

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

25 Summer Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.302

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

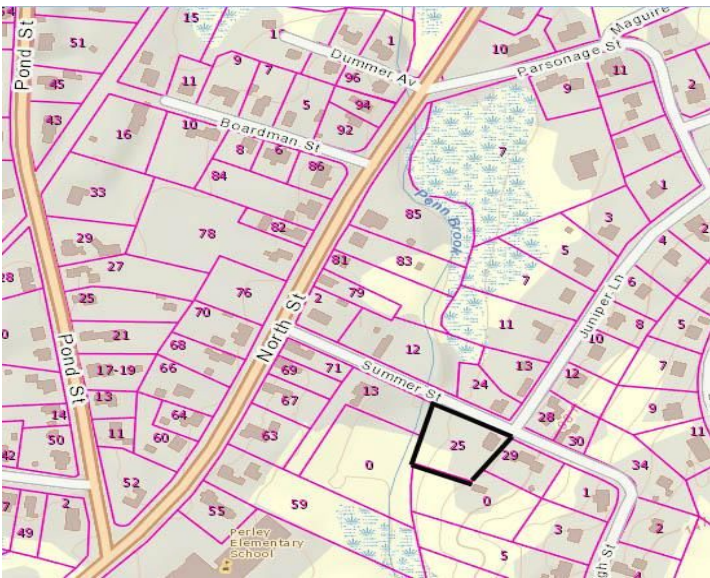
Date: June 2017

Photograph



View from NW.

Locus Map (north at top)



INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

25 Summer Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.302

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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

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

11A-31

Georgetown

GEO.302

Town/City: Georgetown

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

Address: 25 Summer Street

Historic Name: Alvah & Ida Morse House

Uses: Present: single family residential

Original: single family residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1884, ca. 1913

Source: deeds & visual assessment

Style/Form: Gothic Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Addition NW side, ca. 1913

Window sash replaced

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.54 acre

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

25 Summer Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.302

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

☒ 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 Alvah and Mary Morse House is a two-story wood frame single-family dwelling with two sections—a front-gable building on the easterly side, possibly originating as a shoe shop, dating to 1884, and a cross-gable wing added about 1913 when the whole became a dwelling. The shop section presents a one-bay front-gable façade to the street; a shed-roof bay window was added to the front later. An off-center entrance is located on the easterly side wall, which has varied fenestration. The westerly wall is contained within the addition, which projects a few feet past the existing building on the street side. The street façade of the addition contains paired windows on each story. The westerly side of the addition contains the principal entrance to the house centered in a three-bay façade with a wide gable. The doorway has a simple pedimented surround, which is the only ornamented feature on the building; it is elevated on a small wood stoop of more recent construction. A one-story shed extension on the rear (southerly) side of the house contains numerous windows.

The house is situated in the northeasterly corner of a trapezoidal parcel with its long side on the street. A parking area is paved on the east side of the house; the rest of the lot contains an open yard.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

No house is shown on the site of 25 Summer Street on nineteenth-century Georgetown maps, but the map of Georgetown Village in the 1884 Essex County Atlas depicts an outbuilding in this location. This building was referred to in a deed made that same year when the half-acre lot was conveyed by Thomas and Mary Morse, along with their own homestead across the road at 24 Summer Street (GEO.301), to their son Colonius.¹ Born in Maine in 1837, Colonius Morse had moved with his family to Georgetown by 1844 and married Martha A. Downer of West Newbury in 1859. The couple lived in his parents' household until at least 1865, when they moved next door to 28 Summer Street (GEO.303). By 1884 Morse and his family had moved across the street, to 25 Summer Street, and sold 28 Summer Street to Georgetown shoe manufacturer Henry P. Chaplin. The presumed outbuilding, probably a barn, was renovated or replaced with a portion of the house currently on the property. Colonius Morse and his family—wife Martha and children Emma F., Horace H., Ida Lucilla, and Alvah Nicholas—lived at 25 Summer Street until 1900, shortly before Thomas Morse died. In 1895 son Alvah had married Nova Scotia immigrant Susan McNabo, and the 1900 census shows the families of father and son together in a house.

In 1903 Colonius Morse deeded 25 Summer Street to his son Alva, who owned it until 1951 but may not have lived there before about 1913.² His wife Susan died in 1909 at the age of 36, and the 1910 census shows him as a widower living with his children Florence, Beatrice Katherine, and Alvania in his parents' household. He worked as a shoe factory nailer. In 1913 he remarried, to Ida L. Peabody Buckminster, herself a widow, and by 1918 Alva Morse gave his address as 25 Summer Street. He was then a partner in the Georgetown grocery firm of Hall and Morse at 14 East Main Street. In 1920, though, he was working as a shoe heeler and lived with his wife Ida and his daughter Beatrice, then 17 years old. Alvah and Ida Morse remained at 25 Summer Street until he died, in May 1950, and in 1951 his widow sold the property to William A. and Alvena M. Tidd. They in turn sold it to Beatrice K. Williams in 1952; she was probably Beatrice Katherine Morse, who married in Georgetown in 1922. The 1957

¹ Thomas and Mary B. Morse to Colonius Morse, 21 August 1884, SECD 1135:146. The 1872 map shows a vacant lot in this spot. This parcel is a .125-acre tract, also part of the 25 Summer Street deeds, that David Haskell of 12 Summer Street bought in 1883 from the trustees of the American Loan Fund Association for \$210. The association had acquired it through an 1855 mortgage deed from patent medicine manufacturer Moses Atwood, who probably lived at 28 Summer Street or on the site of what is now 34 Summer Street; he moved West, to Iowa, in the same year.

² Colonius Morse to Alva N. Morse, 20 July 1903, SECD 1714:223.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

25 Summer Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.302

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

directory shows the house as vacant. Current owners Vaclav V. and Marjorie J. Talacko bought 25 Summer Street from the executors of Beatrice Williams's estate in 1983.³

³ Ida L. Morse, administrator estate Alvah N Morse, to William A. and Alvena M. Tidd, 6 November 1951, SECD 3858:108; William A. and Alvena M. Tidd to Beatrice K. Williams, 17 October 1952, SECD 3933:28; Doris B. Spaulding and Earlene U. Chadwick, executors will Beatrice K. Williams, to Vaclav V. and Marjorie J. Talacko, 29 July 1983, SECD 7180:196.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

25 Summer Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.302

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

AmericanAncestors.org.

Ancestry.com.

Assessor's Records, Georgetown and Rowley. 1883, 1902, 1920, 1933.

Bureau of the Census. United States Census, 1790-1930.

Nelson, Henry M. "Town of Georgetown History." In Hurd, D. Hamilton. *History of Essex County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men*. Vol. 1. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis and Co., 1888.

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

DIRECTORIES

Ipswich, Boxford, Byfield, Georgetown, Newbury, Rowley, Salisbury, Salisbury Beach, Topsfield, West Newbury Directory. Vol. 1, 1932-'34. Beverly, MA, and Portland, ME: Crowley & Lunt, 1932.

Haverhill, Mass. Suburban Directory for Georgetown, Groveland, Merrimac and West Newbury 1940. North Hampton, NH: Crosby Publishing Co., 1940.

Ipswich, Boxford, Georgetown, Middleton, Newbury, Rowley, Salisbury, Topsfield, West Newbury Directory 1957. New Haven, CT: Price & Lee Co., 1957.

MAPS

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.

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

PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

25 Summer Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.302

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



View from NE.

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**

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

25 Summer Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.302

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Statement of Significance by Neil Larson
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Alvah and Ida Morse House, built about 1913 with the renovation and expansion of a pre-existing outbuilding, possibly a shoe shop, is a contributing feature in the development history of Summer Street and the town center. The property meets National Register criteria A and C as a contributing feature in a potential historic district in the town center, the boundaries of which have yet to be determined.