

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

018-0009 Salem WNH.139

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

**Town/City:** Wenham

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

## Photograph



Rear (north) and east elevations.

**Address:** 21 Cherry Street

**Historic Name:** Thomas Kimball House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** pre-1793

**Source:** Deed

**Style/Form:** Federal

**Architect/Builder:** Not known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: not visible

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Garage; Second outbuilding not visible.

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

Additions (L 19<sup>th</sup> c? and 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> century)

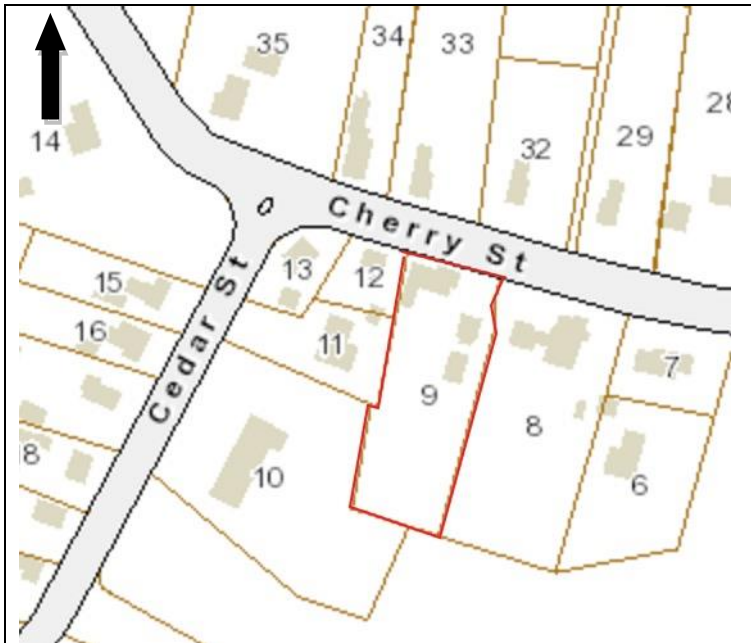
**Condition:** Very Good

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:** Before 1856

**Acreage:** 0.68 acre

**Setting:** Densely built residential neighborhood, principally constructed 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 # are last digits of lot #s and not street #s.

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

**Organization:** Wenham Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2017

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WENHAM

21 CHERRY STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNH.139

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.*

21 Cherry Street occupies a long, roughly rectangular lot near the intersection of Cedar Street. Set close to the street, the building faces south in the traditional manner of the Federal period and presents its relatively utilitarian rear wall toward Cherry Street. The building consists of a 2½ story main block with a perpendicular, gabled wing added at its west end and various small appendages of more modern origins along the rear (street) elevation. A garage is positioned to the southeast of the house, accessed by a paved driveway. Another, smaller driveway is positioned at the northwest corner of the house. A stockade fence wraps around the north and east sides of the house, lined with a tall hedge along the street edge.

The main block measures 50 feet long by 22 feet deep and rises 2½ stories to a side-gabled roof with a very minimal gable return visible only at the southeast corner. A large chimney rises from the ridge, east of the present mid-point of the building. Walls are sheathed in wood clapboards and trimmed with corner boards and a narrow fascia with crown molding. Visible historic windows are mostly 6/9 double hung sash with molded casings. Modern fenestration varies in size and style.

Assessor's records show the south façade to consist of a five-bay, center entrance structure with small window sash, a large center chimney, and a single-leaf doorway whose trim is not clearly visible in the available image. A two-bay, 2 ½ story wing with a steeply pitched, front gable roof is appended to the west of the five-bay core.

The street elevation has irregular fenestration and a 1 to 1½ story, mostly shed-roofed addition wrapping around the northeast half of the original block. A small 1-story, side-gabled vestibule is appended to the west elevation, with a single-leaf door facing the street. Three irregularly spaced windows are visible on the second floor of the west elevation (which includes the main block and the west wing), and one window is centered in the attic story of the main block.

The shed-roofed addition on the east end of the north (street) elevation rises to 1½ stories at the northeast corner, with a variety of modern window sash and cross-gables. A small entrance vestibule appears to be tucked into the corner between the rear addition and the east elevation of the main block, along with one window on the second floor and one window centered in the attic story of the main block.

Well maintained, 21 Cherry Street is an intriguing example of 18<sup>th</sup> century architecture that has evolved over time and whose context has dramatically changed. Further assessment of the south façade is recommended, if the owner's permission can be obtained. If the assessor's photograph is accurate, the south façade appears intact and the more incongruous alterations to the house (the rear addition and changed fenestration) are respectfully focused on the rear of the house. (See Photo 3.) Notable features include the south-facing orientation of the building and its proximity to the street, its large center chimney, extant historic fenestration, and the massing of the gabled west wing.

## 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.*

The Thomas Kimball (1730-1805) house was likely constructed before 1793 on Cherry Street near Cedar Street and moved to this location before 1869 by his heirs. In 1793, Thomas Kimball, "gentleman," sold "a certain dwelling house" and one acre of land to his son Nathaniel Kimball (1770-1855), a carpenter. (Essex South Deed Book 158, p. 178) The 1793 deed states that the property is located on the north side of Cherry Street. Nathaniel passed on the house and land to his grand-daughters Charlotte and Fanny Kimball. Fanny sold the property to Charlotte in 1860, at which time the house is located on the south side

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WENHAM

21 CHERRY STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNH.139

of Cherry Street. (Deed Book 611, page 217.) It appears that the house was moved across the street, but not rotated to face Cherry Street. This is also supported by the 1856 map, which shows the house in its present-day location.

Charlotte Augusta Kimball (1818-1890) married Israel H. Trask (1816-1899) in 1837. The Trask family is noted as owners of the property and house according to the 1856 map. Trask worked as an expressman, according to the 1855 Massachusetts census. In 1869, Israel and Charlotte sold the house and property to Harrison Merrill. (Essex South Deed Book 774, p. 223)

Harrison Merrill (1837-1919) worked as a shoe trimmer in a shoe factory. According to the 1880 census, Merrill lived here with wife Margaret and children Georgia, Carrie, Nellie, and Louis. Carrie, Nellie and Louis continued to live with their parents for the next 20 years. Margaret died in 1903. In 1916, Harrison sold the property to daughter Carrie Merrill (Essex South Deed Book 2335, p. 77) and it appears that sisters Nellie and Carrie lived here into the 1930s, according to the 1932 city directory. Carrie sold the property in 1934 to Scott Libby. (Essex South Deed Book 3024, p. 254) Nellie and Carrie Merrill donated Harrison Merrill's 10-footer shoe shop to the Wenham Museum in the 1930s, where it remains today.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Anderson, Philander. Map of Wenham. 1831. (Massachusetts State Archives)
- Beers, D.G. & Co. *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. 1872.
- City Directories. 1870, 1888, 1901, 1909, 1918, 1924, 1932. Ancestry.com.
- Cole, Adeline P., compiler. *Notes on Wenham History: 1643-1943*. Wenham Historical Association, Newcomb and Gauss Printers. 1943.
- Dodge, Richard. Map of Wenham. 1795. (Massachusetts State Archives)
- Hales, John G. and J.V.N. Throop, engraver. *The County of Essex*. (Harvard University Map Collection.)
- Massachusetts Census. 1855, 1865. Ancestry.com.
- 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 IMAGE



Photo 2. Rear (north) and west elevations.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WENHAM

**21 CHERRY STREET**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNH.139
--	---------



Photo 3. South elevation. Assessor's Record.

	WNH.139
--	---------

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.