

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

017-0014-000A	Salem		WNH.149
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Town/City: Wenham

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



Façade (south) and east elevations.

Address: 130 Cherry Street

Historic Name: Currier-Hayes House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1890

Source: visual

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards, shingles, and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: barn

Major Alterations (*with dates*): rear ell and sunroom? (L 19th/E 20th c?); 1st floor fenestration and addition on E elevation (L 20th c?); barn additions (20th c)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.99 acre

Setting: Semi-rural, residential area on a main thoroughfare between Wenham village and western part of town. Nearby houses constructed from late 18th through late 20th centuries on large lots.

Locus Map



Map #s are last digits of lot #s, not street #s.

Recorded by: Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero

Organization: Wenham Historical Commission

Date: June 2017

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WENHAM

130 CHERRY STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNH.149

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.

130 Cherry Street occupies a little over an acre of land on the north side of Cherry Street, surrounded by open fields on three sides. (A conservation area owned by the Mass. Audubon Society is located on the opposite side of the road.) Maintained chiefly in lawn, the parcel slopes slightly down to the north. A paved semicircular driveway traverses much of the deep front setback, which is lined with a low hedge at the street edge. The house consists of a large main block with a rear ell and sunroom; it is positioned near the east property line. A large barn with several side additions is set at the northwest corner of the trapezoidal lot.

Measuring 32 feet square, the main block of the house rises 2½ stories from a fieldstone foundation to a front gable roof without gable returns; one chimney rises near the ridgeline on the east slope. Fascia boards on the front gable have incised carvings and appliqué. A hip-roofed porch wraps around the front and west side of the main block. A one-story sunroom projects from the northwest corner of the house, spanning a one-story, 16 by 29 foot rear ell that is positioned off center on the rear elevation. Walls are sheathed with wood clapboards and trimmed with narrow corner boards on the first two stories; the attic story features decorative wood shingles, plain flushboard, and flushboard with an incised diagonal grid. Windows typically display 2/2 sash with flat casings and wood shutters mounted on pintles.

The L-shaped porch consists of a low wood deck and chamfered square posts with small decorative brackets at their capitals, and large quarter-circle sawn brackets shaping the open bays. The two-bay façade contains an offset single-leaf door and an angled bay window on the first floor and symmetrical upper floors. The second story windows are surmounted by paired brackets supporting a shingled hood. The half-story has a lower band of decorative wood shingles, a middle band of incised flushboard, and plain flushboard in the gable peak, surrounding a large, decoratively shaped window outlined with bold molding and, above it, an ornamental, semi-circular sign that names this property "ELMWOOD FARM".

The west elevation is irregularly composed with paired and single windows, another angled bay window on the first floor, a shed-roofed rectangular projection above it, and a round arch window in the narrow south wall of the projection. The one-story, gabled rear ell has a small square cupola with 6-light windows. It is fronted on the west by a shed-roofed sunroom that is enclosed with wood panels below, a continuous sill course, and a band of 2/2 windows above. The asymmetrical east elevation of the house has two single and two paired windows on the second floor, utilitarian fenestration of varied sizes on the first floor, and a single-leaf door towards the back. A small one-story addition with a pitched roof at the northeast corner of the house displays one window on its east elevation.

The large barn standing to the northwest of the house consists of a large side-gabled volume and two smaller additions to the west. The main section of the barn rises a tall 1½ stories to a side-gabled roof without gable returns and a small louvered cupola in the center of the ridge. Walls are sheathed with clapboard on the façade and wood shingles on the east elevation; they are trimmed with flat corner boards. The façade contains a large, sliding barn door constructed of vertical wood boards, which is positioned slightly off center, and a small pedestrian entrance with a vertical wood door at the east end. The east elevation of the main barn has two small, 6-light windows on the ground floor. The shed-roofed western additions are flush with the façade of the main block. The inner section contains a barn door opening that has been infilled with vertical wood boards and diamond-paned sash. The outer addition has a pair of diamond-paned windows at the west end of the façade; its symmetrical west elevation features two small windows flanking a larger, diamond-paned window.

Exceptionally well preserved and maintained, 130 Cherry Street is notable for its large size, simple massing, and animated Queen Anne embellishment, especially in its graceful wrap-around porch and variegated surface textures; the property is also distinguished by the unusually large, early barn.

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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.

130 Cherry Street appears to have been built as a summer residence for Benjamin and Emily Currier at the turn of the 20th century, on land that was part of an ancestral farmland. Samuel Ober and his wife Emily Moulton Ober were the last of the Ober family to live in the 17th century Ober house that was located near the present location of 140 Cherry Street. After widow Emily Ober died in 1887, her estate sold the property to granddaughter Emily M. Currier and Emily's husband Benjamin W. Currier. The 17th century Ober house burned in 1889. Benjamin and Emily Currier went on to purchase several large, contiguous, parcels to the north and south of Cherry Street, in the area of 130 and 140 Cherry Street. It appears they purchased the four-acre 130 Cherry Street parcel in 1902. (Essex South Deed Book 1673, Page 501) Emily Currier wrote about 130 and 140 Cherry Street in "The Old House and the New," which was reproduced in *Wenham in Pictures and Prose*, p. 125.

Benjamin and Emily Currier and their son Benjamin, Jr., lived in Lynn where the elder Benjamin was a wholesale clothing dealer for A. Jus. [sic] Johnson & Company, which manufactured collars and cuffs and operated a chain of clothing stores on the North Shore. Currier was also the president of Manufacturer's Bank in Lynn. The Currier family begins to appear in Wenham city directories as summer residents around 1901. The 1910 map indicates that the family owned two dwellings (130 and 140 Cherry Street). Benjamin Currier died in 1908 at the age of 70. While his estate sold 130 Cherry Street shortly thereafter, it appears that Emily Currier and son Benjamin retained the property at 140 Cherry Street into the 1930s.

In 1918, Emily Currier sold 130 Cherry Street to Annie L. Hayes and her husband James Hayes, of Nobleboro, Maine. They lived here with their daughter Mildred and her husband Raymond Fowle. In 1929, the Hayes family sold the property to Francis L. Higginson, who owned many acres elsewhere on Cherry Street. After Higginson died in 1969, much of his land in this area was given to Mass Audubon. Elmwood Farm was part of that gift. In 1971, Mass Audubon set aside the parcel with the house at 130 Cherry Street and sold it to Sheldon and Edwina Crockett, who owned it until her death in 1997. (Essex South Deed Book 5768, Page 267)

The house reflects the shift in Wenham during the early decades of the twentieth century from a rural agricultural and manufacturing community to a suburban and "summer home" community. Given the design and size of this dwelling, it is clear that this farmhouse was transformed into a summer retreat intended to provide respite from the working world.

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Façade (south) elevation. Detail.



Barn, south elevation.

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 Currier-Hayes House, presently known as Elmwood Farm, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A with significance at the local level. The Currier-Hayes House is well-preserved example of a trend in Wenham at the turn of the 20th century, wherein some agricultural landscapes and buildings were transformed from working landscapes into country retreats for wealthy owners. The Currier-Hayes house was constructed on the ancestral land of farmers Samuel and Emily Ober. The 17th century Ober house burned in 1889. Emily Currier, the Ober's granddaughter, constructed the house at 130 Cherry Street around 1890. Emily and her husband Benjamin Currier, lived very different lives than those of her grandparents, a fact that represented a significant shift in the residents of many Wenham farms at the turn of the 20th century. Benjamin Currier was a wholesale clothing dealer and 130 Cherry Street was intended to be a summer home. During the Late Industrial Period, at the turn of the 20th century, large farms in Wenham became attractive to wealthy businessmen and their families as summer or retirement properties, as did many inland and coastline communities on the north shore of Boston.