

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

012-0022	Salem		WNH.168 WNH.169
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Town/City: Wenham

Place: Wenham Village

Photograph



West and façade (south) elevation.

Address: 16 Pleasant Street

Historic Name: Sargent & Sarah Knowlton House & Barn

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1900

Source: maps, city directories

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: henhouse (early 20th C); garage (20th C) ; barn (early 20th C)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): replacement windows in barn (early 21st C)

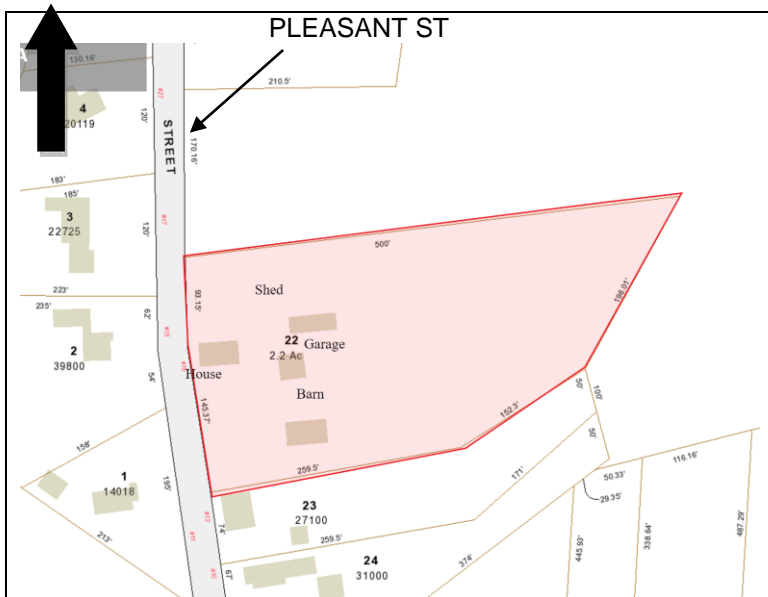
Condition: Very Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 2.2 acres

Setting: Semi-rural residential area on a winding street north of Wenham Lake. Surrounding houses date from the 18th century and early 20th century.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies

Organization: Wenham Historical Commission

Date: June 2017

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WENHAM

16 PLEASANT ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNH.168
	WNH.169

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 Sargent and Sarah Knowlton house (ca. 1900) (WNH.168) faces south and is set perpendicular to the street on a trapezoidal lot on the east side of Pleasant Street. Maintained chiefly in lawn, the lot has scattered trees near the house. The property contains a main house, a shingled shed, a concrete block and frame barn, and a garage. A semi-circular paved driveway leads from Pleasant Street, past the outbuildings and around to the house to exit again onto the street.

Measuring 32 feet by 21 feet deep, the five-bay building rises 1½ stories from a brick foundation. Two bays wide, the building has a side-gabled roof with wide eaves. A slender brick chimney rises from the south roof slope. Clapboard walls with cornerboards are capped by a wide entablature. Windows throughout the building are 6/6 wood sash with molded casings. Two gable dormers are located on the south elevation. A projecting entrance vestibule is centered on the first floor of the south elevation. Pairs of slender pilasters support the pedimented gable roof. An enclosed sun porch is attached to the east elevation of the house.

The shingled henhouse (ca. 1905) (Photo 2) located near the house's east elevation has a curved roofline that extends to the ground level at its north elevation. The south elevation features a row of 6/3 wood sash windows typical of henhouses during the late 19th and early 20th century. The operable windows on the south elevation provided sunlight and air circulation to the hens. A wood door is located in the west elevation. The roof has a slight peak similar to that on the barn indicating that they were constructed contemporaneously.

The 1½ story dairy barn (ca. 1905) (WNH.169) is constructed of concrete block at the first story with wood shingles at the loft level. The bow-shaped roof, covered in asphalt shingles, has a slight Gothic peak. The barn faces west with its gable front to Pleasant Street. The first story contains a double-leaf board-and-batten door flanked by windows of structural glass block. The loft level has been altered with the infill of its center door and the installation of sash windows. A small hopper window is centered in the gable peak.

The two-bay garage has an asphalt-shingle gable roof and is clad with clapboards. The building appears to date from the second half of the 20th century.

The Sargent and Sarah Knowlton House is a good example of period houses dating from the second half of the 19th century in Wenham. The siting of the house to the south is more typical of much older houses, but the vernacular detailing of the house is similar to designs of this period elsewhere in Wenham. The extant farmscape is of particular note. The ground-level stable barn, likely constructed in the early years of the 20th century, is an excellent example of progressive agricultural design of the time. The building is a rare survivor in Wenham. The property retains a high level of integrity and is in excellent condition.

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 Sargent and Sarah Knowlton House is representative of the agricultural community that, along with the shoemaking industry, sustained Wenham through much of the 19th century. Furthermore, the dairy barn on the property is a local rarity, and is a very good example of progressive dairy farming ideas at the turn of the 20th century.

Sargent M. Knowlton (1852-1920) and his family were living at 26 Pleasant Street by 1884. The large family included wife Sarah (1858- 1933) and their seven children: Fred, Sadie, Howard, Ray, Arthur, Mary, Everett, and Roger. (A ca. 1900 family

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photograph is included in Janes, page 93.) Knowlton was identified in the 1888 city directory as a shoemaker, but by 1901, he has established a dairy farm at this location and owned land on the east side of Pleasant Street from Cherry Street north to Pleasant Pond and east past Monument Street. As depicted on the 1910 map, Knowlton's holdings included the houses at 16 and 26 Pleasant Street and a large barn at 26 Pleasant Street. Information from city directories seems to indicate that son Fred Knowlton moved into 26 Pleasant Street around 1905 and Sargent and Sarah lived in the "new" house at 16 Pleasant Street. Knowlton's dairy operation included milk delivery. Sargent Knowlton was photographed in 1901 in the cab of the "Knowlton Farm Bottled Milk" delivery wagon. (See Janes, p. 94) Sarah Knowlton lived at 16 Pleasant Street until her death. The property remained in the family until 1942.

The ground-level stable barn at the southern edge of the property is a noteworthy example of improved concern for sanitation at the turn of the 20th century. New discoveries during that time about the potential transmission of bovine tuberculosis to humans led to new barn designs. The concrete-block first story allowed the building to be more easily cleaned, as opposed to the wood floors and manure basements typical of older barns. Shallow gutters in the concrete floor allowed manure to be channeled and removed and concrete surfaces could be washed. The barn's upper level served as a hay loft. Early designs such as this one were constructed of concrete block only at the first floor; later designs were constructed completely of concrete block.

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



VIEW FACING NORTHEAST. LEFT TO RIGHT: SHED; GARAGE; BARN

KNOWLTON FARM,

*PURE BOTTLED MILK
A SPECIALTY.*

AGENT FOR

**M. E. WHEELER & CO.,
FERTILIZERS.**



BANGOR CREAM

S. M. KNOWLTON, *Proprietor,*

P. O. Box 93,

Residence, Pleasant near Cherry,

Wenham, Mass.

1901 City Directory Advertisement.