

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

57 Warren Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.310

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

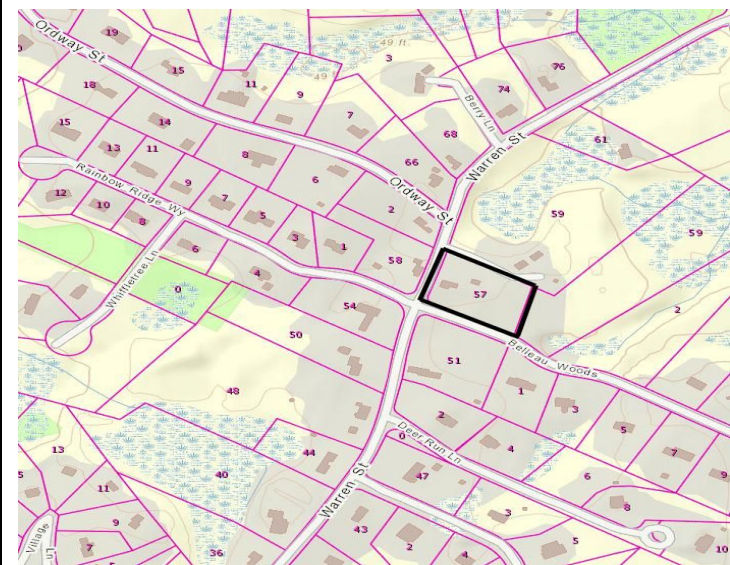
FORM B – BUILDING

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

20-40

Georgetown

GEO.310

Setting: Early settlement area built out in mid to late 20th-century residential subdivisions.

Town/City: Georgetown

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Byfield Parish

Address: 57 Warren Street

Historic Name: Jewett-Farnum 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: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Barn, early 20th century

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Bay window added south side, mid-19th century

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.00 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 Jewett -Farnum House is a two-story wood frame single-family dwelling with a front-gable roof built about 1830. Its symmetrical form and center-hall plan is atypically arranged with a three-bay front façade with a center entrance contained within a gable end. A trabeated architrave distinguishing the entrance is the only notable stylistic. The presence of nine-over-six wood sash on side walls and a plainly designed kitchen wing provide evidence to suggest this house may be an adaptation of an earlier dwelling. The raking edge of the front gable does not carry a Classical cornice or provide returns at the base; rather, a verge board runs along the roof edge, which is an uncharacteristic mid-nineteenth century Picturesque feature. Fenestration on the side walls reflect the locations of rooms within. A one-story bevel-sided bay window was added to the south side and a pair of casement windows added to the north. A story-and-a-half kitchen wing is attached to the rear, with its main entrance façade set back on the south side in typical fashion. Doorways flanked by windows are located on both sides; the doorway on the south side now contains sliding glass doors opening onto a deck. Skylights have been added to roof on both sides.

The house is situated in the center of the frontage of an acre lot largely maintained as lawn with mature trees providing screening along side and rear property lines. A small wood frame agricultural barn with a gambrel roof appearing to date in the early twentieth century is sited northeast of the house. It does not seem to be used for agricultural functions any longer. A parking area has been created in the northerly corner of the parcel.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The house numbered 57 Warren Street does not appear on the 1830 Georgetown map, but deeds indicate that buildings stood on the one-acre lot by 1834, when assignees to the estate of Jeremiah Jewett of Byfield Parish sold the property to Thomas Rand Larkin of Newbury for \$335.¹ Jeremiah Jewett (1778-1851) was one of the sons of Jeremiah Jewett (1744/45-1808) and Sarah Jackman Jewett and was one of several men bearing that name in Rowley and Rowley West Parish at that time. He probably owned and occupied a house that once stood between what are now 51 and 57 Warren Street, shown on the 1856 and 1872 maps; debt might have compelled him to sell 57 Warren Street.

Thomas Rand Larkin was born in Essex County but was living in Boston by 1797 when he married Mrs. Ursula Hastings. By 1810 the Larkins were living in Newbury, where Larkin was a snuff and tobacco manufacturer. He may never have lived at 57 Warren Street—the 1840 census shows him in Newbury—and he sold it in 1847 to Leonard Jewett (1816-99), one of the two sons of Jeremiah Jewett and his first wife, Sarah Barker Jewett (1783-1830). The enumeration order of the 1850 census suggests strongly that he was living at or next to 57 Warren Street at that time with his father Jeremiah, a shoe manufacturer shown with \$1350 in real property, Jeremiah's second wife Eleanor Adams Jewett (1792-1887), and their 3-year-old daughter Sarah E. Jewett. Leonard Jewett is shown as owning real estate as well. His married sister Mary Barker Jewett Wildes was enumerated next with her husband Green Wildes and their children.

In 1856 Leonard Jewett sold the acre lot and its buildings to Elisabeth C. Wilkins Farnum, a native of Middleton and the wife of Benjamin Farnum, for \$500. The house is marked "B. Farnum" on the 1856 Georgetown map.² Born in Lyndeboro, New Hampshire, in 1800, Benjamin Farnum was living in Georgetown by 1850, when he was keeper of the town's almshouse on Jewett Street south of its intersection with Warren Street. The 1855 census appears to show him on Warren Street with his wife Elizabeth, a native of Middleton, and their young children Sarah, Lucy, and Harriet; the Farnums shared the house with Ann T.

¹ Moses Dole, Newbury MA, and Robert Jewett, Rowley MA, assignees estate Jeremiah Jewett, to Thomas R. Larkin, Newbury MA, 1 August 1834, SECD 276:305.

² Thomas R. Larkin, Newbury MA, to Leonard Jewett, 22 October 1847, SECD 390:175; Leonard Jewett to Elisabeth C. Farnum, 6 March 1856, SECD 545:141.

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Poor and Hepsy Churchill. Benjamin Farnham died in January 1870, and the federal census that year shows his widow Elizabeth with \$600 in real property living with her youngest child, Frederick, and renting part of the house to the family of shoemaker John M. Wildes. She is shown as "Mrs. Varnham"[sic] on the 1872 Georgetown map. By 1880 she was renting 57 Warren Street to Maine-born shoemaker William Bourne and his family and was living with her daughter Sarah in Lynn. Sarah had married English immigrant shoe cutter Theodore Beckwith, and they had a daughter, Edith Marie, born in Georgetown in 1878.

Elizabeth Farnum died in 1893, and the next year the administrator of her estate sold 57 Warren Street to Farnum's son-in-law Theodore Beckwith and her daughter Sarah.³ The Beckwiths are shown in the Warren Street house in the 1900 census, and the 1907 directory shows Theodore Beckwith as an inventor living on Warren Street. Sarah J. Farnum Beckwith had died in 1906, and in 1909 her widower sold 57 Warren Street to Carrie A. Payson of Lawrence.⁴ Carrie Payson, born Carrie F. Wildes in Newburyport in 1863, had married Haverhill clerk William G. Payson of Hope, Maine, in Newburyport in 1884, and they do not appear to have lived at 57 Warren Street until about 1930. William Payson worked as a laundryman and owned a laundry; the couple lived on Andover Street in 1916 and West Main by 1920. By 1932, Payson had become superintendent of the Byfield Parish Cemetery, and the couple was living in this Warren Street House.

In 1937 the Paysons sold 57 Warren Street to Arthur S. Lord of Ipswich, and Lord sold it later that year to Leverett T. and Esther B. Holder of Swampscott; they in turn deeded it to their son Leverett T. Holder Jr. with a life estate for them.⁵ Born in Holderville, New Brunswick, bout 1868, Leverett Thomas Holder emigrated to Boston in 1885, and he worked as a conductor and a jantitor. He is shown on Warren Street as a 72-year-old retiree with his wife Esther, his mother-in-law Frances Sawyer, and two boarders. He died in Georgetown in 1944, and the next year son Leverett T. Holder Jr., then living in Connecticut, sold 57 Warren Street. Except for Russel J. and Dorothy M. Creighton, who owned the property for twenty years, most owners thereafter were short term. Current owners Theresa A. Miele and Robert Savage acquired 57 Warren Street in 1994.⁶

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HAVE ON CD

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

DIRECTORIES

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³ John F. Jackson, administrator estate Elizabeth G. Farnum, to Theodore A. Beckwith, 30 March 1894, SECD 1406:363; John F. Jackson to Sarah J. Beckwith, 3 April 1894, SECD 1406:271.

⁴ Theodore A. Beckwith to Carrie F. Payson, Lawrence MA, 19 October 1909, SECD 1987:319.

⁵ William G. and Carrie F. Payson to Arthur S. Lord, Ipswich MA, 26 March 1937, SECD 3105:253; Arthur S. Lord, Ipswich MA, to Leverett T. and Esther B. Holder, Swampscott MA, 4 August 1937, SECD 3117:271; Leverett T. and Esther B. Holder to Leverett T. Holder Jr., 31 March 1938, SECD 3141:258

⁶ Leverett T. Holder Jr., Glastonbury CT, and Rollins B. and Alice P. Williams, Beverly MA, 14 May 1945, SECD 3406:263; Robert L. and Mary V. Barden, Hamilton MA, to Russell J. and Dorothy M. Creighton, 12 July 1956, SECD 4290:510; Dorothy M. Creighton to Kenneth G. and Judith D. Gray, Somerville MA, 17 November 1976, SECD 6300:555; Peter G. Adler to Theresa A. Miele and Robert Savage, 57 Warren St, 15 July 1994, SECD 12664:248.

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MAPS

“Map of New Rowley Surveyed and Drawn by Philander Anderson 1830.” Georgetown Historical Society.

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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from NW.

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View from SW.

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View from NW.

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Aerial view from east. Source: 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 Jewett-Farnum House, built about 1830, is an unusual and distinctive example of early nineteenth-century domestic architecture in Georgetown, and the integrity of its location, design, materials, feeling, and association are sufficient to make it appear eligible for the National Register. The two-story wood frame single dwelling with a center-hall plan has the uncommon feature of a five-bay front façade contained in a gable end.

The house was built for shoe manufacturer Jeremiah Jewett (1778-1851), one of the sons of Jeremiah Jewett (1744/45-1808) and Sarah Jackman Jewett and was later the home of his son, Leonard Jewett, and daughter Mary Barker Jewett Wildes and her family. In 1856 Leonard Jewett sold the acre lot and its buildings to Elisabeth C. Wilkins Farnum, a native of Middleton and the wife of Benjamin Farnum, keeper of the town's almshouse, which was located nearby on Jewett Street south of its intersection with Warren Street.

The property appears to meet National Register criteria A and C for its architectural significance and its association with people and events important in Georgetown's early history.