

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

533 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.282

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



View from north.



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

18-70

Georgetown

GEO.282

**Setting:** Rural highway leading out from town center with farmhouses interspersed with suburban development on once-associated farmland.**Town/City:** Georgetown**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Byfield Parish**Address:** 533 North Street**Historic Name:** Thurlow-Newton House**Uses:** Present: single family residential  
Original: single family residential**Date of Construction:** ca. 1811**Source:** deeds & visual assessment**Style/Form:** Federal**Architect/Builder:** unknown**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Garage &amp; breezeway (attached)

Shed

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):Garage & breezeway added, mid-20<sup>th</sup> century

Window sash replaced

**Condition:** good**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:****Acreage:** 0.72 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 Thurlow-Newton House is a story-and-a-half wood frame single dwelling with a gable roof built about 1811. Its symmetrical form and single-pile center-hall plan represents a rural house type common in Georgetown at the turn of the nineteenth century. The five-bay front façade contains an unembellished center entrance. A modest cornice with returns distinguishes the roof edge. The gable ends contain single windows centered at two levels. The plan suggests that it originally had two chimneys on the rear wall, later removed with the advent of stove heating. A long, one-story cross-gable wing is attached to the rear at the southeasterly end of the house; it may have been lengthened from its original dimensions, and it may have been part of a series of connected outbuildings including a barn. It now links perpendicularly to a breezeway that connects to a one-story, wood frame two-car garage with a front-gable roof; both of these components date to the mid-twentieth century. An exterior chimney was added to the northeasterly side of the kitchen ell in the same era.

The house is sited in the southwesterly side of the long frontage of its small parcel set back from the road behind a deep yard and with a large open space to the northeast. A driveway enters the southwest corner and terminates at the garage. The rear of the parcel is partially wooded.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Though the chain of title is not completely clear, historic maps and deeds indicate that the house numbered 533 North Street was probably built on land that Mark Thurlow (1751-1823) sold to his son John Thurlow (1785-1840) for \$25 in 1804.<sup>1</sup> In 1811 John Thurlow wed Betsy Hills, the daughter of Obadiah and Sarah Merrill Hills of Byfield Parish. The house was probably built by the time they married.

A fourth-generation descendant of immigrant Francis Thorley (1625-1703), John Thurlow probably lived in this house until he died in 1840, though the 1830 Georgetown map labels the house "B. Thurlow," probably indicating his wife Betsy. His estate was probated in 1842, by which time his heirs were his wife and his daughter Belinda, born in 1814; his only other child, Mary Wheeler Thurlow Hilliard, wife of William S. Hilliard, had died in 1841 and was survived by her husband and son, John Thurlow Hilliard (1841-1903). Appraisers valued John Thurlow's real estate at \$2543, and it included a 3.25-acre tract with buildings and a quarter-acre with an "old house thereon." A committee appointed by the probate court set off to the widow, among other tracts, half of the house, described as being on the south side of the road, part of the barn, a shoemaker's shop, and 1.33 acres; the rest of Thurlow's homestead property was left to heirs, presumably to Belinda Thurlow and John T. Hilliard. In November 1842, Belinda Thurlow deeded her title to five tracts and the quarter-acre lot "with the old House on the same" to her nephew John T. Hilliard, and the next day he deeded to her the John Thurlow homestead, "being the same house where his widow now lives."

Though the deed recording the transaction has not been found, maps and deed descriptions indicate that the 533 North Street property belonged to Albert Newton by 1845.<sup>2</sup> Born in Andover, Maine, about 1812, Newton was living in Georgetown by 1839, when he married Phebe Rogers Pearson, daughter of Eben and Hannah Pearson of Rowley. The 1850 census appears to show Newton in this neighborhood with \$400 in real property and as head of a household containing his wife Phebe and their children Cynthia W., Lydia S., and Charles A. By 1855 the Newtons had added two more children, Eliza E. and Ira P., to the family. Georgetown maps between 1856 and 1884 attach Newton's name to the 533 North Street house. Phebe Pearson Newton had died by 1872, when Albert Newton married Almira Jackson, a native of Derry, New Hampshire. In 1880 he is shown in this

<sup>1</sup> Mark Thorloe to John Thurlow, 25 December 1804, SECD 177:119.

<sup>2</sup> Belinda Thurlow to John T. Hilliard, minor son of William S. Hilliard, 22 November 1842, SECD 342:122; William S. Hilliard to Belinda Thurlow, 23 November 1842, SECD 334:117; James Peabody to Albert Newton, 17 May 1845, SECD 359:102. In 1843 Belinda Thurlow married Charles Noyes Pearson (1807-57), and her mother by 1850 was living with her grandson John T. Hilliard. She remained with him and his family through at least 1865.

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neighborhood with his second wife and employed in a snuff factory; both Samuel Larkin and Benjamin Pearson ran snuff factories in Byfield Parish at this time.

Albert Newton died in October 1896, and two months later his heirs sold 533 North Street to Gustavus Brown.<sup>3</sup> Born in Winthrop, Maine, in 1837, Brown and his wife Matilda E. Frost Brown, of Bridgton, Maine, had been living in Georgetown since at least 1865, a year after Brown had come back from three years of service in Company I of the First Massachusetts Heavy Artillery "terribly wounded in the throat." The Browns had lived in this North Street neighborhood since at least 1880, when the census enumerates him just after Albert Newton's household. The 1884 map shows him in a house just west of 533 North Street, on the site of what is now 529 North Street. Brown was an edge setter in a shoe factory and lived with his wife, their 12-year-old son Ernest S., and their 6-year-old daughter Drusilla Ethelind.

The 1900 census shows Gustavus Brown on North Street with his wife Matilda, and by then his son Ernest S. Brown had married and was living next door with his wife Ruth and their daughter Gladys; he worked as a coal and wood dealer. By 1910 Gustavus Brown was working as a railroad crossing tender and Ernest as a farmer. By 1920 Gustavus Brown was living with his son's family, and he died in July that year. In March 1921 Ernest Brown's married sister Drusilla transferred her interest in both 529 and 533 North Street to her brother, and in 1925 Ernest Brown sold 533 North Street to Emma S. Graham.<sup>4</sup> He remained at 529 North Street and was working as a school bus driver by 1930.

Born in Freeport, Quebec, about 1858, Emma Senior Graham came to the United States in 1864, and she was working as a hosiery knitter and living in Georgetown when she married Herbert Graham, an English immigrant then living in Templeton, Massachusetts, and working as a "paper maker." By 1930 she was widowed and living at 533 North Street alone. She died there in 1938, and the next year the executor of her will sold the property to Mary MacEnany,<sup>5</sup> who is shown there in the 1940 census with her husband Arthur, a shoe cutter, and their daughters Barbara and Patricia. The MacEnanys sold 533 North Street in 1946. Ralph A. MacKenzie Jr. and his wife Carol owned the property from 1959 to 2004, when they sold 533 North to current owners Michael Hornberger and Kristin Anderson.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Augustus W. and Cynthia W. Stone, Ira P. and Hannah J. Newton, Frank W. and Isabel I. Brown, and Alice J. and John K. Foster, heirs of Albert Newton, to Gustavus Brown, 16 December 1896, SECD 1499:93.

<sup>4</sup> Drusilla E. Tarleton, West Newbury MA, to Ernest S. Brown, 10 March 1921, SECD 2483:525; Ernest S. Brown to Emma S. Graham, 1 March 1925, SECD 2631:544.

<sup>5</sup> Bessie Wilders Adams, executor will Emma Senior Graham, to Mary MacEnany, 13 July 1939, SECD 3188:500.

<sup>6</sup> Mary MacEnany to Francis E. Comeau, 13 July 1946, SECD 3496:65; Mary MacEnany to Francis E. Comeau, 13 July 1946, SECD 3496:65; Ralph A. MacKenzie Jr. and Carol MacKenzie to Michael Hornberger and Kirstin Anderson, 533 North St, 27 July 2044, SECD 23176:32; Carol MacKenzie, Merrimac MA, to Michael Hornberger and Kirstin Adnerson, 533 North St, 28 September 2006, SECD 26156:232.

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## MAPS

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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from west.

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Aerial view from east. Source: [bing.com/maps](http://bing.com/maps).

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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 Thurlow-Newton House, built about 1811, is a distinctive example of domestic architecture in Georgetown common at the turn of the nineteenth century. It is an intact example of a story-and-a-half wood frame single dwelling with a symmetrical form and single-pile center-hall plan. The five-bay front façade contains an unembellished center entrance. A modest cornice with returns distinguishes the roof edge. The gable ends contain single windows centered at two levels. The plan suggests that it originally had two chimneys on the rear wall, later removed with the advent of stove heating. A long, one-story cross-gable kitchen wing on the rear may have been part of a series of connected outbuildings including a barn. It now links perpendicularly to a breezeway that connects to a two-car garage added in the mid-twentieth century.

The house was built for John and Betsy Thurlow at the time they married. A fourth-generation descendant of immigrant Francis Thorley (1625-1703), John Thurlow was a shoemaker. When he died in 1840, a committee appointed by the probate court set off to the widow half of the house, described as being on the south side of the road, part of the barn, a shoemaker's shop, and 1.33 acres; the rest of his homestead property was left to Thurlow's heirs. The property was in the possession of Albert Newton by 1845. He worked in a snuff factory run by his wife, Phebe Rogers Pearson's family.

In spite of the loss of historic outbuildings and the addition of a garage and breezeway, the house is old and intact enough to meet National Register criteria A and C at a local level of significance as a surviving example of early 19<sup>th</sup>-century rural architecture in the town.