

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

52 Andover Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.213

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

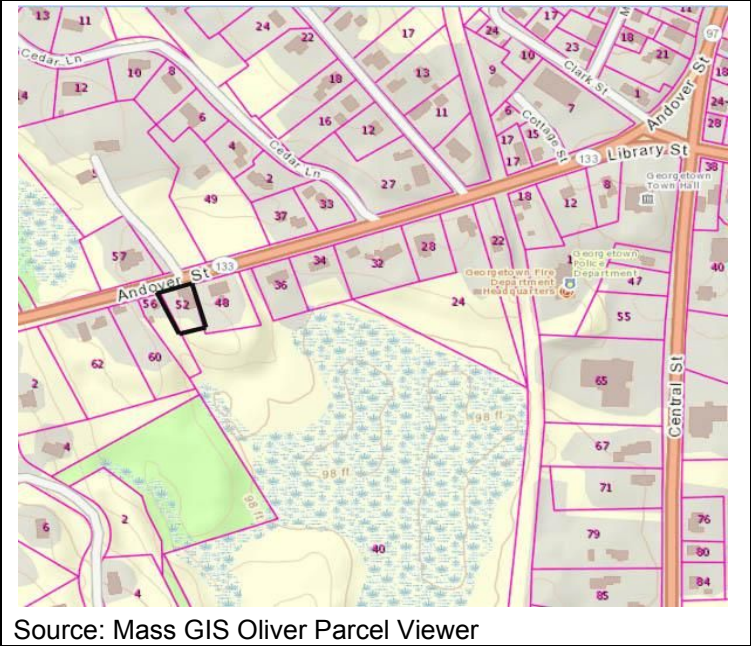
FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



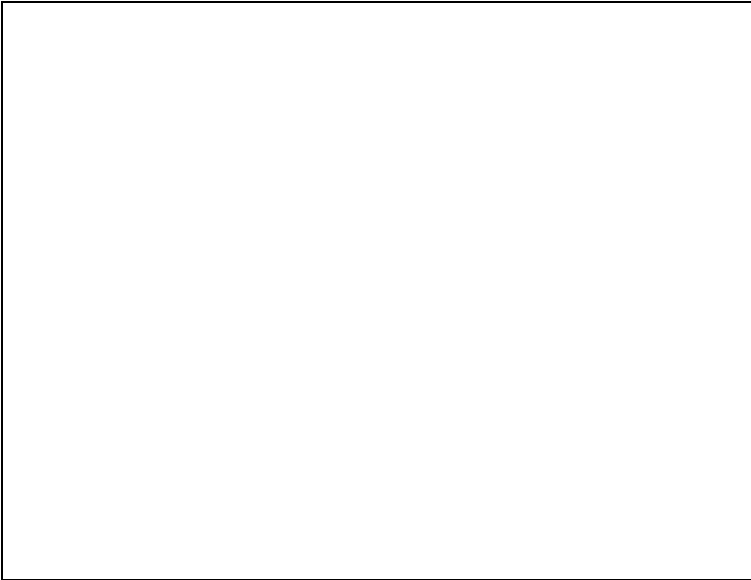
View from NW.



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

5A-16

Georgetown

GEO.213

Setting: Dense concentration of houses on highway leading west out of town center.

Town/City: Georgetown

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

Address: 52 Andover Street

Historic Name: Bailey – Sawyer House

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

Date of Construction: ca. 1838

Source: deeds, vital records & visual assessment

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations *(with dates):*

House renovated with new siding & windows,
ca. 2016

Rear ell and garage added, ca. 2016

Condition: fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.25 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 Bailey-Sawyer House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with a gable roof decorated with a pronounced Classical entablature with short returns on the end walls and corner pilasters. The three-bay front façade has a central entrance with sidelights and a pent roof; the doorway and windows, as well as the clapboard siding have been replaced in a recent renovation. The gable ends contain single windows centered on all three stories. A two-story cross-gable ell centered on the rear wall is either an enlargement or replacement of an original wing. A large gambrel roof two-car garage is attached to the rear of the ell; it replaced a smaller garage added in the late 20th century. The house is sited in the northeast corner of the small lot, all that remains of a much larger farm lot. Small yards border the west and south sides of the house.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The house at 52 Andover Street was very likely built in 1838 by Benjamin Scudder Pickett for his newly married daughter Almira and her husband David Bailey (sometimes Bayley). Born in Marblehead in 1777, Benjamin S. Pickett had bought substantial acreage on the south side of Andover Street from Nathaniel Nelson and others beginning in 1833, and he lived in a house built for him at 24 Andover Street (GEO.212). In 1843 Pickett had deeded "a certain house lot" on the south side of Andover Street to Almira, "being part of the said Almira Bayley's portion of Benjamin S. Pickett's estate," and on the same day she deeded part of that tract to her sister Joanna Sawyer.¹ In his will, dated 25 January 1853, Pickett left his estate to his widow Sarah Bridges Pickett and directed that after her death his estate should be divided equally among his eight surviving children and the heirs of a ninth child, but seventy dollars was to be deducted from the shares of daughter Almira Bailey and widowed daughter Joanna Sawyer "from the time I allowed each of them seventy dollars towards a building spot." He died in 1856.

The 1840 Georgetown census lists David Bailey in a household of three persons immediately after the Benjamin Pickett household, but by 1850 (and possibly by 1843) the Baileys had moved to Danvers and sold the house at 52 Andover Street to her widowed sister Joanna Sawyer. Born in 1802, Joanna had married William Sawyer in 1825 in Bradford; a native of Amesbury, he died of heart disease in that town in 1854. By 1856 the Georgetown center map attaches the name Mrs. Sawyer to the 52 Andover Street house. The 1860 census shows her there with \$500 in real property. She was then working as a shoe binder, as was her twenty-one-year-old daughter Elvira; son William, then seventeen years old, was a shoemaker.

In 1880 Joanna Sawyer occupied the house with her widowed daughter Sarah A. Farnham, who ran a machine that stitched ladies' shoes, Sarah's married daughter Florence M. Emery and her unmarried son Fred, a shoe bottom finisher. Daughter Elvira, who had married New Hampshire-born shoe treer Perley Bunker in the early 1860s, had been widowed for two years and also lived in her mother's household; she worked pasting uppers on ladies' shoes. Also in the household was Elvira's sixteen-year-old daughter Lura Bunker.

Joanna Sawyer's will, composed in April 1885, left her Andover Street property equally and jointly to daughters Sarah A. Farnham and Elvira S. Bunker on the grounds that "they have kindly and faithfully cared and provided for me in my old age and infirmities," while her sons Charles and William "have been so situated that they could not render me such needed assistance." Sarah Farnham died in 1890, and after the death of Joanna Sawyer in May 1894 Elvira Bunker inherited the property. By 1900 she was living in Prescott, Wisconsin, with Sarah's married daughter Florence Emery, wife of minister William Forbes Emery. Neither she nor Florence Emery lived at 52 Andover Street. Probably from about 1907 to 1937, the family rented 52 Andover

¹ Benjamin S Pickett to Almira P. Bayley, 25 December 1843, SECD 342:110; Almira Bayley to Joanna Sawyer, 25 December 1843, SECD 342:111.

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Street to farmer George H. Minchin. Born on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, in 1841, Minchin's parents were Irish immigrants, and the family had moved to Newburyport by 1864, when George enlisted in Company C and the First Massachusetts Calvary. He served until the end of the war. In 1866 in Danvers he married Mary Jane Gillis, also from Cape Breton, by 1870 he had moved to Rowley, and by 1880 the family was living in Georgetown. Minchin worked as a teamster and day laborer, and in 1910 his 52 Andover Street household included his wife, son Henry J., and Henry's son Dwight, then seven. Henry J. Minchin was 36 years old and widowed, and he was a foreman in a shoe factory lasting department. Both before and after 1910 another son, Daniel Robert Minchin, lived at 52 Andover Street. Born in Georgetown in 1885, he worked at the A. B. Noyes and Company shoe factory in town, and in 1907 he married Georgetown native Jennie M. Woodcock, then working as a shoe stitcher. By 1932 he was working as a butcher and living at 52 Andover Street.

In 1937, after Florence Emery's death, the administrator of her estate sold 52 Andover Street to John J. and Mary E. Murphy. The Murphys sold it in 1938 to John C. and Elizabeth L. Eaton, who are shown in the house in the 1940 census.² Born in 1903 in Newburyport, John Curtis Eaton was a grocery store clerk in Georgetown but had worked as an insurance agent in Newburyport in the early 1930s and then as manager of the First National Stores in that town. He and his wife Elizabeth had two children, Richard and Florence, born in 1927 and 1929 respectively.

In June 1954, after John Eaton's death, Elizabeth Eaton sold 52 Andover Street to Frances K. Miller, who owned it with Henry D. Miller until 1996. Current owner Benjamin Norman bought the property in 2016.³

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² Theresa S. Emery, individually and as administrator estate Florence M Emery, to John J. and Mary E. Murphy, 13 and 23 December 1937, SECD 3134:255 & 256; John J. and Mary E. Murphy to John C. and Elizabeth L. Eaton, 1 December 1938, SECD 3168:274.

³ Elizabeth L. Eaton to Frances K. Miller, 1 June 1954, SECD 4073:440; Frances K. Miller to Henry D. and Frances K. Miller, 52 Andover St, 23 May 1977, SECD 6351:532; Frances K. Miller to Henry D. and Frances K. Miller, 52 Andover St, 23 May 1977, SECD 6351:532; Timothy B. and Maureen A. Colbert to Benjamin Norman, 11Oct 2016, SECD 35341:92.

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MAPS

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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



View from NE.

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Aerial view from west showing earlier rear wing and attached garage. Source: bing.com/maps.