

FORM B – BUILDING

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

019-0058

Salem

WNH.158

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

Town/City: Wenham

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

Photograph



Façade (west) and south elevations.

Address: 13 Larch Row

Historic Name: George W. and Sophronia Merrill House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1845

Source: Visual

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Shed dormers and hoods on façade windows (L 19th/E 20th c), side addition (E 20th c?), rear addition (20th c)

Condition: Very good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.67 acre

Setting: Densely built streetscape with small-scale residential buildings at edge of village center. Located on main cross-town thoroughfare near Main Street (Route 1A).

Locus Map



Map #s are last two 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

13 LARCH ROW

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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.

The George W. and Sophronia Merrill House is set close to the street on an irregularly-shaped parcel on the northeast side of Larch Row. Maintained chiefly in lawn, the lot also has scattered trees at the perimeter, a tall hedge at the northwest side, and a low wood fence across the front. The terrain slopes down to the north from the street, allowing a partially exposed basement at the rear. A paved driveway is located to the southeast of the house. The property contains a main house and a detached garage to the east of the house.

Measuring 35 feet long by 31 feet deep, the five by two bay main block rises 1½ stories from a granite block foundation to a side gable roof with emphatic gable returns and a square center chimney. Clapboard walls are trimmed with sill boards, corner pilasters, and a high entablature. Windows typically contain 6/6 double hung sash with molded casings and wood shutters. Façade windows have prominent shed-roofed hoods supported on small, solid braces.

The five-bay façade (southwest elevation) has a center entrance composed of a single-leaf door, narrow sidelights, and a wide channeled architrave with corner blocks and a rectangular panel centered over the door. Two shed roofed dormers are flush with the main wall and symmetrically placed in the half-story.

The southeast elevation is spanned by a one-bay, one-story addition with a low hip roof, irregular 6/6 sash, and an offset single-leaf doorway on its southeast wall. Two windows are symmetrically arranged in the half-story. The northwest elevation of the main block contains two windows, vertically aligned, on each floor. The rear elevation features a narrow one-story addition at the north corner of the main block; and a narrow 1½ story addition at the east corner.

A substantial garage stands just to the east of the house. It rises 1½ stories from a fieldstone foundation to a side gable roof with no gable returns. The asymmetrical, three-bay façade has clapboard siding, flat wood trim, two segmental arched vehicle bays, and small, horizontal 6-light windows under the eave. A small square cupola is centered on the ridgeline. The southeast elevation has wood shingle siding and three small 6-light windows.

Well preserved and maintained, the George W. and Sophronia Merrill House is a handsome example of Greek Revival period cottages in Wenham. The design is notable for its side-gable roof, center entrance form and center chimney, assertive wall trim (particularly the bold corner pilasters and entablature), ambitious yet still vernacular main entrance, and unusual later window hoods.

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 the mid-19th century, 13 Larch Row was the residence of George W. and Sophronia Merrill. George (1807-1895) and Sophronia were married in 1836 and, according to census data, had at least five children. The 1856 map identifies 13 Larch Row as the G.W. Merrill residence. The 1870 census indicates that Merrill worked as a shoemaker. The 1872 map indicates that two outbuildings were located beside the house; it is possible that one of them was a shoemaking workshop. [Note: the 1884 map appears to have the names D. Harrigan and G.W. Merrill transposed. Further research can confirm this suspicion.] After George's death, his sons, Arthur and Harrison, sold the property to Harrison's son, Lewis E. Merrill. (Deed Book 1465, p. 567) in 1910 Lewis Merrill sold the house to Harry W. and Florence Haszard. (Essex Deed Book 2171, p. 402) Harry Haszard (1859-1941) worked as an inspector at United Shoe Machinery Corporation in Beverly. Harry and Florence Haszard lived at 13 Larch Row until at least 1940.

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WENHAM

13 LARCH ROW

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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Wenham Tax Assessor records.

SUPPLEMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 2. Façade (west), entrance detail.



Photo 3.

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.

13 Larch Row is a contributing feature of the eligible Larch Row Historic District. The neighborhood along Patch Avenue and Larch Row near Main Street is eligible as a historic district under Criterion A at the local level. Developed during the 1840s and populated nearly entirely by cordwainers in the mid-19th century, this neighborhood is representative of the dramatic rise in the shoemaking trade in Wenham during the middle decades of the 19th century. This densely-developed neighborhood allowed residents access to workshops and small factories on nearby Main Street in addition to ten-footer shops located on site. The buildings feature Greek Revival stylistic features popular during that time. The buildings all retain integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association.