

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

321 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.278

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



View from north.



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

17-123

Georgetown

GEO.278

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: 321 North Street

Historic Name: Joseph Jr. & Lucinda Poor House

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

Date of Construction: ca. 1835

Source: historic maps, deeds, visual assessment

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Barn, ca. 1835

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

2-story addition on rear, late 19th century.

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.48 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 Joseph Poor Jr. and Lucinda Poor House is a story-and-a-half wood frame single dwelling with a gable roof built about 1835. In plan and design it is an end house with its entrance off center on the street-facing three-bay gable end; two upper-story windows are aligned with the windows below rather than being evenly spaced as was the norm. Wide corner and frieze boards convey a sense of Greek Revival style as do short cornice returns at the base of the gable. There are two windows on the east side of the house, each at the extreme corner, and one window on the west side. A two-story rear ell, its plan offset to the east, appears to be a late nineteenth-century addition, perhaps replacing a smaller wing.

The building is centered on a small square lot substantially set back from the street. A driveway enters the east side of the frontage and runs past the house and up to a small domestic barn in the rear of the property that may be contemporary with the house.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

It appears that the intersection of North and Jewett Streets, now the intersection of North Street and Waldingfield Road, has been relocated to the east from the position it occupied on nineteenth-century maps. These maps clearly show a house belonging to Joseph Poor Jr. at this intersection nearly opposite Samuel Thurlow's house at 318 North Street (GEO.277), which corresponds with the current location of 321 North Street. Joseph Poor Jr. (1798-1865) was the son of Joseph and Hannah Wood Poor, who lived on a farm to the southeast on the same road. (This house would have been located in the vicinity of 2 Bayberry Lane.) In 1835 Joseph Poor Jr., then 37 years old, married Lucinda Reed (1812-1888), fourteen years his junior. She was born in Newburyport to William Reed Jr. and Lucinda Converse. The construction date of the 321 North Street house appears to be consistent with this event.

In 1850 Joseph Poor Jr.'s farm comprised 39 improved and six unimproved acres and was valued at \$2000. He had one milk cow and three other cattle, as well as two oxen. The year before, he harvested small amounts of corn, potatoes, and orchard products, and produced butter. At that time, he and Lucinda had a daughter, Sarah Sophia (1835-1914), and a son, Samuel Thurlow, born in 1843. Five years later, they had two more children—Joseph Bailey, born in 1850, and Alvin Clifton, born in 1852. The 1860 and 1865 censuses recorded the same household; by the earlier date, daughter Sarah was working as a schoolteacher.

A series of deaths—Samuel Thurlow in 1855, Joseph Poor Jr. in 1865, Myra Poor Thurlow and her sister Sophia Poor in 1866—brought the Thurlow and Poor property (318 and 321 North St.) together. In his 1855 will Samuel Thurlow had left all of his property to the children of Joseph Poor Jr. and his wife Lucinda Read Poor—Sarah Sophia, Samuel Thurlow, Joseph Bailey, and Alvin Clifton Poor—upon the death of his wife. The inventory of Joseph Poor Jr.'s real estate, compiled in November 1866 after his sisters Myra and Sophia had died, showed him with a half-interest in Samuel Thurlow's property, including his homestead (a house, two barns, and an acre of land), a double house, a shop, the house and lot of Samuel's brother Moses Wheeler Thurlow (1782-1854), and numerous other parcels. The inventory also included Joseph Poor Jr.'s "house barn and 3 acres," an "old house barn and shop" (probably his father's house), other undeveloped tracts, and undeveloped land that had belonged to Sophia Poor. The Poor children also received one undivided half of the sizable personal estates of Myra Poor Thurlow (\$1792.67) and Sophia Poor (\$1264.59) and their father's less substantial personal estate of \$340.84.

Samuel T. Poor took over his uncle Samuel Thurlow's farm across the street at 318 North Street (GEO.277) and moved there about 1866, the same year his sister Sarah Sophia Poor married Gorham Parsons Jewett (1833-1900). It was a year after their

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father died. Gorham P. Jewett was from the neighborhood, the son of Robert Jewett and Mehitabel Lord Dole. The 1872 map of Georgetown shows the widow Poor at 321 North Street and the Jewetts in Joseph Poor Sr.'s house farther down Jewett Street. The 1870 census shows Jewett as a farmer with \$1000 in real property; he and his wife Sarah were the only occupants of the house. By 1880 Gorham P. Jewett was the head of the household at 321 North Street, which included his wife, Sarah, their two young sons, Gorham, Jr., age eight, and Fred Ira, age five., and mother-in-law, Lucinda Poor.

Sarah Sophia Poor Jewett's mother died in 1888 and her husband died in 1900, which left her at the head of a household containing her 67-year-old niece, Almira A. Rush, and two male boarders; the 1900 census classified her as a widow and a farmer. In 1912 she sold the family farm to Lowel S. Poor, her brother Samuel T. Poor's wife, and moved to Rowley to live with the family of her son Gorham, a grocery store proprietor.¹ Less than a year later Lowel S. Poor sold the property to the sisters Mary E. Barker and Martha J. Newcomb.² Newcomb, born Martha Jane Potter in Digby, Nova Scotia, in 1845, was the widow of George H. Newcomb, a shoe worker in Lynn who had died in 1903 in Maine; after his death she had kept house for William P. Hills on North Street, and she continued to be listed as a live-in housekeeper after she had acquired 321 North Street. The 1918 and 1919 directories show her as a housekeeper at Quaker Farm in Groveland. Mary E. Potter Barker worked as a private nurse and is shown in the North Street household only in the 1920 census; she was then 81 years old.

In 1921 Martha Newcomb deeded 321 North Street to Laine M. Potter of Palatka, Florida, on the condition that Newcomb be permitted to occupy three rooms on the west side of the house for the rest of her life. Potter's husband Ernest, born in Nova Scotia, was probably related to the sisters. Martha Newcomb died in 1934, and four years later Laine Potter, then living with her husband in Georgia, deeded the property to Newcomb's son Charles and his wife Gertrude. Born in 1903 in Georgetown, Charles Leslie Newcomb married Georgetown native Gertrude E. Spaulding in 1929, and he worked as a shoe shop operative, a foreman on a state forestry crew, a gardener for H. P. Kelsey Inc. in Boxford, and a florist; he lived in the late 1920s and early 1930s on Jewett Street. The 1957 directory shows Charles Newcomb at 321 North Street with his wife, who worked for the town, and daughter Marion, a nurse in Beverly; his widowed mother Mary L. Newcomb lived then on Jewett Street.³

Charles L. Newcomb died in March 1968, and in 1973 his widow Gertrude sold 321 North Street to C. Bosworth Hills, who resold it a month later. From 1976 to 1991 the family of John E. and Patricia A. Vivian of Ipswich owned the property. Current owner Charles T. O'Connell bought it in 1991.

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DIRECTORIES

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¹ Sarah S. Jewett to Lowel S. Poor, 30 November 1912, SECD 2215:553.

² Lowel S. Poor to Mary E. Barker and Martha J. Newcomb, 14 August 1913, 2241:397.

³ Martha J. Newcomb to Laine M. Potter, Palatka FL, 10 December 1921, SECD 2501:313; Lanie Barker Potter, Rome GA, to Charles L. and Gertrude E. Newcomb, 29 December 1938 SECD 3175:542; Gertrude E. Newcomb to C. Bosworth Hills, 11 December 1973, SECD 6033:676; John M. and Linda S. Shea to John E. and Patricia A. Vivian, Ipswich MA, 29 April 1976, SECD 6241:13; John E. Vivian to Charles T O'Connell, 321 North St, 13 September 1991, SECD 10941:595.

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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.

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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)

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View from north.

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View from NE.



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View from west.