

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

13-0082	Salem		WNH.171 WNH.172
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**Town/City:** Wenham

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 1 Porter Street

**Historic Name:** Ira and Sarah Trask House and Carriage House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1891

**Source:** *Wenham in Pictures and Prose*

**Style/Form:** Victorian Eclectic

**Architect/Builder:** Ira Trask?

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, uncut

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard and trim

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Carriage house

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Rear ell and connector to carriage house constructed after 1961

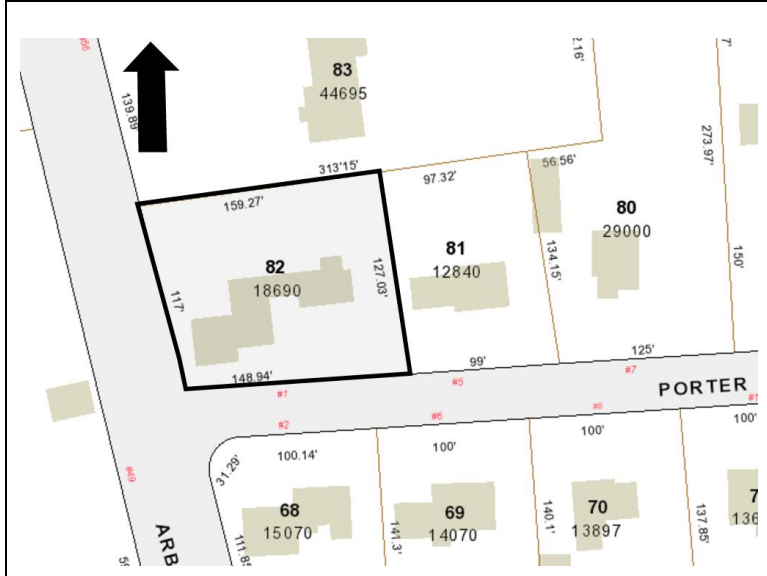
**Condition:** Very Good

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

**Acreage:** 0.42 acre

**Setting:** The house is located on a corner lot facing Porter Street. The surrounding neighborhood consists of single-family dwellings dating from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Stacy Spies

**Organization:** Wenham Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2017

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WENHAM

1 PORTER STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNH.171  
WNH.172

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 1½ story frame dwelling is rectangular in plan with a two-story cross-gabled projection centered on the south (main) elevation. A bay window is located at the first floor of the projection. The side-gabled roof has wide, overhanging eaves above a wide fascia and is covered with asphalt shingles. A shed-roof porch with turned posts and a square section balustrade is located at the southwest corner of the house. A screened porch with a square-section balustrade is located at the southeast corner of the building. A 2-story ell with a gable roof is located at the east end of the north elevation. A 2-bay shed-roof wall dormer is located on the east end of the south elevation. The dormer features brackets at the cornice line similar to those at 26 and 28 Arbor Street. The building is clad with narrow wood clapboards. Fish-scale wood shingles are located in the south and west gable peaks. 2-over-2 wood sash windows and louvered wood shutters are located throughout the house, with the exception of modern casement windows in the second floor of the west gable end. The foundation is rubble stone with ribbon pointing.

A substantial 2-story carriage house (WNH.172) is attached to the northeast corner of the house. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has a center cross-gable on the south (main) elevation. The first floor contains three garage bays. It was connected to the house sometime after 1961.

## 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 1881, Ira Trask (b. 1840-1912) married Sarah Butter (b. 1838). In 1891, Trask purchased land from Freeman Murray "at Arbor Street and a new street," i.e. Porter Street. (Essex South Deed Book 1318, Page 521) Given that Trask worked as a carpenter, it is possible that he built the house himself. The 1900 census includes Ira and wife Sarah as living at this address.

At the time of the 1910 census, Austin Morse and his wife, Laura, were living at 1 Porter Street. Austin worked as a teamster. Their son Ernest, who also worked as a teamster, and daughter, Maud lived with them. The family lived at this address until 1918, but by 1920, Austin was living in Beverly. The 1930 census indicates that Charles Shannon, a jewelry engraver, and his wife, Bertha, lived at this address.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Beers, D.G. & Co. *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts.* 1872.

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

Essex County Commissioners. Proposed Alterations on Arbor Street. Essex Plan Book 2409, Page 176. 1919.

Essex South Plan Book 4805, Page 424.

Janes, Annette V. with the Wenham Museum. *Images of America: Wenham.* Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2011. (See page 33 for Conant photograph of the house.)

United States Census for 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.

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**SUPPLEMENTAL IMAGE**



Photo 2. Carriage house, south elevation. (WNH.172)