

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 41

Georgetown

GEO.87

Town/City: Georgetown

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

Photograph



View from E

Address: 43 Elm Street

Historic Name: Luke L. and Eliza Dole House

Uses: Present: residence

Original: residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1787

Source: local & family history

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
Original house enlarged, ca. 1787
Window replacement
Rear additions

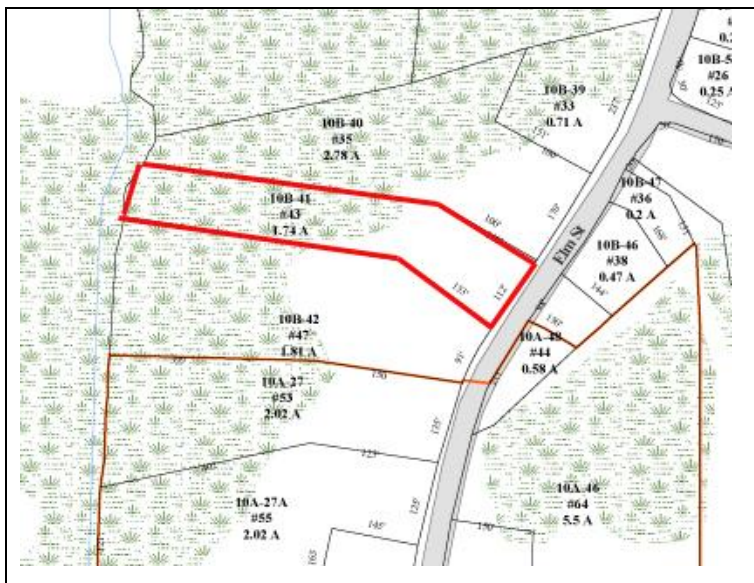
Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.74 acres

Setting: This property is on the west side of Elm Street and borders a brook on its northwest boundary. It stands on a lot with 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

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

43 ELM STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.87

☒ 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 Luke L. and Eliza Dole House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with wood clapboard siding and a gable roof. It is situated at the east or street side of a 1.74-acre lot on the west side of Elm Street south of where Chestnut Street intersects. It is oriented to Elm Street and flanked by yards with mature plantings; its rear yard extends back a good distance from the street and doglegs into a wooded wetland at the west end of the property.

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 the period Elm Street developed. A reliable local source (Nelson) states that the house was constructed about 1787 by L[uke]. L. Dole, which dates it a generation earlier than its neighbors and not attributable to local housewrights Joseph and John Kimball who were not yet active in the area. Yet, like the others, the Dole house has a two-story kitchen ell abutting the rear wall in line with the south gable end of the main section. The rear-wall chimney on the north side of the house still remains, while the chimney on the south side, once contained within the ell is no longer visible externally.

The five-bay front façade does not contain the unusual projecting center entrance that the later houses have, and the spacing of the window bays is more regular and closer in the center reflecting, perhaps, an earlier construction date. The narrow entrance has a transom and no sidelights, another early Federal feature, and is surmounted by a Classical entablature. Window sashes have been replaced with recent six-over-six units. The rooflines of both the front and rear sections of the house are ornamented with a plain entablature with thin friezes abutting the tops of second-story window heads. The ell has a doorway on the north side, which is contained in a porch of recent construction, which is part of non-historic additions made to the north and west sides of the ell. An external brick chimney is centered on the south wall of the western addition.

The Luke L. and Eliza Dole House is a distinctive example of Federal Period domestic architecture in the town and evinces the single-pile rear chimney plan form characteristic of Essex County and the North Shore region. Built ca. 1787, the house is one of the oldest dwellings on the street. It is essentially intact and distinguished by original materials and an entrance with Federal-style architrave. The property 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" 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

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

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

43 ELM STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.87

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.

Local historian Henry Mighill Nelson wrote about the house on the site of 43 Elm Street in his 1888 history. Nelson stated that sometime after 1724 Thomas Burpee moved from Rowley to Georgetown and settled on the south slope of Vineyard Hill "midway" between Nelson and Baldpate Streets, or just west of this section of Elm Street. Judging by the farm's name, it probably stood where Vineyard Lane currently is, running from the east side of Baldpate Road

From its sunny location, and the abundance of choice fruit grown on this sixty acre farm, it obtained the name of the Vineyard. On the height of the hill, just in the rear of the site of the house, on land that is now owned by Sherman Nelson (then Dole lands), stands the walnut tree, which has been a conspicuous mark for sailors, on our eastern coast, perhaps from the time that Thomas Burpee first came here, and it is still fresh and vigorous. . . . About 1787, this farm was sold, and a part of the house re-built, in the house of L. L. Dole on Elm Street.³

L. L. Dole was Luke Lincoln Dole, the son of Peabody and Lydia, who was born in what is now Georgetown in 1801. No house appears on the site where the Dole house later stood on the 1800 map of the village, but by 1830 it is shown and labeled "L. Dole"; just south of it is one marked "P. Dole," which was either the home of Luke Dole's father or of his brother Peabody, born in 1807. The brothers and their sister Sally were born in New Boston, New Hampshire, where Peabody probably settled; there is no death record for him in Massachusetts, so it may tentatively be presumed that he died there.

Luke Dole was a farmer who may have lived for a time in Topsfield with his wife Eliza, born in Hardwick, Vermont, about 1810, and a son, probably Aaron Nelson Dole (1838-47). They are enumerated in the Georgetown census of 1850. A year earlier Lydia Dole died in Georgetown, perhaps at her son's Elm Street home. No Massachusetts death record appears to exist for either Luke or Eliza Dole, but Luke at least remained on the property until at least 1885. His wife must have died before 1880, for he is enumerated in that year's federal census alone, and working as a gardener.

Who then owned the house is not entirely clear, but the tract appears to have been part of an eight-acre purchase made by Anna M. Parker of Bradford in 1882.⁴ Parker was the daughter of David and Judith Merrill Ambrose and was born in Newbury, Massachusetts, about 1847. She married Herbert A. Parker (later known as Alison H. Parker) in 1868 in Haverhill. The couple lived at 33 Elm Street in the 1880s. In 1907 Catherine S. Parker of Groveland, a sister of Alison Parker, sold an eight-acre tract ranging from 33 to 47 Elm to Anne Raycroft Pedder of South Braintree.⁵ Pedder had come to the United States from her native England with her husband James, a house carpenter, and lived at 33 Elm Street; they may have rented the 43 Elm Street property.

In the mid-1910s the house was occupied briefly by William E. Baker, a teamster about whom little else is known. In 1920 the family of J. Henry (or Harry) Spottiswood rented 43 Elm. In that year Spottiswood worked as an edge setter (probably at the shoe factory of George H. Wilson on Central Street, where he was employed in 1917) and in 1909 had married Luella B. Mores of Georgetown. Her father James M. Morse lived then at 59 Elm Street. The Spottiswoods lived at 43 Elm through at least 1942 and at some later point moved to Haverhill, where Harry Spottiswood died in January 1980. By 1961 James R. and Shirley A.

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: 815.

⁴ Charles Nelson to Caroline L. Barter, 1 August 1866, SED 708:164; Barter to Georgetown Savings Bank, 4 February 1872, SED 847:124; Jophanus Adams to Anna M. Parker, 14 June 1882, SED 1085:124.

⁵ Catherine S. Parker to Anne Raycroft Pedder, 20 September 1907, SED 1891:189. See also "Plan of Land in Georgetown, Mass. as Surveyed for Harold F. Nunan," 18 September 1976, Southern Essex Registry of Deeds Plan Book 140 plan 31, which shows the preexisting subdivision of this eight-acre tract and Nunan's further subdivision.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

43 ELM STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.87

McDonald occupied the tract, which by 1972 was owned by Ronald and Shirley A. Langlois. It was sold to its current owner, Thomas Rhinelander, in 1996.⁶

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Arrington, Benjamin F., ed. *Municipal History of Essex County in Massachusetts*. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1922.

Assessor's Records. Georgetown Town Hall.

Biographical Review, Containing Life Sketches of Leading Citizens of Essex County, Massachusetts. Boston: Boston Biographical Review Publishing Co., 1897.

Bureau of the Census. United States Census, 1790-1930.

Direct Tax List for 1798 for Massachusetts, New England Historical Genealogical Society website, www.newenglandancestors.org.

Gage, Thomas. *The History of Rowley, Anciently Including Bradford, Boxford, and Georgetown, from the Year 1639 to the Present Time*. Boston: F. Andrews, 1840.

Georgetown, Boxford, Byfield, Newbury, and West Newbury, Massachusetts, Directory. Boston: W. E. Shaw, 1901-2, 1905, 1909, 1912, 1914, 1916-17, 1918, 1925.

Nelson, Henry M. "Town of Georgetown History." In Hurd, D. Hamilton. *History of Essex County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men*. Vol. 1. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis and Co., 1888.

"Nelson, Carr, and Hussey Families." Stray Cat Genealogy website, www.trenholm.org.

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).

Resident and Business Directory of Groveland and Georgetown, Mass., for 1885-1886. Needham, MA: Local Directory Publishing Co., 1885.

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.

Map of Georgetown. 1856. In Walling, H. F. *A Topographical Map Essex County Massachusetts*. Boston: Smith and Morley, 1856.

Atlas of Essex County. Philadelphia: D. G. Beers and Co., 1872). Plates 59 and 61.

"Town of Georgetown Mass." and "Village of Georgetown Mass." In *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts* (Boston: George H. Walker, 1884).

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

⁶ Shirley A. Langlois to David H. and Norma J. Stewart, 24 September 1980, SED 6740:632; Stewarts to Frank D. and Nancy B. Pierson, 23 May 1985, SED 7765:582; Piersons to Rand G. and Patricia A. Foltz, 10 June 1991, SED 10879:16; Foltz to Thomas B. Rhinelander, 30 May 1996, SED 13585:411.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

43 ELM STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.87

[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 Luke L. & Eliza Dole House is a distinctive example of Federal Period domestic architecture in the town and evinces the single-pile rear chimney plan form characteristic of Essex County and the North Shore region. Built ca. 1787, the house is one of the oldest dwellings on the street. It is essentially intact and distinguished by original materials and an entrance with Federal-style architrave. The property is a key contributing component of a historic district on Elm Street.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

43 ELM STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	GEO.87
--	--------



View from NE

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

43 ELM STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	GEO.87
--	--------



View from S



Aerial view from NE