

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

73 Thurlow Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.305

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



View from SW.



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

17-37

Georgetown

GEO.305

Setting: Rural area with 20th-century suburban development.

Town/City: Georgetown

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

Address: 73 Thurlow Street

Historic Name: Moses W. & Mercy Thurlow House

Uses: Present: single family residential

Original: single family residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1823

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:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Rear addition, late 19th century

Door hood added, late 19th century

Window sash replaced

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.93 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 Moses W. and Mercy Thurlow House is a two-story wood frame single-family dwelling with a gable roof built about 1823. Its bilaterally symmetrical form and single-pile center-hall plan has a five-bay front façade with a center entrance. The eave line is distinguished by a pronounced cornice with gable-end returns and corner pilasters reflecting the Greek Revival style. However, the entrance is not embellished with sidelights or and architrave more in keeping with Federal-period precedents; a hood mounted on ornate brackets is a later nineteenth-century addition. Gable ends contain single windows on each story, including the attic: a doorway and porch have been added to the westerly end and two oriels added to the easterly end. A two-story cross-gable wing on the rear is a later addition; its westerly end projects past the rear corner of the house and contains an entrance on the front façade under the porch on that end. A brick chimney has been added to the rear wall; it appears that the existing center chimney was constructed to vent stoves heating the interior.

The house is situated in the center of a wide street frontage set back behind lawns on the front and sides. A driveway enters the property west of the house and terminates in the rear.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

No deed has yet been found granting the land on which 73 Thurlow Street stands to Moses Wheeler Thurlow (1782-1854), but probate records and deeds indicate that the land on which the house was built was part of the substantial acreage that Mark Thurlow (1741-1823) acquired in numerous deeds in 1774 and 1785. In April 1823, after Mark Thurlow's death, his sons John and Samuel and daughters Mary and Martha deeded to their older brother Moses Wheeler Thurlow (1782-1854) their shares in 34 acres with buildings on the north side of Thurlow Street and another acre opposite this tract on the south side of the road.¹ Three years later, Moses W. Thurlow's older sister Mary Wells Thurlow (1779-1826) left to her younger sister Martha Brocklebank Thurlow (born 1788) "my part of the dwelling house" and the 105 square rods underneath and next to it, as well as her right to the barn and barn yard on the opposite side of the road; to her brother Moses W. she left her right to this property after Martha died or married. Taken together these documents suggest that the house at 73 Thurlow Street, marked "M. W. Thurlow" on the 1830 Georgetown map, was occupied jointly by Moses W. Thurlow and his sister Mary Wells Thurlow. It is possible that it was Mark Thurlow's house and built in the late eighteenth century; however, its design features suggest that it dates after 1823.

Censuses clearly show Moses W. Thurlow in this neighborhood. By 1850 he was shown as a 68-year-old farmer with \$8000 in real property in a household with his wife Mercy, 14-year-old Moses Thurlow Pearson (his sister Patience's son), and his sister Martha, then 67 years old, in the other half of the house. Moses and Mercy's children—Patience Wheeler, born in 1811, and Judith Savory, born in 1822—were by then married and no longer part of the household, and son Tristram Coffin Thurlow had died in 1826 at the age of 14. The federal agricultural census for 1850 also shows the farm value at \$8000, a relatively high value for a Georgetown farm at this time. Thurlow then had 150 improved and 50 unimproved acres and \$527 in livestock.

Moses Wheeler died in 1854 and left \$6522 in real property, which was divided between his daughter Patience (wife of Moses Pearson) and her children and his daughter Judith (wife of Charles A. Harriman) and her children. The two women were to support his widow for the rest of her life, but Mercy Savory Thurlow died in December 1854, ten months after her husband's death.

¹ John Thurlow and Samuel Thurlow to Moses W. Thurlow, 4 April 1823, SECD 492:249.

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By 1855, the family of William Edwin Day occupied 73 Thurlow Street as renters; the 1856 map shows the house as part of the Moses W. Thurlow estate. In 1850 in Newburyport Day, born in England in 1828, had married Sophia H. Crombie, the daughter of Benjamin Crombie and Clarissa Thurlow. Though surely related, Clarissa Thurlow is an obscure member of the family; no record of her birth or parents has yet been found. The 1850 census shows Day and his wife in the home of her parents, who might have occupied the house formerly at 63 Thurlow Street, also owned by Moses W. Thurlow. By 1855 the Days and their children Frederick and George were shown in one part of the house and Martha B. Thurlow in the other. In that year Martha B. Thurlow died, apparently of burns, and left a very small estate: all of her personal property sold at auction for \$5.98.

By 1860 Day, a shoemaker, was at 73 Thurlow with his wife Sophia, a shoe binder, children Fred, George, and Clara, and Sophia's father Benjamin P. Crombie, a 68-year-old shoemaker. In 1861 the Days had another child, Carl, and in 1869 daughter Hattie J. was born. The 1872 Georgetown map attaches the name "Day" to the house, though the Days did not own it. By 1880 Day had become a gunsmith and a locksmith, and by 1900 he and his family had moved to Pond Street in Georgetown.

Though it is not yet clear how, by 1872 Sarah S. Poor Jewett, the wife of Gorham P. Jewett, owned the former homesteads of both Moses W. Thurlow and his brother Samuel Thurlow (1791-1855), and she sold them along with 15 other parcels in Georgetown and Groveland to Samuel T., Joseph B., and Alvin C. Poor. In 1886 Alvin Poor sold "the homestead of the late Moses W. Thurlow" to Lydia A. Kinson, who may already have been living there; the 1884 Georgetown map attaches the Kinson name to 73 Thurlow Street.² The daughter of New Hampshire native James P. Connerly and Judith L. Stickney of Newbury, Kinson was born in 1833 and had married farmer Charles Kinson, also from New Hampshire. The Kinsons owned 73 Thurlow Street until the early 1890s. In 1874 Alice M. Wilkins acquired the house and an acre of land.³ Wilkins was the daughter of John Thurlow Hilliard and his wife Hattie Hills, who had lived at 63 Thurlow Street and were Thurlow kin: John Thurlow Hilliard was the grandson of Moses W. Thurlow's brother John (1785-1840). Born in 1864, she married Boston provisions dealer John Clark Wilkins in 1886. The 1900 census shows them in this neighborhood with their son Irving Clark Wilkins and daughter Harriet H. By then J. Clark Wilkins was a soap manufacturer, and he was listed in the same occupation in the 1910 census. He died in September 1919, and in 1920 his widow Alice was living in the house with daughter Harriet, son John H., born in 1903, and her mother Harriet Hills Hilliard. She died in July 1929, and in November that year her son and estate administrator sold 73 Thurlow Street to his married sister Harriet and her husband Arthur H. McIntire, who owned the property until 1965.⁴

Arthur H. McIntire, the son of Ipswich mill worker Grenville O. McIntire and Martha Lord McIntire, was born in 1903, and he was working as a chauffeur in January 1929 when he married Harriet H. Wilkins. Harriet's mother Alice Hilliard Wilkins died later that year, and the 1930 census shows Arthur McIntire, still a chauffeur, and his wife Alice, a shoe worker, in the Thurlow Street house. By 1940 McIntire was working as a carpenter. Harriet Wilkins McIntire died in December 1963, and in August 1965 widower Arthur McIntire sold the property. Robert J. Moriarty of Melrose acquired the property in 1977, and his family owned it until 1994, when current owner Thomas E. Shores acquired it.⁵

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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.

² Sarah S. Jewett to Samuel T., Joseph B., and Alvin C. Poor, 29 November 1872, SECD 868:296; Joseph B. Poore to Samuel T. Poore and Alvin C. Poore, 10 March 1874, SECD 916:97; Alvin C. Poor to Lydia A. Kinson, 6 March 1886, SECD 1168:218.

³ William B. and Susan Richards, Ipswich, to Alice M. Wilkins, 11 June 1894, SECD 1413:251

⁴ Irving C. Wilkins, administrator estate Alice M. Wilkins, to Arthur H. and Harriet W. McIntire, 14 November 1929, SECD 2828:105.

⁵ Arthur H. McIntire to Edward H. Rosenstein, Revere MA, 9 August 1965, SECD 5294:777; The Pingree Agency, Inc., to Robert J. and Marie F. Moriarty, Melrose MA, 17 May 1977, SECD 6349:686; Robert J. Moriarty Jr., executor will Robert J. Moriarty, to Thomas E. Shores, 21 June 1994, SECD 12630:510. The property is shown as Lot A on "Plan of Land in Georgetown, Mass., as Surveyed by the Pingree Agency," 13 November 1976, SECD 141:65.

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

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.

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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from south.

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View from east.