

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

018-0004

Salem

WNH.132

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

**Town/City:** Wenham

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 15 Cedar Street

**Historic Name:** George and Judith Jones House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1895

**Source:** Deed

**Style/Form:** Queen Anne

**Architect/Builder:** Charles Elliott?

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** garage

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): wood shingle siding; rear  
ells (M to L 20<sup>th</sup> c)

**Condition:** Good

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

**Acreage:** 0.9 Acre

**Setting:** Densely built residential streetscape, principally  
developed 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

15 CEDAR STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNH.132

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.*

15 Cedar Street occupies a relatively large, narrow parcel on the east side of Cedar Street, at a bend in the road, from which it projects at an unusual angle. The house is set close to the street approximately in the center of its street frontage. The lot is generally flat and maintained chiefly in lawn, with large shrubbery around the building foundation. A paved driveway extends along the south side of the house and leads to a large, modern garage/storage shed structure.

The house consists of a rectangular main block that is wrapped at its northeast end by a conglomeration of smaller-scale additions and extensions. Measuring 24 feet wide by 33 feet deep, the main block rises 1 ¾ stories from a brick foundation to a front gable roof with gable returns and a slender chimney centered on its south slope. Walls are clad with wood shingles and trimmed with a wide fascia board with bed molding on the side elevations and front corners. Windows have 2/1 double-hung sash with molded casings.

The two-bay façade (west elevation) contains an entrance porch and rectangular bay window on the first floor, underneath a continuous shed roof. The porch is detailed with a square corner post, small and delicately carved brackets, and a wood railing; the single-leaf door is slightly north of the centerline of the elevation. Two widely spaced windows are symmetrically placed in the half-story, and a small 1/1 window is centered in the attic.

The long south elevation has three asymmetrical windows on the first floor and two symmetrically-positioned shed dormers, flush with the main wall, on the upper floor, each with a single window. The north elevation features a single window bay in the center, with a small horizontal sash on the first floor and another shed-roofed, flush wall dormer in the half story. The irregular array of rear additions includes a one-story shed-roofed extension off the northeast corner of the house, displaying a variety of casement windows; a rear projection on the extension's east elevation that appears to contain multiple sliding doors; and a relatively small, two-story gabled ell that is roughly centered on the rear (east) elevation of the main block.

15 Cedar Street is a good example of simple but stylistically ambitious Victorian housing in Wenham. The confidently composed house is notable for its prominent siting at a bend in the road, bold fascia trim, unified and carefully-detailed front porch and bay window composition, and robust dormers. Significant alterations include the loss of original siding and corner boards and the wide, wrap-around rear addition with its incongruent window sash.

## 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.*

15 Cedar Street was built for George Warren Jones (1862-1934) and his wife Judith Bradley Gage Jones (1863-1933) in 1893. Judith was the grand-daughter of Edmund Batchelder, Jr. (1794-1865) and a member of the extended Batchelder family that lived in the Cherry Street – Cedar Street neighborhood through the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. (See 18 Cedar St., WNH.133) It is possible that the house at 15 Cedar Street was constructed around the time of their marriage. The house shares stylistic features with several houses on Arbor Street that were likely constructed by builder Charles Elliott. Several houses on Main Street are also attributed to Charles Elliot. (See WNH.64) According to the 1901 city directory, Elliott had his home and shop on Arbor Street. (See Arbor Street Area WNH.E.)

In 1900, George Jones was employed as a stone mason and lived on Cedar Street with wife Judith, and children Albert, Robert, Arthur, Thomas, and Lydia. George and Judith's children sold the property in 1938 to Mary E.G. Butler. (Essex South Deed

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Book 3153, p. 493.) Mary Butler lived at 17 Cherry Street and was the widow of Horace B. Butler, an investment banker in Boston who had used the Cherry Street house as a summer residence. Mary and her adult daughter Blanche were residents of Cherry Street by 1920.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

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Wenham Tax Assessor records.

## SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGE



North and façade (west) elevations.

**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.

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.