

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

318 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.277

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

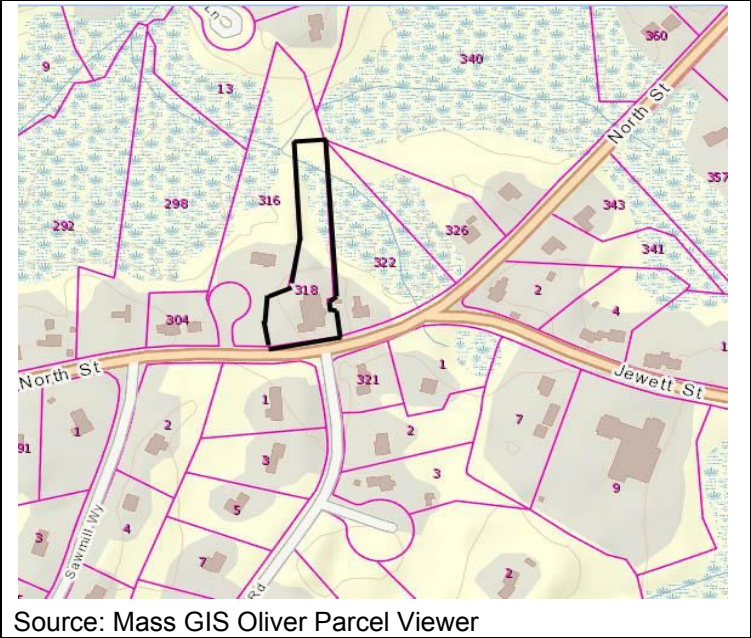
FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



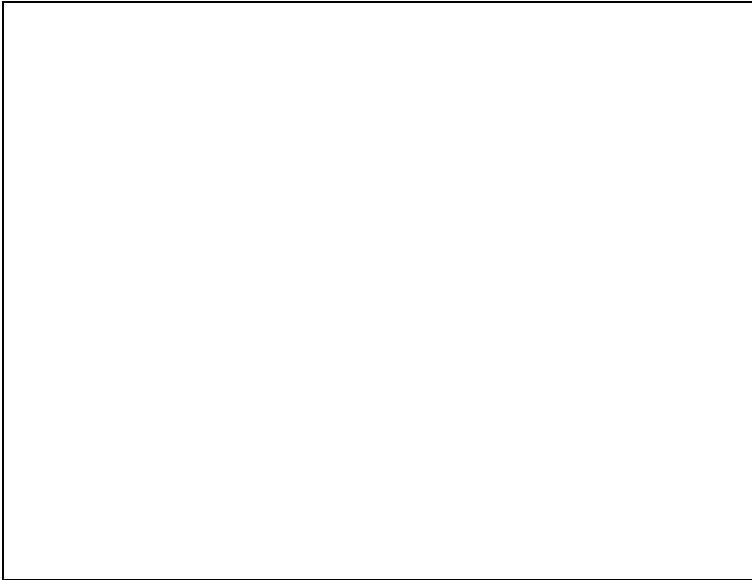
View from SE,



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

17-2

Georgetown

GEO.277

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: 318 North Street

Historic Name: Samuel & Myra Thurlow House

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

Date of Construction: ca. 1822

Source: deeds & visual assessment

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Barn (connected)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

East wing added, mid 19th century

Additions & alterations to barn & connector , 20th c.

Vinyl siding added

Window sash replaced

Condition: fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.25 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 Samuel and Myra Thurlow House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with a gable roof built about 1822. Its bilaterally symmetrical form and single-pile center-passage plan with chimneys 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 framed by a trabeated architrave with a paneled frieze and cornice that appear to be a later addition. Pairs of windows flank the entrance and a modest Classical entablature distinguishes the roof edge. First-story windows carry cornices with dentils that also appear to be added at later time. The end walls contain one window on each story including the attic; two brick chimneys on the rear wall are intact.

A two-story kitchen wing is attached to the east end of the building recessed behind the windows on that end and projecting past the rear wall. It has a three-bay front façade with a central entrance and a porch spanning the front and wrapping around the east end. Even though design features are consistent with the main house, the positioning of the wing suggests it was planned to avoid existing windows on the east end of the house. The two-story scale of the wing also is uncharacteristic of the period and suggests it was added later. (Perhaps it is one of the small dwellings with commercial uses extant west of this house on the 1856 map of the town relocated.) The east end of the wing contains two windows per floor indicating a deeper plan.

A large aisle barn, probably built in the mid-nineteenth century, is attached to the rear of the house by a gable-roof hyphen that has been widened in recent years to cover the entire south façade of the barn. The barn itself has been adapted for domestic uses; a large central wagon door survives on the north end. The house and barn are situated on a narrow and deep lot reduced in size. Driveways enter the property on both sides of the house frontage; the one on the east runs to the rear of the barn. A large yard occupies the west side of the parcel where two other mixed-use buildings are documented to have been located. The slim rear portion of the lot is wooded.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In April 1821, Joseph Poor deeded to his son-in-law Samuel Thurlow (1791-1855) four acres of land on what became North Street between the land owned by Henry Hilliard on the west and his own land on the east.¹ The 1830 map attaches "S. Thurlow" to the house, now 318 North Street, positioned between H. Hilliard and J. Poor Jr., whose farm near the junction of North and Jewett Streets was just northwest of his father's farm on Jewett Street.

Born in 1791 in Rowley, Samuel Thurlow was the youngest of six children of Mark Thurlow (1741-1823) and his wife Mary Wheeler. In 1820 he married Myra Poor (1800-1866), the daughter of Joseph Poor (1770-1843) and his wife Hannah Wood (1775-1843).² The 1850 census shows Samuel Thurlow as a farmer with \$5000 in real property in a household with his wife Myra and her unmarried sister Sophia Poor, then 46 years old. The Thurlows had no children, and in late November 1855 Samuel Thurlow died. His will, written three months earlier, left his widow the use of all his property after debts and other legacies were paid, bequeathed Sophia Poor and his sister Martha "a living out of my estate" for the rest of their lives, left Sophia Poor the use of the east chamber and the bedroom adjoining it in his house, and left his nephew Samuel Thurlow Poor \$500 to be paid a year after his death. After the death of his wife Myra Poor, the will states, Thurlow's estate was to pass equally to Samuel Thurlow Poor and his siblings Sarah Sophia, Joseph Bayley, and Alvin Clifton Poor. They were all the children of Myra Poor Thurlow's brother Joseph Poor Jr. and his wife Lucinda Read Poor. The 1856 Georgetown map shows that Thurlow

¹ Joseph Poor to Samuel Thurlow, 21 April 1821, SECD 228:192.

² On the Poor family see Alfred Poore, *A Memoir and Genealogy of John Poore. Ten Generations: 1615-1880* (Salem: by the author, 1881), 5-7, 135-36, 155-56, 199-202, 252-57.

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owned three adjacent buildings just west of the Jewett Street intersection, and his probate records credit him with more than \$18,000 in real estate including these three lots with their houses and barns; one lot also had a shop and another a store.³

The 1860 census shows the widow "Mira Thurlough" on North Street with her sister Sophia. Both worked as shoe binders, and both are shown with substantial real property—\$3,000 and \$14,000 respectively. In 1866 the sisters died within two weeks of each other, Myra Poor Thurlow of scarlet fever on 9 June and Sophia Poor of a "liver complaint" on 25 June. The property passed to Samuel Thurlow Poor, who is shown in the 1870 as a retail grocer with \$3000 in real property. By 1866 he had married Lowelor (sometimes Luella) Adams, daughter of Enoch and Caroline Perkins Adams of Groveland, and the couple had three children by 1870—Myra, born in 1866, Pamela, in 1868, and Elizabeth Ann, born in 1870. The 1872 Georgetown map attaches the name "S. Poor" to the house, and the 1880 census shows Samuel and Lowelor Poor with three more children—Samuel, Ida, and Lena—born between 1872 and 1878. The 1884 directory shows Samuel T. Poor as one of two confectionary and fruit dealers in Georgetown.

The 1900 census lists Samuel T. Poor and his wife on North Street with their daughter Ida, a public school teacher, and two sons born after 1880—Joseph Enoch, in 1881, and Raymond Adams, in 1885. In 1910 Samuel T. Poor hung himself—this death record stated that he had suffered from "melancholia" for at least a year—and his widow Lowelor remained at 318 North Street until she died in 1927. In the same year daughter Myra, who had married Georgetown carpenter William F. Nason in 1891, conveyed her interest in the property to her younger brother Joseph E. Poor, who had married Marie Huard of Wales, Massachusetts, in 1913. The 1930 census shows the couple living in North Street with mother-in-law Alphonsine Huard, who had come from Quebec to the United States in 1871. Poor's 1942 draft registration card lists him as living on North Street and working for shoe shop foreman Theodore MacDonald at his 81 West Main Street home in Georgetown.

It is not entirely clear which of the three North Street houses Joseph E. Poor was living in by 1940; two houses listed in the census enumeration for that year on this part of North Street are shown as vacant, and Joseph Poor appears to have been boarding and working at the Charles H. Chaplin farm elsewhere in town. In 1931 Poor's younger brother Raymond, then living in Groveland, sold this parcel and another on the south side of North Street to John P. Lantz of Salem. Lantz, who had earlier worked for the Young Men's Christian Association in Whitman and Newburyport, is listed in the 1932 and 1940 directories on North Street, and in 1942 Joseph E. Poor deeded his interest in an additional 2.5-acre parcel on the south side of North Street to Lantz.⁴ By 1945 a boundary dispute had arisen, and Lantz petitioned the state land court to clarify the matter. The outcome of the petition, and how long Lantz continued to own 318 North Street, are not clear from land court documents, but by 1988 Kenneth R. and Tanya A. Kisielewski owned the property. Current owner Barbara A. Keiter acquired the property in 2004.⁵

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

DIRECTORIES

³ His real estate included 148 acres in 17 lots and 3 other parcels, including two of the house lots, of unstated acreage.

⁴ Raymond A. Poor, Groveland MA, to John P. Lantz, Salem MA, 17 September 1931, SECD 2896:113; Joseph E Poor to John P. Lantz, 26 August 1942, SECD 3308:179.

⁵ Petition of John P. Lantz, 27 July 1945, Massachusetts Land Court Certificate 15917, Document 19291; Kenneth R. and Tanya A. Kisielewski, 31 March 1988, Massachusetts Land Court Document 234327. See also "Plan of Land in Georgetown," 22 December 1944. Registered Plan 1929-1A, and "Subdivision Plan of Land in Georgetown," 30 August 2001, Registered Plan 1929-1F.

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MAPS
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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from SE.

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View from SW.