

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

Street Address	Page ##	Individual or Group Form	WN Historical Commission Comments
11 Church St	1-4	Individual	
25 Church St	5-7	Individual	
45 Church St	8-10	Individual	
47 Church St	11-13	Individual	
73 Church St	14-16	Individual	
79 Church St	17-20	Individual	
85 Church St	21-24	Individual	
89 Church St	25-27	Individual	

FORM B – BUILDING

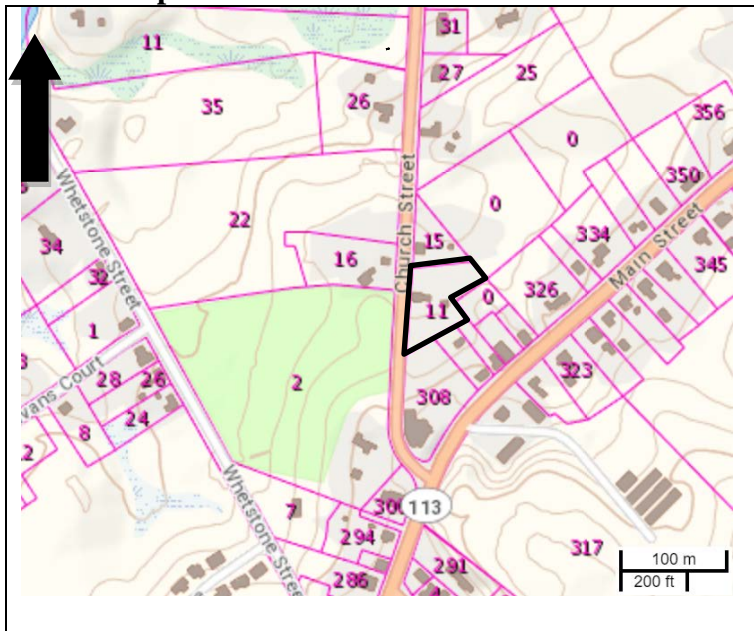
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



View looking south.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero
Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission
Date: June 2020

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

U1-29

Newburyport
West

WNB.270
WNB.271

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 11 Church Street

Historic Name: Patrick and Martin Crehan House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1853

Source: deed, census

Style/Form: No style

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Flat fieldstone; concrete block

Wall/Trim: Vinyl siding and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Garage (early 20th C)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Vinyl siding, dormer, replacement window sash (late 20th c) – Front porch (late 19th – early 20th c)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.0 acres

Setting: Located on the main thoroughfare of Church Street, near its intersection with Main Street (Route 113) and adjacent to the Second Congregational Church. At the south end of a lightly settled stretch of heterogeneous, 19th and 20th century residential buildings on large lots. The Merrimack River is located nearby, to the west.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

11 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.270
	WNB.271

☐ 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.

11 Church Street is located on the east side of Church Street, near the center of its irregularly shaped lot, with a modest front setback. The street slopes gently down to the north in front of the property. The parcel itself is generally flat and maintained in lawn. A paved, U-shaped driveway loops around the back of the house and leads to a garage near the rear property line. A stone well is located to the south of the house. The building consists of a 1 ½ story main block and two small rear additions.

The original block rises 1 ½ stories from a low foundation (flat fieldstone on the front and right side; concrete block on the left side) to a side-gable roof with minimal gable returns and one interior chimney just behind the ridgeline at the south end of the house. Walls are sheathed with vinyl siding and trim. Windows typically contain 6/6 double-hung replacement sash with vinyl trim.

The symmetrical façade (west elevation) has five bays with a center entrance and a high-post stud wall. A three-bay, shed-roofed dormer is flush with the main wall. The major decorative feature of the façade is a three-bay porch with a flat roof, turned posts, and square-section balusters on the railings. Concrete steps access the porch.

Both side elevations (north and south) originally had two bays of windows on each floor, widely spaced on the first floor and closely spaced in the half-story. The right (south) elevation now has a modern pair of casement windows towards the back of the first floor.

Gabled rear additions consist of a narrow inner ell with one door and one window on its south elevation and one window offset on the north elevation; its foundation is not clearly visible. The taller and wider rear addition has a poured concrete foundation and a single window centered on both its north and south elevations.

Positioned to the east of the house, the front-gabled garage has clapboard siding, flat trim, no gable returns, and exposed purlin and rafter ends at the eaves. The symmetrical façade (west elevation) features two pairs of hinged, paneled wood doors surmounted by a small 6-light window. The symmetrical left (north) elevation has two 6/6 windows. A shed-roofed addition with vertical board siding extends the length of the garage's right (south) elevation; no windows are visible from the street. South of the house and the driveway is a circular well that is constructed of cobblestone with three square piers evenly spaced at the top. (A similar well is located at 11 Bailey's Lane; see WNB.260.)

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.

11 Church Street was likely constructed circa 1853 around the time that Patrick and Martin Crehan purchased 177 rods of land (approximately 1.1 acres) along the "new road" leading from Main Street to Rocks Bridge, i.e. today's Church Street.¹ Patrick (ca.1824-) and Martin (ca. 1831-) Crehan were born in Ireland and immigrated to the United States in 1849.² Their wives, Catherine and Eliza, were also born in Ireland. At the time of the 1855 Massachusetts census, the two couples shared

¹ Essex South Deed Book 479, p. 216.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

11 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.270
	WNB.271

the house with two boarders. At that time, the Crehan brothers, as well as the boarders, all worked as comb makers. The name "P. Crane," a transcription error of "P. Crehan," appears with a house in this location on the 1856 map.³

In 1856, Nancy Alvira (also, Elvira) Richardson Townley of Groveland purchased the dwelling house and property for \$1,100.⁴ Nancy Townley (ca. 1822-1883) lived here with her husband, John (ca. 1823-1870) and their six children. John Townley, born in Ireland, worked as a farmer. At the time of the 1880 census, one of their adult daughters and two adult sons were living here and working as shoemakers. In 1905, the Townley family sold the house to William N. Preble of Maine.⁵

11 Church Street was the first house in West Newbury that William N. Preble would own. (Also see 127 Main Street, WNB.47.) At the time of the 1910 census, William Preble (1878-1945) worked as a factory foreman. Later, William Preble worked as a market gardener and served as the West Newbury Tree Warden.⁶ Census records and city directories indicate that the Preble family lived at both locations at various times, perhaps indicating that the house was rented out for periods of time. The Preble family is the current owner of the property.

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- West Newbury Tax Assessor records.

² National Archives at Boston; Waltham, Massachusetts; ARC Title: *Copies of Petitions and Records of Naturalization in New England Courts, 1939 - ca. 1942*; NAI Number: 4752894; Record Group Title: *Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1787-2004*; Record Group Number: RG 85. Ancestry.com. Accessed Jan. 2, 2020.

³ N.B. Inconsistencies exist between the historic maps with regard to building footprints and depicted ownership and the chain of title. This researcher deferred to the chain of title.

⁴ Essex South Deed Book 531, p. 149

⁵ Essex South Deed Book 1792, p. 159.

⁶ City Directory, 1912.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

11 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.270
	WNB.271

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES

Well at left. Garage, rear. View looking northeast.



Garage. View looking southeast.

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

R11-100

Newburyport
West

WNB.272

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 25 Church Street

Historic Name: Thomas and Margaret McAuliffe House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1872

Source: deed, census

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Rubble

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards, shingles and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Storage building and garage (late 20th C)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Front entrance surround, bay window (late 20th C); large rear ell post-1963.

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 3.0 acres

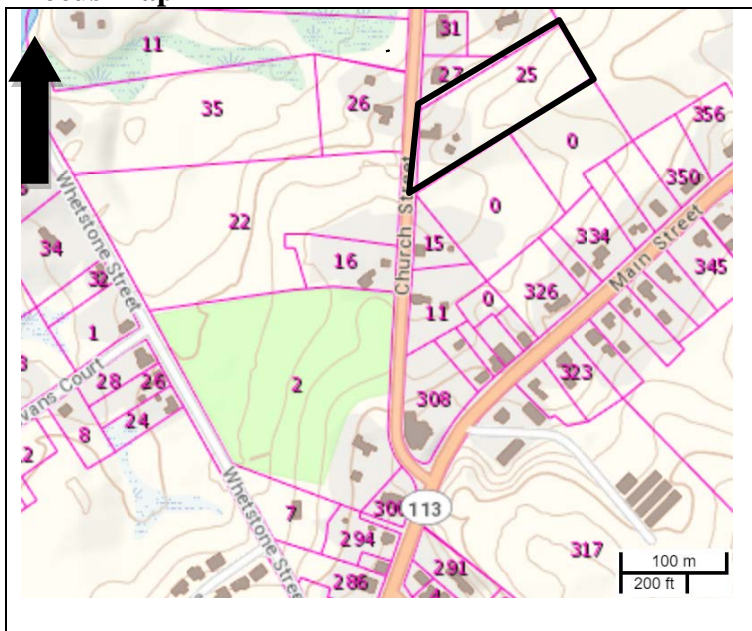
Setting: Located on the main thoroughfare of Church Street, between Main Street (Route 113) and Bridge Street. In a lightly settled area of heterogeneous, 19th and 20th century residential buildings on large lots. The Merrimack River is located nearby, to the west.

Photograph



View looking northeast.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero

Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

25 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.272

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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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.

25 Church Street stands on the east side of Church Street, nearly centered between the side lot lines of its long trapezoidal parcel, with a modest front setback. Church Street slopes gently down from south to north across the site. While the house stands several feet above street level, the parcel is generally flat. A paved driveway extends diagonally into the site in front of the house and leads to two outbuildings near the southeast corner of the residence. The house consists of a 2-½ story main block with one-story additions on the side. Outbuildings, both clad in board and batten siding, include a front-gabled, 1 ½ story garage with two vehicle bays and a one-story storage building with a side-gabled roof and cross gabled projection at its west end. A circular cobblestone structure in front of the garage resembles wells found at 11 Church Street and 11 Bailey's Lane (see forms).

The main block rises 2 ½ stories from a low foundation to a side gable roof with brief but pronounced gable returns and one small chimney rising from the front slope near the ridge line. Walls are sheathed with clapboard on the façade (south elevation) and wood shingles on the left (west) elevation and rear (north) elevation. Windows typically have 6/6 double-hung sash with band molding.

The asymmetrical, three-bay façade is trimmed with flat corner pilasters and a flat fascia board. Its roughly-centered entrance contains a modern, pedimented Colonial Revival door surround and is flanked by a modern, polygonal bay window and tripartite picture window unit on the first floor. The west, street-facing elevation has two asymmetrically placed windows on the first floor, three windows evenly spaced across the second floor, and one window centered in the half-story. The rear (north) elevation is not clearly visible from the street; it appears to contain irregular fenestration. On the right (east) side of the main block is a one-story, side-gabled addition with a three-bay front porch recessed across the front. A one-story addition at the rear of this volume is not clearly visible from the street; it appears to have a flat roof.

The house at 25 Church Street is a modestly ambitious example of 19th century residential development outside of the town center in West Newbury. The building is notable for its south-facing position on the site, 2 ½-story volume, conservative side-gabled form, and corner pilasters at the façade. Substantial modern alterations to the front entrance and façade fenestration detract from its historic character.

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.

Thomas McAuliffe (ca.1840-1914) was born in Ireland and emigrated to the United States in 1853. He married his wife, Margaret (ca. 1843-1923), who was born in Massachusetts, in 1863. Thomas McAuliffe worked as a shoemaker, and, at the end of his life, as a church sexton. At the time of the 1870 census, Thomas and Margaret McAuliffe and their two children were living with Elvira Townley and her six children at 11 Church Street (WNB.270).

In 1872, Thomas McAuliffe bought a lot of land in this location for \$100.¹ A house is located in this general location on the 1872 map. The 1880 census documented the McAuliffe family in their own house on Church Street. Of their six children, their daughter, Nellie (a.k.a. Ellen), lived with her parents through her adult life and worked as a stitcher in a shoe factory. After her

¹ Essex South Deed Book 868, p. 221.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

25 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.272

mother's death in 1923, Nellie McAuliffe purchased the property from the McAuliffe estate.² In 1930, Margaret Bray Reed, a relative of Nellie McAuliffe's, inherited the property. Margaret Reed and her husband, John, owned 25 Church Street until 1943.³

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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West Newbury Tax Assessor records.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGE

Detail. South elevation.

² Essex South Deed Book 2568, p. 280.

³ Essex South Deed Book 3343, p. 41.

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Photograph



View looking southeast.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero

Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

8

R11-50

Newburyport
West

WNB.273

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 45 Church Street

Historic Name: Michael and Catherine Gormerly House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1852-1856

Source: Deed; 1856 map

Style/Form: No style

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone rubble

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None visible

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Front entrance surround, side and rear additions, replacement window sash (late 20th C)

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.5 acres

Setting: Located on the main thoroughfare of Church Street, between Main Street (Route 113) and Bridge Street. In a lightly settled area of heterogeneous, 19th and 20th century residential buildings on large lots. The Merrimack River is located nearby, to the west.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

45 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.273

☐ 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.

45 Church Street is located on the east side of Church Street, occupying most of the street frontage of its long, trapezoidal parcel. The building has a modest front setback on its generally flat site. A low hedge lines the street frontage, and ornamental plantings occupy most of the front and left (north) side yards. A paved driveway extends along the north side of the house. The building consists of a 1 ½ story main block, a one-story sunporch along the south side, a 2-story gabled rear ell, and a large, 1 ½ story gabled rear addition that is parallel with the main block.

The main block rises 1 ½ stories from a low foundation to a side-gable roof without gable returns; a low chimney rises from the back slope of the roof, just south of the center point of the ridge. Walls are sheathed with wood clapboards and trimmed with narrow corner boards. Windows typically have 6/6 double-hung replacement sash and flat casings.

The symmetrical façade (west elevation) is five bays long with a high-post stud wall. The center entrance is accessed by granite block steps and contains a modern single-leaf door, half-height sidelights, and simple pilasters and entablature. The symmetrical left side (north) elevation has two windows on each floor, widely spaced at the first story and closer together in the half-story. A modern, shed-roofed entry porch is positioned in the left corner between the main block and rear ell.

The right (south) elevation has the two closely spaced windows in the half-story and a hip-roofed enclosed sunporch across the first story of the main block and the rear ell. The rear-most addition repeats the footprint, form, and fenestration of the main block; it is distinguished by a large Palladian window in the half-story of its south elevation.

Well maintained and preserved, 45 Church Street is a modest example of traditional, vernacular architecture in West Newbury, with a conservative side-gable form and minimal detailing. The building is notable for its intact form, materials, and fenestration, although the altered main entrance surround is incongruous. The rear ell and addition are larger in scale than the original block, but harmonize in massing and detailing.

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 Michael Gormerly house was likely constructed between 1852 and 1856. Michael Gormerly (ca. 1824-) purchased this lot on the new road leading from the Second Congregational Meetinghouse on Main Street to Rocks Bridge;¹ an 1859 mortgage on the property mentions buildings.² A house identified as that of "P. Gormerly" is located in this general location on the 1856 map. Comb maker "Michael Gorman" and his wife, Catherine (ca. 1821-), are included in the 1860 census in the Church Street area. The 1851 West Newbury tax roll includes a poll tax, but no property tax, for Michael "Gomoly."

At the time of the 1870 census, Irish-born shoemaker John Mullen (1845-1910) was living here with his wife, Mary (1850-1943), whom he had wed that same year. "J. Mellin" is noted as the owner of this house on the 1872 map. In 1880, the household included five children and his mother. The 1910 census included John, Mary, and daughter, Josephine, who worked as a

¹ Essex South Deed Book 469, P. 253.

² Essex South Deed Book 585, p. 137.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

45 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.273

stenographer in a railroad office. The house appears to have been used as a rental property during the second quarter of the 20th century, as deed names and census names do not correlate.

Alfred and Elizabeth Richardson owned the house from 1943 to 1950.³

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGE

West and south elevations. View looking northeast.

³ Essex South Deed Book 3354, p. 273 and Essex South Deed Book 3779, p. 137.

FORM B – BUILDING

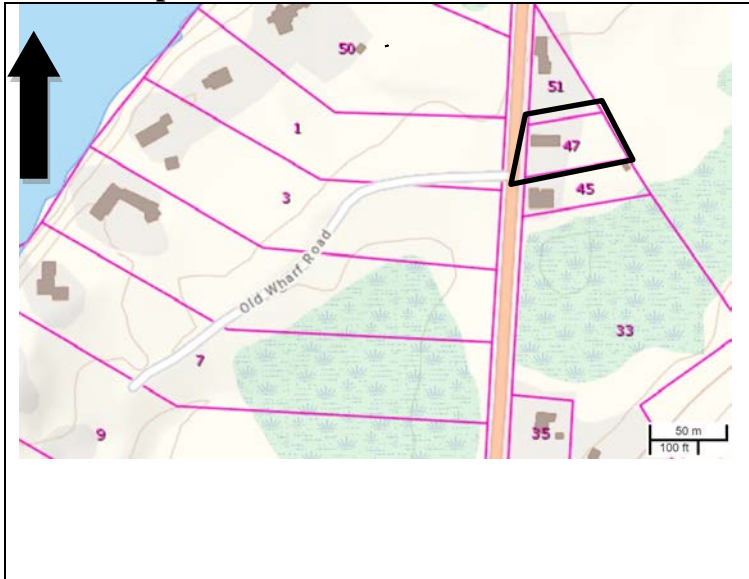
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



View looking southeast.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero

Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

11

R11-40

Newburyport
West

WNB.274

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 47 Church Street

Historic Name: Ernest and Nellie Girroir House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1917

Source: Deed

Style/Form: Craftsman

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None visible

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Rear additions (Late 20th C); Replacement window sash (Late 20th C, early 21st C)

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.5 acres

Setting: Located on the main thoroughfare of Church Street, between Main Street (Route 113) and Bridge Street. In a lightly settled area of heterogeneous, 19th and 20th century residential buildings on large lots. The Merrimack River is located nearby, to the west.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

47 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.274

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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.

47 Church Street is located on the east side of Church Street, in the northern part of its trapezoidal parcel, with a moderate front setback. The parcel is generally flat and maintained chiefly in lawn, with large ornamental shrubs lining the front of the house. A gravel driveway extends along the south side of the building. The building consists of a 2-story main block with a sequence of two shed-roofed rear additions.

The main block rises two stories from a low foundation to a low-pitched, front-gable roof with a small brick chimney positioned at the mid-point of the ridgeline. Walls are clad with wood shingles and trimmed with a narrow bed molding at the eaves. Windows are both single and paired; they typically have 6/1 double-hung replacement sash with flat casings.

The façade (west elevation) has a front-gabled entry vestibule set north of center, with paired windows facing the street and a single-leaf door on its south elevation. Paired windows flank the vestibule on the first floor, and two single windows are symmetrically placed in the second story. A diamond-shaped wood plaque is set in the gable peak of both the entry vestibule and front façade.

The right side of the house (south elevation) is asymmetrical, with two vertically-aligned single windows towards the front, one towards the back on the second floor, and paired windows towards the back on the first floor. A side entrance is located in a small vestibule flush with the main wall at the back of this elevation. The left (north) elevation has a similar vertically-aligned bay of windows towards the front of the building and one single window towards the back of the second story. Two smaller windows are inserted towards the back of the first floor and second floor.

The inner addition to the back of the house has a shed roof, wood shingled walls, and one small window each on its north and south elevations. The easternmost addition also has a shed roof and wood-shingled walls; it appears to be an enclosed/screened porch.

Well maintained and preserved, 47 Church Street is a modest example of vernacular architecture in West Newbury, with minimal detailing. The building is notable for its uncommon use of the Craftsman style, simple massing, and unusual main entrance vestibule. Replacement window sash and the compatible rear additions minimally affect the historic character of the building.

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.

In 1917, Ernest Girroir purchased the property and appears to have replaced the existing house with the house currently standing.¹ Ernest Girroir (1877-1973) was born in Newfoundland and his wife, Nellie (ca. 1884-1964) was born in Ireland. The couple lived here with eleven children. Census records indicated that Ernest Girroir worked as a heel shaper in a shoe factory, as a factory fireman, and, in the 1930s on a gypsy moth eradication project with the W.P.A. The Girroir family sold the property in 1964.²

¹ Essex South Deed Book 2380, p. 25.

² Essex South Deed Book 5189, p. 619.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

47 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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WNB.274

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Massachusetts Death indices. Ancestry.com.

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West Newbury Tax Assessor records.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGE

View looking northeast.

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

14

R13-250

Newburyport
West

WNB.275

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 73 Church Street

Historic Name: Samuel N. Chase House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1852

Source: deed, 1856 map

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Samuel S. Chase?

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Flat rubble stone

Wall/Trim: Vinyl siding and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None visible

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Vinyl siding; replacement windows; rear ell (L 20th C)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.58 acres

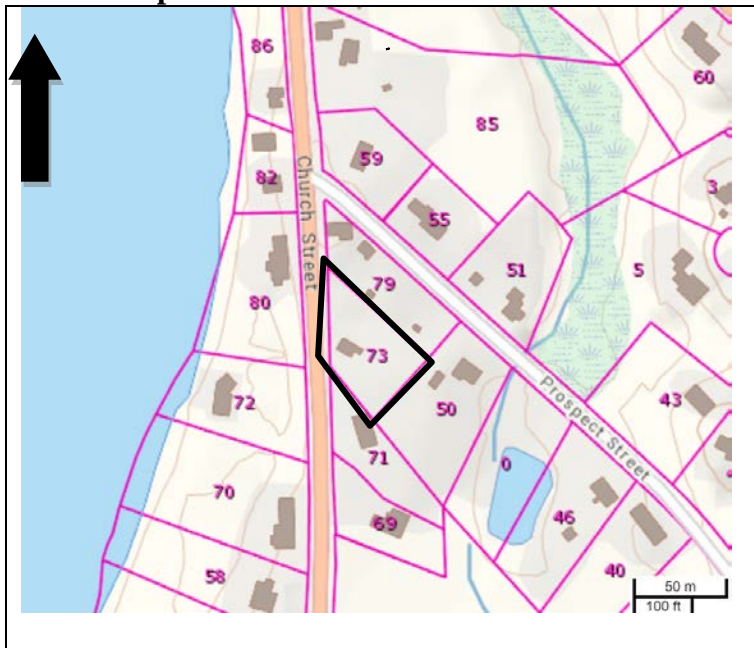
Setting: Located on the main thoroughfare of Church Street, close to its intersection with Prospect Street and across the road from the Merrimack River. Set in an area of widely spaced, heterogeneous residential development, largely constructed in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Photograph



View looking northeast.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero

Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

73 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.275

☐ 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.

73 Church Street is located on the east side of Church Street, its alignment skewed in relation to the road. Church Street slopes slightly down from south to north cross the site. The parcel is generally flat and maintained in lawn. The house stands on a low berm, positioned just south of the center of the lot's street frontage. The building consists of a 1-½ story main block and a small rear ell.

The main block rises 1-½ stories from a low rubble foundation to a front gable roof with very minimal gable returns and a small brick chimney rising from the center of the south slope, near the ridgeline. Walls are sheathed with vinyl siding and trim. Windows typically contain 1/1 double-hung replacement sash with vinyl trim.

The side hall plan features a three-bay facade with two windows symmetrically spaced in the half-story. The offset entrance features a single-leaf door, full height sidelights, and wide flat pilasters and entablature. Concrete steps access the doorway.

The asymmetrical right(south) elevation has three irregularly spaced windows, one towards the front of the building and two grouped towards the back. The left (north) elevation is similarly composed, although its middle window has been replaced with a small pair of casement or sliding windows. The rear of the building features a small gabled addition that is flush with the north wall of the main block; its south roof extends to a small entry vestibule. The south and north walls of the addition each have a single window.

73 Church Street is a good example of modest mid-19th century development in West Newbury. The building is notable for its setting near the Merrimack River, intact original volume, and front-gable design with bold yet vernacular door trim. The installation of synthetic siding and 1/1 replacement windows has stripped it of most of its historic detailing.

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.

73 Church Street was likely constructed circa 1852 for developer Samuel S. Chase. In 1852, Samuel S. Chase purchased 45 acres of land in this immediate area, consisting of the estate of Joshua Hills.¹ The deed noted that the new road from Rocks Bridge to Main Street, i.e. Church Street, ran through the property. At the time of that purchase, Samuel Sewall Chase (1805-1885)² lived at 2 Training Field and owned 32 acres of land near the intersection of Stewart Street and Main Street.³ Samuel S. Chase worked as a farmer and carpenter and is credited with also constructing several houses on Bridge Street and Prospect Street.⁴

In 1858, Samuel S. Chase sold a one-acre lot with a dwelling house on it (i.e. 73 Church Street) to his son, Samuel N. Chase.⁵ Samuel N. Chase (1836-1894) does not appear to have lived in the house for long. In 1860, Samuel N. Chase sold the house to

¹ Essex South Deed Book 461, p. 13.

² Findagrave.com Memorial # 33551206.

³ Essex South Deed Book 1220, p. 150.

⁴ Ladd, *Contentious Citizens*, 19.

⁵ Essex South Deed Book 565, 121.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

73 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.275

Thomas Kennett (ca. 1828-) and his wife, Catherine, who were both born in England and immigrated as small children. The couple was married in 1858.⁶

Edmund H. Frye owned the property from 1882 to 1921.⁷ No person by that name appears in census data or city directories during that period, indicating that it was perhaps used as a rental property. Florence and John H. Towle purchased the property in 1923, but lost the property to foreclosure at the height of the Great Depression in 1936.⁸ John Towle worked as a stitcher in a shoe factory. John and Charlotte Jennell purchased the property in 1945,⁹ after renting a house on Church Street for a few years, as noted in the 1940 census. The Jennell family are the current owners of the property.

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West Newbury Tax Assessor records.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGE

Detail. Entrance. West façade.

⁶ United States Census, 1900.

⁷ Essex South Deed Book 1081, p. 95 and Essex South Deed Book 2480, p. 460.

⁸ Essex South Deed Book 2554, p. 386 and Essex South Deed Book 3068, p. 420.

⁹ Essex South Deed Book 3428, p. 417.

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

17

0130 0000
00240

Newburyport

WNB.379

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 79 Church Street

Historic Name: John and Ann Ruddock House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1855

Source: Deed; Census

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone?, concrete block

Wall/Trim: Vinyl siding and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Garage, sheds (late 20th – early 21st century)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Rear addition (mid-20th c?)
- vinyl siding, removal of historic trim, replacement doorway at main entrance, replacement window sash (late 20th – early 21st c)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.5 acres

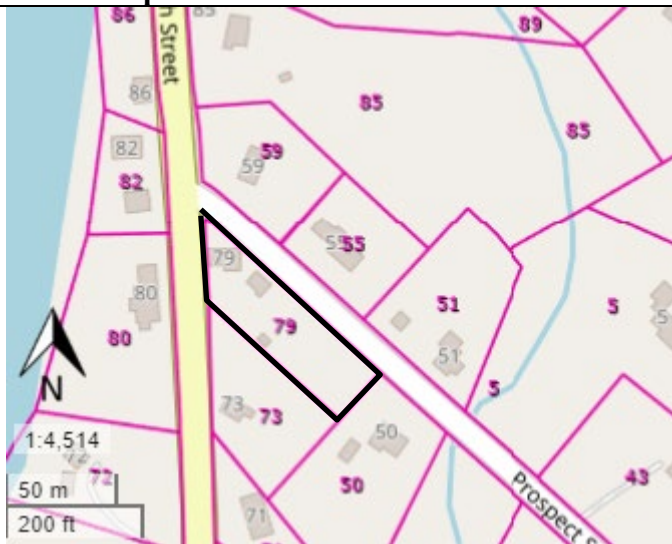
Setting: Located at the intersection of two roads leading to the Rocks Bridge over the nearby Merrimack River. Surrounding residential neighborhood is densely settled and heterogeneous in siting, form, age, and style.

Photograph



Façade (west) and south 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

79 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.379

☐ 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:

79 Church Street occupies a long, narrow lot at the confluence of Church and Prospect streets. The house stands on a steep rise at the north corner of the property, which descends from north to south. The yard is maintained chiefly in lawn, with a variety of shrubs and small trees placed around the perimeter of the house. A flight of steep cast-concrete steps leads up the front setback to the main entrance. There are three non-descript outbuildings on the site: a modern garage that stands roughly in the mid-point of the Prospect Street frontage and two sheds near the southwest property line.

The house consists of a 1½ story main block with a one-story rear addition. Measuring 20 feet wide by 28 feet deep, the main block rises from what appears to be a granite foundation to a front-gable roof without gable returns. A small brick chimney rises from the mid-point of the south slope of the roof, near the ridge. The slightly narrower rear addition is 10 feet deep and rises from a concrete block foundation to a flat roof. Walls are clad with vinyl siding and trim. Windows typically have 1/1 replacement sash and no trim.

The facade (west) elevation of the house has a single-leaf, offset door with modern, Colonial-style trim. The side (north and south) elevations both contain modern bay windows. The rear addition has a single-leaf door on its south elevation. A modern porch at the southeast corner of the building is sheltered by a wood pergola.

Well maintained with modern materials, 79 Church Street has been significantly altered in materials and detailing and retains little to no historic integrity.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

79 Church Street was likely constructed circa 1855 for John Ruddock. In 1852, Samuel S. Chase purchased 45 acres of land in this immediate area, consisting of the estate of Joshua Hills.¹ That deed noted that the new road from Rocks Bridge to Main Street, i.e., Church Street, ran through the property. At the time of that purchase, Samuel Sewall Chase (1805-1885)² lived at 2 Training Field and owned 32 acres of land near the intersection of Stewart Street and Main Street.³ Samuel S. Chase worked as a farmer and carpenter and is credited with also constructing several houses on Bridge Street, Prospect Street, and Church Street (WNB.275).⁴

In 1853, Samuel S. Chase sold this lot to cordwainer (shoemaker) John Ruddock.⁵ Ruddock had a house constructed here by the time of the 1855 census, which recorded English immigrants John, Ann, and Robert Ruddock. John Ruddock (1817-1888)⁶ and his wife, Ann Watson Ruddock (1801-1875),⁷ emigrated in 1843 with Ann's son, Joseph A. Watson (1830-1898).⁸ In 1887, John Ruddock sold the house to Joseph A. Watson.⁹ It appears that Joseph Watson and his wife, Lucy A. Watson (1829-1898)¹⁰ lived elsewhere in town. (See 396 Main Street, WNB.401.) Census records indicate that Joseph Watson worked as a

¹ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 461, p. 13.

² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/33551206/samuel-sewall-chase>. Accessed April 17, 2023.

³ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 1220, p. 150.

⁴ Ladd, *Contentious Citizens*, 19.

⁵ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 499, p. 276.

⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/233657742/john-ruddock>. Accessed April 17, 2023.

⁷ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/208305529/anne-ruddock>. Accessed April 17, 2023.

⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/208487801/joseph-watson>. Accessed April 17, 2023.

⁹ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 1213, p. 382.

¹⁰ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/208487801/joseph-watson>. Accessed April 17, 2023.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

79 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.379

carpenter, but his death record notes his occupation as architect. His obituary noted his professional and civic contributions, "He was apprenticed to ...Thomas Ruddock to learn the carpenter trade and at the age of 21 had become sufficiently skilled in it to embark in business for himself...[H]e soon won a place in the front rank of the carpenters and builders of this vicinity and for over 30 years he carried on a successful business. He erected a number of buildings in Georgetown among them being the First Congregational church, and [a] large brick block...He was a good architect and in the later years of his life when he had given up the active business, he furnished a number of plans for buildings in West Newbury and surrounding cities and towns."¹¹ Watson was also a member of the West Newbury Board of Selectmen and a director of the West Newbury Mutual Fire Insurance Company and of the Georgetown National Bank. Watson is noted as the likely builder of two houses in Georgetown (GEO.236, GEO.239). Lucy Watson was active with the Bethany Lodge of Rebekahs. Jacob Edmund Bradley, Lucy Watson's nephew, inherited the house upon her death. Census records indicated that Jacob Bradley and his wife, Annie, lived on Main Street during the time that they owned this property.

In 1930, Clyde F. Brown and his wife, Gertrude, purchased the house from Jacob Bradley.¹² Clyde Brown worked as a mill operator, according to city directories. James Quinn owned the house from 1944 until 1968 but does not appear to have made this his residence.¹³

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¹¹ "A Loss to West Newbury, Death of Joseph Watson Occurred There Last Night, One of the Substantial Men of the Town..." *Newburyport Daily News*, 24 March 1898, p. 1.

¹² Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 2843, p. 482.

¹³ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 5523, p. 760.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

79 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.379



East (rear) and north elevations.



South and east (rear) elevations.

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

21

0130 0000
00350

Newburyport

WNB.380
WNB.381

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 85 Church Street

Historic Name: James A. and Ann Willis House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1853

Source: Deed; Census

Style/Form: Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Flat fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Barn (19th c); Shed;

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Portico (late 19th - early 20th century) - Rear ell (late 19th – mid 20th c?) - Sun porch (early 20th c?) - Replacement window sash (early 21st c);

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 3.20 acres

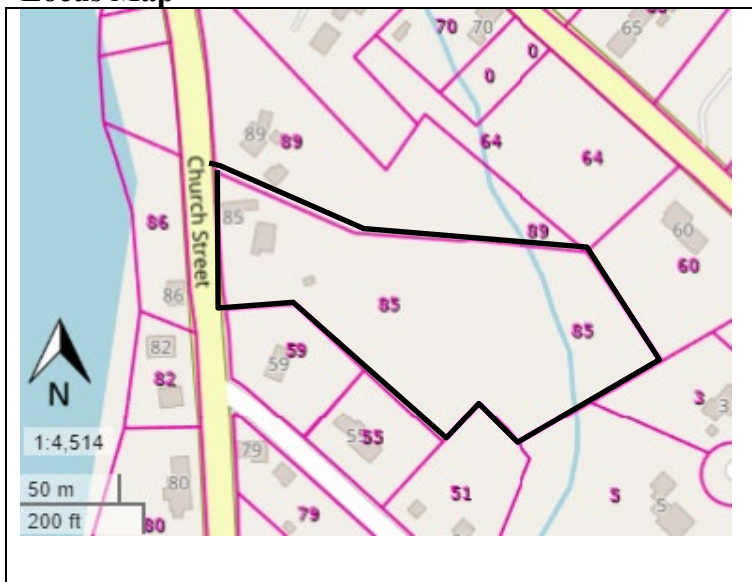
Setting: Located on a main road leading to the Rocks Bridge over the nearby Merrimack River. Surrounding residential neighborhood is densely settled and heterogeneous in siting, form, age, and style.

Photograph



Façade (west) and south 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

85 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.380
	WNB.381

☐ 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:

85 Church Street stands on the east side of Church Street, behind a modest front setback, at the northwest corner of a large, irregularly shaped parcel. It faces west towards the Merrimack River, visible on the opposite side of Church Street. The terrain ascends very gently up to the east. The yard around the house is maintained chiefly in lawn, with large ornamental shrubs growing at the perimeter. The back of the lot is wooded. A gravel driveway is located to the south of the house and accesses the barn; a vertical-board wood fence lines the street edge. The property contains a house, an early barn, and small utilitarian shed.

The L-shaped house is comprised of a main block with an enclosed sunporch on its south side and a small ell at the rear. Measuring 31 feet long by 24 feet deep, the five by two bay main block rises 1½ stories to a side-gable roof without returns. Twin interior chimneys rise from the rear slope of the roof, near the ridge line. Walls are sheathed with clapboards and trimmed with minimal corner boards and a flat fascia. Windows typically occur singly and have replacement sash with beveled molding. The rear ell rises one story to a flat roof; its north wall is continuous with the north wall of the main block.

The façade (west elevation) contains a center entrance with a single-leaf door behind a hip-roofed portico. The door is trimmed with pilasters and a rectangular transom with multi-color, etched glass panes. The portico has a concrete stoop, turned corner posts, and square-section balusters on the side railings. A long, shed dormer across the front slope of the roof has a pair of small windows at each end. The right side (south elevation) of the main block has a large sunporch extending almost its full depth; it has a flat roof and is almost completely glazed.

A modest barn WNB.381) near the southeast corner of the house rises 1½ stories to a side-gabled roof without returns. Its façade (west elevation) is sheathed with clapboards, while the south elevation is clad with wood shingles. The façade contains a barn/garage door in the center and a 6-light transom near the eave. A pedestrian door is located at the left end of this elevation, along with a 2/2 window. A panel of vertical board siding pierced by a 12-light window sash at the right end of the elevation suggests a previous entrance. The south gable end has a band of four modern, double-hung windows in the half-story. Small pitched-roof sheds are attached to the north and south gable ends.

Well maintained, 85 Church Street is a modest example of mid-19th century housing in West Newbury. Notable features include its simple massing, twin interior chimneys, simple but stylish center entrance, substantial sun porch, and early barn.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

85 Church Street was likely constructed circa 1853 for James A. Willis on land sold to him by developer Samuel S. Chase.¹ In 1852, Samuel S. Chase purchased 45 acres of land in this immediate area, consisting of the estate of Joshua Hills.² The deed noted that the new road from Rocks Bridge to Main Street, *i.e.*, Church Street, ran through the property. At the time of that purchase, Samuel Sewall Chase (1805-1885)³ lived at 2 Training Field and owned 32 acres of land near the intersection of Stewart Street and Main Street.⁴ Samuel S. Chase worked as a farmer and carpenter and is credited with also constructing several houses on Bridge Street, Prospect Street, and Church Street (WNB.275).⁵

¹ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 487, p. 111.

² Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 461, p. 13.

³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/33551206/samuel-sewall-chase>. Accessed April 17, 2023.

⁴ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 1220, p. 150.

⁵ Ladd, *Contentious Citizens*, p. 19.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

85 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.380
	WNB.381

English immigrants James Albion Willis (1832-1908)⁶ and his wife, Ann Gambrell Willis (1830-1917),⁷ lived here with their children. James Willis' uncle, William Willis, and his family lived next door at 89 Church Street (WNB.276). At the time of the 1880 census, the household included their son George and his wife, Ann, as well as Ann's father, Jarvis Gambrell. Census records indicate that James Willis worked as a shoemaker and as a farmer.

After 56 years in the Willis family, the house was sold to another immigrant. In 1909, Swedish immigrant Johnson A. Freeman of Lynn purchased the property from the Willis family.⁸ Johnson A. Freeman, known as John, worked as a shoemaker in a shoe factory, according to census records. Johnson lived here with his wife, Mary, child, and his mother, Charlotte. John Freeman owned the property until 1917.⁹

Alna A. Carter owned the house from 1919 until 1938.¹⁰ Alna Carter lived here with her mother and raised poultry for a living, according to census records. Carter also took in boarders to make ends meet. The property had a series of owners over the next two decades until it was sold in 1966 to the present owners.¹¹

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⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/20515598/james-albion-willis>. Accessed April 17, 2023.

⁷ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/20515508/anna-maria-willis>. Accessed April 17, 2023.

⁸ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 1968, p. 525.

⁹ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 2374, p. 514.

¹⁰ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 3150, 287.

¹¹ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 5361, 95.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

85 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.380
	WNB.381



Detail of main entrance.



Detail of transom at main entrance.



Main house and barn.



Barn: Façade (west) and south elevations.

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

25

R13-340

Newburyport
West

WNB.276
WNB.277

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 89 Church Street

Historic Name: William and Mary Willis House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1852

Source: Deed

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Barn (L 19th C)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Side wings, dormers (L 20th- early 21st C)

Condition: Good to Excellent

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 2.0 acres

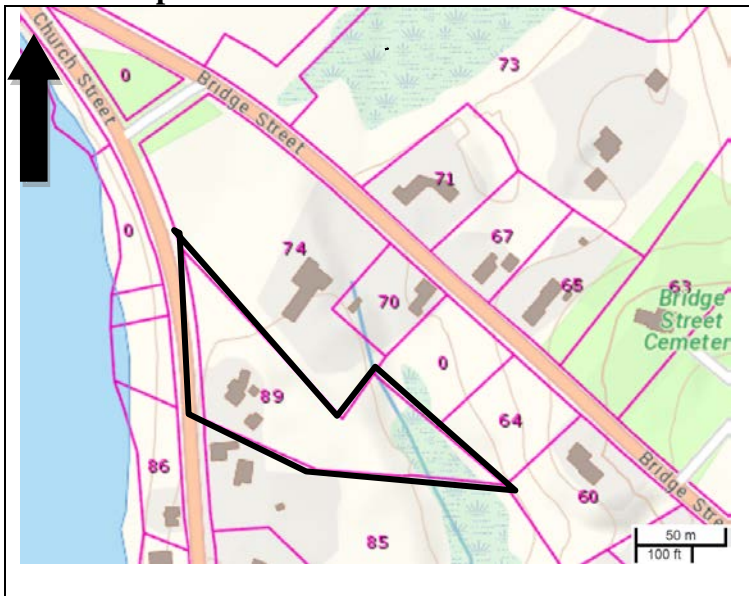
Setting: Located on the main thoroughfare of Church Street, close to its intersection with Bridge Street and across the road from the Merrimack River. Set in an area of heterogeneous residential development, mostly constructed in the 19th and 20th centuries, on relatively large lots.

Photograph



View looking northeast.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero

Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

89 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.276
	WNB.277

☐ 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 east side of the road, 89 Church Street is set on the front third of its parcel, with a deep setback from the street. Both Church Street and the survey property slope gently down from south to north across the site. The yard is maintained chiefly in lawn, with closely-spaced, mature street trees regularly placed along Church Street. The house is set at an angle to the street, facing northwest. It consists of a main block with a subsidiary ell on each side; the northern ell is skewed in relation to the main block. A paved driveway extends south of the house to a barn that stands to the southeast of the house.

The main block rises 1-½ stories from a low brick foundation to a side gable roof with minimal gable returns and a low corbelled chimney that is positioned off-center on the rear slope of the roof. Walls are sheathed with wood clapboards and are trimmed with flat sill boards and corner boards. Windows typically have 6/6 double-hung sash with band molding.

The side hall plan has a three-bay façade (northwest elevation) with a high-post stud wall; it is dominated by a full-length, hip-roofed porch with Tuscan columns. The first floor has flushboard siding, an offset entrance, and two 9/6 windows. The single-leaf door is framed by multi-light, full-height sidelights and a multi-pane transom. Two small gabled dormers are symmetrically positioned on the front slope of the main roof.

Set back from the façade of the main block on the right (south) is a 1-½ story ell with a side-gable roof and lean-to form. It, too, has a brick foundation, wood siding and trim, and 6/6 windows; no gable return. Its symmetrical façade (northwest elevation) has two 6/6 windows. A corbelled chimney rises on the interior of the gable end wall. Set at a skew to the main block, the north ell has a side gable roof, clapboard siding, and four banded one-light windows in the center of its façade (west elevation).

Standing behind the right rear corner of the house, a small barn has a gable front without returns; clapboard siding on the façade, wood shingles on the right-side elevation, and flat wood trim at the corner boards, fascia boards, and door and window openings. The façade (northwest elevation) has an offset pedestrian door, one 6/6 window, and a barn door with a bracketed, flat-roofed hood on the first floor; a vertical-board loft door centered above; and a two-light lunette window centered in the gable peak. One six-light window is set towards the rear of the right (southwest) elevation. The barn's left (northeast) elevation is lined with a one-story, shed-roofed addition.

Well preserved and well maintained, the house and barn at 89 Church Street are unusually stylish examples of small-scale mid-19th century development in West Newbury. The house is notable for balancing a traditional side-gable form with the fashionable elements of flushboarding, tall first floor windows, and sidelights and transom around the entrance. The barn is distinguished by its intact, informal fenestration and handsomely bracketed hood over the barn door. Alterations and additions are congruous with the style, form, and materials of the original building.

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.

In 1852, William Willis purchased this property, which included the buildings located on it.¹ It is likely that the Willis family were the first residents of the property as the sellers of the property were Somerby C. Noyes and Haydn Brown, investors who lived

¹ Essex South Deed Book 463, p. 206.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

89 CHURCH ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.276
	WNB.277

elsewhere in West Newbury. William Willis (1812-1899)² and his wife, Mary (1814-1895) were both born in England. The couple married in 1834 in West Newbury and had five children. William Willis worked in one of the many comb factories in West Newbury. The Willis family owned the property until 1893.³

In 1908, Christine W. Holmes of Lynn purchased the property.⁴ The transaction included "all agricultural tools and implements used on said premises," which would have been useful; her husband, James is listed as a 'hen farmer' at the time of the 1910 census. Christine and James Holmes continued farming the land through the 1940s. James Holmes also worked as a shipper in a shoe factory and as a salesman.⁵

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGE

Barn. View looking east.

² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58474141>. Accessed Jan. 7, 2020.

³ Essex South Deed Book 1374, p. 107.

⁴ Essex South Deed Book 1945, p. 123.

⁵ United States Census and 1932 city directory.