

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

59 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.260

GEO.261

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

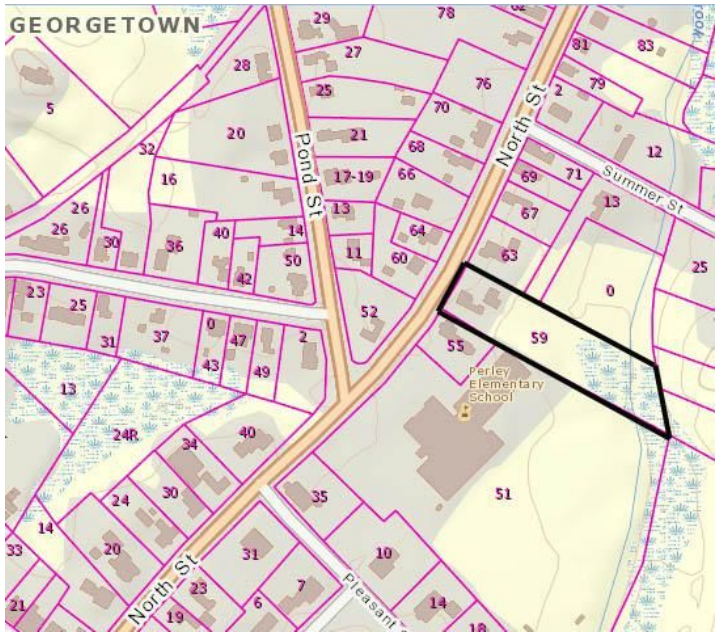
FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



View from south.



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

Setting: Part of a densely developed streetscape of single-family houses within the village center.

11A-127

Georgetown

GEO.260
GEO.261

Town/City: Georgetown

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

Address: 59 North Street

Historic Name: Plummer-Harriman-LePage House
& Shoe Shop

Uses: Present: single family residential

Original: single family residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1833

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:

Shoe shop

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Additions to rear of house, 20th century

Additions to shoe shop, 20th century

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.33 acres

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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 Plummer-Harriman-LePage House is a story-and-a-half wood frame single dwelling with a gable roof built about 1833. In its original plan, it was an end house with its entrance off center on the street-facing gable end. The entrance was replaced by a window and moved to the center of the south side wall to enter the chimney space between the two rooms on that side. Contemporary with that alteration, a cross-gable wing with only one bay facing the street was constructed to widen the pre-existing entry and stair hall (with the stair likely removed) to create a sizeable room with a fireplace on the north end wall. These changes were probably made after the property changed hands in 1926. The original chimney is intact in the space between the rooms on the south side of the house; a dormer has been added in this location to create space for a stair landing. The wide corner boards and friezes along the roof edge are remnants of the original Greek Revival decoration; it has been duplicated on the added wing. A large wing and porch on the rear appear to be additions.

A two-story outbuilding behind the house has the dimensions of a shoe shop, which corresponds with the occupations of the residents of the house. A shed-roof extension on the north end contains a vehicle bay, as the building would have provided space for that function as well. The building was later expanded on the north and east sides with one-story additions, perhaps in the late nineteenth century and used for shoebox manufacture. The buildings are situated on the westerly street frontage of a very deep lot, not forested except for small yards bordering on the house. A driveway enters the northwest corner and terminates at a parking area in front of the outbuilding.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In August 1833, Samuel Plummer (1754-1841) of Georgetown deeded a quarter-acre of land to his nephew John Savory Plummer (1813-87), who had just married Sarah Bond Harriman of Georgetown.¹ The family name is sometimes shown as Plumer. Samuel Plummer, described in one genealogy as "insane at times," lived in the house his grandfather Thomas Plummer (1684-1762) had built on 140 acres on the east end of Pentucket Pond, land that Thomas's father, Benjamin Plummer (1657-1724), had deeded to him in 1714/15. Thomas's son Samuel Plummer (1726-1807) had lived in this house as well, clearly shown on the 1830 map of Georgetown. John S. Plummer was the son of the grantor's younger brother Benjamin Plummer (1756-1823), who had married Abigail Savory in 1812. The 1830 map shows no house on the east side of North Street in this location; thus it seems most likely that 59 North was built after that date for John S. Plummer.

The 1840 census appears to show John S. Plumer in this neighborhood with four others in his household, and the 1850 census shows him as a shoemaker with \$1200 in real property and living with his wife Sarah and their children John William, Sarah Jane, and Catherine Burden Plummer.² In 1851, Plummer sold "the house buildings & land lately occupied by me in Georgetown" to John D. Harriman.³ Harriman was distantly related to Sarah Harriman Plummer; they were fourth cousins. Sarah's branch of the Harriman family had remained in the Bradford/Rowley area, while John D. Harriman had been born in New Sharon, Maine; his grandfather had moved from Haverhill to Plaistow, New Hampshire, before 1787, and his father James Shepard Harriman had moved from Plaistow to New Sharon by the 1820s.⁴ John D. Harriman was a shoemaker by trade, and he probably wanted to work near the center of the shoe trade, then largely concentrated in Lynn, Haverhill, and surrounding

¹ Samuel Plummer to John S Plummer, 19 August 1833, SECD 271:155. On the Plummer family see Sidney Perley, *The Plumer Genealogy: Francis Plumer, Who Settled at Newbury, Massachusetts, & Some of His Descendants* (Salem, MA: Essex Institute, 1917), 1-3, 15, 28-32, 45-49, 60-62, 93-94, 185.

² John William was probably born in Cambridge in 1833 and his younger siblings in Rowley or Georgetown; thus the family must have moved to the house between 1833 and 1836, when Sarah Jane was born.

³ John S. Plummer to John D. Harriman, 24 April 1851, SECD 445:34.

⁴ The Harriman genealogy appears on the Harriman Family Association web site, <http://www.harriman-family.org/>.

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towns. The 1855 census shows him as a shoemaker living with his wife Ellen Goodwin Harriman, whom he married in Somersworth, New Hampshire, in 1847, and their daughter Mary Elizabeth, born about 1850 in New Hampshire. In 1862 son Francis Newell Harriman was born.

The 1880 census shows John D. Harriman and his son Francis (called Frank) as shoebox makers. By then Mary Elizabeth Harriman was a boot-stitching machine operator. The 1856, 1872, and 1884 maps all attach John D. Harriman's name to the 59 North Street property. In 1891 John D. Harriman died, and the 1900 census shows his widow Ellen in the house with her daughter Mary Elizabeth, her son Frank, by then farming, Frank's first wife Sarah Sophia Ilsley, a near neighbor on North Street whom he married in 1889, and Frank and Sarah's daughter Eva, born in 1895. Ellen Goodwin Harriman died in 1905, and Frank and Sarah Harriman were living in the house in 1910 with their daughter and Frank's sister Mary. In 1918 Sarah Ilsley Harriman died, and in 1920 Frank N. Harriman was at 59 North street with his daughter Eva, a factory bookkeeper, and his sister. In 1922 Frank Harriman married again, to Sarah Alice Carter, and the couple bought 52 North Street; by then Harriman was working as a janitor at the Perley Free School.

In 1926 he sold 59 North Street to Adolph LePage of Lynn, whose family owned the property until 1948.⁵ Born in Quebec in 1862, Adolph LePage came to the United States between 1870 and 1880, and by 1892 he was a butler living and working in Boston. In the early 1890s had married Julia E. Palmateer of Tivoli, New York, and their son Lester was born in 1893. In the early 1920s the LePage family lived in Salem, but by 1930 they are shown at 59 North Street. LePage was then working as an insurance agent. Adolph LePage died in Georgetown only two years later, and in 1940 his widow Julia was alone in the 59 North Street house. In 1948 she and her son Lester and his wife Ramona were living in Longmeadow, and she transferred the title to Lester and Ramona; in 1951 they sold 59 North Street to Charles S. and Adelaide L. Traynor, who owned it until 1965.⁶ From 1971 to 1994 Robert T. Holloran owned 59 North Street, and he sold it to current owners Laurent R. and Theresa E. Palardy in 1994.⁷

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⁵ Frank N. Harriman to Adolph LePage, Lynn MA, 7 June 1926, SECD 2683:249.

⁶ Julia LePage and Lester LePage, Longmeadow MA, to Helen G. Flynn, Ipswich MA, 15 November 1948, SECD 3636:91; Helen G. Flynn, Ipswich MA, to Lester A. and Ramona M. LePage, 15 November 1948, SECD 3636:94; Lester A. and Ramona M. LePage, Longmeadow MA, to Charles S. and Adelaide L. Traynor, North St, 28 June 1951, SECD 3829:393; Adelaide L. Bunker to James A. and Margery C. Blair, 14 September 1965, SECD 5302:704.

⁷ Robert T. Holloran to Laurent R. and Theresa E. Palardy, 59 North Street, 20 April 1994, SECD 12535:470. The property is shown as Lot A on "Plan of Land, North Street, Georgetown, Mass.," 8 January 1971, SEC Plan 121 of 1971.

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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 west.

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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 Plummer-Harrison-LePage House, built about 1833 and altered about 1926, is a representative example of nineteenth-century domestic architecture in Georgetown Center and exhibits alterations made to update the house in the early twentieth century. Built as an end house, its offset front entrance was replaced with a window and moved to the south side of the house with a new room created on the north side by combining the old stair hall (stair removed) with a new wing adding a fireplace. A shoe shop apparently expanded for manufacturing functions survive behind the house and is a significant artifact of Georgetown's shoemaking history.

The house was built for shoemaker John Savory Plummer, a shoemaker, and his family. In 1851 Plummer sold "the house buildings & land lately occupied by me in Georgetown" to shoemaker John D. Harriman, a distant relation to his wife. The 1880 census shows John D. Harriman and his son Francis as shoebox makers. In 1926 the house was sold to Adolph LePage of Lynn, an insurance agent, who modernized the house for a twentieth-century lifestyle. The property meets National Register criteria A and C as a contributing feature in a potential historic district in the town center, the boundaries of which have yet to be determined.