

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

256 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

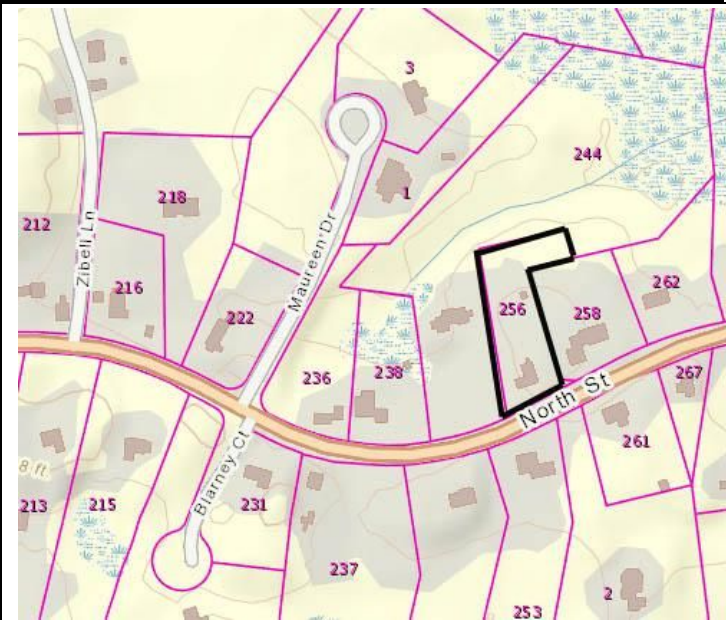
GEO.272

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

FORM B – BUILDING

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

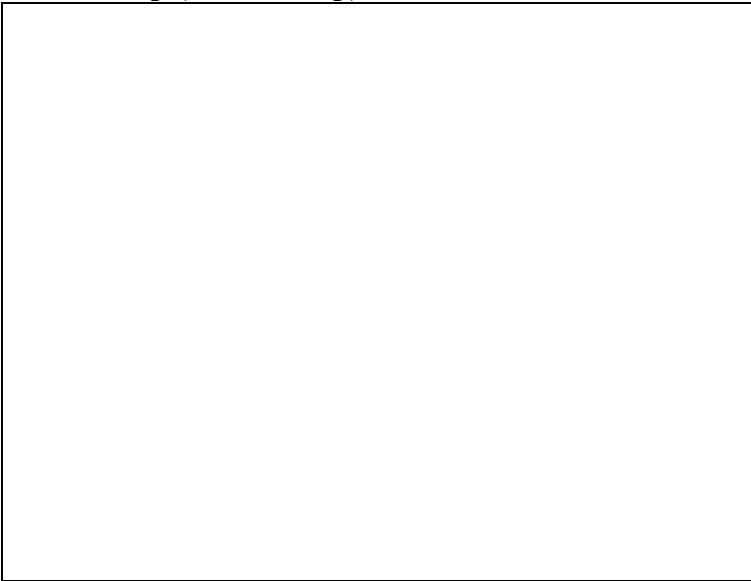
Photograph



Source: Mass GIS Oliver Parcel Viewer

Recorded by: Kathryn Grover & Neil Larson
Organization: Town of Georgetown Historical Commission
Date: June 2017

Locus Map (north at top)



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

12-61

Georgetown

GEO.272

Setting: Rural highway leading out from town center with farmhouses interspersed with suburban development on once-associated farmland.

Town/City: Georgetown

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Georgetown

Address: 256 North Street

Historic Name: Stickney-Hilliard-Low House

Uses: Present: single family residential
Original: single family residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1810

Source: deeds & visual assessment

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Additions to east side and rear, mid-20th century
Wood clapboards replaced
Doors and window sash replaced

Condition: fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.92 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 Stickney-Hilliard-Low House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with a gable roof built about 1810. Its bilaterally symmetrical form and single-pile center-passage plan with chimneys (formally) on the rear wall represents a house type common in Georgetown in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The five-bay front façade contains a center entrance absent sidelights or transom and with a late twentieth-century Colonial Revival architrave that was added when the exterior siding was replaced. Pairs of narrow windows flank the entrance and a modest cornice, replaced with the siding, distinguishes the roof edge. The end walls contain single windows centered on each floor and in the attic. A one-story sun porch with a low hipped roof on the east end of the house is a twentieth-century addition, as is a two-story flat-roof wing attached to the rear of both the porch and a portion of the house's rear façade. Still later, this wing was extended by a one-story gable-roof addition on the rear.

The house is situated at the front of a narrow deep lot; parcels on the sides appear to have been subdivided from it in recent years. It is set back a short distance from the street on a slight promontory and screened by trees. A driveway runs along the easterly side of the property and terminates at the rear of the house. A large open yard occupies the rear of the lot.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Though its earliest history is not entirely clear, the house numbered 256 North Street appears to have been built about 1810 probably for Paul Stickney (1745-1826) and his second wife Betsey Cheney, who married in 1810. In 1817 Stickney sold the parcel near or including 256 North Street to Dole Pillsbury, who had a farm to the west on North Street, and in January 1827 Wingate Ilsley and Moses Carter sold Pillsbury 3/8 of an acre with buildings next to it. Pillsbury consolidated these as a four-acre parcel with a house and barn and sold it back to Ilsley and Carter later in 1827, and in April 1829 they sold it to John N. Quimbe and William Hilliard. The house is marked "W. Hilliard" on the 1830 map.¹

Born in 1804 in Rowley, William Saunders Hilliard was the son of Henry and Hannah Saunders Hilliard, whose farm was just east of this one on North Street. In June 1832 he married Mary Wheeler Thurlow, and the 1840 census shows him in this neighborhood with three persons in his household—the couple and their son John Henry, who died later that year. In August 1841 Hilliard's wife Mary died of cholera at the age of 29, and the 1850 census showed the widowed William Hilliard as a shoemaker in the house with his son John T. Hilliard, born in 1841. Hilliard was a shoemaker (and sometimes a "victualler") shown with \$230 in real estate, and he rented part of 256 North Street to Joseph H. and Sarah J. Cheney and their three young children. Hilliard had been declared bankrupt in 1842, and his property was sold at auction for \$300 to Nathaniel S. Sawyer in December 1843.² By the time he died in 1854, according to his probate records, he owned real property valued at only \$88 and personal property of \$1.25, consisting entirely of "one iron barr."

By 1857 256 North Street had been sold to Ephraim Lake of Newburyport, and his name is attached to the property on the 1856 Georgetown map.³ The 1855 census shows Harriet Lake and her son Calvin, a printer, in this neighborhood, and in 1860 nurse Harriet Lake is shown there alone. In 1864 Harriet, Calvin, and Louis Lake sold the property to Mary D. Noyes, who mortgaged it three years later to William Boynton Jr. Born in 1829, Mary D. Noyes worked as a domestic and a boot and shoe stitcher, and

¹ Paul Stickney to Dole Pillsbury, 25 December 1817, SECD 245:309; Abner M. Cheney to Wingate Ilsley and Moses Carter, 21 March 1825, SECD 236:308; Wingate Ilsley and Moses Carter to Dole Pillsbury, 26 January 1827, SECD 245:86; Wingate Ilsley and Moses Carter to Dole Pillsbury, 26 January 1827, SECD 245:86; Wingate Ilsley and Moses Carter to John N. Quimbe and William Hilliard, 1 April 1829, SECD 252:17.

² Jeremiah Russell, assignee of William S. Hilliard, to Nathaniel S. Sawyer, 5 December 1843, SECD 343:22.

³ Joseph Yeaton, Newbury MA, to Ephraim Lake, Newburyport MA, 31 March 1857, SECD 380:122.

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censuses never show her in this Georgetown neighborhood. Boynton was an insurance company executive who also did not live here. The house at 256 North Street was rented until 1904.⁴ In 1900 Richard Ronan, an Irish immigrant farmer, and his wife Mary were living in the house with their son Alfred. Mary Ronan had assumed the mortgage held by the Boynton family, and the property was in foreclosure in 1910 when she sold it to Orrin A. Miles of Lynn. The Ronans moved to Warren Street, and by August 1914 Warren J. and Harriet E. Felt of Salem bought 256 North Street. Born in 1864, Warren J. Felt worked as an expressman and a "historical guide" in Salem, and the 1916 directory shows him as a farmer on North Street. The 1920 census shows Felt employed in a machine shop and living here with his wife and four boarders.

The Felts moved to Beverly by 1923, when they sold the property to Hartley H. Fall. Four others owned 256 North before August 1941, when Archibald Low of Saugus acquired it. Low, born in 1878 in Andover and the son of Scots immigrants, worked for General Electric in Lynn and is shown as a North Street resident on his 1942 draft registration card. His wife Nannie Dahlman was born in Sweden, and the couple had four children—Carl Melville, born in 1916; Margaret C., in 1918; Ruth E., in 1921, and Barbara A., born in 1925. The 1957 directory shows Carl M. Low as proprietor of Low's Poultry Farm at 256 North Street; his father Archibald was still living there as well. Archibald Low died in November 1959. Carl M. Low and his wife Anne owned 256 North Street until 1987; current owners Richard J. Friberg Jr. and his wife Beverly acquired it in 2014.⁵

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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.

⁴ Harriet Lake, Calvin H. Lake, and Louis E. Lake to Mary D. Noyes, 26 May 1864, SECD 670:57; Mary D. Noyes to William Boynton Jr., 23 June 1867, SECD 738:39;

⁵ Justin E. Boynton, assignee and current owner of mortgage give by Mary D Noyes to Wm Boynton Jr, to Mary L. Ronan, 29 June 1904, SECD 738:39; Mary L. Ronan, North Scituate RI, to Orrin A. Miles, Lynn MA, 25 October 1910, SECD 2055:227; Bertha H. Pearson to Harriet E. Felt, Salem MA, 4 August 1914, SECD 2267:508; Warren J. Felt, administrator estate Harriet E. Felt, to Hartley H. Fall, 6 June 1923, SECD 2556:515; Frederick J. Walsh, Malden MA, to Archibald Low, Saugus MA, 6 August 1941, SECD 3265:358; Archibald Low to Carl M. and Anne E. Low, 28 July 1947, SECD 3530:106; Amy T. Curley to Richard J. Friberg Jr. and Beverly Friberg, 30 October 2014, SECD 33639:363; The 256 North Street property is Lot 1-A on "Plan of Land at 256 and 258 North Street, Georgetown, Massachusetts, as Surveyed for Carl H. Low," 8 May 1984, SECP 187:29.

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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from SW.

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Aerial view from north. Source: bing.com/maps.