

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

GEORGETOWN 97 CENTRAL ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

GEO.223

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



View from east.



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-10

Georgetown

GEO.223

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: 97 Central Street

Historic Name: Chaplin-Richardson House

Uses: Present: single family residential

Original: single family residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1875

Source: deeds & visual assessment

Style/Form: Gothic Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
none

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.66

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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 Chaplin-Richardson House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling built about 1875. It has a double-pile center-hall plan and a three-bay front façade with a central entrance under a flat-roof hood mounted on ornate scrolled brackets. The roof edge has deep eaves distinguished by a Classical cornice with returns on the ends and a central gabled wall dormer on the front façade containing an arched window. The gable end walls have two windows on both stories and in the attic. A screened porch has been added to the three-bay rear façade and two skylights have been inserted in the rear roof.

The house is centered on the street frontage of a narrow deep lot that extends back to the railroad right-of-way. It is set back behind a small yard with a driveway entering the south side of the lot and terminating in the rear of the building.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In 1873 and 1875, Georgetown shoe manufacturer Alfred B. Noyes (1818-1913) sold two lots on the west side of Central Street opposite Harmony Cemetery to Henry Prescott Chaplin (1816-95), also a Georgetown shoe manufacturer.¹ The families were related: in 1840 Noyes's brother, Hiram Howard Noyes, had married Chaplin's daughter Alice, and he was a principal in the shoe firm G. W. Chaplin and Company. Henry P. Chaplin, his brother George Washington Chaplin (1809-97), and their parents Eliphalet (1777-1825) and Martha Spofford Chaplin lived further south on Central Street: Henry at 153 Central Street (GEO.226), George at 161 (GEO.54), and Eliphalet at 169 (GEO.55). With Georgetown's boot and shoe industry thriving, Henry Chaplin probably bought the two lots, altogether 2.52 acres, to build rental housing. The houses numbered 95, 97, and 99 Central were built on these two lots. When Chaplin's son Laurence Leslie Chaplin (1855-1940) sold the property in 1908, the deed treated these two lots as one and transferred "the three dwellings and other buildings" located on them.² In 1900 one of these houses may have been occupied by Wilfred S. Chaplin (1857-1909) and his wife Helen F. McAllaster Chaplin, a native of Bedford, New Hampshire, who married Chaplin in 1879.

After Henry P. Chaplin's death, the three properties passed to his four children—Laurence, Wilfred, Alice C. Noyes, and Mabel C. Chaplin—and after Wilfred Chaplin's death in 1909 his share was conveyed in trust to his wife's younger brothers, John G. and Gilman McAllaster of Manchester, New Hampshire. When Mabel Chaplin died in 1906, her share passed to Laurence, who deeded it to the McAllasters.³ In 1919 Laurence Chaplin, Alice Noyes, and his sister-in-law Helen McAllaster Chaplin sold 97 Central Street to Joseph S. and Marie-Lafayette Fredette.⁴ Joseph Fredette, born in New Hampshire in 1872, lived in the house with his wife Marie, born in Maine; both were children of French Canadians. Also in the household were their eleven-year-old daughter Alida; their married daughter Ina, a shoe factory stitcher; her husband Ernest Hosey, a street railway conductor; and their infant daughter Adelaide. The Fredettes had been living in Haverhill from at least 1900, and by 1919 Joseph Fredette was partner in a liquor business on Winter Street in that city. By 1925 the family returned to Haverhill, where Joseph Fredette ran Fredette's Smoke Shop by 1928.

¹ Alfred B. Noyes to Henry P. Chaplin, 25 October 1873, SECD 893:58; Alfred B. Noyes to Henry P. Chaplin, 14 October 1875, SECD 945:22. Chaplin paid \$600 for the first lot, 2 acres and 6 rods, and \$200 for the second, 0.67 acre.

² Trust agreement, Laurence L. and Susan T. Chaplin and John G. and Gilman McAllaster, Manchester NH, 16 November 1908, SECD 1951:201. This deed transferred one-quarter share owned by Laurence's sister Mabel, who died in 1906, in seven parcels in Georgetown and Boxford, including the Chaplin shoe factory on the east side of Central Street; the 95-97 Central Street property was the second tract described there.

³ The disposition of these shares is described in Alice C. Noyes and Laurence L. Chaplin, both Georgetown, and John G. McAllaster and Gilman McAllaster, both Manchester NH, trustees, to Marjorie Lucy Morse, 7 May 1911, SECD 2092:352, which conveyed 99 Central Street.

⁴ Alice C. Noyes, Helen F. Chaplin, and Laurence L. Chaplin to Joseph S. and Marie-Lafayette Fredette, 12 November 1919, SECD 2554:328

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In 1923 Fredette sold 97 Central Street to Susa Mansell Richardson, whose husband Alton W. Richardson was an associate professor of poultry husbandry at the University of New Hampshire. Both were Maine natives, and they were married at Old Town, Maine, in 1915. Susa Richardson was born in the wilderness resort town of Greenville, Maine, where her father John was a steamboat engineer and guide. The Richardsons lived in Durham, the home of UNH, in 1920 with their young daughters Esther and Edna, Susa's mother Wilma Goodwin Mansell, and her brother Maurice, then attending UNH. They moved to Georgetown after 1925, and Alton Richardson died in Georgetown in 1929. The 1930 census enumerated Susa Richardson on Central Street with her two daughters and her mother, who was described as a "poultryman." In 1940 daughter Esther was working as a telephone operator, Edna was doing shoe factory bench work, and Susa and her mother were not employed.

In 1944 Susa Richardson sold 97 Central Street to Querino G. and Mary L. Prescutti and Paulina Caccavolo, all then living in Lynn. Paulina Iamurri Caccavolo, an Italian immigrant who ran a grocery in Lynn, was by then divorced from her husband, Carmine Caccavolo, who came to the United States from Italy in 1900 and worked making electrical appliances. About 1937 their daughter Mary L. married Querino "Goody" Prescutti, a native of Boston and the son of Italian immigrants; he was a warehouse worker for grocery companies, including Stop and Shop. The 1957 directory shows Goody Prescutti as a "fruit conditioner" working in Boston and living at 97 Central Street with his wife Mary, who ran the Card and Candle Shop at this address, and her mother Pauline Caccavolo, by then a widow. The three owned 97 Central Street until 1959, when they sold it to Audrey S. Mann; Mann sold it to current owners Robert W. and Nancy R. Carter in 1971.⁵

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⁵ Joseph S. and Marie-Lafayette Fredette to Warren R. Barney, Hampstead NH, 19 November 1923, SECD 2578:595; Warren R. Barney to Susa M. Richardson, 16 June 1928, SECD 2767:325; Susa M. Richardson to Querino G. and Mary L. Prescutti and Paulina Caccavolo, all of Lynn MA, 16 August 1944, SECD 3378:457; Querino and Mary Presutti and Paulina Caccavolo to Audrey S. Mann, 20 February 1959, SECD 4539:455; Audrey S. Mann to Robert W. and Nancy R. Carter, 30 North St, 18 June 1971, SECD 5776:43.

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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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PHOTOGRAPHS (all photos by Neil Larson, 2017)



View from NE.

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View from SE.