

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

52 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.258

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

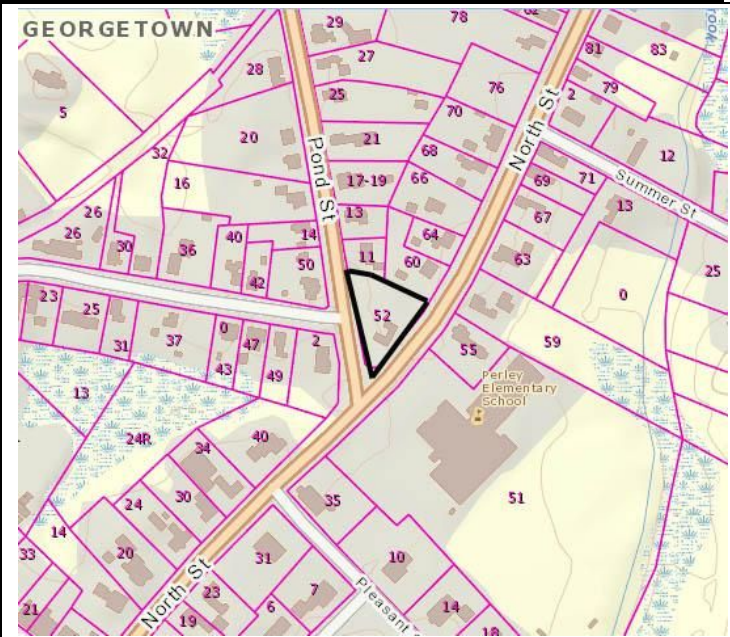
FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



View from south.



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

Setting: Part of a densely developed streetscape of single-family houses within the village center.

11A-173

Georgetown

GEO.258

Town/City: Georgetown

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

Address: 52 North Street

Historic Name: Pierce-Carter House & Barn

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

Date of Construction: ca. 1827

Source: deeds & visual assessment

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Domestic barn (connected)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
none

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.5 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 Pierce-Carter House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with a gable roof built about 1827. Its bilaterally symmetrical form and single-pile center-passage plan with chimneys on the back wall represents a house type common in Georgetown in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The five-bay front façade contains a center entrance contained in a shallow vestibule with sidelights. Pairs of windows flank the entrance and a modest Classical entablature distinguishes the roof edge. Single windows are centered in each story of the end walls, including the attic where the gables are enclosed to form pediments. A second entrance, also contained in a vestibule, is located on the back side of the easterly gable end evidently to provide access to the two-story cross-gable kitchen wing aligned with the end wall. The easterly North Street façade of the wing contains four windows in each story with no other entrance. A wide blank space in the center of the façade indicates the location of a partition between the kitchen in the front and service rooms in the rear. The cooking hearth appears to have been located against the back wall of the house where it shared a chimney. The service sections were extended into a hyphen attached perpendicularly to the westerly side of the wing and connecting with the easterly end of a two-story barn, with enough windows at that end to suggest it contained a shoe shop. The westerly side of the barn has two wagon doors and a mow door on the south-facing front. A second loading door and hoist are located on the westerly end, perhaps for the receipt and delivery of shoe parts and shoes.

The house and barn are situated in the acute angle of the intersection of North and Pond streets, set back behind a tapered lawn with mature trees. The ends of the wide footprint of the house and connected barn approach closely on the streets. A driveway enters the property in front of the barn on Pond Street. The rear of the parcel widens into a large yard with mature plantings.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In April 1824, Samuel Plummer, who owned a large parcel of land on the southeast side of Pentucket Pond in Georgetown, sold 1.25 acre on the north side of a "V" intersection of North and Pond streets to Daniel Pierce Jr.¹ Born in Groveland about 1800, Daniel Pierce Jr. was a shoe cutter who married Julia Wood, the daughter of John and Eunice Stickney Wood of Rowley, in 1827. The house at 62 North Street was probably built about the time of this marriage. The 1830 map attaches the name "D. Pierce" to the house, and the 1850 census locates Pierce in this neighborhood (though with no listing of real property value) with his wife Julia and their son Gilman, born in 1828.

In 1860 Pierce, his wife Julia, his mother-in-law Eunice Wood, their son Gilman, Gilman's wife Mary E. Pierce (a native of Fayetteville, South Carolina, whom he married in 1859), and their infant son Daniel lived at 52 North Street with an Irish immigrant domestic servant. Julia Wood Pierce died in 1862, and by 1880 Pierce is shown as an upper leather cutter living with his son Gilman, then a bootmaker, Gilman's wife Mary, and their children Daniel, Mary Ellen, and Mabel. The grandson Daniel (listed as Daniel Jr.), then 20, was a railroad brakeman; daughter Mary Ellen taught in a private school.

The elder Daniel Pierce Jr. died in 1884, and shortly before his death his son Gilman sold 52 North Street to Elizabeth Carter.² Born in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1844, Elizabeth Kent Carter was the wife of Luther F. Carter, who manufactured perfumes and patent medicines in Georgetown. The 1885 directory shows Luther Carter as a "manufacturing druggist" living in a house on North Street at the corner of Pond Street. The 1900 census shows Luther and Elizabeth Carter at 52 North Street with their

¹ Samuel Plumer to Daniel Peirce Jr., 22 April 1824, SECD 272:159. In 1827 Plumer sold Pierce and his mother-in-law Eunice Wood three acres, and in 1829 he sold Peirce another 3 acres near the 1.25 acres he bought in 1824, though he is not cited as an abutter. See Samuel Plummer, Rowley, to Daniel Peirce Jr and Eunice Wood, Rowley, 17 December 1827, SECD 247:234; Samuel Plumer to Daniel Pierce Jr., 17 January 1829, SECD 272:160.

² Gilman Pierce to Elizabeth Carter, 14 April 1883, SECD 1239:424.

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children Sarah Alice, born in 1872, and Luther P., born in 1896. The 1910 census lists Luther and Elizabeth in the house with unmarried daughter Sarah and an 8-year-old niece, Edris Kent, and the 1914 directory shows Luther Carter living at 52 North Street and operating his drug business at 69 East Main Street.

Luther F. Carter died in 1915, and the 1920 census lists his widow Elizabeth, her daughter Sarah, her married daughter Josephine, and Josephine's husband Samuel Larkin in the household. Samuel Larkin was a retail jeweler and the only one of the 52 North occupants in the workforce. Elizabeth Kent Carter died in 1921, and the next year Josephine Larkin deeded her interest in the property to her sister Sarah, who in the same year married Francis Newell Harriman, a near neighbor (at 59 North Street) and the son of John D. and Ellen Harriman.³ Frank Harriman was a janitor at Perley Free School in Georgetown, and the 1930 census shows him at 52 North Street with his wife Sarah. Frank Harriman died in 1939, and Sarah Carter Harriman died in February 1940. In November of 1940 the executor of her will sold the 52 North Street property to Elizabeth L. Stebbins, who owned it for only three years.⁴ Current owners Donna M. and Mark McFadden acquired the property in 1993.⁵

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MAPS

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³ Josephine Larkin to Sarah A. Carter, 8 July 1922, SECD 2521:411.

⁴ C. Atherton Holmes, executor will Sarah Carter Harriman, to Elizabeth L. Stebbins, 1 November 1940, SECD 3236:438; Elizabeth L. Stebbins to George J. and Rena G. Waldron, 28 September 1943, SECD 3349:102.

⁵ Chester H. and Dolores J. Judge to Donna M. and Mark McFadden, Milton MA, 27 May 1993, SECD 11911:194

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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from SW.



View from east.

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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 Pierce-Carter House, built about 1827, is an intact and distinctive example of early nineteenth-century domestic architecture in the town center. It has characteristics in common with other houses from this period in Georgetown, notably an exterior entrance vestibule and a single-pile center hall plan with chimneys on the rear wall. The house has a large kitchen wing that connects by a hyphen to a large domestic barn that appears to incorporate a shoe shop. The first owner, Daniel Pierce, Jr., born in Groveland about 1800, was a shoe cutter and his son Gilman, whose family shared the house with his parents, was a boot maker. In 1883 the house was sold to Elizabeth Kent Carter, wife of Luther F. Carter, who manufactured perfumes and patent medicines in Georgetown. The property meets National Register criteria A and C as a contributing feature in a potential historic district in the town center, the boundaries of which have yet to be determined.