

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

32-008

Natick

WAY.183

Town: WAYLAND

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 9 Erwin Road

Historic Name: Heard, Thomas House

Uses: Present: single-family residential

Original: single-family residential

Date of Construction: late 18th C.

Source: Draper "Location of Homesteads"

Style/Form: Colonial

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick facing on stone/concrete

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: late 20th C. barn

Major Alterations (*with dates*): 20th C. side ells; ca. 1925 full width dormer; 21st C. side ell

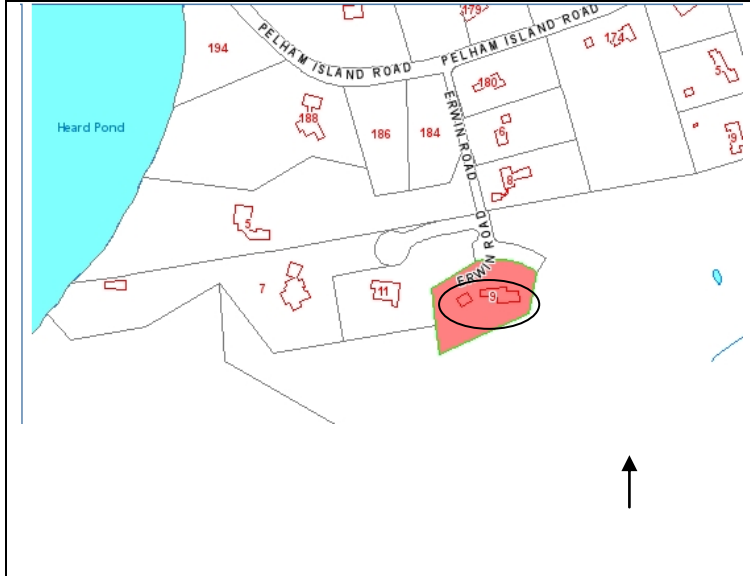
Condition: good

Moved: no | x | yes | | **Date** n/a _____

Acreage: 1.2 acres

Setting: At end of dirt lane off Pelham Island Road and near Sudbury River and Heard Pond. Only a few modern houses on the short lane. Post and rail fence around house lot separating house from Heard Fields which is conservation land.

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Gretchen G. Schuler

Organization: for Wayland Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): December 2011/January 2013

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WAYLAND

9 ERWIN ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WAY.183

☒ 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.*

Situated at the end of a short dirt road, this house faces south with the driveway, barn yard and most commonly used entry on the north side. The house consists of four parts: the five-bay (south side, only three on the north side), one and one-half story main house with a large center chimney; a side ell on the east end that is two bays wide; a two-bay entry ell attached to the west end of the original house; and a large family room addition on the west side. A full width large early 20th century dormer spans the south roof slope of the original house. The original house, which faces south toward the fields of the Heard Farm Conservation Area, rests on a brick foundation while the ells are on concrete. Wood clapboard siding covers the exterior walls and the roof has asphalt shingles. Double-hung windows have 6/6 sash set in casings that have a narrow applied molded edge and slightly projecting sills. The center entry on the south side consists of a paneled door with two small lights set in a narrow plain casing. The fenestration of the side ells includes bands of windows – two, three, or four – set in frames similar to the main dwelling. Those on the south side of the newest 21st century addition have 6/6 sash topped by a multi-light 3/3 transom. On the north side of the same addition there are four square multi-light windows set high on the wall. There are some features that point to an earlier date than the ca. 1793 when Thomas Heard is believed to have built the house. There had been an earlier house on the site and this dwelling may be a result of reconstruction or new construction. The house is broad possibly indicating an earlier date. Windows do not butt up against the eave; however they have been replaced so it is not known if they once did. Other aspects of the house are puzzling particularly some of the dimensions. Of greater height than most contemporary houses in Wayland are the first-floor ceilings, the kitchen firebox and two exceptionally large interior doors. The kitchen fireplace is slightly larger than other mid-to late-18th century kitchen fireplaces known in Wayland; however it is a usual arrangement of mid to late 18th century fireplaces with a bake oven and wood storage box outside the firebox. The over mantel is substantial in height and overall size with a large raised field panel over the firebox. The two interior doors, which are next to each other, one leading to the cellar and the other once led upstairs from the kitchen (it is now a cupboard), are substantially larger than most doors. Each has four raised field panels, a simple Suffolk latch and is 40" wide and 77" tall. It is likely that only dendrochronology would help to determine the date of the early part of the house; however structural members and other parts could have been reused by Heard.

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 house is reported to have been built by **Thomas Heard** (1749-1819) in ca. 1793. Thomas was the second child/first son of Richard and Sarah Heard and was born in East Sudbury (now Wayland). In 1773 Thomas married **Elizabeth Reeves** (1753-1805) and over the next 20 years they had nine children, seven of whom reached adulthood. Thomas served in the Revolutionary War as a member of Captain Nathaniel Maynard's militia. After the war in 1779 Richard Sr. helped two of his sons, Thomas and Zachariah (1751-1823), purchase the western half of the "Island" between his home farm and Heard Pond. It was not until after their father's death in 1792 that the brothers divided their share into two farms. Zachariah lived in the Samuel Stone House (187 Pelham Island Road, WAY.96), and Thomas settled here. Thomas, like his father, was active in local community life and served on the committee that petitioned the General Court to set off East Sudbury as a separate town in 1780. Thomas also was a selectman in 1788, 1790 and 1791 and a legislator in 1793-

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1795. It is possible that Thomas built on an older foundation as there are some accounts that indicate that a house was here long before Thomas Heard's time.

Thomas sold his house and farm to Edward Rice in 1817. **Deacon Edward Rice** (1793-1868) was one of the First Parish (225 Boston Post Road) members who left to form the Evangelical Trinitarian Society (53 Cochituate Road) and was one of the first two deacons of the new church. He and his family lived here for just over 20 years before selling to **I. Maynard Jones** in 1840. In 1855, **Robert Erwin** (also Irwin) (ca. 1818-1880) purchased Jones' house and farm. Robert had emigrated from Scotland and his wife Jane came from Ireland. In the mid-19th century the spelling of Erwin/Irwin was interchangeable. The US Agricultural Census and historic maps listed Robert as Irwin, while family documents including an old gravestone spelled the last name Erwin. In 1860 Robert Erwin had 90 acres of farm land where he had four milking cows, 14 other cattle, a horse and eight swine. He grew rye, Indian corn, oats, Irish potatoes and some orchard products. His farm produced 100 pounds of butter and 20 tons of hay in the same year. Twenty years later just after his death Robert's heirs were assessed for two horses, two oxen, 18 cows, a bull, a house and barn and shed on the 92-acre farm. The house was only valued at \$450 while the barn with shed was valued at \$1,000. By 1900 Erwin's son maintained the farm on 98 acres. After her husband's death Jane lived here with their five children. By 1900 the head of the household was one of the Erwin's sons **John J. Irwin** (b. 1865) who lived here with his sister, mother and three farmhands. In the early 20th century they added the broad dormer on the south roof slope. In 1910 John still lived here with his wife, Susie, their two-year old son and four farmhands. Robert, Jane and their descendants owned the property for a full century from 1855 when Robert purchased it until 1955 when John's widow Susie sold it. However there is no census record yet found of their residency here after 1920.

In 1955 Susie Erwin (widow of John) sold the property to **Samuel A. Cutler**, who was a dairy farmer on Pelham Island Road. He added the land to his farm and rented the Thomas Heard House to family. After Cutler's dairy operation closed in the 1960s, part was sold to Sudbury Valley Trustees as development was not an option due to the high water table (proximity to the Sudbury River and Heard Pond). In the early 1970s a daughter of Samuel Cutler, **Leslie** and her husband **Denis LaJoie** replaced the sills of the house, uncovered the large kitchen fireplace and removed decades of paint from the wood work. During this last task the names of Heard children inscribed into the wood panel above the fireplace were discovered. In about 1975 the LaJoies also demolished the old barn and sheds that were located west of the house. In 1978 **Barbara and John Gregory** moved from the center of Wayland (19 Concord Road) to the Heard House. They added a side ell on the west side including a greenhouse and carport. Following their mother's death in 1997, the Gregorlys' children sold the house to the present owners who added the east ell and a new west ell in place of the carport and greenhouse. They also built a post and beam barn/garage on the foundation of an old shed that had been attached to the enormous barn all of which had been demolished in ca. 1975.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Hudson, Alfred S. *Annals of Sudbury, Wayland and Maynard*. 1891: Appendix by James S. Draper, "Location of Homesteads" p. 116 #12

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WAYLAND 9 Erwin 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 Thomas Heard House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as one of Wayland's early farm dwellings for its architecture and its association with the development of East Sudbury – now Wayland. The property retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, craftsmanship, feeling and association.