

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

568 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

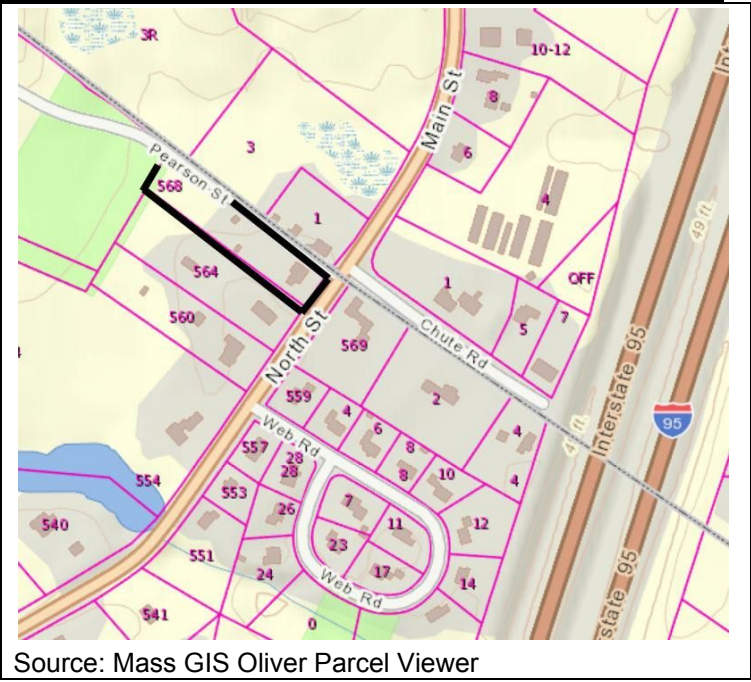
GEO.284

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

FORM B – BUILDING

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

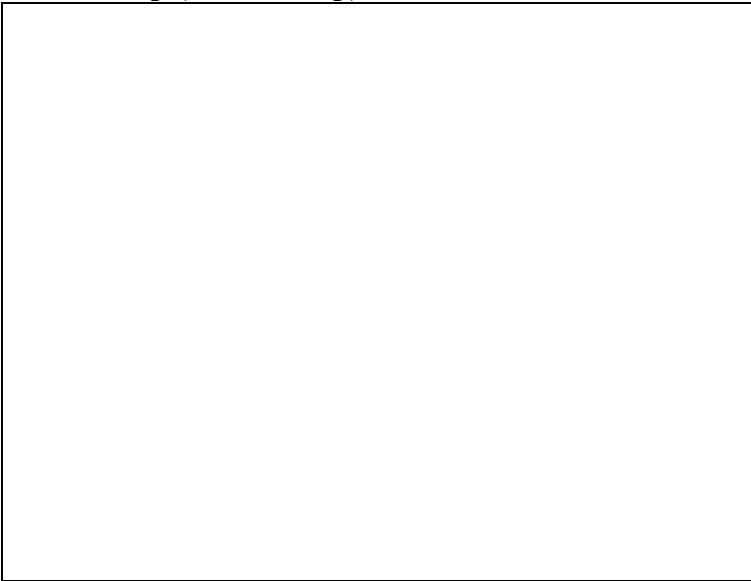
Photograph



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

18-42

Georgetown

GEO.284

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: 568 North Street

Historic Name: Jeremiah S. & Asenath Morse House

Uses: Present: single family residential

Original: single family residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1830

Source: deeds & visual assessment

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Jeremiah S. Morse, probable builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Pool house

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Screened porch added SW end, late 20th century

Extension added on rear, early 21st century

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.74 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 Jeremiah S. and Aseneth Morse House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with a gable roof built about 1830. Its bilaterally symmetrical form and double-pile center-passage plan with chimneys between front and rear rooms reflects the emerging influence of the Greek Revival style in house design in New England. The focal point of the five-bay front façade is the center entrance with its trabeated architrave evincing the post-and-lintel structural system of ancient Greek temples. This subtle Classicism is also conveyed in wide corner boards representing pilasters and a frieze board at the base of the traditional modest cornice with gable-end returns. End walls also are symmetrical with two windows on each floor and single attic windows centered in the gables, although the fenestration pattern on the northeasterly end has been altered. A one-story screened porch has been added to the southwesterly end and a one-story shed-roof extension has been added across the rear façade.

The house is centered on the frontage of a narrow, deep lot with small yards on the front and sides and a large space containing an old orchard in the rear. A driveway is located in the front yard southwest of the house. An inground swimming pool and a small pool shed have been recently added in the rear yard.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The house numbered 568 North Street was once part of the property of Noyes Pearson (1772-1812) and his wife Mary Searle Pearson (1771-1843), who lived at 554 North Street (GEO.283). In May 1830, four months before her marriage to Jeremiah S. Morse, Noyes and Mary Pearson's daughter Asenath Pearson (1804-74) bought a parcel of land on the north side of North Street from her siblings for \$20. Six weeks later she sold it her future husband, identified in the deed as a "joiner," for \$10, and the house was probably built by the time they married on 30 September 1830.¹

The son of Jeremiah Morse of Ipswich and Rachel Burnham Morse of Essex, Jeremiah Smith Morse was born in Woodstock, Vermont, in 1807. The 1850 census shows him in this neighborhood with his wife Asenath and their son William H., born in 1832. Four years later William H. Morse married Asenath T. Witham of Wells, Maine, and in 1860 father and son and both Asenaths were sharing the North Street house. Jeremiah S. Morse and his son William are both identified there as carpenters.

Asenath Pearson Morse died in 1874, and in 1880 Jeremiah Morse is shown as a 75-year-old farmer in a separate household from his son William and daughter-in-law Asenath. Jeremiah Morse died in November 1889 sixteen days after having suffered "extensive burns," but no other information about his death has yet been found.

By 1880 William H. Morse was a wheelwright and carriage manufacturer, and the federal manufacturing census for that year documents that he had two hands working twelve-hour days all year at \$1.25 a day; he had paid \$1500 in wages during the year past, used \$1800 in materials, and turned out carriages and wheels valued at \$3000. The 1901 directory lists his carriage factory at his home on North Street, "two miles out." Asenath Witham Morse died in 1906, and in 1910 William H. Morse was a wheelwright living on North Street with a Vermont-born housekeeper. He died in 1913 of pneumonia after having fractured his neck in a fall.

In 1914 the administrator of Morse's estate sold 568 North Street to Thomas Eugene Larkin, the son of Charles Orin Larkin and grandson of snuff manufacturer Samuel Larkin, who had acquired the Noyes Pearson homestead at 554 North Street in 1848. He had grown up next door, and by 1910 he was living with his parents and driving a baker's cart. During the First World War, he

¹ Nancy Pearson, Noyes Pearson, Mary Pearson, all Rowley, and Hannah P. Larkin, West Newbury MA, to Asenath Pearson, 1 May 1830, SECD 257:175; Asenath Pearson to Jeremiah S. Morse, 10 June 1830, SECD 257:175.

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worked for the war materials firm H. M. Sawyer and Sons in East Cambridge. Larkin may not have lived at 568 North Street, and in 1922 he sold it to Enos C. Leaverton of Beverly. The property had numerous relatively short-term owners and occupants thereafter. Current owners Wyelin Symes and Emily C. Sweet bought 568 North Street in 2012.²

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MAPS

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² C. Atherton Holmes, administrator estate William H. Morse, to Thomas E. Larkin, 24 July 1914, SECD 2269:128; Thomas Eugene Larkin to Enos C. Leaverton, Beverly MA, 3 May 1922, SECD 2511:356; Charles M. and Paige J. Waters to Weylin Symes and Emily C. Sweet, 568 North St, 8 June 2012, SECD 31416:413.

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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from SE.

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Detail of center entrance.

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View from NW.

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View from NW.