

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

292 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

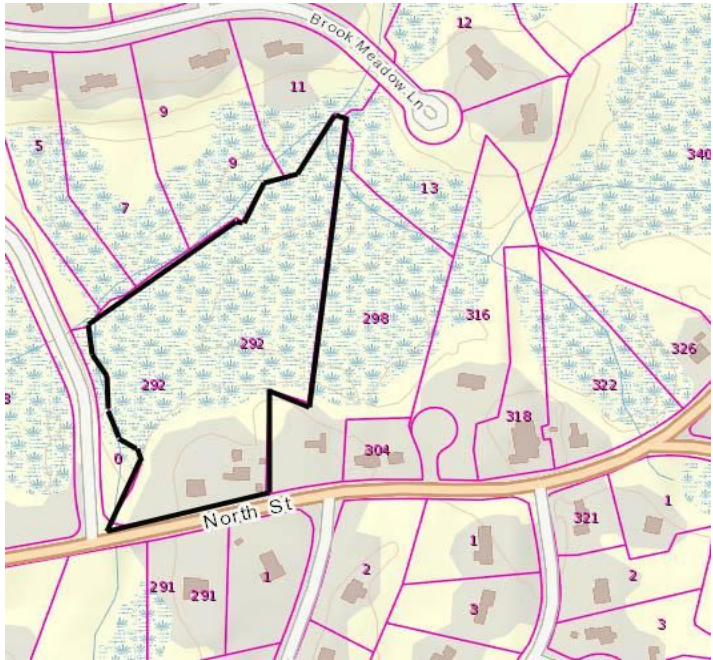
GEO.273
GEO.274

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

12-62

Georgetown

GEO.273
GEO.274

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: 292 North Street

Historic Name: Henry & Hannah Hilliard House & Barn

Uses: Present: single family residential

Original: single family residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1806

Source: deeds & visual assessment

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Barn, 19th century

Garage, shed/pool house

Tannery site

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Rear wing erected, early 20th century

Window sash replaced

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 6.13 acres

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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 Henry and Hannah Hilliard House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with a gable roof built about 1806. Its bilaterally symmetrical form and single-pile with center-chimney plan associates it with a long New England architectural tradition. The cross-gable kitchen ell common to this type was obliterated by a huge rear wing probably added in the early twentieth century. The five-bay front façade contains a center entrance now concealed within a glazed porch also added late in the building's history. Pairs of narrow windows flank the entrance and a Classical cornice with short returns on the gable ends, which likely is a later addition. The end walls contain single windows centered on each floor and in the attic. The current cross-gable rear wing is two stories tall and covers the entire rear façade and most of the roof; its side walls are in line with the end walls of the house and show no separation indicating that extensive renovations were made to the exterior and interior at that time. There is an entrance on the east side of the wing and a recessed porch on the west side of its rear façade. A reconstructed center chimney occupies the junction point where the ridgelines of the house and wing intersect.

The house is situated in the center of a broad North Street frontage screened heavily in front by foliage. At the western end, where North Street and Brook Meadow Lane intersect, is a stream crossing where historic maps locate Henry P. Hilliard's tannery. An English-type barn with a gable roof, wood clapboard front façade, and wood shingled sides and rear is located east of the house. It has the scale and appearance of a mid nineteenth-century farm building with a one-story milk house attached at a later time. The multi-light transom in the mow also is a later addition. A gable-roof shed of undetermined age behind the barn appears to have originated in an agricultural use but now functions as a pool house associated with an in-ground swimming pool recently constructed in the barnyard. There also are a wood-shingled, hipped-roof one-car garage built in the early twentieth century and a second shed of recent date on the west side of the property. A plastic picket fence has been added along the street frontage with breaks in two places for a U-shaped driveway providing parking areas in front of the barn and the east end of the house. The stream forms the west and north boundaries of the property, which is marshy and wooded in the rear.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In November 1797, John Poor of Rowley sold Isaac Pearson 13 acres bordering 40 acres he had sold him on the north side of North Street in May of that year. The 40-acre tract, which cost Pearson \$1500, had buildings on it, but the 13-acre parcel sold for \$153, which strongly suggests that it was undeveloped. In January 1801 Pearson sold 19.25 acres with buildings on it to Daniel Clark. This Daniel Clark was probably the son of the man of that name who is shown with a dwelling house in Rowley in the 1798 federal direct tax records and who died in Rowley in 1799. The 1800 census shows his widow Hannah in a Rowley household with one male between the ages of 10 and 16, probably the grantee Daniel, and the same man who deeded half the land and buildings on the tract to his mother in 1801. In March 1803, the widow Hannah Clark and Daniel Clark sold the 19.25 acres and buildings to Henry Hilliard.¹ The 292 North Street property remained in the Hilliard family until 1929.

Born in Rowley in 1778, Henry Hilliard was the son of Benjamin and Mary Prescott Hilliard. In 1803 he married Hannah Saunders (1781-1865). Rowley historian Thomas Gage states that Henry Hilliard's house burned "accidentally" in 1806, but as his name is consistently attached to this property he must have rebuilt on the same site.² Henry and Hannah Hilliard had seven children—Henry Prescott, William Saunders, Mary Ann, Sally Adams, Oliver Tenney, Benjamin Adams, and Joseph Saunders

¹ John Poor to Isaac Pearson, Newbury, 17 May 1797, SECD 162:165; John Poor to Isaac Pearson, Rowley, 9 November 1797, SECD 163:139; Isaac Pearson, Haverhill, to Daniel Clark, Rowley, 24 January 1801, SECD 168:208; Daniel Clark to Hannah Clark, 12 February 1801, SECD 168:208; Daniel Clark and Hannah Clark, widow, to Henry Hilliard, 29 March 1803, SECD 172:249.

² Thomas Gage, *The History of Rowley* (Boston: F. Andrews, 1840), 428.

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Hilliard—between 1804 and 1820. He died in 1830 at the age of 52, and in 1840 and 1842 his children and heirs deeded their father's Georgetown property, "particularly the farm where the said Henry P. Hilliard now lives," to their eldest brother Henry P. Hilliard.³ By 1850 the widow Hannah Hilliard was living in the house with Henry P., then a 46-year-old currier and farmer. The 1850 manufacturing census shows Henry P. Hilliard with \$1000 invested in his business. He spent \$1071 on raw hides and bark and used one horse to produce 700 sides of leather valued at \$1570.

Hannah Saunders Hilliard died in 1865 at the age of 81, and in 1870 Henry P. Hilliard was living at 292 North Street with two of his brother Oliver's children, 16-year-old Ellen and 21-year-old Henry, who worked in the tannery with his uncle. By then Henry Hilliard is shown in the agricultural census with 35 improved acres and 49 unimproved acres and a modest quantity of livestock. The manufacturing census shows him with 28 tanning vats, a horse, a bark mill, and a splitter in the tannery. He used 400 hides, 800 skins, and 30 cords of bark to produce 800 sides of leather and 800 skins; his sales exceeded his cost of materials by \$2050. In the currying shop, which ran for half the year, he used 800 sides of leather, 800 skins, and 120 gallons of oil to produce 800 sides and skins and a smaller profit margin--\$705 in excess of his material costs.

Henry P. Hilliard died in 1871, and the 292 North Street property passed to his nephew Henry and niece Ellen, who had lived with him. They are shown together in a household next to that of their father, Oliver, who was also a farmer and tanner/currier and lived there with his wife Susan Wells Hilliard and son George Prescott Hilliard. In 1899 Henry Hillard married teacher Nellie C. Chaplin, daughter of Caleb and Betsy King Chaplin of Georgetown, and the 1900 census shows the couple in this house alone. By then his sister Ellen had moved back in with her then-widowed mother next door; Oliver Tenney Hilliard had died in 1898.

Henry Hilliard died in 1928, and in May 1929 Nellie C. Hilliard sold 292 North Street to William C. and Rose A. Mannell of Lynn and moved to Haverhill, where she died in 1942. The Mannells owned 292 North Street for three years. By 1945 the property had been sold to Raymond P. and Emmy C. Hutching, who owned it until 1978. Born in Salem in 1902, Raymond Purdy Hutchinson was a machinist who worked in Lynn. He and his wife are shown at 292 North Street in the 1957 directory. Current owners Shawn and Susan M. N. Lorenz bought 292 North Street in 1991.⁴

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Gage, Thomas. *The History of Rowley, Anciently Including Bradford, Boxford, and Georgetown, from the Year 1639 to the Present Time*. Boston: F. Andrews, 1840.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

³ William S. Hilliard, Oliver T. Hilliard, Benjamin Hilliard, Enoch Harriman Jr. and Mary Ann Harriman, Samuel and Sally A. Harriman to Henry P. Hilliard, 8 February 1840, SECD 326:98; Joseph S. Hilliard to Henry P. Hilliard, 22 May 1842, SECD 333:160.

⁴ Nellie C. Hilliard, executor will Henry Hilliard, to Rose A. and William C. Mannell, Lynn MA, 9 May 1929, SECD 2805:96; William C. and Rose A. Mannell to William F. and Bertha Moses, Lynn MA, 1 April 1932, SECD 2912:96; Jennie L. Dickson, Ernest P. Dickson, and George F. Perkins to Raymond P. and Emmy C. Hutchinson, 17 July 1945, SECD 3418:348; Blanche L. Hutchinson, executor will Raymond P. Hutchinson, to Rita R. Emmert, 4 October 1978, SECD 6524:104; Michael K. Takesian, trustee Meadowbrook Realty Trust, to Shawn and Susan M. N. Lorenz, 292 North St, 9 October 1991, SECD 10975:486. See also "Plan of Land in Georgetown, Property of Wayne & Gregg Colsia," 11 January 1980, SECD 6671:800, where 292 North Street is shown as parcels 3A and 3B, and "Plan of Land at 292 North Street, Georgetown, MA, Prepared for Meadowbrook Realty Trust," 7 August 1985, SECD 200:70, where the property is Lot 2.

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The Essex County Directory. 1866. Boston: Innes & Niles, 1866.
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MAPS

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.
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)



View from SE.

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

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View from SW.

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View of barn from SW.

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View of garage and shed from SW.

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View of stream and tannery site from SW.

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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

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Henry and Hannah Hilliard House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with a gable roof built about 1806. Its bilaterally symmetrical form and single-pile with center-chimney plan associates it with a long New England architectural tradition. Its date of construction is established by a historical account of a previous house having burned and rebuilt in that year. Associated features include a barn possibly built that early, as well as the site of a tannery functioning by 1850. The English barn is a rare surviving example of this seminal New England barn type. It was later expanded by the addition of a milk house later in the nineteenth century. Although the house has been altered by the addition of a large wing in the early twentieth century, the survival of this early nineteenth-century farmstead compound with an associated industrial site (one providing leather for Georgetown's shoemaking economy) is architecturally significant in the current context of the town.

Henry Hilliard bought the land with buildings in 1803, and the property remained in the Hilliard family until 1929. Rowley historian Thomas Gage states that Henry Hilliard's house burned "accidentally" in 1806, but as his name is consistently attached to this property he must have rebuilt on the same site. After Hilliard died in 1830, his heirs deeded their shares in the farm to the eldest son Henry P. Hilliard, who built a tannery on the property. The 1850 manufacturing census shows Henry P. Hilliard with \$1000 invested in his tanning business. He spent \$1071 on raw hides and bark and used one horse to produce 700 sides of leather valued at \$1570. In 1870 Henry P. Hilliard's household included his nephew Henry, who worked in the tannery with him. By then Hilliard farm had 35 improved and 49 unimproved acres and a modest quantity of livestock. His tannery operated with 28 tanning vats, a bark mill, a splitter, and a currying shop to produce 800 sides of leather and 800 skins. Henry P. Hilliard died in 1871, and willed the property to his nephew Henry and niece Ellen. Their parents, Oliver and Susan Hilliard, and brother, George Prescott

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Hilliard, who had lived next door at 304 North Street (GEO.275) moved in with them Henry Hilliard died in 1928 and the farm passed out of the family.

The Henry & Hannah Hilliard House and Barn appear to meet National Register criteria A & C as a distinctive example of a 19th-century farmstead in Georgetown that survives with its principal domestic and agricultural buildings essentially intact in their historic setting.