

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN

92 Central Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.221

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

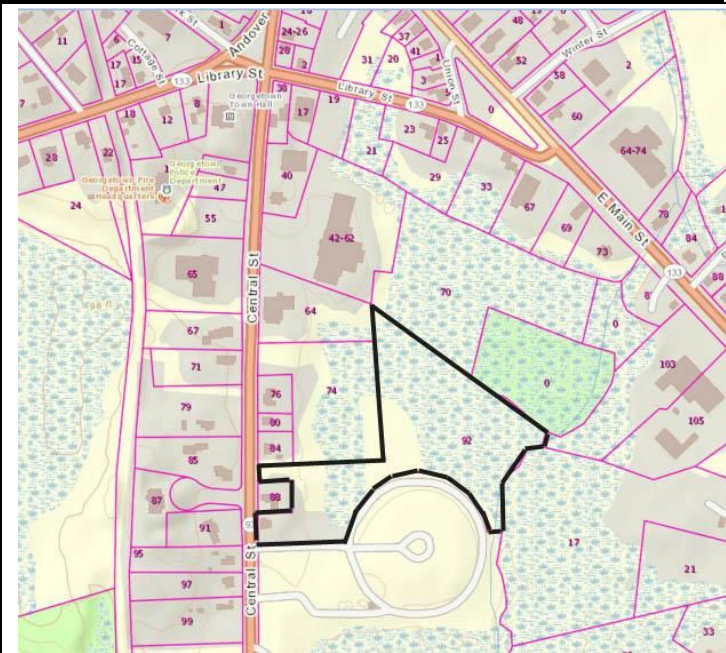
FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



View from NW.



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

10B-16

Georgetown

GEO.221

**Setting:** Major route into town center with concentration of historic and non-historic residential buildings; cemetery.

**Town/City:** Georgetown

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

**Address:** 92 Central Street

**Historic Name:** Boynton - Howe House

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

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1880

**Source:** deeds & visual assessment

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

Rear ell enlarged, mid-20<sup>th</sup> century  
Window sash replaced; skylights added

**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 8.8 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 Boynton-Howe House is a story-and-a-half wood frame single dwelling with a gable roof built about 1880 in the form and style of a worker "cottage dwelling" popular a generation or two earlier. It has a hall-parlor with center passage plan with an entrance in a Federal-style architrave in the center of its five-bay front façade. Narrow windows with heavy surrounds flank the entrance and contain replacement sash. The foundation is brick, an indicator of its late construction date. Wide corner boards terminate at a tall frieze along base of a projecting eave; short returns distinguish the base of the entablatures on the gable ends. Both ends contain two windows at the main and attic levels, as well as in the elevated brick basement. A wide, story-and-a-half cross-gable ell on the rear is a later enlargement or replacement of a smaller annex constructed in the mid-twentieth century. A garage is tucked under the southerly side in the basement. Skylights have been added to the roof to improve living space in the half-story and a deck has been added to the rear.

The house is centered on the property's narrow street frontage, set back behind a small yard. The bulk of the 8.8-acre parcel comprises a wetland behind the houses on the east side of Central Street and north of Harmony Cemetery. There are no outbuildings.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The house at 92 Central Street does not appear on the 1856 or 1872 maps of Georgetown Center, and its early history of ownership is difficult to determine from deeds. The 1884 map of Georgetown shows the house, just west and north of Harmony Cemetery, but does not attach the name of an owner to it. By 1895 it was owned by Abby N. B. Elliott, whose first husband was longtime local law enforcement officer George Washington Boynton. Boynton owned property on both sides of Central Street and lived on the west side; his name is attached to a property on the east side of Central Street but considerably to the north of this house on the 1872 map. Boynton died in 1877 at the age of fifty-six, and in October 1888 his widow, Abby N. Stocker Boynton, married retiree Theodore G. Elliott, a native of Warner, New Hampshire. Abby Elliott had been born in Bath, Maine, about 1820, and her sister Susan, the wife of Jacob Dickinson, and later her widowed sister Emma A. Proctor lived at 79 Central Street (GEO.219). Though a deed transferring the property to Abby or George W. Boynton has not yet been located, it seems likely that the property belonged to George Boynton. In February 1893 Theodore G. Elliott died in Georgetown, and in February 1894 Abby filed a will in which she left cash to her Boynton children, a portrait of George W. Boynton to the Charles C. Dame masonic lodge in Georgetown, and money in trust, to be called the Boynton Fund, the income of which was to support the "worthy poor" of the town. An 1898 codicil left all her real estate to her niece Harriet W. Stocker, but she had sold 92 Central Street with .75 acre in 1895. Abby Stocker Boynton Elliott died in September 1898.

Elliott sold 92 Central Street to Lucy E. Adams, an unmarried nurse from Danville, Quebec, who was then living in Manchester, New Hampshire. By 1900 Adams was living in Georgetown, but she was keeping house for 84-year-old Charles Bailey and must have rented 92 Central Street. Censuses and directories over the next 25 years show Adams sometimes at 92 Central and sometimes at 79 Central, the home sisters Susan Stocker Dickinson, Emma Stocker Proctor, and Harriet Stocker Fuller. In 1906 Harriet W. Fuller sold Lucy E. Adams approximately two acres bordering the house lot and another six acres in 1917, which are represented in the current 8.8-acre parcel associated with the house.<sup>1</sup> The censuses of 1920 and 1930 show her living alone at 92 Central. She died in Georgetown in early February 1937, and four months later the administrators of her estate sold three

<sup>1</sup> Harriet S. Fuller to Lucy E. Adams, 23 August 1906, SECD 1834:358 and 8 October 1917, SECD 2379:118.

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parcels—the house and its 0.75-acre lot, described as sited “by the entrance to Harmony Cemetery,” and the two additional parcels—to Edward M. Hoyt for \$1600.<sup>2</sup>

Edward Malcolm Hoyt had been a physician in Georgetown since at least 1900; a native of Wentworth, New Hampshire, he lived and practiced for many years at 38 East Main Street. He appears to have acquired 92 Central Street for Elsie May Tucker Howe, who may have been his housekeeper. The widow of Charles Nelson Howe, who died in 1937, she is shown in 1930 at 11 Andover Street with her children Bessie, Charles N. Jr., and Grace and her brother Herman Tucker. She had emigrated from Nova Scotia in 1896, and her brother followed in 1910. Hoyt stipulated in a written agreement that Charles N. Howe Jr. would receive the deed to 92 Central if he permitted his mother Elsie to live in the 92 Central Street house rent-free until she died. The 1939 record of her death shows her as living at 92 Central Street, and after Hoyt's death in 1946 the trustees of his will transferred the title to Charles N. Howe Jr.<sup>3</sup> He and his wife Muriel Corney, an Amesbury native whom he married in 1937, are shown at 92 Central Street in the 1940 census with their seven-year-old daughter Marcia. The Howe family owned 92 Central Street until 2005, when Muriel L. Howe sold the property to current owner Matthew Racki.<sup>4</sup>

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## MAPS

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

<sup>2</sup> Abby N. B. Elliott to Lucy E. Adams, Manchester NH, 21 October 1895, SECD 1458:475; Marion B. Lafayette and Carl E. Bailey, administrators estate Lucy E. Adams, to Edward M. Hoyt, 16 June 1937, SECD 3115:133

<sup>3</sup> Merton E. Roberts and Robert F. Metcalf, trustees under will Edward M. Hoyt, to Charles N. and Muriel L. Howe, 24 December 1946, SECD 3522:1.

<sup>4</sup> Muriel L. Howe to Matthew Racki, Groveland, 28 September 2005, SECD 24886:501.

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GEO.221
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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from SW.

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View from SE.