

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

28 Summer Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.303

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



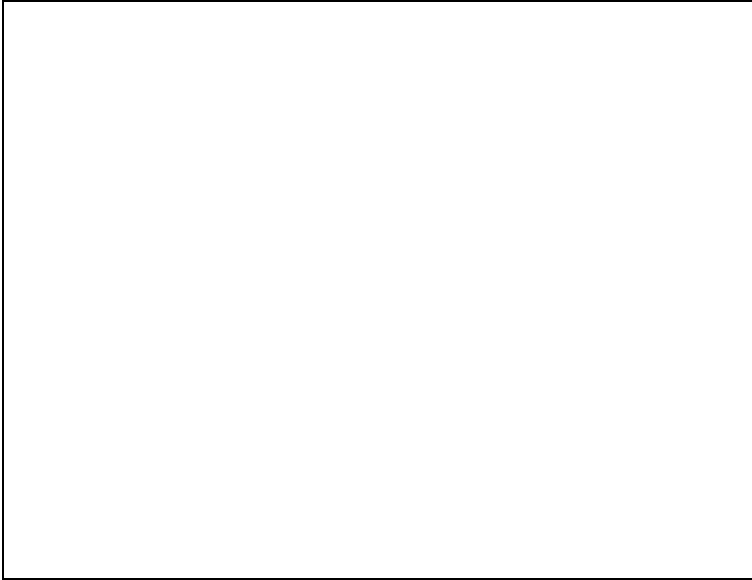
View from west.



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)



# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

28 Summer Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.303

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-41

Georgetown

GEO.303

**Town/City:** Georgetown

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

**Address:** 28 Summer Street

**Historic Name:** Atwood-Mucha House

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

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1850

**Source:** deeds & visual assessment

**Style/Form:** indeterminate

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

## Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone & concrete

Wall/Trim: vinyl clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
None

## Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Additions & renovations, 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Vinyl siding added  
Window sash replaced

**Condition:** fair

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.13 acre

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

28 Summer Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.303

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:

Assessor records date the Atwood-Mucha House to 1809, and the one-story gambrel-roof section could be associated with that construction date if a more detailed interior examination were possible. However, historic deed and map history does not document a dwelling on this site until closer to 1850, when such a building would not have been designed. This house is one of a number of houses on Summer and North Streets that appear to predate their parcels. The Summer Street buildings were developed by Stephen Searle Jr. and Nathaniel Nelson, who owned large tracts of land on the fringe of Georgetown Center, and those on North Street are on lots created from the parsonage lands of the First Baptist Church. This area seems to have been the destination for older buildings moved there in the mid-nineteenth century, perhaps coming out of the town center as it redeveloped in that period. No account or documentation of such actions have been discovered; only the outmoded dwellings survive as an indication that something happened.

The 28 Summer Street house is composed of three sections. The one on southerly end is a one-story dwelling covered by an ample gambrel roof. Neither the Summer Street or Juniper Lane (a much more recent road) facades contain an entrance. Perhaps the westerly façade, now with four windows and two dormers, contained an entrance for a hall-parlor, center-chimney gambrel-roof house that faced North Street before intervening houses appeared. Yet, if that was the case, the absence of the house from the 1830 map of Georgetown would have been in error.

In the center is a story-and-a-half section that also could have been the initial dwelling. It has a long façade oriented to Summer Street and a cross-gable rear wing. A house of this type could have been built about 1850, making the gambrel-roof wing an anachronistic addition. The east end of the gabled mass is notched into the hillside up to the top of the first story, which would have been an odd thing to do. Alternatively, this section may have originated as a story-and-a-half cross-wing house with a three-bay front façade facing west consistent with the asymmetrical picturesque plans introduced in the period. (The front facades of embanked houses generally faced away from the hillside.) Again, the orientation would have been to North Street, not Summer Street. The peculiar arrangement of the two sections may indicate the presence of the elixir manufacturing function.

The third, northerly section, a one-story, gable-roof building connected to the cross-wing of the center portion with entrances on the south and west sides, appears to be a mid twentieth-century addition. The footprint of the house nearly fills its small lot. The east side, into which the house is embedded, is steeply sloped, and a small yard occupies the space between the house and Summer Street. A driveway enters the center of the parcel from Juniper Lane between two low retaining walls to end in front of the center section of the house. There are no outbuildings.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In January 1848, patent medicine manufacturer Moses Atwood bought a tract with 110 ft. of frontage on North Street and stretching 218 ft. to the east and bordering the First Baptist Society parsonage farm on the north from Nathaniel Nelson for \$300.

<sup>1</sup> A native of Thornton Cove, New Hampshire, Moses Atwood (1810-1892) began manufacturing Atwood's Vegetable Physical Jaundice Bitters in Georgetown in 1840. The 1850 census locates Atwood on Summer Street and describes him as a botanist with \$4887 in real property. His household contained his wife Mary and their seven children, the three oldest born in New Hampshire between 1835 and 1839, and the youngest four in Massachusetts between 1844 and 1850. In the same household

<sup>1</sup> Nathaniel Nelson to Moses Atwood, 17 January 1848, SECD 394:30. Moses Atwood moved to Iowa in 1855. On his business see Calvin Bandstra, "Moses Atwood: the Man and the Medicine," *New Sharon Area Historical Society* 14, 1 (Spring 2006), online at <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/ATWOOD/2007-03/1173639355>.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

28 Summer Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.303

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

was another botanist, George Bingham, also from New Hampshire, with his wife and son, as well as the family of carpenter Heman Howe.

Though the chain of title is not entirely clear, it seems likely that Atwood sold the 28 Summer Street property to Heman Howe shortly before he and his family moved to Iowa in 1855; the deed states that the property is where Howe then lived. Howe sold it three years later to Patrick Molloy, whose name is attached to it on the 1856 Georgetown Center map. Molloy in turn sold it in 1865 to Colonius Morse, the son of Thomas Morse of 24 Summer Street (GEO.301).<sup>2</sup> Colonius Morse was born in Maine in 1837 and had moved with his parents and siblings to Georgetown by 1844. He married Martha A. Downer of West Newbury in 1859 and lived with his wife in his parents' household until at least 1865, when the couple apparently moved to this house. 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; Chaplin sold it less than three years later to Samuel Clark, probably the man of that name who lived on North Street and worked as a pump dealer.<sup>3</sup> Chaplin and Clark probably rented the house, and the property changed hands several times by 1912, when Antonio Mucha acquired it.<sup>4</sup>

Born in Galicia province in Poland in 1882, Antonio Mucha was living in Lawrence by 1907, when he married Austrian immigrant shoe operative Victoria Crooke. In 1918 he was working as a leather presser for the Georgetown firm of Martineau and Burke. The 1920 census locates the couple on Summer Street with their children Mary, John, Katherine, Josephine, and Frances. By 1930 Mucha had become a poultry and fruit farmer, and the household included three more children, Agnes, Florence, and Frederick. By then the eldest child, Mary, was working as a shoe stitcher, and son John was a nursery gardener. Antonio Mucha died in 1939, and the 1940 census places his widow Victoria in the house with her son John, still working in a nursery, and children Agnes, Fred, Veronica (born 1934), and Paul (born 1937). The 1957 directory lists John J. Mucha at 28 Summer Street.

In 1967, after John J. Mucha had died, the surviving Mucha children sold 28 Summer Street to Gertrude M. Ackerman of Boxford, whose family owned it until 1970. In July 2016 Robert Mitchell Jr. and Kari Mitchell sold 28 Summer Street to Blue Waters Vero LLC of South Hamilton.<sup>5</sup>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

AmericanAncestors.org.

Ancestry.com.

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

Bandstra, Calvin. "Moses Atwood: the Man and the Medicine," *New Sharon Area Historical Society* 14, 1 (Spring 2006), online at <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/ATWOOD/2007-03/1173639355>.

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, [saalemdeeds.com](http://saalemdeeds.com).

## DIRECTORIES

North Essex Directory for Boxford, Georgetown, Merrimac, Newbury, Rowley, Salisbury, West Newbury. Salem, MA: Henry M. Meek Publishing Co., 1907, 1909-10, 1912, 1914-15, 1916-17, 1918, 1925.

*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.

<sup>2</sup> Moses Atwood to Heman Howe, 5 August 1854, SECD 505:43; Heman Howe to Patrick Molloy, 14 June 1856, SECD 540:278; Patrick Molloy to Colonius Morse, 9 February 1865, SECD 680:161.

<sup>3</sup> Colonius Morse to Henry P. Chaplin, 21 August 1884, SECD 1135:146; Henry P. Chaplin to Samuel Clark, 7 May 1887, SECD 1198:226

<sup>4</sup> Samuel Clark to Georgianna M. Kneeland, 23 July 1910, SECD 2034:361; Harry E. Clemons to Antonio Mucha, 22 August 1912, SECD 2165:393.

<sup>5</sup> Mary Timmons, Katherine Neel, Frances Sylvester, and Fred Mucha, all Georgetown; Josephine Arnold, Haverhill MA; Florence Sikora, Ipswich MA; and Agnes Markes, Ellsworth ME, to Gertrude M. Ackerman, Boxford MA, 24 January 1967, SECD 5424:472; Alfred Ackerman Jr., Boxford MA, and Philip Ackerman, Lexington MA, to Dale J. and Clara S. Green, 27 January 1970, SECD 5663:605; Robert Mitchell Jr. and Kari Mitchell, Durham CT, to Blue Waters Vero, South Hamilton MA, 18 July 2016, SECD 35101:22.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

28 Summer Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.303

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

*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 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.

*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).



INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

28 Summer Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.303
---------

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from NW.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

28 Summer Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.303
---------

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



View from south.