

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

71 North Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.264

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



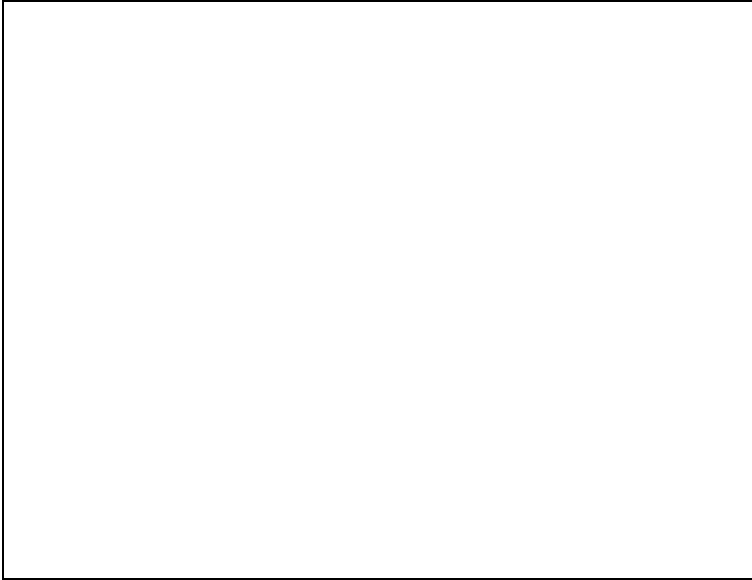
View from north.



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

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

11B-135

Georgetown

GEO.264

**Town/City:** Georgetown

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

**Address:** 71 North Street

**Historic Name:** Sawyer-Hopkins-Merrill House

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

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1875

**Source:** deeds & visual assessment

**Style/Form:** Classical Revival

**Architect/Builder:** William T. Colby, builder

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
Domestic barn (connected)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):  
Clapboard siding replaced, ca. 2010  
Doors & window sash replaced, ca. 2010  
Hyphen & barn altered

**Condition:** fair

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.2 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 Sawyer-Hopkins-Merrill House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with a gable roof built about 1875. In plan and design it is an end house with its entrance off center on the street-facing three-bay gable end. The entrance is distinguished by a hood mounted on large ornate brackets, the only decorative feature on the house. A one-story aisle with a separate entrance on the street front runs back to join a one-story kitchen wing in the rear; a chimney is located in the partition wall between the two principal rooms arranged front and back on that side of the house. The front section of the northerly side is windowless where a stair is located within the entry hall and windows are arranged in the rear to light the second-story stair landing and small rooms behind including in a two-story flat-roof extension on the rear. A bay window has been added to the northerly side of the kitchen wing, which connects to a small domestic barn with vehicle doors facing Summer Street.

The building is situated tight along the northerly side of a narrow corner lot with a minimal front yard separating it from the street. A narrow yard on the southerly side has a parking area paved in the front; a second parking area has been created behind the barn at the front of an open yard at the rear of the deep parcel.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In late April 1872 David Haskell, who owned a tract of land on both sides of what is now Summer Street at its intersection with North Street, sold Newbury carpenter William T. Colby a lot of land at the southeast corner of North and Summer Streets for \$475. About three years later Colby sold the same lot with buildings on it, including the house now numbered 71 North Street, to Mary O. Sawyer for \$1800.<sup>1</sup> The grantee was the wife of William Sawyer, a peg manufacturer in Boxford when he married in 1847 and a shoebox manufacturer there by 1855. The 1880 census shows him as a shoebox manufacturer living in Georgetown with his wife Mary O., his son William F., and daughter-in-law Mary E. Sawyer, and his four-year-old grandson Frank. The 1884 map of Georgetown Centers attaches the name "H. Sawyer" to the house; though the initial H was probably an error.

In 1883 William F. and Mary E. Sawyer had a daughter, Elizabeth, and in 1886 their son Frank died of diphtheria at the age of ten. By 1900 the family of three had moved to Saugus, and in 1907 Mary O. Sawyer sold the North Street house to George E. Hopkins.<sup>2</sup> Born in Hartland, Maine, in 1869, George Edwin Hopkins had married Elizabeth T. Dummer in Newbury in 1895 and worked as a grocery store salesman by 1910. The federal census for that year shows him on North Street with his wife and their children Edwin D., Alice E., and Howard S., born between 1899 and 1903. The 1916 directory lists Hopkins living at 71 North Street and clerking for the grocer M. N. Boardman, where he was probably still employed in 1920. By then son Edwin was a farm worker, daughter Alice packed shoes in a factory, and 17-year-old Howard was a shoe shop burnisher. In 1930 Hopkins had retired, and he lived in the house with his wife and daughter Alice, by then a bank bookkeeper.

In 1932, for unclear reasons, the probate court had appointed a conservator for the property of George E. Hopkins, who by then had probably moved to Salisbury. The 71 North Street property was sold in 1932 to Warren Henry Merrill, whose family owned the property until 1985.<sup>3</sup> Merrill, born in 1892 in Georgetown, was the son of shoe worker H. Eugene Merrill and his wife Roseanna. By 1910, when he was seventeen, he was working in a meat market and living in his parents' house on East Main Street. Merrill served as an Army private during World War I, and by 1925 he had married, was living at 94 North Street, and was working as a meat cutter. The 1940 census shows him at 71 North Street with his wife Elizabeth and their children Paul, Rosemary, Byron, and Florence, born between 1924 and 1931. By 1942, according to his draft registration, he was working at

<sup>1</sup> David Haskell to William T. Colby, Newbury, 30 April 1872, SECD 853:273; William T. Colby to Mary O. Sawyer, 29 July 1875, SECD 932:174.

<sup>2</sup> Mary B. Sawyer, Saugus, to George E. Hopkins, 23 February 1907, SECD 1861:364.

<sup>3</sup> Joseph N. Dummer, conservator property George E. Hopkins, to Warren H. Merrill, 23 June 1932, SECD 2923:473.

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Bishop's Market at 14 Central Street in Georgetown. He died in 1979, and in 1982 his widow placed the property in trust and transferred its title to her sons Paul and Byron as trustees. Current owners Laura J. and Daniel B. Brockway acquired 71 North Street in 2009.<sup>4</sup>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

## DIRECTORIES

*The Essex County Directory*. 1866. Boston: Innes & Niles, 1866.

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*Resident and Business Directory of Groveland and Georgetown, Mass., for 1885-1886*. Needham, MA: Local Directory Publishing Co., 1885.

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

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## MAPS

Map of Georgetown. 1856. In Walling, H. F. *A Topographical Map Essex County Massachusetts*. Boston: Smith and Morley, 1856.

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"Georgetown, Mass. 1887." Drawn and Published by George E. Norris, Brockton, Massachusetts. Troy, NY: Burleigh Lithographic Establishment, 1887."

<sup>4</sup> Elizabeth A. Merrill to Paul A. Merrill and Byron E. Merrill, trustees Elizabeth A. Merrill Trust, 6 July 1982, SECD 6954:735; Paul A. Merrill and Byron E. Merrill, trustees Elizabeth A. Merrill Trust, to Fred F. and Eva M. Jackman, 10 April 1985, SECD 7716:530; Robert T. and Karen Q. Holland to Laura J. and Daniel B. Brockway, 20 October 2009, SECD 29004:501.



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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from west.

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View from east.

## 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.*

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

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The Sawyer-Hopkins-Merrill House, built about 1875, is a representative example of late nineteenth-century domestic architecture in the town center. Its end house plan and front-gable orientation has characteristics in common with other houses from this period in Georgetown. It was built for Mary O. Sawyer by carpenter William T. Colby. Her husband William Sawyer was a shoebox manufacturer. In 1907 Mary O. Sawyer sold the house to George E. Hopkins, a sales clerk for Georgetown grocer M. N. Boardman. The Hopkins family lived in the house until 1932 when it was bought by Warren Henry Merrill, a meat market employee at Bishop’s Market at 14 Central Street in Georgetown. 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.