

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

009-0004

Salem

WNH.175
WNH.176
WNH.177

Town/City: Wenham

Place:

Address: 212 Topsfield Road

Historic Name: Joseph T. and Lydia Haskell House;
Anselini Farm

Uses: Present: Residential; Agricultural

Original: Residential; Agricultural

Date of Construction: ca. 1900-1910

Source: maps; city directories

Style/Form: No style

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, uncut

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: 2 barns;
greenhouse

Major Alterations (*with dates*): poultry barns converted to
equipment sheds (20th c); house replacement windows (L
20th C); dormer windows (mid-20th C)

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 18.6 acres

Setting: Located on a heavily-traveled county route, this
semi-rural location is bounded by residential development to
the east, west, and south. Bordered by Wenham Swamp
on the north.

Photograph



Photo 1. View looking east from Topsfield Road.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero

Organization: Wenham Historical Commission

Date: June 2017

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WENHAM

212 TOPSFIELD ROAD

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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.

Located atop a rise with a panoramic view of Wenham Swamp to the north, the Haskell farm occupies a large lot on the north side of Topsfield Road (County Road 97). Mature trees line the north and east property boundaries and scattered trees are located near the house. A dirt drive leads past the house's east elevation to the outbuildings. The property is surrounded to the east and south by 20th century residential development. The farmhouse, two sheds, and greenhouse are located at the southeast corner of the property. A small yard separates the house from Route 97. The sheds and greenhouse are located north of the house along an irregular northwest-southeast axis.

The faces east on a large lot on the north side of Topsfield Road (County Route 97). Mature trees line the north and east property boundaries and scattered trees are located near the house. A dirt drive leads past the house's east elevation to the outbuildings.

Measuring 35 feet wide by 29 feet deep, the Joseph T. and Lydia Haskell house (ca. 1900) (WNH.175) (Photo 2) rises 2½ stories from a fieldstone foundation. The building has front-gabled roof with close eaves. A slender brick chimney rises from the east roof slope. A gable-front projection on the south elevation contains the entrance and an undercut porch. The building is sheathed with clapboards. Windows throughout the building are replacement 1/1 vinyl sash. Wood-frame 6-light and 3-light hopper windows remain at the basement level. Two shed dormers are located on the second floor of the east elevation; a continuous shed dormer is located along the west elevation. A pair of gable dormers is located at the attic level of both the east and west elevations.

The lori west barn (ca. 1938) (WNH.176) (Photo 3) is a two-story frame building resting on a fieldstone foundation. The south elevation is sheathed with novelty siding; the east and west elevations are covered with shingles. The asymmetrical shed roof has overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails and is covered with asphalt shingles. The building appears to have originally contained two floors of operable windows extending the length of the south elevation. The remaining windows have been boarded up. Three garage bays with overhead doors have been cut into the south elevation.

The lori east barn (ca. 1938) (WNH.177) (Photo 4) is a two-story frame building resting on a fieldstone and parged masonry foundation. The south elevation is sheathed with novelty siding; the east and west elevations are covered with wood shingles. The asymmetrical shed roof has overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails and is covered with asphalt shingles. The west section contains a personnel door, two six-light windows, and a 6/6 wood sash window. Three garage bays with overhead doors have been cut into the south elevation.

A plastic-sided greenhouse of constructed in the 1990s is located between the east and west barns. A small barn extant in 1910 and two additional large barns constructed in the 1940s were removed in the 1970s, as indicated by historic aerial photographs.

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.

Still in use as a farm, the Angelini Farm, as it is known locally, is a rare survivor of Wenham's agricultural history. Carpenter Joseph T. Haskell (1857-1935) and wife Lydia (1860-1935) purchased the land on Topsfield Road, then called Bomer Road, in 1893. (Essex South Deed Book 1375, Page 492). City directories indicate that Haskell also lived in Beverly, perhaps indicating this this property was used for farming. The existing house appears on the 1910 map. During the 1920s and 1930s, Joseph

Continuation sheet 1

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and Lydia lived on Topsfield Road during the summers. After his parents' deaths in 1935, son Joseph Wayne Haskell sold the property to farmers Helen and Peter Iori in 1938. (Essex South Deed Book 3158, Page 543). In 1955, the property passed to the Angelini family, who continues to farm the property to the present day. At present, the farm produces blackberries, raspberries, corn, and tomatoes.

The west barn appears to have been constructed as a multi-story poultry barn. This design, used for raising broilers and capons for meat and pullets for eggs, came into use in the 1930s. The shallow-pitched shed roof and extensive fenestration on the south elevation maximized light and air circulation.

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Wenham Tax Assessor records.

SUPPLEMENTAL IMAGES



Photo 2. Joseph T. and Lydia Haskell House. (WNH.175) South and façade (east) elevation

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Photo 3. Iori west barn. View facing east. (WNH.176)



Photo 4. Iori east barn. View facing north. (WNH.177)