

WEST NEWBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Historic Sites Survey Table of Contents
Brown's Lane

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FORM B – BUILDING

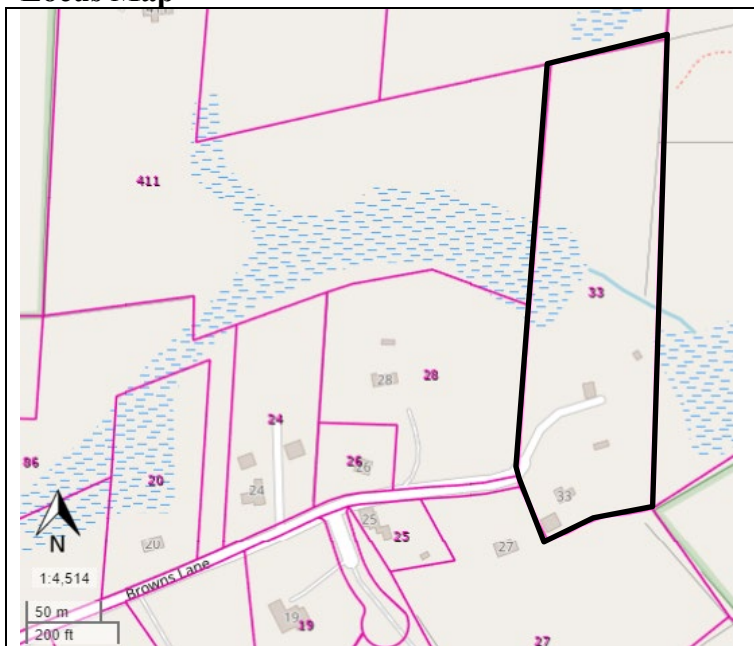
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Northwest and façade (southwest) elevations

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero

Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission

Date: June 2023

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

0210 0000
00070

Newburyport

WNB.9
WNB.425
WNB.426

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 33 Browns Lane

Historic Name: Rogers House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1760-1780

Source: Visual Assessment; Deeds

Style/Form: Georgian

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Concrete or stone (not easily visible)

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Barns (early to mid 20th c?)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Smaller center chimney (19th c?) – replacement window sash (late 20th or early 21st c)

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 5.0 Acres

Setting: Located at the end of a short, dead-end road in a semi-rural residential area, positioned between several cross-town thoroughfares and Upper Artichoke Reservoir. Surrounding development is heterogenous in form, style, siting, and age.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

33 BROWNS LN

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:

33 Browns Lane stands at the end of a dead-end street off Garden Street on a long, narrow rectangular lot. The terrain slopes down from south to north, with the house standing on a generally flat platform. The cleared area around the house and its outbuildings is maintained chiefly in lawn, with informal plantings of shrubs, trees, and perennials; dense woodlands surround the developed area. The house faces southwest and is located at the southwest corner of the parcel. One barn/garage is situated near the south corner of the house; a second barn is located north of the house, near the center of the lot.

The T-shaped house consists of a main block and a long rear ell that is only partly visible from the public way. Measuring 31 feet long by 17 feet deep, the 3 by 2 bay main block rises 2½ stories from a masonry foundation (not clearly visible from the street) to a side-gable roof with a modest center chimney positioned just below the ridgeline. There are no gable returns. Walls are sheathed with unpainted wood clapboards and trimmed with flat corner boards. Windows are relatively small in relation to wall area and typically have 6/6 replacement sash and flat casings.

The center entrance on the three-bay façade is the most stylish architectural feature of the house. It is comprised of a single-leaf door framed by pilasters and a pedimented entablature. Extending perpendicular to the rear of the main block, a large rear ell rises 2 or 2½ stories to a gabled roof; one window is visible towards the rear of the second story on the left side (northwest elevation).

The barn/garage set to the south of the house is 1½ stories high, with an asymmetrical front-gable roof. Clad with wood shingles, its façade has two rolling garage doors (of different sizes) flanking a pedestrian entrance with a modern, single-leaf door. A small awning window is located off-center in the half-story. Windows, doors, and walls have flat trim.

The barn standing north of the house appears older, with a gabled roof on the main volume and a shed-roofed extension along one side. Walls are clad with vertical board siding; roofs are sheathed with standing seam metal. Fenestration is minimal, with an opening in the loft area of the main volume, paired 6/6 windows in the façade (west) elevation of the shed, and two six-light sash positioned at the outer ends of the shed's side (south) elevation.

Well preserved and well maintained, 33 Browns Lane is a handsome, vernacular example of 18th century residential architecture in West Newbury. Notable features include its remote setting, simple massing, three-bay façade, and simple but stylish center entrance. The extant barns are utilitarian, remarkable for their simple massing and materials and evocation of the town's agricultural history.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The house was likely constructed circa 1760-1780 for the Rogers family. Amos Rogers Sr. (1724-1809)¹ and his wife, Abigail Brown Rogers (1724-1828),² were married in 1748. Their son, Amos Rogers Jr. (1749-1833),³ and his wife, Mary Davis Rogers (1750-),⁴ were married in 1769. Deeds from the period don't mention buildings, but the described location along the Artichoke River places them in this general location. The property passed from Amos Rogers, Sr. to Amos Rogers, Jr., and then to Amos Jr.'s son, Micajah Rogers (1772-1857).

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/134376344/amos-rogers>. Accessed May 18, 2023.

² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/134377278/abigail-rogers>. Accessed May 18, 2023.

³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/134378162/amos-rogers>. Accessed May 18, 2023.

⁴ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/134378999/mary-rogers>. Accessed May 18, 2023.

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In 1827, Micajah Rogers sold ten acres of land along the Artichoke River to Robert Brown.⁵ Siblings Robert Brown (1780-1862),⁶ John Brown (ca. 1784-1855),⁷ and Rhoda Brown (1772-1851)⁸ all owned land in this area.⁹ The 1850 census recorded Rhoda Brown, her brother John Brown, John's wife, Mary (ca. 1795-1872),¹⁰ and their children in one household.

In 1873, John and Mary Brown's children sold the property, which had passed down from Robert to Rhoda, to John, and then to Mary Brown, to George F. Brown.¹¹

In 1904, Olive Morrill (1847-1935)¹² and her husband, John, purchased the property.¹³ John Morrill (1845-1911)¹⁴ farmed the property and the couple lived here with their extended family. (The 1910 census includes four grown children and seven grandchildren in addition to Olive and John Morrill.) A newspaper article during the Great Depression noted Olive Morrill's gift of 200 bushels of apples to West Newbury welfare recipients.¹⁵ The couple's son, Harry Duncan Morrill, lived here in the 1940s. The Morrill family owned the property until 1948.¹⁶

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⁵ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 248, p. 238.

⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/127496830/robert-brown>. Accessed May 18, 2023.

⁷ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/127495778/john-brown>. Accessed May 18, 2023.

⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/127496750/rhoda-brown>. Accessed May 18, 2023.

⁹ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book . 451, p. 77.

¹⁰ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/127496065/mary-brown>. Accessed May 19, 2023.

¹¹ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 881, p. 91.

¹² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/214514159/olive-edith-morrill>. Accessed May 19, 2023.

¹³ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 1753, p. 561.

¹⁴ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/214509964/john-henry-morrill>. Accessed May 19, 2023.

¹⁵ "3500 Pounds of Salt Pork will arrive tomorrow," *Newburyport Daily News*, 15 November 1933, p. 6.

¹⁶ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 3599, p. 345.

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Northwest and façade (southwest) elevations, showing rear ell.



Detail of main entrance.



South barn, façade (northwest elevation).



North barn, west and south elevations.