

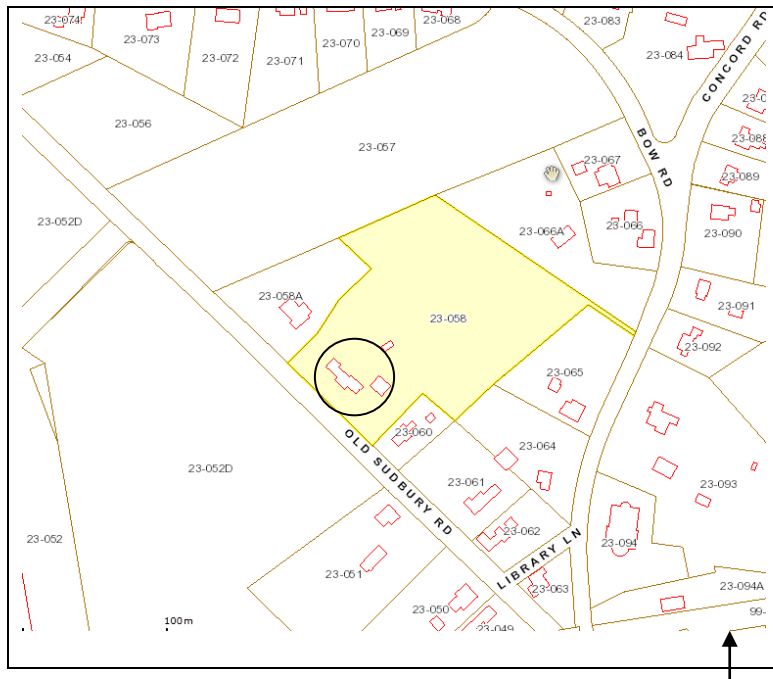
FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



Topographic or Assessor's Map



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

023-058

Natick

WAY.50

Town: WAYLAND

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Address: 15 Old Sudbury Road

Historic Name: Ames, Dr. Ebenezer House

Uses: Present: single-family residential

Original: two-family residential

Date of Construction: 1830

Source: deed research, local histories, dated carved on window sills

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: fieldstone and granite

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: gable-front New England-style barn, believed to have been an 18th C. English barn – moved from 12 Cochituate. Heard Barn.

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Removal of double entries and construction of enclosed center entry porch – 1910 to 1940.

Condition: good

Moved: no | x | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 4.94 acres

Setting: Situated on northeast side of Old Sudbury Road north of center. Among early to mid-19th century dwellings at Town Center. Front of property lined with 1997 custom forged iron spike fence. Frontage lined with large shrubs – rhododendrons, coniferous trees. Fruit trees and shrubs and meadow in back.

Recorded by: Gretchen G. Schuler

Organization: for Wayland Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): January 2013

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

ROAD

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 x 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 on the northeast side of Old Sudbury Road about ¼ mile north of the center, the Dr. Ebenezer Ames House is close to the road (which has been widened since 1830 when the house was built) with a tall iron spike fence along the frontage and screened by evergreens, shrubs (rhododendrons) and other vegetation. A gravel drive begins at a gate slightly north of the house and passes in front of the house to a wide asphalt and gravel area in front of the barn which is southeast of the house. There is a meadow behind and north of the house.

Built as a double house and converted to a single-family house in the early 20th century, the core of this dwelling is a five-bay, two and one-half story dwelling with an enclosed projecting entry porch, and flanking wings – one on the left that is five bays wide and one on the right that is three bays wide. Each of the wings has a rear ell, both slightly lower than the wing to which it is attached. The house rests on fieldstone and granite foundation, has wood-clapboard siding, and an asphalt-shingled roof. The center part of the house once had two entries according to a 1910 plan of the property. Those were removed and an enclosed pedimented center entry porch was added probably when the house was converted to a single family residence. Three brick steps lead to the entry porch. The enclosed entry porch's door has bold raised field panels (covered by a glazed storm door) set into a casing of flanking squared pilasters with caps carrying a closed pediment with bold cornice. Windows have 6/6 sash set in flat casings. Some of the sills are marked with MDCCCXXX, which is when the house was built. A second-story blind window – with casing only – is aligned with the center entry. Chimneys of this center block are just within the side walls and slightly below the ridge on the west/front roof slope.

On the left/north side there is a long five-bay wing with 6/6 windows aligned up and down. The bays are clustered three near the core of the house, a gap and two near the north end. The wing is one bay deep with an entry door in the north end and a single window above. Two interior chimneys rise behind the ridge – near the eave edge of the northeast roof slope. On the right/south side there is a three-bay wing which is two bays deep. Windows are the same as the rest of the house with the exception of two square windows in the gable peak of the south end. The rear ell behind this wing has a side entry with an open porch that faces the gravel and asphalt area in front of the barn. Only one chimney rises near the rear eave edge, and originally served one of the kitchens.

The barn is of interest in that it was moved here in 1878 and probably was an English barn with entry on one long side. It now has through doors in the New England barn tradition. It is only three bents deep and has many reused timbers; thus it is difficult to know when it was built. The barn rests on a stone foundation, has wood clapboard siding and an asphalt roof. The tongue-and-groove vertical-board paired doors are on an interior track and slide to the center of the opening. The casing has rounded corners. A single rounded-arched window is in the peak. A small shed-roof storage area is attached to the southwest front corner of the barn.

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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.*

Dr. Ebenezer Ames (1788-1861) had been born in Marlborough and had married Lucy Weeks also of Marlborough in 1815 (intentions filed in Wayland in 1814). Prior to construction of this house they had lived at 24 Cochituate Road a house that Dr. Ames had built in ca. 1823. Dr. Ames, East Sudbury's physician, maintained an office in this house where he saw patients for nearly 30 years. When he built this house he created a two-family house to provide housing for the pastor of the newly formed Evangelical Society of East Sudbury (also called the Orthodox Society, later the Trinitarian Congregational Church) of which Ames was a deacon. The first pastor was Levi Smith, who may have lived here until 1832, although that has not been confirmed. The Reverend Lavius Hyde, the second pastor of the Evangelical Society, lived here with his family from ca. 1832 until he finished his term here in 1841. The 1832 date coincided with the date when Hyde is reported to have moved to Wayland (then named East Sudbury); however, Hyde was not installed as the pastor until 1835 and was "dismissed" in 1841.

Dr. Ames' daughter Mary Lucy Ames (1823-1904) married **Charles H. Rice** (ca. 1819-1891) in 1847 at which time Rice was listed as a mariner. During the Civil War Rice enlisted in the Marines in 1861 and was discharged in late 1864. He served on the bark/ship called the James L. Davis. While Rice was at sea it is likely that Lucy lived here in her family home, although that is not confirmed. According to the 1860 U.S. Census Otis Loker and wife Betsey and other Lokers lived in the Ames house but as a separate household due to the double house arrangement. This was just prior to when Loker purchased the Jonathan Fiske Heard House (11 Cochituate Road). Loker was listed as a farmer. Charles Rice never appeared in any of the census records or street indices in Wayland; however the maps and atlases of 1866, 1875 and 1889 all listed C. H. Rice as owner of the house. In 1904 Charles Rice's widow, **Mary L. Rice** died and the property was sold by her last will in 1906 to **Frank Wyman** of Brookline. Little is known of Wyman who only held the property for four years. It may have been a rural retreat for him due to the proximity to the train, although this is only speculation. In 1910 Wyman had a plan of his land to be conveyed to Alice B. Dickey filed at the Registry of Deeds. At the time Alice and Charles Dickey lived at 2 Old Sudbury Road. The plan showed a two and one-half acre lot with the house and its wings and what may have been two entries in the main façade. It also showed the narrow strip of land that Wyman sold to Farwell (11 Old Sudbury Road) to enlarge the Farwell lot. At the same time Dickey also purchased an acre of land from Fred Fowler (8 Concord Road) which squared off the land for this property. One assumes that Dickey purchased it as investment property. She also purchased a lot on the north side from Jonathan Parmenter (1 Bow Road) at about the same time. In 1921 Dickey sold the property – with four acres – to Mary L. Marr. A number of other transactions occurred until 1928 when J. Sidney Stone, who then owned the property (and lived at 34 Lincoln Road and was a part owner of the Pequod House which was demolished in the same year), sold the Ames house to **Agnes J. Poole**, wife of **Ava W. Poole**. The Pooles lived here with their two children for about twelve years. Ava was the president of the Poole Piano Company in Boston. In 1940 they sold to John E. and Virginia L. Jennings of New York City. Poole's plan of land of 1940 showed the house with a smaller footprint than the 1910 plan and with the enclosed centered entry porch and removal of the two entries on the facade. The 1940 plan also showed a building in the same location as today's barn as a "1-car wood gar." It is likely that this was the barn as years later it was still called a garage in the assessors' records. There was a pool and a playhouse behind the main house. The pool was filled but the 'playhouse' remains on the site. Further research is necessary to determine what types of changes the Dickeys made while owning the house. Since he was a carpenter it is possible that they converted it from the double house to a single-family dwelling. Former owners explain that there was a wall that bisected the main section of the house from east to west aligned with the center entry. It was this wall that divided the two dwelling units.

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Oral history states that the barn was relocated from the Grout-Heard House property in 1878 when the Grout-Heard House was moved north on Old Sudbury Road nearly opposite this house and a new town hall was constructed on the original site of the Grout-Heard House. In 1962, the Grout Heard House was returned to its original location at 12 Cochituate Road and the barn remained here. (The town hall had been demolished in 1957.) The barn is illustrated on the 1889 and 1908 map in its current location. Some believe that it was an English barn built in the mid to late 18th century and converted to a New England-style barn probably when relocated here. George Lewis, local historian and professor of geography at Boston University believed that the barn was built in ca. 1754 on the Heard property and was altered when moved here in 1878. Additional architectural investigation is necessary to establish a more accurate date.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Atlas/Maps: 1831; 1856 Walling (Dr. E. Ames); 1866 Lake (C.H. Rice) ; 1875 Beers (C.H. Rice); 1889 Walker (C.H. Rice); 1908 Walker (F. Wyman), 1946 Brooks (Anne C. Post).

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Emery, Helen. *The Puritan Village Evolves*. Canaan, NH: Phoenix Publishing. 1981.

Emery, Helen. MHC Survey Form. 1977

Hudson, Alfred S. *Annals of Sudbury, Wayland and Maynard*. 1891. Appendix by James S. Draper, "Location of Homesteads" p.108. #20

Middlesex South Registry of Deeds. Book, Page.

United States Federal Census. 1880, 1900, 1910.

Wayland Historical Society. Grout-Heard House files.

Wayland Valuation List. 1850, 1860, 1872, 1900.

www.ancestry.com Vital Records



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WAYLAND 15 Old Sudbury Road

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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 _____ Gretchen G. Schuler _____
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Dr. Ebenezer Ames House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places individually and as part of a Wayland Center Historic District. It is a Federal house built in ca. 1830 to accommodate two. The property retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, craftsmanship, feeling and association.