

# FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

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

018-0019 Salem WNH.129

**Town/City:** Wenham

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*): Wenham Village

## Photograph



Façade (east) and south elevations.

**Address:** 12 Cedar Street

**Historic Name:** Kenneth and Bernice Cook House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1947

**Source:** Assessor's record and property owner

**Style/Form:** Postwar Traditional

**Architect/Builder:** Not known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** garage; shed(s)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): porch enclosed, side entrance, replacement window sash and front entrance (E 21<sup>st</sup> c)

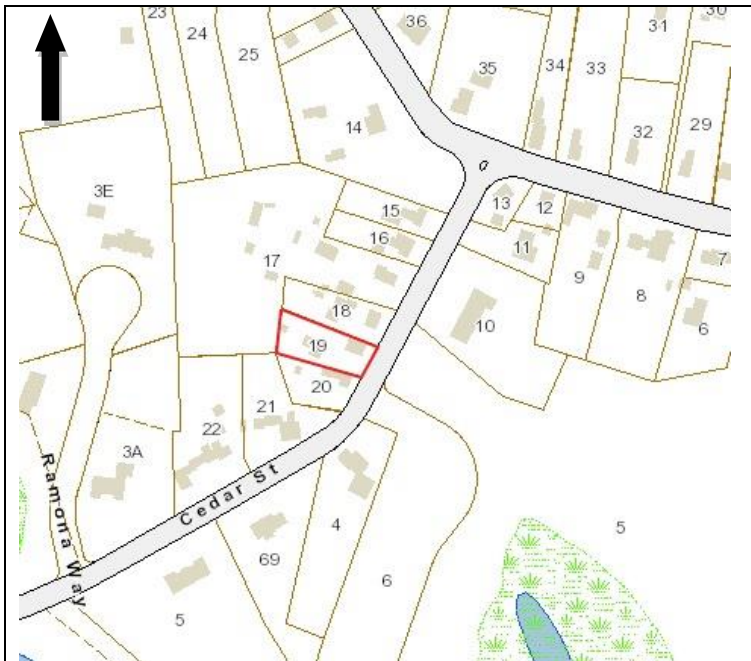
**Condition:** Poor

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.3 acre

**Setting:** Densely built residential streetscape, principally constructed in the 19th c. Located at northern end of a main thoroughfare between Wenham village and the southwestern part of town.

## Locus Map



Map #s are last two digits of Assessor #, not street address.

**Recorded by:** Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero

**Organization:** Wenham Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2017

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WENHAM

12 CEDAR STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNH.129

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

12 Cedar Street occupies a narrow, nearly rectangular lot on the west side of Cedar Street, near its intersection with Cherry Street. The house is set close to the street and near the northern property line, with an array of outbuildings in the center of the lot. Maintained chiefly in lawn, the lot is generally flat. A paved driveway extends along the south side of the house; a wood picket fence spans the street frontage.

Measuring 26 feet wide by 33 feet deep, the main block rises 1½ stories from a poured concrete foundation to a front gambrel roof. A one-story, enclosed front porch with a low hip roof spans the front of this volume, while a small rear entry vestibule is set at the southwest corner of the house. Walls are sheathed with wood shingles and trimmed with a bold cornice molding. Windows typically have double hung replacement sash with molded casings on the first floor and flat casings at the half-story.

The symmetrical two-bay façade (east elevation) displays two groups of triple windows on the projecting enclosed porch, with two widely spaced windows in the half-story. The main entrance was originally located in the northern bay of the porch facade. The porch also has a single window on each of its short sides.

The north elevation of the main block is blank on the first floor. In the half-story, a symmetrical shed-roofed dormer continues the top slope of the main roof and contains three windows, including two 2/1 windows in the outer bays and a small, square center sash. The south elevation of the main block has a large offset entrance bay with a pair of double-leaf doors flanked by large sidelights; a single double-hung window is set in the rear bay. The shed-roofed dormer on this elevation has two widely spaced 2/1 windows. The rear vestibule has a single window occupying most of its south wall.

The assessor's records show as many as three outbuildings on the property. Closest to the street is what appears to be an early one-bay, front gable garage with a long gabled side ell extended to the south and an open storage bay added to the north. Well maintained and largely intact, 12 Cedar Street is a good example of modest, mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Colonial Revival housing in Wenham. The design is notable for its front-gambrel form, strong cornice lines, shed dormers, and enclosed front porch. The relocation of the main entrance from the front to the driveway side of the building is a significant alteration, but is compatible with the scale and style of the historic building. The presence of an early garage, although considerably enlarged, is also distinctive.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

In 1947, Arthur and Ina Cook sold the southern portion of their property at 10 Cedar Street to son Kenneth A. Cook (1915-1991) and his wife Bernice L. Cook. (Essex South Deed Book 3606, page 572) The 1951 city directory indicates that Kenneth worked as a driver for his father's trucking company. Cook was still employed as a driver in 1960.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Beers, D.G. & Co. *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. 1872.

City Directories. 1870, 1888, 1901, 1909, 1918, 1924, 1932, 1951, 1960. Ancestry.com.

Janes, Annette V. with the Wenham Museum. *Images of America: Wenham*. Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2011.

Massachusetts Census. 1855. Ancestry.com.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WENHAM

12 CEDAR STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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Massachusetts birth indices. Ancestry.com.

Massachusetts death indices. Ancestry.com.

Massachusetts marriage indices. Ancestry.com.

United States Census for 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940. Ancestry.com.

Walling, Henry Francis. *A Topographical Map of Essex County, Massachusetts...* Smith & Worley, 1856.

Walker, George H. & Co., *Atlas of Essex County*. Boston: George H. Walker & Co., 1884.

Walker Lithography and Publishing Company. *Atlas of the Towns of Topsfield, Ipswich, Essex, Hamilton and Wenham, Essex County, Massachusetts*. Boston: Walker Lithography & Co., 1910.

Wenham Historical Association & Museum, Inc. *Wenham in Pictures and Prose*. Wenham: Wenham Historical Association & Museum. 1992.

Wenham Tax Assessor records.

## SUPPLEMENTARY PHOTOGRAPH



Garage. East (main) elevation.

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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 Stacy Spies  
*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The neighborhood located at the intersection of Cherry Street and Cedar Street is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. The district retains integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association. Consisting of well-preserved houses dating from ca. 1790 through ca. 1915, the Cherry Street-Cedar Street district meets Criterion A for its association with the development as a neighborhood of farmers and tradespeople. Houses are typically well-preserved one and two-story frame dwellings on stone foundations. The majority of houses in the district feature vernacular Greek Revival, gable-front forms. Several of these houses retain Greek Revival details such as door surrounds. Vernacular forms of Federal, Georgian, and Colonial Revival styles are also represented. 12 Cedar Street is a non-contributing feature of the district as a result of its alterations.

Cherry Street developed during the 17<sup>th</sup> century as an east-west connector between two major north/south roadways: Main Street and present-day Topsfield Road. Eighteenth and nineteenth-century deeds refer to Cherry Street as "the road to Topsfield." With the growth of Wenham village during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the village expanded westward along the "the road to Topsfield" between Main Street and present-day Monument Street. Cedar Street was laid out ca. 1825 and was known as "the road to North Beverly." The earliest residents were farmers. However, by the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, residents were more typically tradespeople, especially cordwainers, and, without a need for agricultural land, constructed their houses on small lots near the village center. During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, residents, in addition to shoe workers, included streetcar drivers, laborers, and teamsters.