

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

55 West Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.319

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

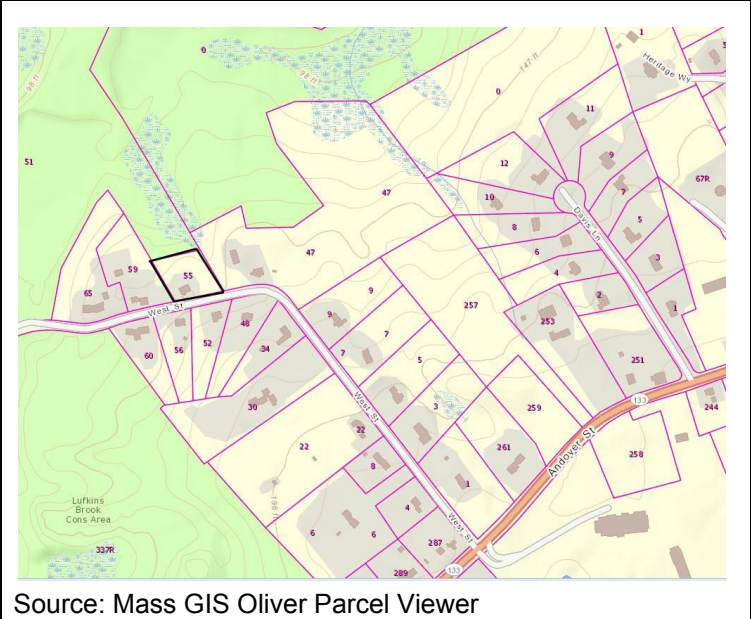
FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



View from SE.



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

2-39

Georgetown

GEO.319

Setting: An historic rural area now characterized by mid-to late 20th-century residential subdivisions.

Town/City: Georgetown

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

Address: 55 West Street

Historic Name: Hughes-Duffy House

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

Date of Construction: ca. 1851

Source: deeds & visual assessment

Style/Form: Classical Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood shingles

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

One-story addition east end, mid-20th century
Wood shingle siding added
Window sash replaced

Condition: fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.92 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 Hughes-Duffy House is a two-story wood frame single-family dwelling with a hall-parlor plan and a gable roof built about 1851. Its four-bay front façade contains an off-center entrance flanked by windows. The façade has been altered with the additions of a shed-roof porch and ramp, wood shingles and replacement door and windows. The west gable end contained one window centered on each story, but a rear addition roughly doubled the width and added another window on each floor. The second story of the added rear wall projects in slightly "Garrison" fashion. A one-story addition was added to the east end with two windows on the front façade and an external brick chimney on the east end.

The house is situated in the center of the frontage of an acre lot obliquely oriented to the road. A driveway enters the easterly end of the property. Most of the rear of the parcel is wooded.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In September 1851, John M. Edmonds of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, sold Patrick Hughes of Georgetown three parcels on both sides of West Street, one of which was 1.75 acres and 19 rods on the north side of the road and included "a small old dwelling house and barn."¹ Earlier deeds conveying this tract do not mention the existence of buildings, and the construction date of this earlier house is not known. Though described as "old," it is not depicted on the 1830 Georgetown map, where it would have stood between the Moody Spofford house at 47 West Street and the Josiah R. Robbins house on the west side. The house was certainly standing there by 1851. The 1856 Georgetown map labels the house "widow Hughes."

Patrick Hughes, born in Ireland about 1830, was probably the oldest son of Owen and Mary Hughes and might have bought the house for his parents. Owen Hughes died in Georgetown in 1854; he had been a farmer. His widow Mary is shown in the 1855 census with her sons Barney, Nathan, and John and her daughter Bridget, and another part of the house was occupied by James Hughes, probably another son, his wife, and four others, probably boarders. In 1860 both Mary Hughes and her son Barney died of consumption, and in 1864 Patrick Hughes sold 55 West Street to Richard Butler of Haverhill. Butler in turn sold it to John Lynch of Groveland, and his wife Bridget sold 55 West Street to Catherine Duffy in 1879.² The 1880 Georgetown census shows Catherine Duffy's husband Patrick, an Irish immigrant farmer, in this neighborhood with his 80-year-old father Barney, while Catherine Duffy was still living in Groveland with the couple's four children, three of whom were woolen mill workers. The 1884 map attached the name "Lynch" to the house even though the Lynches no longer owned the property.

The 1901 directory shows Patrick Duffy as a farmer on West Street, and the 1900 census lists him and his wife in the house with their 33-year-old daughter Annie, a laundress. By 1908 the Duffys had moved back to Groveland, where Patrick Duffy died that year. In 1909 Catherine Duffy transferred title to the West Street property to her daughter Annie in 1909, and in 1911 Annie Duffy sold 55 West Street to Lynn stenographer Alice F. Trussell. The house appears to have been rented until 1936, when Charles Raymond Wood acquired it.³

¹ John M. Edmonds, Portsmouth NH, to Patrick Hughes, 8 September 1851, SECD 450:205. See also Amos J. Tenney to John L. Edmonds, 12 May 1835, SECD 323:35; John L. Edmonds to Joseph M. Edmonds, Portsmouth NH, 9 April 1842, SECD 337:15; and John L. Edmonds to Joseph M. Edmonds, Portsmouth NH, 23 February 1847, SECD 379:42.

² Patrick Hughes to Richard Butler, Haverhill MA, 23 April 1864, SECD 667:181; Richard Butler to John Lynch, Groveland, 13 December 1867, SECD 736:209; Bridget Lynch to Catherine Duffy, 8 October 1879, SECD 1025:263.

³ Catherine Duffy, Groveland MA, to Annie J. Duffy, Groveland MA, 4 December 1909, SECD 1998:230; Annie J. Duffy, Haverhill MA, to Alice F. Trussell, Lynn MA, 24 August 1911, SECD 2103:370; Charles H. Hastings, Lynn MA, to Cora Belle Cook, Lynn MA, 10 September 1934, SECD 3014:479; Cora Belle Cook, Lynn MA, to Charles Raymond and Eva Dell Wood, Arlington MA, 1 July 1936, SECD 3081:157.

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Born on Prince Edward Island in 1901, Charles R. Wood came to the United States in 1916 and again, to stay, in 1922. His wife Eva was also from Prince Edward Island, and they married in Arlington, Massachusetts, in 1934. Wood was a sheet metal worker, and the couple had four children—Marjorie, Robert, and Grace, born at Ipswich between 1921 and 1926, and Raymond, born in 1938 in Georgetown. The Woods owned and occupied 55 West Street until 1957, when they sold it to Rose Raimo of Saugus.⁴ The property was bought and sold often afterward until current owners Steven S. Epstein and Jane C. Finkelstein bought it in 1986.⁵

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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.
HAVE ON CD

Southern Essex County Registry of Deeds website, salemdeeds.com.

MAPS

"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, Massachusetts. Philadelphia: D. G. Beers and Co., 1872). Plates 59 and 61.

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⁴ Charles Raymond and Eva Dell Wood to Rose Raimo, Saugus MA, 14 February 1957, SECD 4347:111.

⁵ John Salterio, 55 West St, to Steven S. Epstein and Jane C. Finkelstein, 55 West St, 20 June 1986, SECD 8336:193.

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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from west.

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Aerial view from north. Source: bing.com/maps.