

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

554 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.283

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

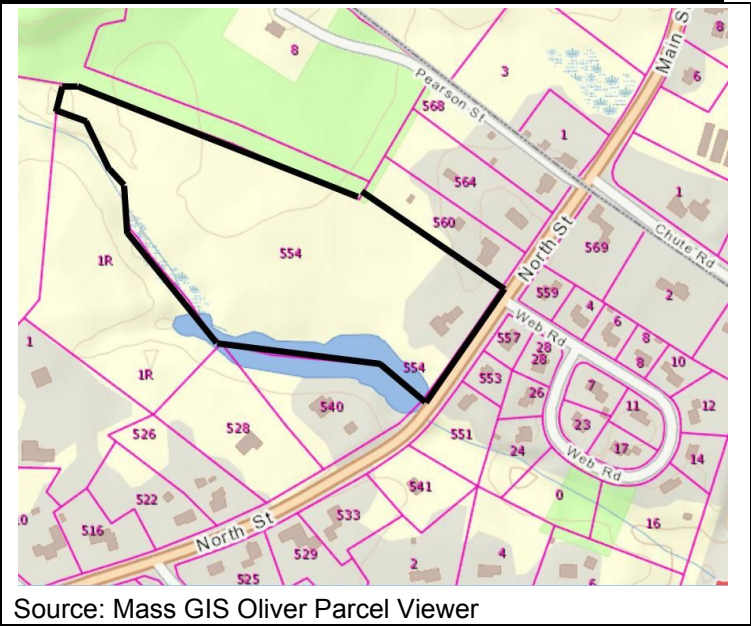
FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



View from east.



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)



# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

554 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.283

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

18-39

Georgetown

GEO.283

**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:** 554 North Street

**Historic Name:** Pearson-Larkin House

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

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1797

**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 (attached)

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

**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 8.55 acres

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

554 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.283

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

☒ 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 Pearson-Larkin House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with a gable roof built about 1797. Its bilaterally symmetrical form and single-pile with center-chimney plan associates it with a long New England architectural tradition. A two-story kitchen ell attached to the southwesterly end of the house likely is an enlargement of a smaller wing in that location, as no alternative extension is extant on the rear. The five-bay front façade contains a center entrance contained in an exterior vestibule with sidelights and a trabeated architrave decorated with dentils, which indicates that it was a later nineteenth-century addition. Pairs of windows flank the entrance and a simple cornice without returns on the gable ends distinguishes the eave line. The end walls contain single windows centered on each floor and in the attic. The current gable-roof wing is two stories tall with its front set back behind the central windows on the southwesterly end wall of the house. The wing's front façade contains two windows on each floor; the portion containing the entrance appears to have been concealed behind a twentieth-century garage addition, which contains a doorway tucked under a porch and a single vehicle bay. This added feature may have taken the place of a connected barn or other outbuildings. This wing has a one-story cross-gable extension on the rear that also may have been built in a barn's footprint.

The house is situated on the street frontage of a deep 8.55-acre parcel, the southwesterly boundary of which is defined by a stream draining wetlands on the north and emptying into Wheeler Brook on the easterly side of I-95. The site of a tannery is somewhere along this boundary. The rest of the boundary is rectilinear and, together with lots evidently subdivided from the property on the southwesterly side of the stream, a sense of the original parcel is formed. Nearly all of the property is wooded except for a small area around the house, which is more or less centered on the frontage with a shallow setback behind a low stone wall that carries across the frontage and corners at the northeasterly end and a thick screen of large evergreens. A driveway enters the property through a break in the stone wall and foliage and bends to terminate at the garage.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In early December 1795, Noyes Pearson (1741-1805) and his wife Hannah Adams Pearson sold son Noyes Pearson Jr. an acre and two rods of land on North Street. Two years later Noyes Pearson Jr. (1772-1812), a tanner by trade, wed Mary Searle (1771-1843), and he probably built the house at 554 North Street at the time of his marriage. He is shown with a dwelling in the 1798 federal direct tax listings for Rowley and in the 1810 Rowley census in this part of the town. In 1814, two years after his death, Noyes Pearson's real estate included a "homestead consisting of about one acre of land with a dwelling house, outbuildings thereon and a tan yard with the appurtenances" valued at \$800, 7 acres of pasture in Rowley, 2.5 acres of salt marsh in Newbury, a quarter-acre of "pete meadow," and half a pew in Byfield Parish meetinghouse, all together valued at \$1112. As her widow's dower Mary Pearson received half of the house on the homestead property, a garden spot at the house's northeast corner, 15 square rods of homestead land, the 7-acre pasture, the right to dig 3 cords of peat on the property, use of a sixth part of the meetinghouse pew, and the "use and improvement of a scaffold at the western end of the tan house with privilege of housing a cow underneath said scaffold." The inventory of Pearson's modest personal estate included 2 cords of oak bark, six feet of hemlock bark, tanning and currying tools, dressed and unfinished hides, and two calf skins.

Mary Searle Pearson is listed in this part of Rowley West Parish in the 1820, 1830, and 1840 censuses, and her name is linked to the property on the 1830 map of Rowley. She died in 1843, and four years later her son Charles Noyes Pearson (1807-56) sold 554 North Street to Nahum Witham; Whitham in turn sold it in April 1848 to Samuel Larkin, whose family owned it until 1945.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Noyes and Hannah Pearson to Noyes Pearson Jr., 9 December 1795, SECD 165:112; Charles N. Pearson to Nahum Witham, 12 May 1847, SECD 386:50; Nahum Witham to Samuel Larkin, Newbury MA, 5 April 1848, SECD 397:210.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

554 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.283

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Born in Boston, Samuel Larkin (1803-76) was one of the sons of Thomas Rand Larkin and Ursula Hastings Larkin of Newbury, and he was related to the Pearsons: his older brother Thomas (1798-1858) had married Noyes and Mary Pearson's daughter Hannah P. Pearson (1802-66) in 1821. Samuel Larkin's first wife, Lovine Rogers Larkin, had died in October 1849, and the 1850 census shows him in this North Street neighborhood with his children Thomas R., Margaret E., Harriet J., Lydia M., William T., Charles O., and Ursula F., born between 1830 and 1846. Larkin was a shoe manufacturer and shown with \$1000 in real property; son Thomas R. was also a shoemaker, and shoemaker John G. Brown and his wife Eliza boarded in the house. In 1851 Samuel Larkin remarried, to the widow Sarah Pearson Noyes of Newbury, and the 1855 census shows him as a shoemaker living with his second wife, his five youngest children, and his wife's children John C., Rebecca, and Mary D. Noyes.

By 1860 Samuel Larkin's occupation is listed as tobacconist, and he was almost certainly working at what was earlier known as "Tenney's Snuff Factory," which had been manufacturing snuff in Byfield Parish since about 1805. Between 1822 and 1837 Larkin's father Thomas Rand Larkin and Orlando Morrill had acquired the mill, which he operated until his death; Larkin's heirs sold the property in the 1870s.<sup>2</sup> The 1860 census shows Samuel Larkin with \$2000 in real property, and the household included children William, Charles O., and Ursula and stepdaughter Mary D. Noyes, all of them working as either shoemakers or shoe binders. The 1870 census shows Larkin as a snuff manufacturer, and he was in the 554 North Street house with his wife Sarah, her daughter Mary, and an infant, Rebecca Meader.

Samuel Larkin died in 1876, and by 1880 his son Charles Orin Larkin was living in the house with his wife Josephine and sons Samuel, Charles, and Ernest from a first marriage. Charles Larkin had enlisted in Company C of the Massachusetts 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in 1861, was a corporal when he was mustered out in December 1862, reenlisted in the United States Veteran Reserve Corps' 13<sup>th</sup> Infantry in September 1864, and was discharged in late November 1865. In 1880 he married Josephine A. Keyon of Medford. Larkin was a shoe factory laster, and his name is attached to the North Street house on the 1884 Georgetown map.

In 1900 Charles Larkin was a farm worker living in this house with his second wife and their sons Richard and Eugene; in 1910 the census shows him as a shoemaker in his home, and son Thomas drove a baker's cart. Charles Larkin died in November 1917, and in 1919 his children deeded the North Street home to his widow Josephine. She remained in the house for the most part until at least 1940 (though the 1930 census shows her living with her married daughter Marjorie Waterman in Belmont). In 1945 and 1946 her heirs sold their interest in the property to Hermine Lutton of Winthrop, who owned it for less than two years. Current owners Terry V. and Bonnie L. T. Hallcom acquired the property in 1992.<sup>3</sup>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

AmericanAncestors.org.

Ancestry.com.

Assessor's Records, Georgetown and Rowley. 1883, 1902, 1920, 1933.

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

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.

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

## DIRECTORIES

*Georgetown, Boxford, Byfield, Newbury, and West Newbury, Massachusetts, Directory*. Boston: W. E. Shaw, 1901-2, 1905.

<sup>2</sup> See the Newbury Historical Commission website on the Larkin Mill. The mill, sometimes called the Larkin-Morrill Mill, was acquired in 1899 by the Pearson Tobacco Company of Kittery, Maine, which also operated a snuff factory in Byfield Parish.

<sup>3</sup> Bertha M. Larkin, Samuel Larkin, Richard B. Larkin, T. Eugene Larkin, and E. Ernest Larkin, all Georgetown, and Nicholas B. Larkin and Marjie M. Waterman, Medford MA, to Josephine A. Larkin, 7 March 1919, SECD 2409:351; Jessie C. Larkin, Medford MA, to Hermine Lutton, Winthrop MA, 22 May 1945, SECD 3403:387; Greta W. Larkin to Hermine Lutton, Winthrop MA, 29 September 1945, SECD 3432:163; Donald E. Larkin to Hermine Lutton, Winthrop MA, 30 October 1945, SECD 3432:163; Edith M. Larkin, Amesbury MA, guardian of Marjorie Larkin, to Hermine G. Lutton, Winthrop MA, 12 July 1946, SECD 3468:571; Donald A. and Hermine G. Lutton, Winthrop MA, to William W. Greene Jr. and Joyce Chadwick Greene, 4 June 1948, SECD 3610:556; Hugh H. Hart and Edward L. Gaylord Jr. to Terry V. and Bonnie L. T. Hallcom, 554 North Street, 11 December 1992, SECD 11646:167.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

554 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.283
---------

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

North Essex Directory for Boxford, Georgetown, Merrimac, Newbury, Rowley, Salisbury, West Newbury. Salem, MA: Henry M. Meek Publishing Co., 1907, 1909-10, 1912, 1914-15, 1916-17, 1918, 1925.  
*Ipswich, Boxford, Byfield, Georgetown, Newbury, Rowley, Salisbury, Salisbury Beach, Topsfield, West Newbury Directory.* Vol. 1, 1932-'34. Beverly, MA, and Portland, ME: Crowley & Lunt, 1932.

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



INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

554 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.283
---------

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from south.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

554 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.283
---------

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



View of wing from east.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

554 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.283

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## 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 Pearson-Larkin House, built about 1797, is a distinctive surviving example of eighteenth-century domestic architecture in Georgetown. Essentially intact, the two-story wood frame single dwelling has a bilaterally symmetrical form and single-pile with center-chimney plan associated with an enduring New England design tradition. A two-story kitchen ell attached to the southwesterly end, likely an enlargement of a smaller wing in that location, likely connected to outbuildings and a barn no longer in existence and replaced by a mid twentieth-century garage wing.

Built for Noyes Pearson Jr., a tanner by trade, and his wife Mary Searle, in 1814 the property included a "homestead consisting of about one acre of land with a dwelling house, outbuildings thereon and a tan yard with the appurtenances" valued at \$800, seven acres of pasture in Rowley, 2.5 acres of salt marsh in Newbury, and a quarter-acre of "pete meadow." As her widow's dower Mary Pearson received half of the house on the homestead property, a garden spot at the house's northeast corner, 15 square rods of homestead land, the 7-acre pasture, the right to dig 3 cords of peat on the property, use of a sixth part of the meetinghouse pew, and the "use and improvement of a scaffold at the western end of the tan house with privilege of housing a cow underneath said scaffold." Mary Searle Pearson died in 1843, and in 1848 the property was sold to Samuel Larkin, whose family owned it until 1945. Larkin was related to the Pearsons and the 1850 census identified him as a shoe manufacturer with other shoemakers in his household. By 1860 Samuel Larkin's occupation had changed to tobacconist, and he was almost certainly working at what was earlier known as "Tenney's Snuff Factory," which had been manufacturing snuff in Byfield Parish since about 1805. His father Thomas Rand Larkin and Orlando Morrill had acquired the mill.

The property appears to meet National Register criteria A and C as a significant eighteenth-century house associated with important people and activities in the history of Georgetown.

*Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.*