

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

372 Central Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.230

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

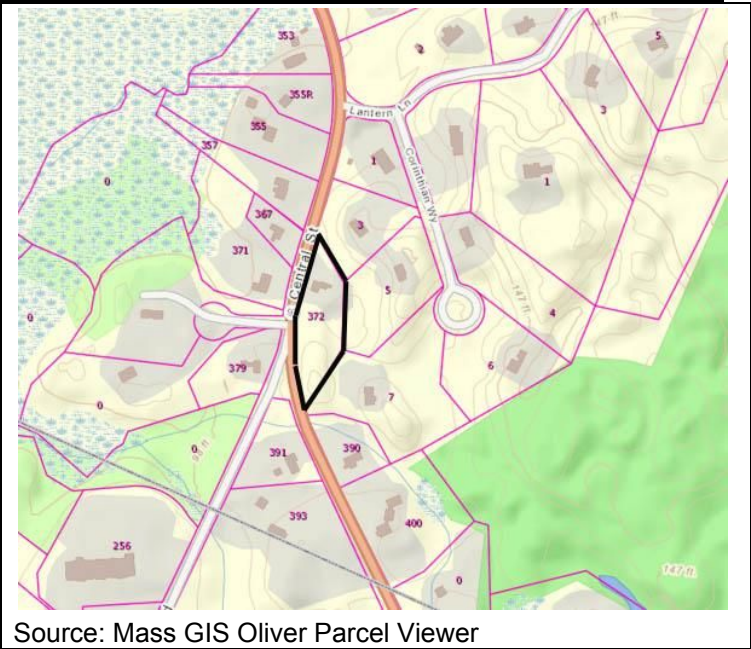
FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



View from SW.



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

8-8

Georgetown

GEO.230

Setting: Major route into town center with concentration of historic and non-historic residential buildings.

Town/City: Georgetown

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
South Georgetown

Address: 372 Central Street

Historic Name: John B. & Charlotte Buckminster House

Uses: Present: single family residential

Original: single family residential

Date of Construction: 1833

Source: deeds, historic maps & visual assessment

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards (front)
Wood shingles (sides)

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

none

Condition: excellent

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.30 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 John B. and Charlotte Buckminster House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with a gable roof built in 1833. Its form and center chimney plan represents a late manifestation of a common eighteenth-century house type. The five-bay front façade contains a center entrance distinguished by a pedimented architrave that may not be a feature original to the house. The absence of a trabeated surround and sidelights as well as pronounced corner pilasters and friezes associates the design with Federal Period taste, with the pedimented doorway the only focal point. The end walls contain two windows on each story and a single attic window centered in the gable. A cross-gable kitchen ell is attached to the north side of the rear wall and in line with the gable end of the house. An entrance on the rear end is contained in a later shed-roof extension. The house is situated at the northerly end of a polygonal lot with a long street frontage. A driveway enters the lot north of the house. There are no outbuildings and the parcel is largely wooded.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The house numbered 372 Central Street is located on land once owned by Benjamin Adams (1746-1821), sometimes called Captain Benjamin Adams or “tanner Adams” because his Central Street tannery, operating in 1780, was the first in what became Georgetown. According to local histories, Adams’s own house was built on the same, east side of Central Street but north of this house, on the north side of the Pen Brook, between 1754 and 1760 (302 Central St., GEO.30). In June 1833 Adams’s son and namesake Benjamin Adams (1773-1852) sold “a certain household” of 1.5 acres and 18 square rods bordered by the land of the Adams family and Paul Nelson to John B. Buckminster for \$40.31. In spite of the reference, the purchase price seems to indicate that no buildings stood on the lot. In November of the same year Buckminster took out a mortgage of \$555.41 on the same property with John Kimball, who had bought the Benjamin Adams homestead and is shown as its owner on the 1830 map of Georgetown. Taken together, these deeds suggest that Buckminster built a house on the lot between June and November 1833.

¹ No house is shown at this location on the 1830 map.

Born in Boxford in 1785, John Blake Buckminster married Charlotte Crombie in 1814 in Rowley, and the couple had seven children born between 1814 and 1833—George Nelson (1814), Mary Crombie (1817), John Blake Jr. (1820), Martha Chaplin (1823), Louisa Adams (1827), Charlotte Maria (1830), and Charles Henry (1833). The family may have lived for a time in Danbury, New Hampshire, as a marriage record for son John lists that town as his birthplace. Middle names in the family suggest either kinship or close affiliation with Nelsons, Chaplins, and Adamses, all families that lived in this section of Georgetown.

The 1830 census shows John Buckminster’s family in this neighborhood, on the same page as John Kimball and Benjamin Adams Jr., and both he and his son George, who had married Lydia Peabody of Georgetown two years earlier, are enumerated in the 1840 census in the same area. The 1850 census shows father and son in the same dwelling, each with \$600 in real property; the 1856 map labels the house at this location as “J & G Buckminster.” Both Buckminsters were shoemakers. By 1855 John B. Buckminster was 65 years old and working as a laborer, while son Charles Henry was a shoemaker; George Buckminster was still making shoes and lived with his wife and their children Clara, born about 1840, and Georgianna, born about 1848.

¹ Benjamin Adams to John B. Buckminster, 13 June 1833, SECD 274:103; John B. Buckminster to John Kimball, 4 November 1833, SECD 274:103. See also 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), 1:795, 814, 830, 831.

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The 1865 and 1870 censuses show John Buckminster living with his son George and daughter-in-law Lydia, and the Essex County directory for that year shows John as a farmer and George as a shoemaker. John Buckminster died in 1872, and the 1880 census shows George Buckminster in the household with his wife and his grandson Elmer E. Tidd, born in 1863 and the son of George's daughter Clara and her husband Cyrus Tidd. Cyrus Tidd, a photographer, and the son of Samuel Charles and Ruth Mighill Tidd, had died in 1873, and in 1880 his widow lived with her five other children at 379 Central Street (GEO.231). Lydia Buckminster died in 1885 and her husband George in 1891, and the 1900 census shows the widowed Clara Buckminster Tidd in the house with her daughter Nellie, a shoe factory stitcher; her married daughter Mary and Mary's husband William Augustus Holt, a shoe treer; the Holts' three children; William Holt's brother Edward; a shoe factory nailer, and one other boarder. By 1910 the Holts had left the household leaving Clara Tidd there with her daughter Nellie, still a shoe factory worker. The 1916 directory shows her in a house on Central Street "near the Boxford line."

Clara Tidd died in June 1918, and in 1922 the administrator of her estate sold 372 Central Street to Nellie Buckminster Harnden.² The deed transferred two parcels, the house and its lot on the east side of Central Street and three acres of field land on the west side. Nellie Harnden was the daughter of Cyrus and Clara Tidd and had married Arthur W. Harnden of Lynn in 1915. She was 45 years old, and he was 37 and had been married before. His 1918 draft registration record shows him living on Central Street in his wife's longtime home and working for the Harlan P. Kelsey nursery in Boxford. He remained a gardener for the rest of his life, and by the time she died in 1941 Nellie Tidd Harnden was a foreperson in a shoe shop stitching room.

In 1944 Arthur Harnden sold 372 Central Street to Charles W. and Hazel T. McIntosh, thus brining to a close more than a century of Buckminster family ownership.³ Born in 1902 in Georgetown, Charles McIntosh was the son of Nova Scotia immigrant Robert W. McIntosh and his wife Susie M. Coburn of Ipswich, who married in the same year. Charles McIntosh's grandmother Jessie, born in Nova Scotia in 1852, had emigrated in 1879 and was living in Georgetown by 1900 with son Robert, then a woolen mill dyer, and daughter Jessie. In 1910 Jessie McIntosh was working in her rented School Street home as a dressmaker and living there with her son Robert, daughter Jennie, and grandson Charles, then seven years old. Charles's mother Susie then lived and worked as a domestic in the Boxford almshouse, and by 1920 she began long-term domestic employment in a family in Danvers; she died in 1942.

Boston directories for 1940 and 1941 show Charles W. McIntosh as a shipper for Berry Brothers living in Georgetown with his wife Hazel. He died in Georgetown in April 1951, and his widow sold the 372 Central Street property in December of the same year. Thomas J. and Gail T. Norris of Waterville, Maine, owned the property from 1967 to 1997, and current owners Hugh F. and Debra Anne Carter acquired it from the widowed Thomas J. Norris in the latter year.⁴

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DIRECTORIES

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

² Robert F. Metcalf, administrator estate Clara B. Tidd, to Nellie B. Harnden, 8 August 1922, SECD 2525:418

³ Arthur W. Harnden, administrator estate Nellie B. Harnden, to Charles W. and Hazel T. McIntosh, 11 December 1944, SECD 3394:421.

⁴ Hazel T. McIntosh to John Francis and Jane Louise McManus, Hamilton MA, 12 December 1951; Robert N. Oldale to Thomas J. and Gail T. Norris, Waterville ME, 6 June 1967, SECD 5448:210 Thomas J. Norris, Newbury, to Hugh F. and Debra Anne Carter, Middlesex, 25 June 1997, SECD 14184:258.

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Georgetown, Boxford, Byfield, Newbury, and West Newbury, Massachusetts, Directory. Boston: W. E. Shaw, 1901-2, 1905.

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Haverhill, Mass. Suburban Directory for Georgetown, Groveland, Merrimac and West Newbury 1940. North Hampton, NH: Crosby Publishing Co., 1940.

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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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"Georgetown, Mass. 1887." Drawn and Published by George E. Norris, Brockton, Massachusetts. Troy, NY: Burleigh Lithographic Establishment, 1887."

Insurance Maps of Haverhill Including Bradford, Groveland & Georgetown, Massachusetts. New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co., 1893; Sanborn Map Co., 1906, 1949.

PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)

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View from NW.

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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 John B. and Charlotte Buckminster House is a two-story Federal-style single dwelling with a center chimney plan that is essentially intact in its form, materials and architectural characteristics. Restrained in style, it has a distinctive pedimented doorway as a focal point. Built in 1833, it was the home of a shoemaker and later generations of his family extending into the 1940s. Because of its remarkable historic integrity, the house appears to be eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C at a local level of significance.