

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

019-0009	Salem		WNH.135
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**Town/City:** Wenham

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

## Photograph



Façade (south) and east elevations.

**Address:** 14 Cherry Street

**Historic Name:** Brown-Corbett-Lord House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1855

**Source:** Deed

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** not known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite, cut

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Garage

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

Rear additions (20<sup>th</sup> c); new fenestration on side elevations (20<sup>th</sup> c)

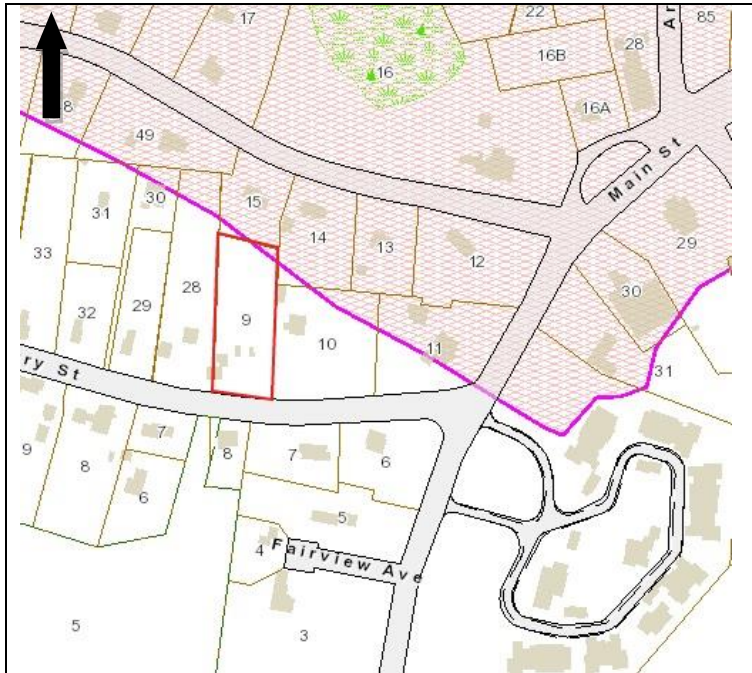
**Condition:** Very Good

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

**Acreage:** 0.9 acre

**Setting:** Densely built residential neighborhood, principally developed from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> through early 20<sup>th</sup> c. Located at eastern end of main thoroughfare between Wenham village and western part of town.

## Locus Map



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

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

**Organization:** Wenham Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2017

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WENHAM

14 CHERRY STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNH.135

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.*

14 Cherry Street occupies a long narrow lot on the north side of Cherry Street, near its intersection with Main Street. In front of the house, the yard is maintained in turf, with a low hedge at the street edge and scattered trees and shrubs. The house consists of a rectangular main block with two rear ells at the northeast corner that are not easily visible from the street.

The five by two bay main block measures 30 feet long by 24 feet deep and rises 1 ½ stories from a fieldstone foundation to a side gable roof with gable returns. A chimney is positioned slightly off center in the front slope. High-post walls are clad with wood clapboards and trimmed with wood sill boards, simple corner pilasters, and a modest frieze board with cornice molding. Windows typically contain 6/6 double hung sash with flat casings and a narrow projecting cap on the lintel.

The five-bay façade (south elevation) features a center entrance with a four-panel wood door framed by full-height sidelights, pilasters, a dentilled entablature, and prominent cornice molding. The side elevations each contain two original windows on each floor. The west elevation has a small third window at the back of the half-story, and the east elevation has a single-leaf door at the back of the first floor.

Projecting from the northeast corner of the main block are two gabled additions. A 16 by 12 foot extension adjacent to the main block features a front gable roof with a 6/6 window centered on its façade and a pair of casement windows on its east elevation. Attached to the north wall of this wing is a 25 by 16 foot ell with a side gable roof, an interior chimney at its east end, and no visible fenestration.

A two-bay garage that is sheathed in clapboards stands to the northwest of the house, accessed by a paved driveway. The original garage has one vehicle bay centered under its front gable roof; another vehicle bay occupies a shed-roofed extension on the east.

Well preserved and maintained, 14 Cherry Street is a good example of Greek Revival cottage design in Wenham. It is notable for its well-detailed center doorway and the modestly executed but ambitious inspiration of its window and wall trim. Alterations are minimal in scale and impact.

## 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.*

14 Cherry Street was constructed ca. 1855 by Smith Brown. In 1855, Brown sold the 14 Cherry Street property, "with a new house" to shoemaker John Corbett (Essex South Deed Book 510, p. 123). The Massachusetts census undertaken that same year includes John A. Corbett (ca. 1825-1871), his wife Esther [or Eleanor] (ca. 1817-1879) as well as cordwainer Charles Stanton, his wife, and their five children. The 1870 census indicated that Corbett was still working as a shoemaker and still lived on Cherry Street with Esther, daughter Minnie, and boarders William E. Patch and George Stanton, both also shoemakers.

In 1880, their daughter Minnie Corbett married Levi S. Lord, a teamster from Beverly. Minnie and Levi lived in her family home at 14 Cherry Street and had two children: Caroline and Fidelia. Levi worked as a teamster and expressman (i.e. a deliveryman), and as a horse trainer based out of 14 Cherry Street. Daughter Caroline, her husband Alvah Crockett, and their three children were living here with her parents by 1920. Levi and Minnie both died in 1922. Alvah worked as a machinist at United Shoe Machinery Corporation in Beverly. Caroline died in 1937 and Alvah died in 1965.

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WENHAM

14 CHERRY STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

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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 IMAGE



Garage. Façade (south) 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. 10 Cedar Street is a contributing feature of this district.

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.