

WEST NEWBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Historic Sites Survey Table of Contents
Ash Street

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FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

0070 0000
00040

Newburyport

WNB.1
WNB.420
WNB.421

1

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 114 Ash Street

Historic Name: Samuel Merrill House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1729

Source: 1729 map; Visual Assessment

Style/Form: Colonial

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Front-gabled barn (19th c), gambrel barn (20th c), well (20th c?)

Major Alterations (with dates): Side ell (mid-20th c?) – foundations of house and front-gable barn (20th c?)

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 36.0 acres

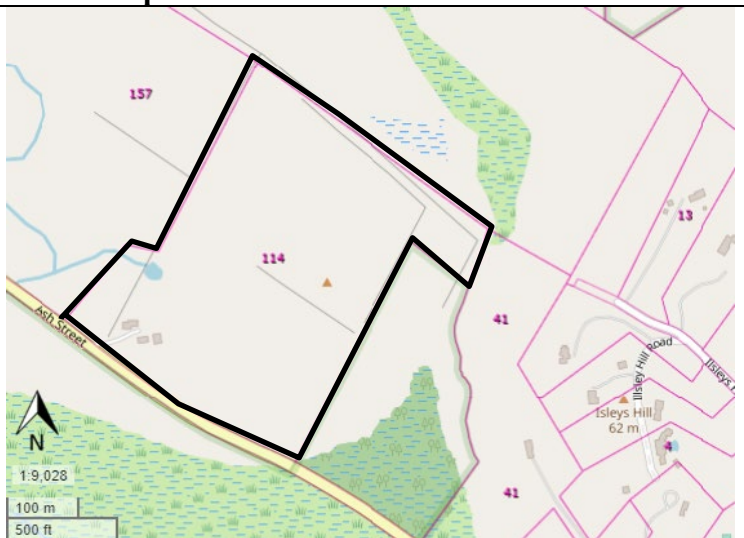
Setting: Located off a cross-town thoroughfare in a remote, heavily-wooded, rural setting. Development on this section of Ash Street is sparse and includes heterogenous residential buildings distantly located from this property.

Photograph



House: Southwest and façade (southeast) elevations.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero

Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission

Date: June 2023

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

114 ASH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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:

114 Ash Street occupies a hilly, 36-acre parcel; the terrain slopes up steeply from the street before opening up to flatter but still rolling terrain in the center of the lot. The house and associated outbuildings are set well back from the street, at the west corner of the property. The house faces southeast (away from the street), on the northwest side of a paved driveway; two barns and a well structure stand on the southeast side of the driveway. The land immediately surrounding the buildings is maintained in turf; open fields extend to the rear of the parcel.

The house consists of a five by two bay main block and an added side ell. Measuring 37 feet wide by 30 feet deep, the main block rises 2½ stories from a granite block foundation to a side gable roof with minimal returns and a substantial center chimney. Clapboard walls are trimmed with flat corner boards and bed molding at the eave. Windows typically feature 6/6 sash with flat casings and wood storm sash and are set close to the roof eave. The symmetrical, five-bay façade (southeast elevation) has a center entrance; its single-leaf, vertical board door is framed by slender pilasters, a wide entablature, and a molded pediment. Windows are loosely paired to each side of the center bay.

Measuring 30 feet wide by 25 feet deep, the five by two bay side ell extends to the northeast of the main block. It rises 2½ stories to a side-gabled, saltbox roof. Walls are sheathed with clapboard on the façade and wood shingles on the exposed end elevation. Flat corner boards and simple bed molding trim the walls. The façade has an overhanging second story, two garage bays and an offset pedestrian entrance on the first floor, and five symmetrical, 6/6 windows with flat trim on the second story. The rear elevation of the ell is blank; a slender chimney rises from the back slope of the roof. A one-story, hip-roofed appendage projects from the corner between the ell and the main block.

Although modest in its footprint, the principal barn(WNB.420) rises a tall 1½ stories to a front-gable roof crowned with a hip-roofed cupola. The façade (northwest elevation) is sheathed with clapboards; wood shingles clad the side elevations. Walls are trimmed with flat corner boards and simple bed molding; the front gable has thin but pronounced gable returns. Windows are visible only on the façade, where they consist of 6/6 sash with flat casings. The symmetrical façade has a two-panel sliding door with diagonally-set boards flanked by a single window on each side. A smaller window is centered in the half-story. The left side (northeast elevation) is blank. The right side (southwest elevation) has an off-set, sliding pedestrian door constructed of vertical boards. Both sliding doors are protected by a shallow shed-roofed hood. The cupola, square in shape, is sheathed in clapboards and has a 3/3 window on each elevation. Its use of materials suggests 20th century new construction or alteration.

Situated opposite from the house, the smaller barn (WNB.421) in this complex rises 1 story from a concrete block foundation to a side-gambrel roof with a cross-gabled projection on the southwest end. A narrow, shed-roofed extension spans the rear of the building. Walls are sheathed with clapboards on the façade and wood shingles on the sides and are trimmed with flat corner boards; no gable or gambrel returns. A recessed porch spans the façade of the gambrel-roofed end of the barn, supported by rustic posts and cross braces. The cross-gabled projection is symmetrically fenestrated with two garage bays on the first floor and a vertical-board barn door in the half-story. The right side (southwest elevation) contains a single 6/6 window in the center; the left side (northeast elevation) side has a large, vertical-board barn door in the half-story.

Opposite the main block of the house is a small wood well structure, which may be a modern replica, atop an historic stone foundation. Square in shape, it has low clapboard walls, 2x- corner posts, and a gabled roof.

Well preserved and well maintained, 114 Ash Street is a distinguished example of early Colonial architecture in West Newbury. Notable features of the house include its rural hilltop setting, generous architectural proportions, substantial center chimney, retention of historic materials (including clapboards, trim, window sash, and storm sash), and stylish although somewhat tentative pedimented center entrance. The survival of the front-gable barn, presumed constructed in the 19th century, is a remarkably intact survivor of agricultural outbuildings.

Continuation sheet 1

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

114 ASH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The house at 114 Ash Street was likely constructed circa 1729 for Samuel Merrill. A house in this location (#115) on the 1729 map is identified as belonging to Merrill. This could be Steven Merrill, who married Ruth Morse in 1717. In the late decades of the 18th century, Stephen Adams began purchasing property in Newbury. (Additional research on the 18th century and early 19th century deeds is recommended.) Stephen Adams (1741-1793)¹ and his wife, Sarah Bartlett Adams (1741-1826),² were married in 1761. The couple's son, Stephen Adams, Jr. (1784-1848),³ inherited the property from his father. Stephen Adams, Jr. married Mary Jaques (1791-1868)⁴ in 1814. Upon his death from consumption in 1848, Stephen Adams Jr. bequeathed the property to his young nephew, Stephen A. Jaques (1842-1901). Mary Jaques Adams remarried in 1850 to William Dawkins and it appears that the couple made this their residence. In 1868, Stephen A. Jaques and his wife, Annie Fisher Jaques, were married and the couple moved to West Newbury where they made 114 Ash Street their residence.

In 1901, Annie Fisher Jaques sold the house to Mary J. Fairbrother and her husband, Charles.⁵ The family lived here into the 1920s, but the house appears to have been empty from the late 1920s through the time it was lost to foreclosure in 1941.⁶ Robert R. and Barbara A. Lovejoy purchased the house in 1946.⁷ The property remains in the Lovejoy family.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/141152789/stephen-adams>.

² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/141167008/sarah-adams>.

³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59215899/stephen-adams>. Accessed May 25, 2023.

⁴ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59216172/mary-dawkins>. Accessed May 25, 2023.

⁵ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 1651, p. 148.

⁶ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 3255, p. 442.

⁷ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 3665, p. 525.

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House: Façade (southeast) and northeast elevations, main block and ell.



House: Northeast and rear (northwest) elevations (ell).



House: Detail of main entrance.



Front-gable barn: Northeast and façade (northwest) elevations.

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Gambrel Barn: Northeast and façade (northwest) elevations.



Well structure: Northeast and northwest sides.

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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 Stacy E. Spies and Wendy Frontiero*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The Samuel Merrill House at 114 Ash Street is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C as an example of early Colonial-period architecture in Essex County. Well-preserved and well-maintained, 114 Ash Street is a distinguished example of early Colonial architecture in West Newbury. Notable features of the house include its rural hilltop setting, generous architectural proportions, substantial center chimney, retention of historic materials (including clapboards, trim, window sash, and storm sash), and stylish although somewhat tentative pedimented center entrance. The survival of the barn, presumed constructed in the 19th century, is a remarkably intact survivor of agricultural outbuildings. Information on the nature of surviving early building framing and interior fabric, on the integrity of the interior, and the nature and extent of modern alterations would be needed in order to confirm this recommendation. The buildings retain integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship.