

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

304 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.275
GEO.276

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

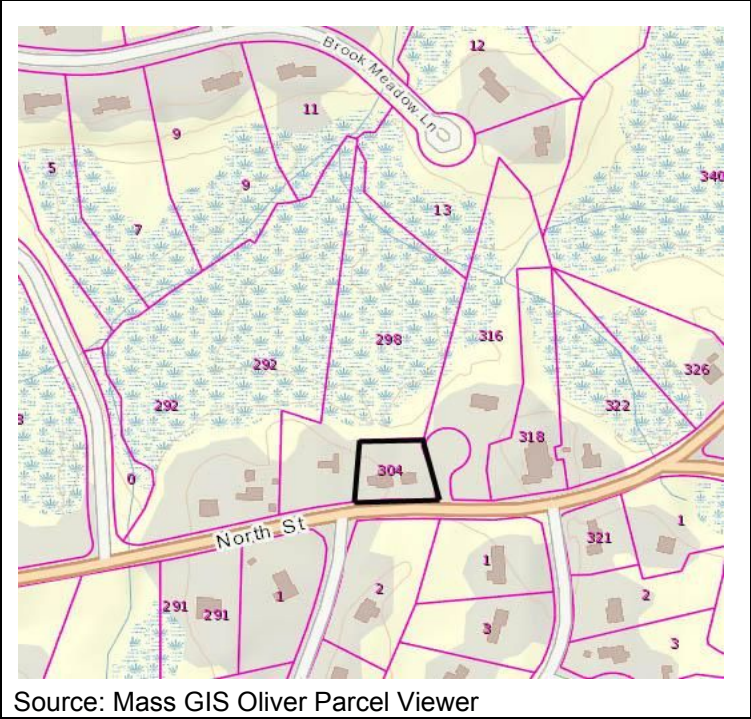
FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



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

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

304 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.275
GEO.276

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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

17-1

Georgetown

GEO.275
GEO.276

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: 304 North Street

Historic Name: Oliver T. & Susan Hilliard House

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

Date of Construction: ca. 1847

Source: deeds & visual assessment

Style/Form:

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Domestic barn, ca. 1847

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Wing added west end, mid-20th century

Screened porch added to rear, mid-20th century

Window sash replaced first floor

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.59 acre

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

304 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.275
GEO.276

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 Oliver T. and Susan Hilliard House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with a gable roof built about 1847. Its bilaterally symmetrical form and center-hall plan a room-and-a-half deep has chimneys in front of the roof ridge on the ends and in the principal front rooms. The five-bay front façade contains a center entrance contained in an exterior vestibule with a flat rood and trabeated architrave, the only overt expression of the Greek Revival style on the house. Pairs of windows flank the entrance and a modest Classical cornice along the eave line makes short returns on the gable ends. The end walls contain two windows on each floor and one in the attic. The rear windows on the west end are now contained in a one-story gable-roof wing added in the mid-twentieth century. It has two windows on the front and projects back past the rear corner of the house with an exterior brick chimney centered on the rear wall. A one-story shed-roof lean-to spanning the full extent of the rear wall of the house appears to be an original feature that was the likely location of the kitchen and service areas. A screened porch has been added to the rear of the lean-to.

The house is sited on the west side of the frontage of its small lot, with a good-sized barn offsetting it on the east. The English-type barn with a gable roof, wood clapboard front façade and wood shingled sides and rear is contemporaneous with the house.

Large vehicle doors centered on the street façade hang on tracks. It has a cornice with returns similar to that on the house. The rear of the parcel contains an open yard.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The house at 304 North Street does not appear on the 1830 map, and in October 1847, when Henry Prescott Hilliard (1804-71) sold a half-acre just east of his own land to his younger brother Oliver T. Hilliard for \$50, the deed does not mention buildings (see 292 North St., GEO.273). ¹ Oliver Tenney Hilliard (1815-98), the son of Henry Hilliard (1778-1830) and Hannah Saunders (1781-1865), had married only ten days before his brother sold him the land. He was then a 32-year-old tanner, and his wife, Susan Abigail Wells, was a seamstress and a native of Charlestown, Massachusetts; she was the daughter of Gideon P. Wells of Georgetown and Susan Welcton Wells of Charlestown.

Henry Hilliard died when Oliver was fifteen years old, and he no doubt lived with his widowed mother in his brother Henry P. Hilliard's home at 292 North Street. Henry Hilliard's farm is shown further to the east on North Street on the 1830 map. In 1850 Oliver and his wife were living next door to Henry in their new house at 304 North Street with year-old son Henry. Five years later the state census added daughters Susan Clarinda, born in 1850; and Ellen Wells, born in 1854, to the enumeration; in 1856 the couple had a fourth child, Gideon Prescott, usually shown as G. Prescott Hilliard. After Hannah Saunders Hilliard died in 1865, Oliver and Susan Hilliard's son Henry and daughter Ellen went to live with their unmarried uncle Henry P.; Henry worked in the tannery run by his uncle and his father, and Ellen kept house. The 1870 census shows Oliver and Susan Hilliard in their North Street household with daughter Susan, then 19, and son Gideon, then 13. Both Oliver and Gideon worked then as tanners and curriers, and Oliver is shown with \$1000 in real property. In 1880 the census identified Oliver as a tanner and a farmer, and son G. Prescott was working on the farm. G. Prescott Hilliard moved into Haverhill later in that decade and worked as a driver for the Standard Cab Company and later as a coachman.

¹ Henry P. Hilliard to Oliver T. Hilliard, 20 October 1847, SECD 460:235.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

304 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.275
GEO.276

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Oliver Hilliard died in 1898, and in 1903 Gideon P. Hilliard sold his father's half-acre lot and buildings to his sister Ellen W. Hilliard; in 1909 her brother Henry deeded his interest in the property to her as well.² Two years later Gideon died in Haverhill, and in 1909 her mother Susan died at the age of 90. Ellen Hilliard was living in the house with the housekeeper Priscilla L. Perry in 1910; the two still occupied the house together in 1920, and in that year's census Perry is identified as Ellen Hilliard's aunt. By 1930 Ellen Hilliard was alone in the household. In April 1936 she deeded 304 North Street to Georgetown's Carleton Home, a home for elderly people on Andover Street, and she died in November 1937. In June 1938 the trustees of the Carleton Home sold 304 North Street to Theresa Hartwell and Mary Regan, both of Boston, and held a mortgage for the women; when they defaulted, the Carleton Home assumed ownership again and sold the property in June 1939 to G. Edgar and May D. Folk, whose family owned 304 North street until 1964.³ G. Edgar Folk, born in either Maryland or North Carolina about 1873, was a Methodist minister. He married Minnie Mae Davis in Somerville in 1905 and had worked there as the "industrial secretary" for the Young Men's Christian Association. The 1957 directory shows him and his wife at 304 North Street.

By 1949 the Folks were living at least part of the time in Daytona Beach, Florida, and they deeded 304 North to their married daughter Barbara and her husband Harold F. Howe, who were living in the house in 1957; Howe was listed in the directory as a "consultant" in New York. In 1964 the Howes sold 304 North Street, and the property went through seven owners before it was acquired in 1998 by Walter C. Laut III and his wife Joanne.⁴

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.

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

The Essex County Directory. 1866. Boston: Innes & Niles, 1866.*Essex County History and Directory*. Boston: C. A. & J. F. Wood, 1870.*Resident and Business Directory of Groveland and Georgetown, Mass., for 1885-1886*. Needham, MA: Local Directory Publishing Co., 1885.*Georgetown, Boxford, Byfield, Newbury, and West Newbury, Massachusetts, Directory*. Boston: W. E. Shaw, 1901-2, 1905.

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.

² Oliver T. Hilliard's will, made out in March 1878, left the use of his house and land to his widow Susan for the rest of her life and then equally to his four children; his son Henry was to hold the portion of the estate devised to married daughter Susan C. Parker in trust and dispense its income to her twice a year. Gideon P. Hilliard, Haverhill MA, to Ellen W. Hilliard, 23 September 1903, SECD 1726:443; Henry Hillard, executor will Oliver Tenney Hilliard, to Ellen W. Hilliard, 26 October 1909, SECD 1992:242; Henry Hilliard to Ellen W. Hilliard, 26 October 1909, SECD 1992:240.

³ Ellen W. Hilliard to trustees Carleton Home, 11 April 1936, SECD 3070:407; Trustees Carleton Home to Theresa Hartwell and Mary Regan, both Boston, 18 June 1938, 3148:316; Trustees Carleton Home to Trustees of Carleton Home, 12 June 1939, SECD 3186:108; Trustees Carleton Home to G. Edgar and May D. Folk, 28 June 1939, SECD 3187:380.

⁴ G. Edgar and May D. Folk to Harold F. and Barbara Folk Howe, 5 December 1949, SECD 3709:44; Harold F. and Barbara Folk Howe to Richard H. Lyon, 6 May 1964, SECD 5171:213; James H. Hill and Katrina L. Zwicker to Walter C. Laut III and Joanne M. Laut, 304 North St, 20 May 1998, SECD 14821:580.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

304 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.275
GEO.276

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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 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).

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

304 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.275 GEO.276

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from SE.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

304 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.275 GEO.276

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



View from SW.



View from east

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

304 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.275
GEO.276

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



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

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

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

304 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.275
GEO.276

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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 Oliver T. and Susan Hilliard House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with a gable roof built about 1847. Its bilaterally symmetrical form and center-hall plan one-and-a-half rooms deep is a common model for middling farmhouses in nineteenth-century Georgetown. Its restrained decoration is focused on the vestibule entry with its trabeated architrave. It had an adjoining English barn with similar date of construction that is a distinctive example of its type and period, and increasingly rare in the suburban environment. The survival of this early nineteenth-century farmstead compound with its association with the adjoining Hilliard farm and tannery once next door at 292 North Street is architecturally significant in the current context of the town.

Oliver T. Hilliard purchased the land on which his house was built from his brother, Henry Hilliard, in 1849, the year he was married. He and his family helped run the family farm and tannery (292 North Street). Their heirs lived in the house until 1937.

The house and barn appear to meet National Register criteria A & C as a distinctive examples of mid nineteenth-century farmstead architecture in Georgetown; the property survives with its principal buildings essentially intact in their historic setting.