

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

039-0006	Marblehead North		WNH.150
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**Town/City:** Wenham

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 72 Dodges Row

**Historic Name:** Dodge-Babcock House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1820-1840

**Source:** visual analysis

**Style/Form:** Federal

**Architect/Builder:** Not known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone, cut

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Attached barn and shed.

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): three western bays (2d quarter of 19<sup>th</sup> C)

**Condition:** Very good

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

**Acreage:** 2.0 acres

**Setting:** The house is located on Dodges Row, which connects North Beverly to Wenham Neck and Hamilton. Much of the surrounding area is part of the Longham Reservoir and is heavily wooded. Large, wooded estates and suburban dwellings are located across the street.

## 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

72 DODGES ROW

STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNH.150

 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.*

72 Dodges Row occupies a large trapezoidal parcel between the Longham Reservoir and Dodges Row. The house is located close to the roadway and faces south, perpendicular to the street. A wood picket fence with square-section posts is located along Dodges Row. A circular gravel drive is located in the front yard.

Measuring 18 feet wide and 46 feet long, the 6-bay, side-gabled main block rises two stories from a granite block foundation to a moderately-pitched, side gable roof with short gable returns and two interior brick chimneys at the north slope. Walls are sheathed in wood clapboards and trimmed with flat sill boards. Windows are 6/6 wood sash windows with narrow molded casings and louvered wood shutters.

The building appears to have been constructed in two parts. The first section was a three-bay dwelling with a side-hall entrance at the west bay. The house was later extended westward by three bays. The main (south) elevation entrance has three wood steps, a paneled wood door, half-height sidelights, high flat entablature with pilasters, and a prominent cornice molding. A shallow 2-story, gabled-roof ell is centered on the north (rear) elevation.

A 32 x 32 foot gable-roof barn set perpendicular to the house. The barn is attached to the house with a 12 x 24 foot gable-roof connector. The banked barn rests on a concrete block foundation and has an asphalt-shingled roof. The south elevation is covered with wood shingles and contains four 6/6 wood sash windows. The east elevation is covered with clapboards and has a large wood sliding door.

Well preserved and well maintained, 72 Dodges Row is a handsome example of rural, early 19<sup>th</sup>-century building in Wenham. The house is notable for its southward-facing orientation, perpendicular to the street; two-part construction; classically framed main entrance; and substantial early barn.

**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 1828, George Babcock (1805-1894) of Manchester married Martha Dodge (1790-1838), a member of the extensive Dodge family living in Wenham Neck. The 1850 census includes George Babcock, age 44, and his three children, Mary, George Jr., and Helen. It appears that they were residents of 72 Dodges Row: an 1850 deed for the adjoining property to the south (88 Dodges Row) uses "land belonging to George Babcock's children" as a northern boundary. (Essex South Deed Book 429, Page 94) This is further supported by the 1856 map showing G. Babcock as the owner of the house. The family lived here into the 1880s; the 1880 census includes Babcock, daughter Mary Babcock Henderson, and her children. The 1872 map shows a "Mrs. Henderson" as the resident of the house.

The 1884 map notes the house as the residence of "Jno. P. Conant," which was likely John Conant and his wife, Helen. The 1910 atlas notes the house as the residence of "Mrs. J.P. Conant." After Helen Conant's death in 1917, her daughter Nora, Nora's husband Carl Aylward, and their daughter Helen moved to 72 Dodges Row. In 1951, widow Nora Aylward sold the property to daughter Helen Page and her husband John. (Essex South Deed Book 3826, Page 309). The 1956 city directory lists Nora, John, a teacher a Beverly High School, and Helen as residents at this address.

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STREET

WENHAM

72 DODGES ROW

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Area(s) Form No.

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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.*

Given its location in Wenham Neck along Dodges Row, 72 Dodges Row was likely built by a member of the Dodge family. Well preserved and well maintained, 72 Dodges Row is a handsome example of rural, early 19<sup>th</sup>-century Federal architecture in Wenham. The house is notable for its southward-facing orientation, perpendicular to the street; two-part construction; classically framed main entrance; and substantial early barn.