

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 45

Georgetown

GEO.86

Town/City: Georgetown

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

Photograph



View from W

Address: 42 Elm Street

Historic Name: Nicholas & Eliza Mary Reynolds House

Uses: Present: residence

Original: residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1838

Source: town maps

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Entry and window updates, c. 1880
Rear addition

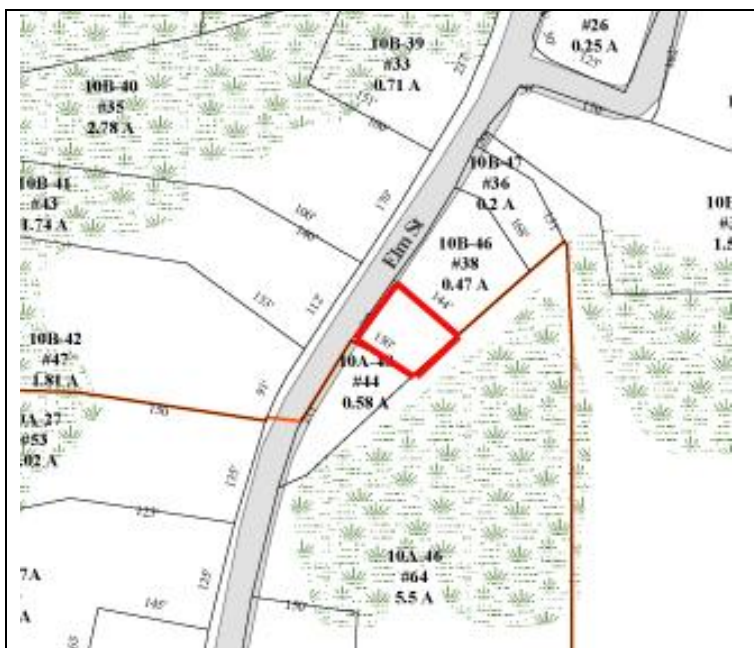
Condition:

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: approx. 0.20

Setting: This property is on the east side of Elm Street and borders marshland on its southeast boundary. Its lot features mature hardwoods. Elm Street is primarily residential.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Kathryn Grover and Neil Larson

Organization: Georgetown Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): January 2010

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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.

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 Nicholas & Eliza Mary Reynolds House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with wood clapboard siding and a gable roof. It is situated at the west or street side of a quarter-acre lot on the east side of Elm Street south of where Chestnut Street intersects. It is oriented to Elm Street and surrounded by an open yard.

The form of the house is similar to others on the street that have two-room plans flanking a center hall. This example has its chimneys on the ends rather than on the rear wall. The gable ends have two windows on each story, including the attic. The house was built ca. 1838, which was during the era local housewrights Joseph and John Kimball were active in the area. A two-story kitchen ell abuts the rear wall in line with the south gable end of the main section; a one-story extension has been added to the east end of the ell.

The five-bay front façade does not contain the unusual projecting center entrance present on other houses attributed to the Kimballs, and windows are more closely spaced across a more compact building. The front entrance has a transom and sidelights, which were filled with solid panels when the existing architrave and ponderous hood braced with scrolled brackets were added ca. 1880. Two-over-two window sash were added at this time, with the lower sashes replaced with single-pane units more recently. A box cornice projects over the second-story windows and returns slightly on the gable ends; corners are detailed with narrow boards. The ell has two window bays on its south side; a doorway is located in the rear bay on the first story of the main section's south gable end with a hood similar but smaller than that on the front. The rear addition projects south from the ell providing enough space on the west side for another entrance.

A one-story wood-frame garage or workshop is located south of the house.

The Nicholas & Eliza Mary Reynolds House is a distinctive example of late Federal Style domestic architecture in the town and evinces the single-pile plan form characteristic of Essex County and the North Shore region. Built ca. 1838, the house is essentially intact and distinguished by original materials and an entrance with Federal-style architrave. The property is a 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" 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 year." 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

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

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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.

It is likely that some member of the Nelson family owned the land on which 38 Elm Street was sited, but the 1800 map of land division in the village does not extend sufficiently far south to determine which one. The house is not shown on the 1800 or 1830 maps of the village, but it does appear, labeled "N Reynolds," on the 1838 map. Its owner was Nicholas Reynolds, who one local historian asserts may have been the first person born in Ireland to settle in Georgetown.³ Reynolds came to the United States at least seven years before the potato blight took hold of Ireland and impelled the first mass immigration of the nineteenth century. In 1839 he married Eliza Mary Andrews, a Georgetown native, in Georgetown, and the couple had children there in 1840 and 1843.

Reynolds returned to Ireland at some point before 1850, and by 1856 the house was owned by the blacksmith and shoemaker Asa Bradstreet, sometimes called Captain Bradstreet. Born about 1794 in Topsfield, Bradstreet married Silena Platts in Rowley in 1821 and had four children between 1830 and 1840. He died in 1863, and his widow remained in the house at 42 Elm until her own death in 1875. The couple's unmarried daughter Sarah Goodrich Bradstreet (about 1840-90) remained at this address until at least 1880. Elmira Edmonds, who had lived with Silena and Sarah Bradstreet at least as early as 1870, appears to have remained in the house, for in 1900 she is shown as the head of household. Born in Massachusetts in 1826, little else is known about Edmonds.

By 1883 town assessor's records document that John and Susan P. Warne also occupied the "A Bradstreet place" (which included a henhouse). Warne, who was born in England in 1842 and emigrated with his wife Susan in 1869, was working as a domestic and a tailor in a Manchester, Massachusetts, hotel run by Allen Knowlton in 1880. In Georgetown Warne continued to work as a tailor. In 1900 Susan Warne was shown as the housekeeper for Elmira Edmonds and her husband John as a boarder at 42 Elm. In 1904 Susan Warne died, and John Warne remained at this address until he died in 1917 or 1918. By 1910 he shared the house with Sarah F. Kalloch, the widow of Levi Kalloch, a realtor and native of Maine who died in Topsfield in 1892. She also remained at 42 Elm Street until her death in April 1917.

In 1920 42 Elm became the home of William Nelson Poole, the son of Rowley shoemaker H. William Poole and his wife Susan E. Reed of Newbury. Born in 1881 in Rowley, Poole worked as an expressman and by 1930 as a grocer, and he lived with at this address with his wife Alice and sons Clarence and Howard Cushman Poole until at least 1933. His wife's sister Helen Crockett also lived at 42 Elm Street. The property included the house, a garage, and the henhouse, where Poole kept fifteen chickens in 1933, according to assessor's records. Another son, Harold Nelson Poole, lived at the time at 35 Elm Street, and in the 1940s a fourth son, Kenneth Leslie Poole, lived next door at 38 Elm.

In 1942, when he registered for the draft, Edward Thayer Greenleaf was living at 42 Elm Street. Greenleaf, who then worked for Louis Wood Heel Corporation in Haverhill, was born in Ipswich in 1888 and had earlier lived at 12 Elm Street. His daughter Margery, born in 1907, married Kenneth L. Poole, also born in 1907, at some point before 1930. In 1950 Margery Poole sold 42 Elm Street to Wendell E. and Muriel B. Warner, whose family owned the property until 1996. In that year Kenneth R. Warner, as administrator of Wendell Warner's estate, sold the property to Shila N. Armel and Todd A. Duffy, who in turn sold it to its current owner Timothy J. Gerraughty the same year.⁴

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: 840.

⁴ Margery E. Poole to Warren E. and Muriel B. Warner, 20 May 1950, SED 3741:294; Kenneth R. Warner to Shila N. Armel and Todd A. Duffy, 12 November 1996, SED 13840:34; Armel to Thomas J. Gerraughty, 1 December 1997, SED 14460:414.

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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.

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.

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[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 Nicholas & Eliza Mary Reynolds House is a distinctive example of late Federal Style domestic architecture in the town and evinces the single-pile plan form characteristic of Essex County and the North Shore region. Built ca. 1838, the house is essentially intact and distinguished by original materials and an entrance with Federal-style architrave. The property is a contributing component of a historic district on Elm Street.

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View from NW



View from SW

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View from SE



View from W

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Aerial view from SW