

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

10B 49

Georgetown

GEO.82

Town/City: Georgetown

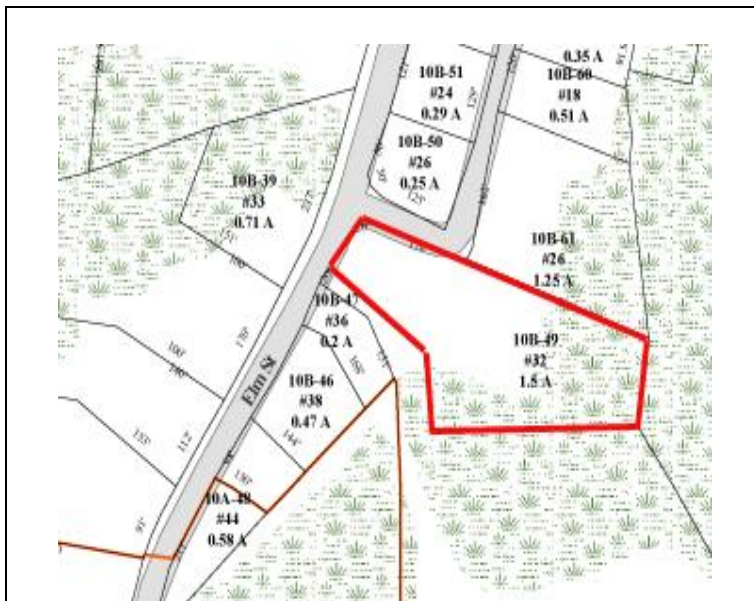
Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Elm Street Area

Photograph



View from W

Locus Map



Address: 32 Elm Street

Historic Name: Silas & Sarah Hawley House

Uses: Present: residence

Original: residence

Date of Construction: ca.1838

Source: historic maps

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Joseph & John Kimball,
probable builders

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: asbestos cement shingles

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
barn

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Asbestos cement shingle siding
Replacement window sash
Sun room added

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.5 acres

Setting: This property is at the southeast corner of the intersection of Elm and Chestnut Streets in a largely residential area.

Recorded by: Kathryn Grover and Neil Larson

Organization: Georgetown Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): January 2010

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

32 ELM STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.82

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Silas & Sarah Hawley House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with asbestos cement shingle siding and a gable roof. It is situated at the west or street side of a 1.5-acre lot on the east side of Elm Street and south side of Chestnut Street. It is oriented to Elm Street and flanked by yards with mature plantings; its rear yard extends back a good distance, then widens and terminates in a wooded wetland at the east end of the property. A historic 19th-century barn is sited behind the house with its wagon doors opening on Chestnut Street.

The form of the house is similar to others on the street that have one room deep plans with two brick chimneys on their rear walls, one each at the backs of rooms flanking a center hall. This was a popular plan for houses in towns along the North Shore of Massachusetts and in Portsmouth, New Hampshire during this period and earlier. It was probably built by housewrights Joseph and John Kimball who lived at 16 and 20 Elm Street, respectively. Like the others, the Hawley house has a two-story kitchen ell abutting the north side of the rear wall; however, in this case, the ell protrudes a few feet beyond the north gable end of the house providing space for windows on the west end. The rear-wall chimney on the south side of the house has been removed, while a small chimney emanates from the intersection of the house and ell roofs. This evidently served both front and rear sections of the house.

The five-bay front façade contains an unusual projecting center entrance with a Greek Revival-style trabeated architrave composed of pilasters and a hefty entablature, which also appears on the other Elm Street houses attributed to the builders. Original sidelights have been replaced with solid panels. Window sashes have been replaced with recent one-over-one units. The rooflines of both the front and rear sections of the house are ornamented with a plain entablature having a pronounced frieze reflecting a transitional design embodying aspects of both Federal- and Greek Revival-style decoration. The asbestos cement siding conceals corner details. The end walls contain single windows on lower and upper stories. The ell has a doorway on the north side, which is sheltered by a later-19th-century hood with scrolled brackets. A one-story sun room has been added to the east end of the ell.

A story-and-a-half wood frame domestic barn is located east of the house and fronts on Chestnut Street where it corners to intersect with Elm Street. It has wood clapboard siding with shingles in the gables. A pair of wagon doors are centered on the north façade surmounted by a smaller door for the hay mow; a window, perhaps added, is located to the left of the door. There are windows on the end walls, including ones in the gables; a one-story addition is center on the south wall.

The Silas & Sarah Hawley House is a distinctive example of Greek Revival Period architecture in the town and evinces the single-pile rear chimney plan form characteristic of Essex County and the North Shore region. It was likely built by housewrights Joseph and John Kimball who also lived on Elm Street. Built ca. 1838, the house is essentially intact and distinguished by a Greek Revival-style trabeated entrance architrave. It is a key contributing component of a historic district on Elm Street.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to local histories, aside from the road (now Massachusetts Route 133) connecting Georgetown to its parent Rowley to the east and Andover on the west, Elm Street is one of the oldest streets in Georgetown, having been opened to "public travel"

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

32 ELM STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.82

about 1686.¹ At that time between ten and twenty families lived in what was known as Rowley second (or west) parish or New Rowley. Beginning in the 1650s Rowley proprietors began to make land grants in the town's western reaches; in 1666-67, the town laid out three thousand acres in the area and granted John Spofford the job of penning cattle "the young cattle of the towne" where they had "been herded this last yeare." Pen Brook is named for these pens, which stood west of Elm Street. In 1732 families in the area successfully petitioned to form the Second Church of Rowley (ultimately Georgetown's First Congregational Church) and built a second meetinghouse at the junction of Elm and East Main Streets in 1769. In 1838 the General Court of Massachusetts incorporated Georgetown, which embraced most of the second parish.²

By 1800, according to a map showing the town center at that time, various branches of the Nelson family owned large tracts embracing both sides of Elm and Chestnut Street and both sides of Main Street in this section. All of these branches descended from Thomas Nelson (1615-about 1648), who was among the twenty families who had come to the New World in the winter of 1638 with the Puritan cleric Ezekiel Rogers (1590-166). With Rogers most of these families settled at Rowley, incorporated in 1639.

The house at 32 Elm Street appears on an 1838 map of Georgetown village as the home of Silas Hawley, who was likely its initial owner. In 1850 Hawley's household included, his wife Sarah, Isaac Hawley, his wife Deborah, and their four children. Both Hawleys were in their sixties and were born in Vermont; they were probably brothers, but from what town in Vermont they came and where they were after 1856, when "S. Hawley" identifies the house on a village map, is not known. By 1860, in any event, the shoe manufacturer James B. Giles owned and lived on the property. Giles, born about 1823 was from Litchfield, New Hampshire, and his mother was from Barnstead in the same state. In 1850 he was in Georgetown working as a clerk, and from his order in the census he appears to have lived nearby on Elm Street. By 1860 his household included his wife Eliza, thirty years old and born in Barnstead, New Hampshire, as well as Elisha G. Bunker, age sixty-six, and his daughter Emily, age 26; both Bunkers were born in New Hampshire and may have been Eliza Giles's father and sister; at Emily's death in 1897 in Salem her place of birth is shown as Barnstead.

By 1860 Giles was a shoe manufacturer and listed in the census with one thousand dollars in real property and three hundred dollars in personal property. Ten years later his wealth was estimated at \$1700 in real and \$7200 in personal property, which indicates his increasing prosperity. Giles's business occupied the former David M. Winter shoe factory, located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Elm and Chestnut streets. Giles was one of the chief manufacturers of shoes and boots in Georgetown after about 1850. According to an 1888 local history his factory was one of five in Georgetown that was not using "power"; about that time, the 1885 Georgetown directory shows, eleven boot and shoe factories were operating in the town as well as five custom boot and shoe makers.³

In the 1885 directory Giles is listed as manufacturing "brogans," a coarse, heavy shoe that extended to the ankle, and brogans and boots were the footwear for which Georgetown was best known. Throughout the 1800s Georgetown was far eclipsed as a boot and shoe manufacturing center by many Essex County towns—chiefly Lynn, the largest producer of footwear in the commonwealth, as well as Haverhill and Marblehead. But an 1837 industrial census mandated by the state documented that the 32,600 pair of boots made in Rowley (of which Georgetown was then part) over the previous year were the most produced in the county, and 70 percent of the estimated value of boots and shoes made in Rowley was produced in what became Georgetown. At that time 518 men and 192 women were working the local industry.⁴ By 1855 595 men and women—115 fewer than in 1837—produced 350,000 pair of boots and shoes annually in Georgetown shoe shops, which must be attributable to the industry's increasing mechanization.

While Elm Street is largely residential today, through the nineteenth century shoemaking shops of varying size also existed along the road; in 1872 five were large enough to be shown on the Georgetown village plate of the county atlas. According to

¹ See, for example, Benjamin F. Arrington, ed., *Municipal History of Essex County in Massachusetts* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1922), 146.

² Thomas Gage, *The History of Rowley* (Boston: Ferdinand Andrews, 1840), 31-32, 320, 324, 326, 329.

³ Henry M. Nelson, "Town of Georgetown History," in D. Hamilton Hurd, *History of Essex County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men* (Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis and Co., 1888), 1: 845-46.

⁴ See Gage, *History of Rowley*, 402-3; Nelson, "Town of Georgetown History," 835; and Blanche Evans Hazard, *The Organization of the Boot and Shoe Industry in Massachusetts before 1875* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1921), 210, which notes that these statistics were gathered and published by John Warner Barber in *Historical Collections of Every Town in Massachusetts* (Worcester: Dorr, Howland and Co., 1839), 66, 201.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

32 ELM STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.82

Benjamin Arrington's 1922 history of the town, about 1830 "there was scarcely a farmhouse (or any other house) but that had in its back-yard a 12x12 foot shoe-shop. It was in these small shops that the countrywide known Georgetown boots and shoes were made until recent years, when they were manufactured in factories."⁵ In the so-called "ten footer" (a shoe shop ranging from ten to fourteen feet square), as many as eight shoemakers (including journeymen and apprentices) made a shoe from start to finish in these ten-footers. Beginning about 1820 the "central shop," where leather was cut and put out to men and women in the community to sew the "uppers" among other tasks, began to emerge. In this putting out system workers returned the uppers to the central shop, which send them out again with soles and thread to workers who would finish the shoe. The central shop then gathered and marketed the footwear.⁶ According to industry historian William H. Mulligan Jr., the move from the central shop to the factory system took place incrementally as various shoemaking processes were mechanized, and as late as 1870 this transition was still underway.⁷ The 1872 map shows both shoe shops and shoe "manufactories" on Elm Street. By 1884 the Giles shop is identified as a factory, and a bird's-eye view published three years later depicts it as a narrow building three stories high. Still, the scale of and production method in Giles's factory is unknown.

Giles died in 1897, and his widow and only son Lewis H. Giles continued to live at 32 Elm until about 1912. At the turn of the century Lewis H. Giles was a cashier at Georgetown Savings Bank and by 1909 had become an insurance agent in addition. By 1912 he was a cashier of Haverhill Trust Company and later became its vice president and treasurer; he was living in Haverhill by 1920.

Afterwards the property was occupied by George M. Fogg, a realtor who also sold both veterinary and family medicines from the house. Fogg had moved to another Georgetown home by 1920, when 32 Elm was occupied by Philip J. Biron. Biron was born in Quebec and came to the United States in 1891. By 1930 he owned the property, which then included a barn and henhouse. He worked then as a shoe factory cutter. How long Biron owned 32 Elm is yet unclear, but the property was sold in 1946, perhaps by him, to Bertram S. and Eva L. Bailey. At Eva Bailey's death the property passed to her children, who sold it in 2002 to Christian W. Anderson, the current owner.⁸

⁵ Arrington, *Municipal History*, 254.

⁶ Hazard, *Boot and Shoe Industry*, 8-9, 42, 44.

⁷ William H. Mulligan Jr., e-mail to Kathryn Grover, 9 December 2009.

⁸ See Mildred L Gangloff, Bertram S Bailey Jr., and Barbara L Rogers to Christian W. Anderson, 20 December 2002, SED 19860:526, which refers to their title by will of their mother and cites a deed to her from an unknown grantor dated 28 June 1946, SED 3474:99.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

32 ELM STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

GEO.82

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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.

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

32 ELM STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.82

[Delete this page if no Criteria Statement is prepared]

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 and Kathryn Grover_____

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

The Silas & Sarah Hawley House is a distinctive example of Greek Revival Period architecture in the town and evinces the single-pile rear chimney plan form characteristic of Essex County and the North Shore region. It was likely built by housewrights Joseph and John Kimball who also lived on Elm Street. Built ca. 1838, the house is essentially intact and distinguished by a Greek Revival-style trabeated entrance architrave. It is a key contributing component of a historic district on Elm Street.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

32 ELM STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	GEO.82
--	--------



View from NW



View from SW

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

32 ELM STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	GEO.82
--	--------



View from S



View from NE

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

32 ELM STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	GEO.82
--	--------



View from N



Aerial view from SW