400 in real property. His wife Sarah J. Bridges was then seventy-two years old, and the couple housed two young women, one of them probably the daughter of their married daughter Elmira Pickett Bailey. The 1856 map of Georgetown shows B. S. Pickett as the owner of 24 Andover Street, but in 1855 he had sold his homestead property and two other tracts to his son John, and he died in Georgetown in September 1856. The 1855 census shows John B. Pickett as a shoemaker in a household with his wife Mahala Dresser, whom he married in 1831, and their sons Kendirk W., born in 1832 and then working as a shoecutter, and John, born in 1841. In 1860 the house was occupied by Benjamin Pickett's widow Sarah, his son John Bridges, shown with \$5000 in real estate, John's wife Mahala, sons Kendrick and John (born 1842), Kendrick's wife Mary E. Huntington Pickett, and their daughter Alice Mahala, born in 1857.

By 1870, John B. Pickett was working as a teamster and is shown with \$2200 in real property; he shared half of 24 Andover Street with his wife, son John, and daughter-in-law Mary Lovett Pickett. Son Kendrick, still a shoe shop worker, occupied the other half of the house with his wife and daughter. The two families continued to occupy 24 Andover Street in 1880. By then Kendrick and Mary Pickett's daughter Alice was working as a milliner; John Bridges Pickett was seventy-five and still farming, while son John W. was shoe factory finisher, and he and his wife had a son, Edward Lovett Pickett, born in 1874.

For an unclear reason the 1884 map seems to show 24 Andover Street as owned by the "J. Kimball estate," though a title search of the property shows no Kimball involved and documents that the Pickett family continued to own it. (The Kimball house is located at 18 Andover St., GEO.124) The 1885 directory shows Kendrick Pickett as a boot and shoe manufacturer with a house on Andover Street abutting the Boston & Maine Railroad corridor. In 1891 John Bridges Pickett and his wife Mahala, both in their eighties, died of pneumonia one day apart, and in 1894 the eighteen-acre property was split in half between John B. Pickett's sons Kendrick and John W.² The 1900 census shows Kendrick Pickett as a farmer living on one side of the house with his wife and his brother John, also a farmer, on the other side with his wife and mother-in-law, eighty-eight-year-old Elizabeth J. Lovett. In 1909 Mary E. Huntington Pickett died, and the household in 1910 included Kendrick Pickett, now retired, and his housekeeper Elizabeth A. Bagley on one side and John W. Pickett's son Edward L. Pickett, his wife Berenice Robinson (whom he married in 1896), their sons Earl R. and Harold C., and Edward's widowed mother Marie Pickett. Edward Pickett was a salesman for the Haverhill men's clothing firm Nichols and Morse. By 1916 Kendrick and Maria Pickett's daughter Alice Mahala, who had married Georgetown harness maker James William Bush in 1888 and was widowed in 1906, was boarding with her widowed father at 24 Andover Street. Kendrick Pickett died in 1920, and Alice M. Bush remained in her parents' half of the house until her own death in 1945, renting her late father's half of the house from her uncle John. In 1951 Edward L. Pickett died, and the next year his widow Berenice and son Harold (the latter then living in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania) deeded half of 24 Andover Street to James and Alice Bush's son Lester Pickett Bush, born in Georgetown in 1889 and married in Boston to Ethel C. Fiske of Danvers in 1909.³ Earlier in his life Lester Bush had been a salesman and a purser on a fruit vessel, but by 1920 he was farming in Rockingham, New Hampshire, where he live with his wife and three sons. By 1940 he was working as a hospital parking attendant and boarding in Boston. After selling the property to the Bushes, Berenice Pickett moved to Beverly, where she died in 1954.

In 1965 Ethel C. Bush transferred title to 24 Andover Street to her son Dana and his wife Louise, then living in Boston, and the couple was living in Hull when they sold it out of the family in 1971 to Rutherford Associates. The larger parcel was subdivided in 1996, and current owners John J. and Josephine A. Flaherty acquired 24 Andover Street in 2005.⁴

² John W. and Maria A Pickett to Kendrick W. Pickett, 25 April 1894, SECD 1414:117; Charles H. Pingree, guardian Edward L. Pickett, to Kendrick W. Pickett, 25 April 1894, SECD 1414:118; Kendrick W. Pickett to John W. and Maria Pickett, 25 April 1894, SECD 1414:119; Henry P. Poor, trustee for John W. and Maria A Pickett under will of late John B Pickett, to Kendrick W. Pickett, 25 April 1894, SECD 1414:121.

³ Berenice R. Pickett, Georgetown, and Harold C. Pickett, Upper Darby PA, to Lester P. and Ethel C. Bush, 22 October 1952, SECD 3934:476. The deed transferred split the house through the back door, the center of the house, and the front door and stipulated that the front, back, cellar, and attic stairs, the front and back doors, and the "rollway" on the west side of the house were to be used in common with Alice Bush (who had died seven years earlier) and her heirs.

⁴ Ethel C. Bush to Dana F. and Louise J. Bush, Boston, 30 July 1965, SECD 5290:619; James E. and Michelle Looney to John J. and Josephine A. Flaherty, 24 Andover St, 26 April 2005, SECD 24221:386. Twenty-four Andover Street (here numbered 24-26 Andover) Street is shown as Lot 1 on "Plan of Land in Georgetown, MA, Property of John R. & Debra W. Parkhurst and Edward R. and Barbara L. Hastings," 27 December 1996, SECP 320:75.

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MAPS

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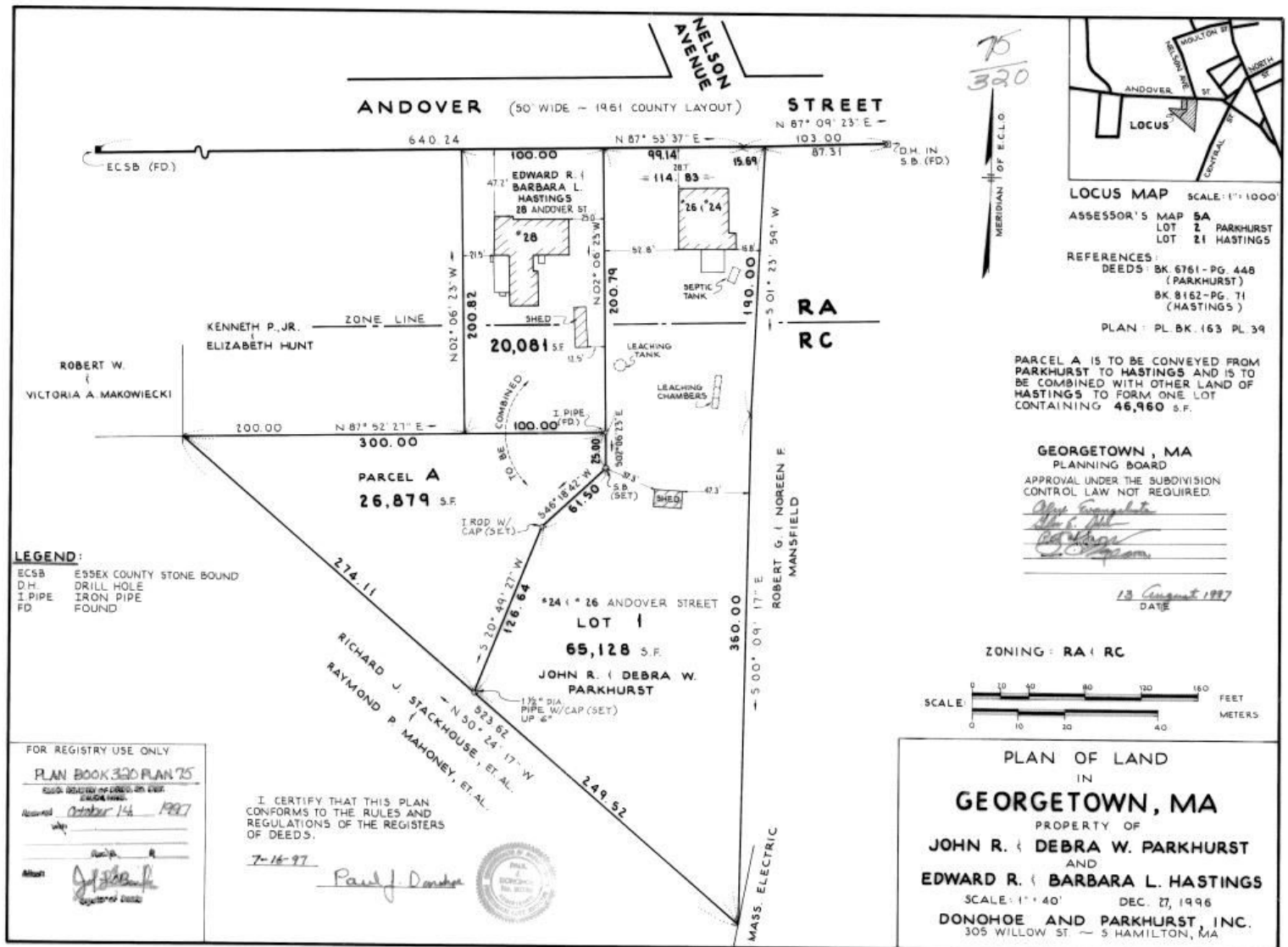
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FIGURES:



Plan of Land in Georgetown, 1996. 24 Andover Street is Lot 1; current property also contains Lot A (SECP 320:75).

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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from NE.

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View from NW.