

WEST NEWBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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Crane Neck Street

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FORM B – BUILDING

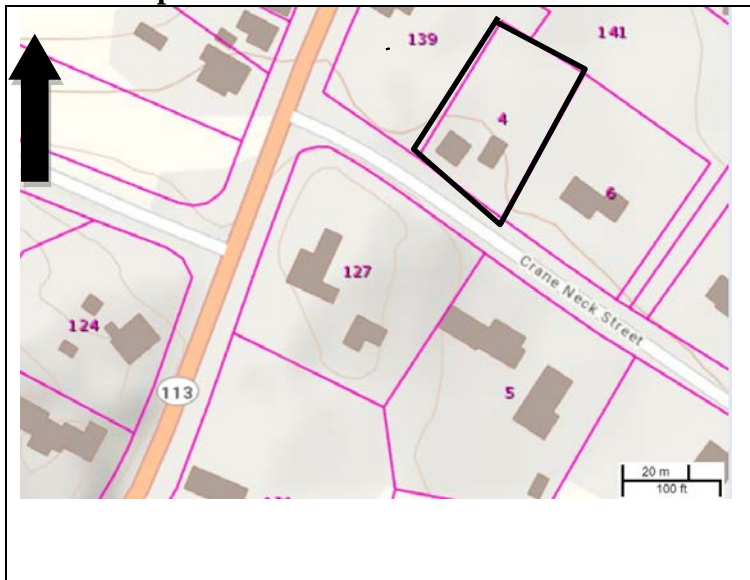
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



View looking north.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero

Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission

Date: May 2020

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

R2-51

Haverhill

WNB.283

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 4 Crane Neck Street

Historic Name: Bailey House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1830

Source: Visual

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Garage (mid-to-late 20th C)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Siding replaced, chimney removed, front door and surround replaced 2019.

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.35 acres

Setting: Set on a main thoroughfare between Main Street (Route 113) and the neighboring town of Newbury. Located at the western end of the street near its intersection with densely settled Main Street, in a cluster of closely spaced, heterogeneous residential development from the 18th through 20th centuries.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

4 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.283

☐ 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.

4 Crane Neck Road is located on the northeast side of the street, in the west corner of its lot, with a moderate front setback. Crane Neck Road slopes up gently from southeast to northwest across the site. The house stands on a flat terrace, while the terrain slopes down to the northeast behind the building. The building consists of a 2-½ story main block with a small appendage on its right rear corner. A small garage stands near the northeast corner of the house, accessed by a paved driveway. The yard is maintained chiefly in lawn; the most notable landscape feature is a mature tree, 3 to 4 feet in diameter, growing near the left (northwest) elevation of the house.

Square in shape, the main block rises 2-½ stories from a low brick foundation to a side-gable roof without gable returns or chimneys. Walls are sheathed with wood clapboards and trimmed with narrow corner boards. Windows typically contain 6/6 double hung replacement sash with flat casings.

The side hall plan has a three-bay façade (southwest elevation) with an offset entrance framed by a modern, Colonial Revival style surround. (Decoratively scrolled brackets are visible on the stair ends in the entrance vestibule inside.) Second floor windows are set tight to the eaves.

The left (northwest) elevation has two widely spaced windows on the first floor and a smaller window centered in the half-story. The right (southeast) elevation is largely blank, having an offset doorway with flat jambs and a molded cornice and a vertically aligned window above at the back, and a pair of small square windows centered on the first floor. A small gabled appendage at the right rear corner of the house has a trio of 2 by 4 light fixed or casement windows centered in its street-facing (southwest) elevation. The front-gable garage has a concrete block foundation, double-leaf doors in a rectangular opening on its façade, a single-leaf pedestrian door and 6-light window towards the rear of the left (northwest) elevation, and a 6-light window at the rear of the right (southeast) elevation.

Well maintained, 4 Crane Neck Road is a modest example of traditional, vernacular architecture in West Newbury. The building is notable for its half-house form and intact volume. Modern alterations have been extensive: The photo in the assessor's database shows the house having a brick chimney placed slightly off-center at or near the ridge line; a main entrance having slender pilasters, no sidelights, a multi-pane transom, and a delicate entablature; and 9/6 windows. An entrance in the middle of the left (northwest) elevation had a multi-pane transom and prominent cornice; it appears to have been flanked by one window on each side. The garage had double-leaf hinged doors in a segmentally-arched opening on its front gable end.

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.

4 Crane Neck Street was likely constructed in the early 19th century for a member of the Bailey family, who owned several houses near this intersection in the 19th century. In 1821, Judith Bailey (ca. 1798-1887) married Joseph Danforth (ca. 1798-1864). In 1833, Moses and Richard Bailey sold land and buildings in this area to Moses' son-in-law, Joseph Danforth,¹ although it seems the young couple was already living here by 1830. Joseph Danforth was a comb maker and had a shop next to the house, as depicted in the 1856 map.

¹ Essex South Deed Book 270, p. 27.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

4 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.283

In 1867, Philipp Roth purchased the property from Joseph Danforth's estate.² Philipp Roth (ca. 1823-1883)³ was born in Baden, Germany and immigrated to the United States after 1848. Roth's wife, Regina (1825-), was also born in Germany. Revolutions in Germany in 1848 prompted many Germans to emigrate to the United States; However, it does not appear that many of them settled in West Newbury. Nearly all of the immigrants in West Newbury in the mid-19th century were from Ireland or England. Philipp Roth served in the Civil War as a private in Company A of the 19th Massachusetts Volunteers in 1862-1863.⁴ Philipp and Regina Roth lived here with their four children while Philipp worked as a laborer and shoemaker. At the time of the 1870 census, Judith Bailey Danforth was also living with them.

Philipp and Regina Roth's son, George, lived in this house until 1946.⁵ George married his wife, Alice, in 1891. George Roth worked as a shoe maker and as an auto mechanic.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Anderson, Philander for Moses Pettingell. "Map of the Original Town of Newbury, now divided in Newbury, Newburyport, and West Newbury." 1830. Boston Public Library Norman B. Leventhal Map Center Collection.

<https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:cj82ks49q>

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West Newbury Tax Assessor records.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGE

4 CRANE NECK ST

Assessor's Image circa 2018.

² Essex South Deed Book 732, p. 293.

³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58491649>. Accessed Jan. 15, 2020.

⁴ U.S. Civil War Pension Index. Ancestry.com. Accessed Jan. 15, 2020.

⁵ Essex South Deed Book 3492, p. 223.

FORM B – BUILDING

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

4

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

R2-21 Haverhill WNB.284

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Photograph



View looking west.

Address: 11 Crane Neck Street

Historic Name: Bailey House

Uses: Present: Multiple Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1830

Source: Visual

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite block

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards, shingles and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Barn (1960 per assessor)

Major Alterations (with dates): Modern door surround; replacement window sash (L 20th C).

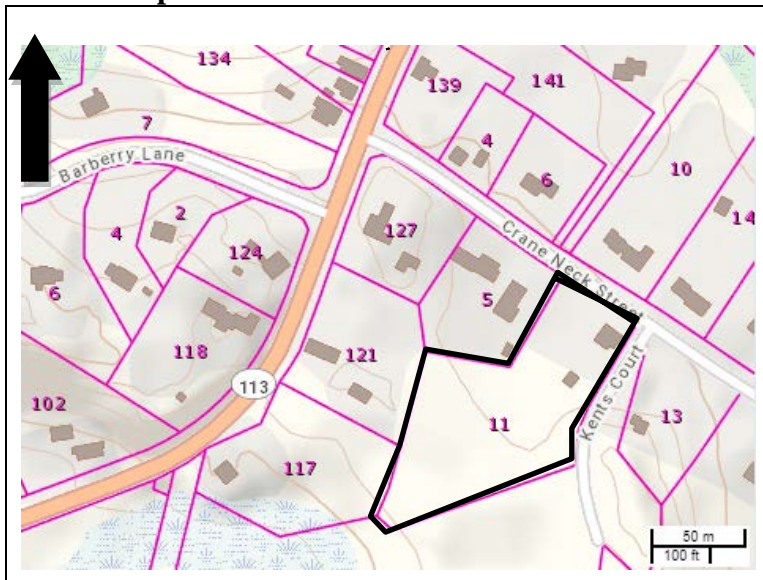
Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ Date:

Acreage: 2.6 acres

Setting: Set on a main thoroughfare between Main Street (Route 113) and the neighboring town of Newbury. Located at the western end of the street near its intersection with densely settled Main Street, in a cluster of closely spaced, heterogeneous residential development from the 18th through 20th centuries.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero

Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

11 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.284

☐ 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 Crane Neck Road is located on the southwest side of the street, in the east corner of its large, irregularly-shaped parcel, with a moderate front setback. The house stands on a slight rise on its generally flat site; the yard is maintained chiefly in lawn. A paved driveway extends along the northwest side of the building and leads to a moderately-sized barn positioned close to the right rear (west) corner of the house.

The main block of the house rises 2-½ stories from a low, granite block foundation to a side-gable roof with a stout center chimney and no gable returns. Walls are sheathed with wood clapboards on the façade (northeast elevation) and wood shingles on the side elevations; sill boards, narrow corner boards, and a fascia board with a bed molding trim the walls. Windows typically have 6/6 double hung replacement sash with flat trim.

The center entrance plan has five bays and a modern, Colonial-influenced door surround with narrow sidelights, decorative pilasters, and a minimal entablature. Each gable-end elevation has one window centered on each floor. The rear (southwest) elevation is covered by shed-roofed additions – 2 stories in the south end and one story at the northern end.

The utilitarian, 1½ story barn at the back of the house is rectangular in shape with a generous front-gambrel roof. Its façade (northeast elevation) is sheathed with clapboards and trimmed with flat corner boards, while the right (northwest) elevation has board-and-batten siding. Centered on the façade is a pair of large, sliding barn doors, surmounted by a small 1/1 window in the half-story. Other elevations are not visible.

Well maintained and reasonably intact, 11 Crane Neck Road is a good example of modest 18th-century development in West Newbury. The building is notable for its 2½-story form, intact volume, center chimney, and intact fenestration. The replacement window sash and main entrance surround compromise its historic integrity.

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 Crane Neck Street was likely constructed in the last quarter of the 18th century for a member of the Bailey family, which owned several houses near the intersection of Main Street and Crane Neck Street around that time. In 1820, Moses Emery, a comb maker, purchased eight acres and buildings in this area from John Bayley.¹

In 1825, Moses Smith purchased the eight acres of land and buildings.² Comb maker and farmer Moses Smith (1796-1885)³ and his wife, Mary A. Bailey Smith (1801-1881) had been married three years before. At the time of the 1880 census, Moses and Mary Bailey shared the house with their two daughters, Susan and Catherine, as well as with their nephew John Thomas, a physician, and his wife, Lucasta. Catherine C. Smith (1833-1913)⁴ did not marry and lived at 11 Crane Neck Street until the end of her life.

¹ Essex South Deed Book 225, p. 191.

² Essex South Deed Book 239, p. 27.

³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/153621249>. Accessed Jan. 15, 2020.

⁴ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/153621261>. Accessed April 8, 2020.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

11 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.284

A. Morris Huntress and his wife, Alma, purchased the house in 1913 from Catherine C. Smith's estate.⁵ A[ndrew] Morris Huntress (1858-1929) and his wife, Alma (ca. 1870-) lived here with their daughter, Helen. Huntress worked as a shoe cutter and McKay stitcher (a machine that stitched together soles and shoe uppers).

Ora and Thomas Buckler and Helen Thurlow owned the property from 1936 to 1950.⁶ Thomas Buckler worked for the New Haven Railroad.⁷

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Anderson, Philander for Moses Pettingell. "Map of the Original Town of Newbury, now divided in Newbury, Newburyport, and West Newbury." 1830. Boston Public Library Norman B. Leventhal Map Center Collection.
<https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:cj82ks49q>
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 West Newbury Tax Assessor records.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGE

Barn. View looking south.

⁵ Essex South Deed Book 2227, p. 205

⁶ Essex South Deed Book 3093, p. 205 and Essex South Deed Book 3785, p. 384.

⁷ World War II Draft Registration Card, Ancestry.com, Accessed April 8, 2020.

FORM B – BUILDING

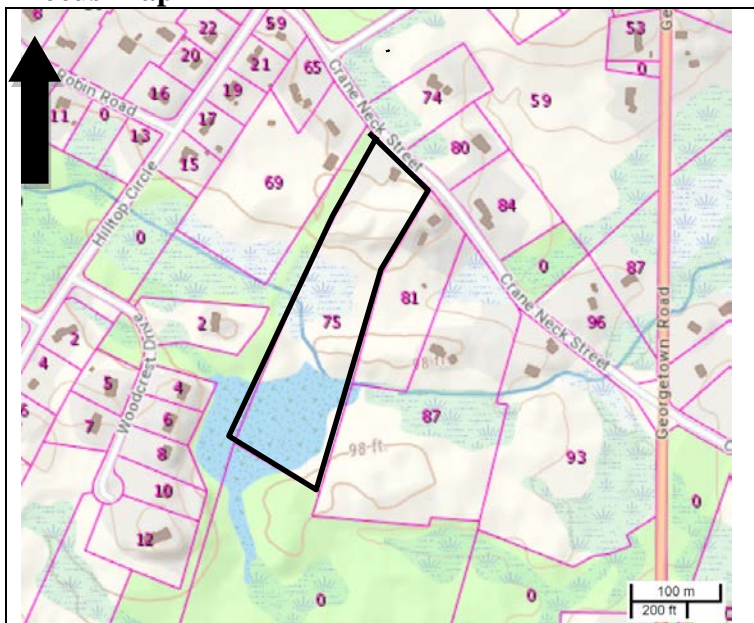
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



View looking west.

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

7

R3-15

Newburyport
West

WNB.16

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 75 Crane Neck Street

Historic Name: Benjamin and Anna Hills House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1800

Source: Visual

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite block

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Garden shed (L 20th C-early 21st C)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Greek Revival entrance surround (mid-19th C); rear ell?

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 9.35 acres

Setting: Located on a main thoroughfare near its intersection with Georgetown/Meetinghouse Hill Road, part of a small cluster of early 18th – early 19th century homes. Set in a semi-rural residential area developed with a heterogeneous mix of buildings from the 18th through late 20th centuries, most occupying large open lots.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

75 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.16

☒ 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.*

75 Crane Neck Street is located on the southwest side of the road, centered between the side lots lines of its long, narrow parcel, with a moderate front setback. The lot slopes up gently from the street and is maintained chiefly in lawn. A low, dry-laid wall of flat fieldstone defines a terrace in front of the building. A gravel driveway extends along the southeast side of the house.

Five bays wide by two bays deep, the main block rises 2-½ stories from a low, granite block foundation to a side-gable roof with one interior, parged chimney at the right side (northwest elevation); no gable returns. Walls are sheathed with clapboards and trimmed with a plain sill board, corner boards, and fascia. Windows contain 9/6 sash on the first floor of the main block and 6/6 sash on the second floor; all are trimmed with band molding.

The center entrance plan features a relatively high proportion of wall to window area on its façade and side elevations. The primary ornament on the otherwise spare façade is the doorway, which has a single-leaf door, multi-pane transom and half-height sidelights, and a wide flat architrave. A fieldstone stoop accesses the entrance.

The symmetrical right (northwest) elevation has two bays of vertically aligned windows on the first and second floors. The asymmetrical left (southeast) elevation contains two bays of vertically aligned windows toward the front on the first and second floors and one window centered in the half-story. An offset doorway at the rear of the ground story has a single-leaf door with flat architrave and thin, deep cornice shelf; a shed roof on modern square posts shelters this entrance and its small wood stoop. The rear ell is flush with the side elevation of the main block.

Two stories high and surmounted by a large gable roof, the large rear ell has second story windows set tight to the eaves and a brick chimney positioned on the ridge line near its gable end. Three windows are asymmetrically positioned along the second story, and two dissimilar windows (not clearly visible) are arrayed on the first floor: one nine-light sash towards the front and one presumably double-hung towards the back.

Well preserved and well maintained, the house at 75 Crane Neck Street is a handsome example of early 19th century development in rural West Newbury. The building is notable for its 2 ½ story form, bold center entrance, substantial rear ell (possibly the earlier house reused as a wing for a more modern replacement), and intact fenestration, materials, 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.*

Yeoman Benjamin Hills, Jr. (1752-1832) married Anna Brickett (1756-1828) in 1774 and lived in a house at this location after their marriage. Anecdotal local history sources state that that house became the rear ell when the existing main house was constructed around the turn of the 19th century.¹ (Interior inspections were beyond the scope of this survey, but a closer examination of surviving framing, floor plans, and interior features and finishes by an architectural historian with expertise in early Massachusetts building technology could provide additional insights into a likely construction date and on the physical evolution of the building over time.) Benjamin Hills, Jr. served in the Revolutionary war on three occasions in 1775, 1777, and

¹ MHC Survey Form WNB.16, 1973 edition. The form notes that "the front two rooms were added to ell Nov. 29, 1847 based on date found on beam in cellar" and "front living room papered 1853 by Hills (written on wall) ... Repapered 1883 by Louisa Connors, from whom estate [we ?] bought the house."

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

75 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.16

1778.² In his will, Benjamin bequeathed to Anna the use of the "two lower rooms in the southwesterly end of the house" and the use of half of the kitchen, among other items.

The 1830 map identifies the house as that of "E. Hills." This is likely Edmund Hills, son of Benjamin and Anna Hills. Edmund Hills, Esquire (1793-1861)³ married Judith Noyes Poor (1801-1890)⁴ in 1822. At the time of the 1855 census, Edmund and Judith Hills were living here with their three children.

In 1869, Margaret O'Conner purchased the house and 33 acres of land.⁵ Margaret (1830-1907), and her husband, Jeremiah O'Conner (1830-1902), both emigrated from Ireland in 1852 and were married in 1855. At the time of the 1870 census, Jeremiah O'Conner had 33 improved acres of land. After her parents' deaths, their widowed daughter, Louisa J. O'Conner Hirsch (ca. 1861-ca.1948), lived here until her death in 1948.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Anderson, Philander for Moses Pettingell. "Map of the Original Town of Newbury, now divided in Newbury, Newburyport, and West Newbury." 1830. Boston Public Library Norman B. Leventhal Map Center Collection. <https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:cj82ks49q>
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² Massachusetts Secretary of Commonwealth, *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolutionary War*. Vol. 1-17. Boston, Mass.: Wright and Potter Printing, 1896-1908. Ancestry.com. Accessed Jan. 16, 2020.

³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/60952831>. Accessed Jan. 16, 2020.

⁴ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/105460300/judith-noyes-hills>. Accessed Jan. 16, 2020.

⁵ Essex South Deed Book 773, p. 295.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

75 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.16

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGE

View looking south.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

75 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.16

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible ☐ **only** in a historic district☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic districtCriteria: ☒ **A** ☐ **B** ☒ **C** ☐ **D**Criteria Considerations: ☐ **A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G**Statement of Significance by Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

75 Crane Neck Street is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criteria A and C as a representative example of development in West Newbury during the Colonial and Federal periods (1630-1843) and as an excellent example of Federal-period architecture in Essex County. Into the last quarter of the 17th century, present-day West Newbury was known as the "Upper Commons" or "Upper Woods" for Newbury, and was to be held perpetually in common for all residents of Newbury. However, the "road to Bradford," (i.e. Main Street) was in use by the 1650s and houses began to be constructed near the road in this common area. Pressures mounted to open the upper commons to development and in 1686, the town voted that each freeholder would be allotted a 20-acre lot between the Artichoke River and the Merrimack River by the Bradford (Groveland) line. By the end of the 17th century, approximately 300 people lived in the present-day West Newbury area. Crane Neck Street was laid out before 1729 as an important connector between Main Street and Newbury.

Federal-period dwellings like 75 Crane Neck Street constructed during this period in West Newbury are typically two-story, five-bay blocks with center entrances and side elevations containing one or two bays. Roof designs are side-gable or hipped. Although located a significant distance away from Newburyport, where a strong artisan community supported that town's sophisticated tastes, West Newbury residents were aware of design trends popular in Newburyport. Well-preserved and well-maintained, the Hills House is a handsome example of very early 19th century development in rural West Newbury. The building is notable for its 2½ story form, bold center entrance, substantial rear ell (possibly the earlier house reused as a wing), and intact fenestration, materials, and detailing. The building retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship.

Information on the integrity of the interior would be needed in order to confirm this recommendation.

FORM B – BUILDING

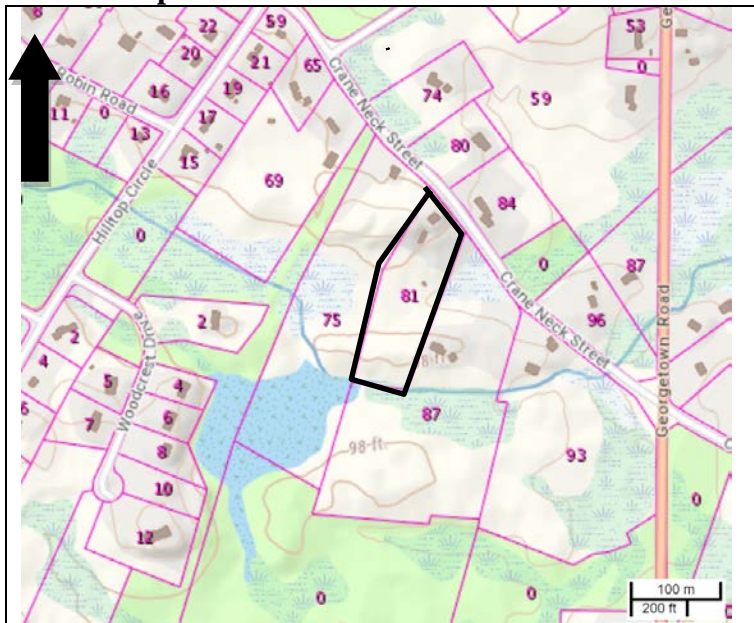
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



View looking west.

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

12

R3-14A

Newburyport
West

WNB.17
WNB.285
WNB.286

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 81 Crane Neck Street

Historic Name: Thomas Hale House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1717

Source: Visual; 1729 map

Style/Form: First Period – Colonial

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Not visible (assessor's card = brick/stone)

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards, shingles, and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Barn (19th C); Small shed (one of removed lean-to's?)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): 18th C fenestration.
1990s: Rear lean-tos removed; one-story addition added to rear, resulting in saltbox profile.

Condition: Good to Excellent

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 3.7 acres

Setting: Located on a main thoroughfare near its intersection with Georgetown/Meetinghouse Hill Road, part of a small cluster of early 18th – early 19th century homes. Set in a semi-rural residential area developed with a heterogeneous mix of buildings from the 18th through late 20th centuries, most occupying large open lots.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

81 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)

Form No.

WNB.17
WNB.285
WNB.286

☐ 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.

81 Crane Neck Street is located on the southwest side of the road, in the northwest corner of its long, narrow, trapezoidal parcel, behind a generous setback from the street. Crane Neck Street slopes up from southeast to northwest in this area, and the house stands atop a rise, facing southeast (away from the street). A row of mature street trees and a dry-laid stone wall line the street edge; the front part of the parcel is maintained chiefly in law. A split rail fence encloses the yard in front of the house, while a split rail fence with added pickets extends from the right rear corner of the house to a very small shed. A modestly-sized barn is located to the left (southwest) of the house. A gravel driveway runs in front of the house to the barn.

Five bays long by two bays deep, the voluminous main block rises 2½ stories from near grade to a side-gable roof with an integral rear lean to at its left (southwest) end. A large chimney rises from the center of the ridgeline; there are no gable returns. The façade of the main block is sheathed with wood clapboards, while wood shingles clad the side and rear walls; all are trimmed with inconspicuous flat corner boards. Windows on the main block are typically 12/8 double hung sash with flat jambs and a modest lintel cap. Windows on the rear extensions are a mix of single, paired, and triple sash, trimmed to match the main block.

The symmetrical five-bay façade of the main block is organized around a center entrance with a slightly recessed doorway, a narrow transom with bulls-eye glass, and a minimal, flat architrave with modest cornice molding. The right (northeast) elevation has two vertically-aligned bays of windows on its first and second floors, and a slightly overhanging half-story with a small four-light window centered in the gable peak. The rear of the building has a large, one-story, hipped roofed extension covering nearly all of its length, with a variety of fenestration on its two visible elevations and a utilitarian doorway near the mid-point of the rear (northwest) elevation. The northwest elevation of the house is not visible from the street, but the photograph in the assessor's records shows the deep integral lean-to with paired windows on the first floor and a six-light sash in the half-story. On the main block are one 12/8 window towards the rear of the main block on the first floor (another may be obscured by dense foliage), one 12/8 window centered in the second floor, and a small square-ish window centered in the gable peak.

The property contains two historic outbuildings. A very small shed near the right, rear corner of the house has a steep shed roof and clapboard siding. Not clearly visible from the street is a window or door offset on its long southeast elevation. To the left (southwest) of the house is a utilitarian 2-story barn with a side-gabled roof clad with wood shingles. Board and batten siding clads the façade (southeast elevation); vertical board siding covers the right side (northeast elevation), which has a slightly overhanging half-story. Fenestration consists of a pedestrian door inserted into what appears to have originally been a barn door opening in the middle of the façade (southeast elevation); three 6/6, slightly asymmetrically-arrayed windows across the second floor of the façade, and a 6/6 window centered in the second floor of the right elevation.

Well-maintained and well-preserved, 81 Crane Neck Street is a remarkable example of early development in West Newbury. The house is notable for its south-facing orientation and historic setting, large scale, sweeping roof forms, intact fenestration and early sash, simple composition and detailing, substantial center chimney, and modest early outbuildings.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

81 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.17
WNB.285
WNB.286
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 Thomas Hale House is purported to have been constructed circa 1717.¹ A house owned by Thomas Hale was in this location at the time of the 1729 map. This could be Thomas Hale (1696-1746) who in 1727 married Abigail Pilsbury (1700-1788). The Pilsbury family lived on Crane Neck Street at the time of their marriage. However, more than one Thomas Hale lived in Newbury at that time; More research is recommended.

It appears that by the mid-18th century, the house was owned by Josiah Hill. A Joseph Hale sold 50 acres in this general area to Josiah Hill in 1720.² It is not clear whether the purchase included this particular lot. More research is warranted. Josiah (1691-1724) and Mary Bartlett Hills (1697-1781) were married in 1718 and had three sons: Josiah, Thomas, Stephen. Their son, Major Josiah Hills (1722-1801), married Elisabeth Stickney in 1751 and the couple had two sons: Josiah and Amos Hill.

In 1805, Enoch Smith purchased the house at 81 Crane Neck Street and 35 acres from Major Josiah Hills' sons, Josiah and Amos Hill.³ Enoch and Hannah Smith moved their family out of the family home they shared with this parents and siblings (i.e. 93 Crane Neck Street) to "Major Hills" house, as recounted in *Reminiscences of a Nonagenarian*.⁴ Enoch Smith (1766-1837)⁵ and wife Hannah Woodman Smith (1771-1820)⁶ were married in 1793 and had at least three children, Moses, Amos, and Lydia Smith.

The 1856 map identifies Amos Smith, son of Enoch and Hannah Smith, as the owner of the house. It is unclear who resided here, as census records appear to indicate that Amos Smith lived at 34 Dole Place (WNB. 295) with this wife, Sarah Dole Smith. In *Reminiscences of a Nonagenarian*, Sarah Smith, cousin of Moses, Amos and Lydia Smith, discusses the extended Little and Smith families living along this stretch of Crane Neck Road; it is possible that although Amos Smith was the owner of records, another family member resided here. In 1891, Sarah Dole Smith sold the property to Moses D. Smith.⁷ The house was sold out of the Smith family by the grand-daughters of Moses Smith in 1943.⁸ That sale also included 93 Crane Neck Street (WNB.18). Evelyn Sargent, an antiques dealer,⁹ and her husband, Herbert, purchased the house in 1948 and owned the property until 1993.¹⁰

In 1993, Barbara and Robert Bettchner purchased the house, which was in poor condition. Robert Bettchner is a restoration carpenter who had previously restored other antique houses. The saltbox profile at the rear of the house dates from the 1990s and replaced two dilapidated lean-to additions.¹¹

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¹ Cited per homeowners' research in Gladys Montgomery Jones, '300 Decembers: A House in West Newbury, Massachusetts,' *Early American Life*, p. 44.

² Essex South Deed Book 38, p. 166.

³ Essex South Deed Book 223, p. 151. Recorded 1820.

⁴ *Reminiscences*, p. 108, p. 122, p. 126.

⁵ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/140393443/enoch-smith>. Accessed Feb. 24, 2020.

⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/140393514/hannah-smith>. Accessed Feb. 24, 2020.

⁷ Essex South Deed Book 1308, p. 275.

⁸ Essex South Deed Book 3353, p. 577.

⁹ Gladys Montgomery Jones, '300 Decembers: A House in West Newbury, Massachusetts,' *Early American Life*, p. 44.

¹⁰ Essex South Deed Book 3599, p. 424.

¹¹ Gladys Montgomery Jones, '300 Decembers: A House in West Newbury, Massachusetts,' *Early American Life*, p. 38.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

81 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

81 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



View looking southwest.



View looking west.



Shed. Perhaps one of the lean-tos removed in the 1990s?



House depicted in 1957 newspaper article. Lean-to at left.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

81 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)

Form No.

WNB.17
WNB.285
WNB.286**National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form**

Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible ☐ **only** in a historic district☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic districtCriteria: ☒ **A** ☐ **B** ☒ **C** ☐ **D**Criteria Considerations: ☐ **A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G**Statement of Significance by Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

81 Crane Neck Street is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criteria A and C as an excellent example of early Colonial-period architecture in Essex County. Well-maintained and well-preserved, 81 Crane Neck Street is also a remarkable example of early development in West Newbury. Into the last quarter of the 17th century, present-day West Newbury was known as the "Upper Commons" or "Upper Woods" for Newbury, and was to be held perpetually in common for all residents of Newbury. However, the "road to Bradford," (i.e. Main Street) was in use by the 1650s and houses began to be constructed near the road in this common area. Pressures mounted to open the upper commons to development and in 1686, the town voted that each freeholder would be allotted a 20-acre lot between the Artichoke River and the Merrimack River by the Bradford (Groveland) line. By the end of the 17th century, approximately 300 people lived in the present-day West Newbury area. Crane Neck Street was laid out before 1729 as an important connector between Main Street and Newbury.

81 Crane Neck Street is notable for its south-facing orientation and historic setting, large scale, sweeping roof forms, intact fenestration and early sash, simple composition and detailing, substantial center chimney, and modest early outbuildings. The building retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship.

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.

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

18

R3-16

Newburyport
West

WNB.287
WNB.288

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Photograph



View looking east.

Address: 84 Crane Neck Street

Historic Name: Nathaniel and Elizabeth Hills House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1774

Source: Deed; Visual

Style/Form: Colonial

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite block (?) and brick

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Attached barn (19th C)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Rear and side ells? (18th-19th C?); Enclosed sun porch (20th C)

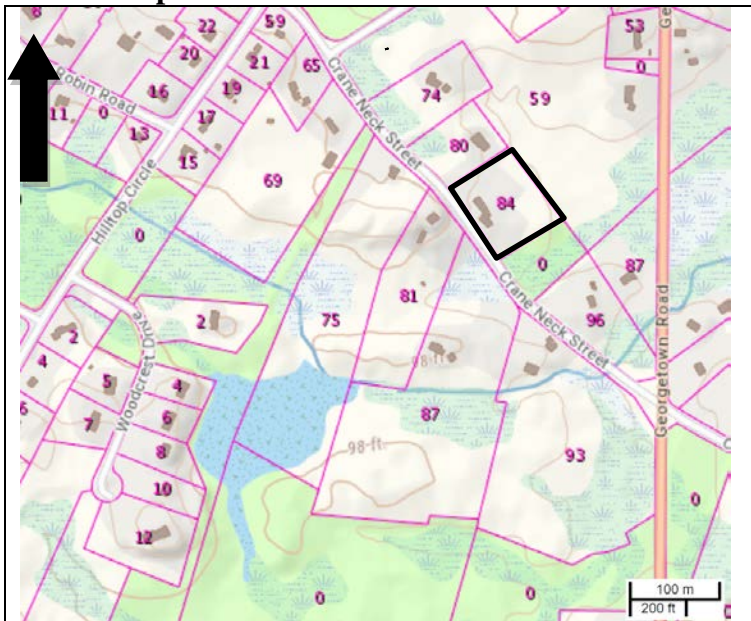
Condition: Excellent

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 2.0 acres

Setting: Located on a main thoroughfare near its intersection with Georgetown/Meetinghouse Hill Road, part of a small cluster of early 18th – early 19th century homes. Set in a semi-rural residential area developed with a heterogeneous mix of buildings from the 18th through late 20th centuries, most occupying large open lots.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero

Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

84 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.287
	WNB.288

☒ 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.

84 Crane Neck Street is located on the northeast side of the road, roughly centered between the side lot lines of its compact rectangular lot, behind a moderate front setback. Crane Neck Street slopes up from southeast to northwest in this area; the house stands slightly above street level on a flat platform. The front yard is maintained chiefly in lawn, with two mature street trees in front of the house and a vertical board fence extending to the right and left of the house and barn. The building consists of a 2 ½ story main block with a two-story rear ell, a two-story connector, and an attached barn.

The main block rises 2-½ stories from a low foundation to a side-gable roof with a sturdy center chimney and no gable returns. Walls of the main block, rear ell, and side connector are sheathed with clapboards and trimmed with corner boards and a narrow fascia with bed molding. Windows typically contain 9/6 double-hung sash with flat casings and a flat lintel cap.

Measuring five by two bays, the main block has a symmetrical façade (southwest elevation). The modest center entrance features a single-leaf door with narrow, multi-light transom above, narrow flat casings, and a prominent, unmolded cornice shelf. Granite steps access this doorway. The right (southeast) elevation has a one-story, glass-enclosed sunporch with a shed roof across the first floor; upper floors are not visible from the street.

The left side (northwest elevation) has two widely spaced bays of vertically-aligned windows on its first two floors and a small, 4/4 window centered in the half story. The two-story connector extending from the north corner of the main block has a symmetrical three-bay façade. Its center entrance is trimmed with slender molded pilasters and entablature, with a prominent cornice shelf.

Flush with the facade of the connector is a 1 ½ story barn that features vertical board siding and a double-leaf door with multi-pane transom offset on its façade. Barely visible, the northwest gable-end of the barn has vertical board siding, a slightly overhanging half-story, and a small 6-light window centered in the gable peak.

Well preserved and well maintained, 84 Crane Neck Street is a handsome, vernacular example of 18th century development in West Newbury. The building is notable for its rural setting with street trees; 2-½ story form; sequence of ells, additions, and attached barn; intact fenestration, trim, and materials; simple yet ornamental doorways; and early barn.

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.

84 Crane Neck Street was likely constructed circa 1774 shortly after Nathaniel Hills purchased a 19-acre property here from his father, Smith Hills.¹ Nathaniel Hills (1745-1832),² a joiner by trade, married Elizabeth Ordway in 1771.

In 1790, Nathaniel Hills sold his "dwelling house and barn" and 22 acres to cordwainer Josiah Bartlett.³

¹ Essex South Deed Book 134, p. 42.

² Findagrave.com. Memorial #99623631. Accessed June 20, 2020.

³ Essex South Deed Book 151, p. 234.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

84 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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In 1806, house carpenters Edward Hills and William Hills, Jr. purchased the property.⁴ Edward (or Edmund) Hills (1774-1851) married Prudence Ilsley (ca. 1780-1866) in that same year. At the time of the 1820 census, 11 people lived in this household. The 1851 tax roll noted that Edmund Hills owned one house and 100 acres.

By 1856, the house was the residence of Alexander H. Short.⁵ Alexander Hamilton Short (1808-1882)⁶ married Mary Hills Carleton Short (known as Polly) (1810-1879) in 1831. Alexander H. Short worked as a comb maker and farmer. The couple lived here with their six children. At the time of the 1865 census, their son, Alexander L. Short, and his family were also living with them, as was widow Prudence Hills, age 84. At the time of the 1872 map, the house was the residence of "C.A. Brown."⁷ This is likely shoe maker Charles A. Brown (1830-1884),⁸ who appears in the 1870 census.

Margaret J. Ellis purchased the house in 1913.⁹ Margaret and her husband, George H. Ellis, were married in 1889 and had at least nine children. George Ellis worked as a carpenter; Margaret Ellis worked in a shoe factory. Margaret and George's daughter, Mabelle Ellis, married Fred Adams, a foreman in a machine shop. In 1930, the couple purchased the property from her mother's estate. Fred and Mabelle Adams owned the property from 1930 to 1950.¹⁰

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⁴ Essex South Deed Book 179, p. 207.

⁵ Essex South Deed Book 673, p. 103. This 1864 deed to the property from James Z. Gordon to George Giles notes that it was "the premises now occupied by Alexander H. Short."

⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/163396350>. Accessed Jan. 16, 2020.

⁷ Charles A. Brown does not appear in any deed indices for the period. However, a deed for a nearby property uses as a boundary a lot of land "bonded" to Brown by owner Samuel S. Chase. See Essex South Deed Book 826, p. 256.

⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/99561943>. Accessed Feb. 24, 2020.

⁹ Essex South Deed Book 2204, p. 54.

¹⁰ Essex South Deed Book 2840, p. 129 and Essex South Deed Book 3747, p. 466.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

84 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.287
	WNB.288

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Façade. View looking northeast.



Attached barn. View looking northeast. Ell at right.



EII. View looking northeast. Main block at right. Attached barn at left.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

84 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

	WNB.287
	WNB.288

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually 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 Spies and Wendy Frontiero
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

84 Crane Neck Street is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criteria A and C as an excellent example of the development in West Newbury during the Colonial period (1630-1775) and of Colonial-period architecture in Essex County. Into the last quarter of the 17th century, present-day West Newbury was known as the "Upper Commons" or "Upper Woods" for Newbury, and was to be held perpetually in common for all residents of Newbury. However, the "road to Bradford," (i.e. Main Street) was in use by the 1650s and houses began to be constructed near the road in this common area. Pressures mounted to open the upper commons to development and in 1686, the town voted that each freeholder would be allotted a 20-acre lot between the Artichoke River and the Merrimack River by the Bradford (Groveland) line. Crane Neck Street was laid out before 1729 as an important connector between Main Street and Newbury. Well-maintained and well-preserved, 84 Crane Neck Street is a handsome, vernacular example of 18th century development in West Newbury. The building is notable for its rural setting with street trees; 2½ story form; sequence of ells, additions, and attached barn; intact fenestration, trim, and materials; simple yet ornamental doorways; and early barn. The building retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship. Information on the integrity of the interior would be needed in order to confirm this recommendation.

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

23

R3-13

Newburyport
West

WNB.18

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 93 Crane Neck Street

Historic Name: James and Elizabeth Smith House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1805

Source: Visual

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None visible.
(Assessor: 1955 Pole Barn)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Rear ell and side entry porch (19th C?); rear addition (20th C)

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 11.0 acres

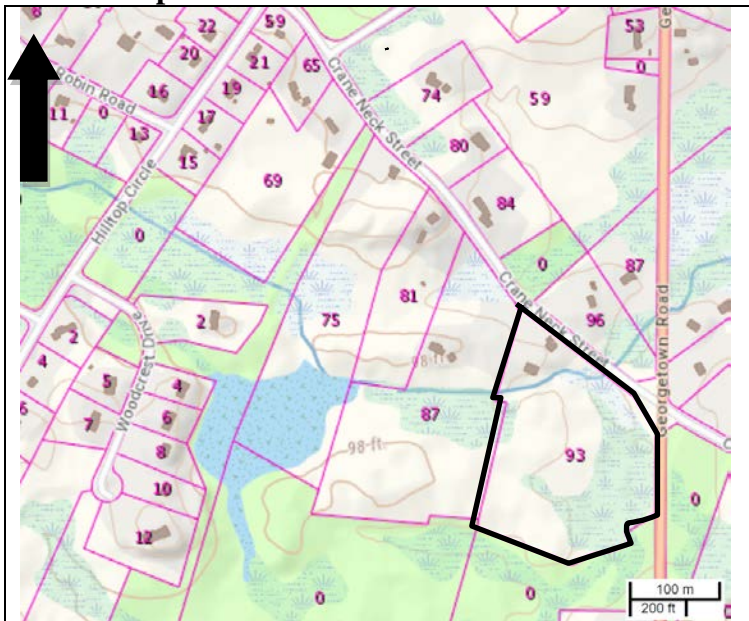
Setting: Located at the intersection of two main country roads, Crane Neck Street and Georgetown/Meetinghouse Hill Road, part of a small cluster of early 18th – early 19th century homes. Set in a semi-rural residential area developed with a heterogeneous mix of buildings from the 18th through late 20th centuries, most occupying large open

Photograph



View looking northwest.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero

Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

93 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.18

☐ 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.

93 Crane Neck Street is located on the southwest side of the road, in the northwest corner of its irregularly shaped parcel, with a moderate front setback. The parcel slopes up from the street very gently and is maintained chiefly in lawn; the house is obscured by trees and shrubs on three sides. A gravel driveway leads diagonally from the street to a parking area between the rear of the house and a large wood-frame outbuilding standing to its southwest. Neither the outbuilding nor the house is clearly visible from the street due to surrounding trees and shrubbery. The L-shaped house consists of a 2-½ story main block and rear ell, and a one-story addition that infills between them.

The main block rises two stories from a low foundation to a side-gable roof with a tall center chimney. Walls of the main block and rear ell are sheathed with wood clapboards and trimmed with corner boards. Windows typically contain 6/1 double-hung sash with band molding.

The main block has a five-bay façade (southeast elevation) oriented to the south rather than to the street. Its center entrance consists of a single-leaf door with a narrow flat casing. Extending parallel with the street, the rear ell projects forward of the main block; a plain porch with utilitarian square posts and a shallow hip roof spans the two-bay depth of the main block and connects with a side entrance in the projecting southeast face of the ell. The street-facing, northeast elevation of the ell contains three asymmetrically placed windows. Its gable end (northwest elevation) has one bay of vertically-aligned windows towards the front (street); a large chimney rises from the rear (northwest) slope of the roof, near the gable end. A one-story addition fills most of the corner between the main block and the ell; it is not clearly visible from the street, with the exception of one 6/6 window.

93 Crane Neck Street is an example of modest early development in outlying areas of West Newbury. The building is notable for its intact form and massing, substantial chimneys, south-facing orientation, and still-rural setting.

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 at 93 Crane Neck Street was owned by members of the extended Smith and Little families during the 18th and 19th centuries. Sarah Smith Emery (1787-1879) presented her memoirs of the house and area in *Reminiscences of a Nonagenarian*, which was published in 1879 by her daughter, Sarah Anna Emery.

Anecdotal local history sources state that the house was constructed in the early 18th century. The building's current appearance most likely dates from the early 19th century. Interior inspections were beyond the scope of this survey, but a closer examination of surviving framing, floor plans, and interior features and finishes by an architectural historian with expertise in early Massachusetts building technology could provide additional insights into a likely construction date and on the physical evolution of the building over time.

Capt. James Smith, Jr. (1725-1787) married Elizabeth Noyes in 1748 and the couple had seven children.¹ After her husband's death, widow Elizabeth Noyes Smith shared this house with her children and their families. In *Reminiscences of a Nonagenarian*, Sarah Smith Emery wrote: "My father and mother [i.e. James III and Prudence Smith], recently married, occupied

¹ *Reminiscences*, p. 121.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

93 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.18

one half of the house; my widowed grandmother, with another son [Enoch] and daughter [Sarah], resided in the other half."² James Smith III (1762-1853) married Prudence Little (1767-1836)³ in 1787. The 1830 map identifies "James Smith, Jr." as owner of the house.

At the time of the 1850 census, the house was shared by James Smith III, James Smith IV (1791-1882)⁴ and his wife, Sarah, and another couple.

In 1859, comb maker Lewis W. Smith, purchased the house and 55 acres from James Smith IV.⁵ Lewis W. Smith (1823-1903)⁶ had married his second wife, Lucy, in 1857. At the time of the 1880 census, comb manufacturer Lewis Smith employed four people and produced \$600 worth of combs in the previous year. In his 1903 will, Lewis W. Smith bequeathed his "homestead farm" to son Robert L. Smith and daughters Frederica and Clara Smith. All three children lived here until their deaths in the mid-20th century.

The house and 55-acre lot were sold out of the Smith family in 1944.⁷ The sale also included 81 Crane Neck Street (WNB.17).

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² *Reminiscences*, p. 6.

³³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/103261275/prudence-smith>. Accessed Feb. 22, 2020.

⁴ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59196653>. Accessed Jan. 20, 2020.

⁵ Essex South Deed Book 592, p. 24.

⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/153621275>. Accessed Jan. 20, 2020.

⁷ Essex South Deed Book 3377, p. 381.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

93 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Area(s) Form No.

WNB.18

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES

View looking southeast.



View looking southeast.



1973 photograph from survey form WNB.18. View looking southeast.



1989 Photograph from updated 1973 survey form WNB.18. View looking northwest.

FORM B – BUILDING

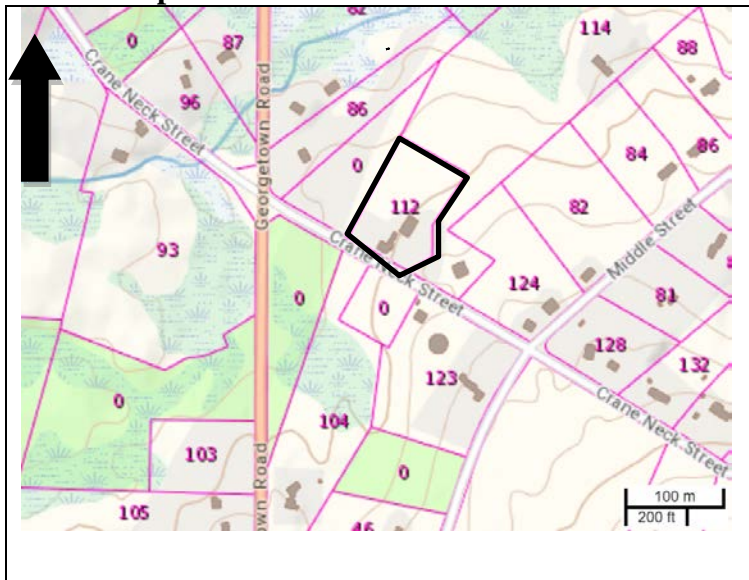
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MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



View looking north.

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

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R3-32

Newburyport
West

WNB.13
WNB.289

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 112 Crane Neck Street

Historic Name: John and Susannah Coker House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1805

Source: Marriage date; visual

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite block?

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Barn (ca. 1850)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Rear ell (early 19th C?) and additions (late 20th C)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 2.35 acres

Setting: Located on a main country thoroughfare near its intersection with Georgetown Road. Set in a semi-rural residential area developed with a heterogeneous mix of buildings from the 18th through late 20th centuries, most occupying large open lots.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

112 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.13
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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:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

112 Crane Neck Street is located on the northeast side of the road, roughly centered on the frontage of its generally rectangular parcel, with a moderate front setback. Crane Neck Street slopes down from southeast to northwest in front of the lot, while the parcel rises gently up from the street towards the back of the property. A mature street tree stands to the west of the front left corner of the house, and a dry-laid stone wall extends northward from this tree. The yard is maintained chiefly in lawn. A paved driveway passes the southeast side of the house to a large barn positioned relatively close to the house. A circular, fieldstone structure at the east of the main block appears to be a well. The house consists of a main block with integral lean-to, large rear ell, and sequence of smaller additions at the right rear corner of the building.

The main block rises 2 ½ stories from a low, granite block foundation to a side gable roof with gable returns and a large center chimney. Walls of the main block and rear ell are sheathed in wood clapboards and trimmed with a sill board, corner boards, and narrow fascia with bed molding. The one-story rear additions appear to be clad with wood shingles. Windows typically contain 9/6 double-hung sash with band molding. Windows on the main block have molded cornice caps on the façade (southwest) and left side (northwest elevation).

The symmetrical, five-bay façade is dominated by a bold center entrance with single-leaf door; multi-light rectangular transom and half-height sidelights; slender molded pilasters, and a carefully detailed entablature. The entrance is accessed by rubble steps with concrete slab treads.

The left (northwest) elevation features one bay of vertically aligned windows centered on the gable end of the main block and an integral lean-to with one window bay and trim similar to the main block. The right side (southeast) elevation also has one bay of vertically aligned windows centered on the gable end of the main block. A two-story ell projects forward from the plane of the main block and features a gable roof and brick chimney positioned on the ridge line towards the front of the ell. A small rectangular porch with square corner post joins the main block and rear ell, accessing a single-leaf door on the plane of the main block. The long southeast elevation of the rear ell has two evenly spaced windows on the second floor, two single windows towards the front of the first floor, and a tri-partite window towards the rear of the first floor.

The 1-½ story rear addition feature irregular fenestration, including single 6/6 windows, multi-pane tri-partite windows, several barn-door style openings that have been infilled in various ways, shed-roofed dormers towards the front of both slopes, and a small chimney towards the rear.

The large barn positioned close to the right rear corner of the house rises 1-½ stories from a rubble foundation to a front-gabled roof clad with asphalt shingles. Walls are clad with wood shingles and trimmed with narrow corner boards; no gable returns. The symmetrical façade (southwest elevation) has a large barn door opening with a pair of sliding wood doors and a multi-light rectangular transom. The barn door is flanked by one small 6-light window on each side and surmounted by a 6/6 window in the gable peak. The right (southeast) elevation contains a band of vertical-light windows at the top of the basement level; five trios of 6-light windows are symmetrically arranged along the main level on this elevation.

Well preserved and well maintained, 112 Crane Neck Street is a fine example of late 18th – early 19th century development in outlying areas of West Newbury. The house is notable for its rural setting, historic massing, sophisticated front entrance, elegant window caps, and intact early barn.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

112 CRANE NECK ST

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Area(s) Form No.

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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.

112 Crane Neck Street was likely constructed around the time that John Coker (1781-1852)¹ married his wife, Susannah Adams (1781-1858),² in 1805. In the 1810s, John Coker owned more than 100 acres in the area surrounding the intersection of Crane Neck Road, Ash Street, and Middle Street, including, it appears, the land upon which 112 Crane Neck Road is located. In 1818, John and Susannah Coker sold 30 acres and buildings to Edmund Little and his wife, Judith.³

In 1827, "gentleman" Joseph Bartlett Little purchased the 15-acre property;⁴ Joseph B. Little already owned land nearby.⁵ Joseph B. Little (1801-1838)⁶ had married his wife, Mary S. Little (1804-1848),⁷ five years earlier. The 1830 map shows J.B. Little's house with his "store" beside it. Joseph B. Little died at age 37 and the property was sold.

In 1843, farmer Charles B. Sawyer purchased the property.⁸ Charles B. Sawyer (ca. 1814-1896)⁹ had married Abigail Brickett Sawyer (ca. 1817-1901) and lived here with their daughters, Sarah and Ellen Sawyer.

Romulus Preston Jaques (1867-1909),¹⁰ and, after his death, his heirs, owned the property from 1902 until 1943.¹¹ (Romulus Preston Jaques owned 23 Farm Lane until 1902. See WNB.20.)

In 1943, 112 Crane Neck Street was purchased by Julian D. and Polly Steele, who had married in 1938.¹² Julian Denegal Steele (1906-1970) and his wife, Mary Dawes Steele, known as Polly, (1907-1993), lived here with their daughter, Emilie. Upon their arrival in West Newbury, the Steele family immediately became an active part of town life with school, church, and summer theater activities. By 1950, the family, with the help of a local farmer when Steele worked in Boston, was running a dairy farm on the property, supplemented by a small flock of sheep, and several horses.¹³ Steele's most visible local contribution was his election in 1952 to the position of West Newbury town moderator, an event that gained notice as Steele was the only African-American voter in West Newbury at the time and the first African-American person to hold that position in Massachusetts. Steele held that position until his death in 1970.

West Newbury provided the Steele family with a respite from the public tumult that had surrounded their interracial marriage in 1938. Educated at Boston Latin School and Harvard University, Julian D. Steele completed graduate studies in social work before becoming Executive Director of the R.G. Shaw Settlement House in Roxbury in 1931. It was at the settlement house that Steele met Polly Dawes, who ran the day care program there. News of their engagement, an African-American man born in Georgia and a white woman with roots in Boston's establishment, prompted a very public "journalistic free-for-all"¹⁴ that was commented on by press outlets across the country and prompted racially-charged protests. The settlement house board forced Steele's resignation, finding that a mixed marriage would, as the *Boston Globe* reported, "impair his usefulness to Shaw

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/179530544>. Accessed Feb. 24, 2020.

² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/179530608/susanna-coker>. Accessed Feb. 24, 2020.

³ See Essex South Deed Book 218, p. 16.

⁴ Essex South Deed Book 245, p. 101.

⁵ See Essex South Deed Book 218, p. 16.

⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58324407>. Accessed Feb. 21, 2020.

⁷ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58324627/mary-s-little>. Accessed Feb. 21, 2020.

⁸ Essex South Deed Book 344, p. 5.

⁹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58218525>. Accessed Feb. 21, 2020.

¹⁰ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/90184958>. Accessed Feb. 21, 2020.

¹¹ Essex South Deed Book 1667, p. 97 and 3330, p. 395.

¹² Essex South Deed Book 3330, p. 395.

¹³ Frieda Marion, "Julian D. Steele, Nationally Known Welfare Worker, Has Farm Estate in West Newbury," *Newburyport Daily News*, March 2, 1950, p. A-15.

¹⁴ "Julian D. Steele: Massachusetts' First Black Town Moderator," *Boston Globe*, May 11, 1938, p. 1.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

112 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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House.”¹⁵ Following their wedding, Polly Dawes Steele is quoted as saying, “True love has no barrier. It transcends class, color, creed, or conditions.”¹⁶

Undeterred, Julian D. Steele became the head of the Boston Armstrong Hemenway Foundation, which focused on affordable housing. “In 1955 he was named to the Massachusetts Parole Board...He was appointed deputy administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency for...New England and New York in 1960. In 1968, [Steele was] appointed commission of the Massachusetts Department of Community Affairs, the first Black to head a major state agency in Massachusetts.”¹⁷

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¹⁵ “Julian D. Steele: Massachusetts’ First Black Town Moderator,” citing *Boston Globe*, May 11, 1938, p. 10.

¹⁶ “Bride Related to Gen. Dawes: Met in Settlement House, Engaged Long Time,” *The San Francisco Examiner*, May 12, 1938, p. 8.

¹⁷ “Yesterday in Afro-American History.” *Jet*. Vol. 39, No. 3. Oct. 22, 1970. P. 10.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

112 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.13 WNB.289
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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Façade. View looking northeast.



Barn. View looking north.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

112 CRANE NECK ST

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.13
WNB.289

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible ☐ **only** in a historic district☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic districtCriteria: ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GStatement of Significance by Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

112 Crane Neck Street is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criteria A, B, and C as a representative example of development in West Newbury during the Colonial period (1630-1775), for its association with Julian D. and Polly Steele, and as an excellent example of Colonial-period architecture in Essex County.

Into the last quarter of the 17th century, present-day West Newbury was known as the "Upper Commons" or "Upper Woods" for Newbury, and was to be held perpetually in common for all residents of Newbury. However, the "road to Bradford," (i.e. Main Street) was in use by the 1650s and houses began to be constructed near the road in this common area. Pressures mounted to open the upper commons to development and in 1686, the town voted that each freeholder would be allotted a 20-acre lot between the Artichoke River and the Merrimack River by the Bradford (Groveland) line. Crane Neck Street was laid out before 1729 as an important connector between Main Street and Newbury.

In 1943, 112 Crane Neck Street was purchased by Julian D. and Polly Steele. Julian Steele's most visible local contribution was his election in 1952 to the position of West Newbury town moderator, an event that gained notice as Steele was the only African-American voter in West Newbury at the time and the first African-American person to hold that position in Massachusetts. Steele held that position until his death in 1970. West Newbury provided the Steele family with a respite from the public tumult that had surrounded their interracial marriage in 1938. Educated at Boston Latin School and Harvard University, Julian D. Steele completed graduate studies in social work before becoming Executive Director of the R.G. Shaw Settlement House in Roxbury in 1931. It was at the settlement house that Steele met Polly Dawes, who ran the day care program there. News of their engagement, an African-American man born in Georgia and a white woman with roots in Boston's establishment, prompted a very public "journalistic free-for-all"¹⁸ that was commented on by press outlets across the country and prompted racially-charged protests. The settlement house board forced Steele's resignation, finding that a mixed marriage would, as the *Boston Globe* reported, "impair his usefulness to Shaw House."¹⁹ Undeterred, Julian D. Steele became the head of the Boston Armstrong Hemenway Foundation, which focused on affordable housing. "In 1955 he was named to the Massachusetts Parole Board...He was appointed deputy administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency for...New England and New York in 1960. In 1968, [Steele was] appointed commission of the Massachusetts Department of Community Affairs, the first Black to head a major state agency in Massachusetts."²⁰

¹⁸ "Julian D. Steele: Massachusetts' First Black Town Moderator," p. 1.

¹⁹ "Julian D. Steele: Massachusetts' First Black Town Moderator," citing *Boston Globe*, May 11, 1938, p. 10.

²⁰ "Yesterday in Afro-American History." *Jet*. Vol. 39, No. 3. Oct. 22, 1970. P. 10.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

112 CRANE NECK ST**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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112 Crane Neck Street is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C as an excellent example of Colonial-period architecture in Essex County. The house is notable for its rural setting, historic massing, sophisticated front entrance, elegant window caps, and intact early barn. Information on the integrity of the interior of the building would be needed to confirm this recommendation.

FORM B – BUILDING

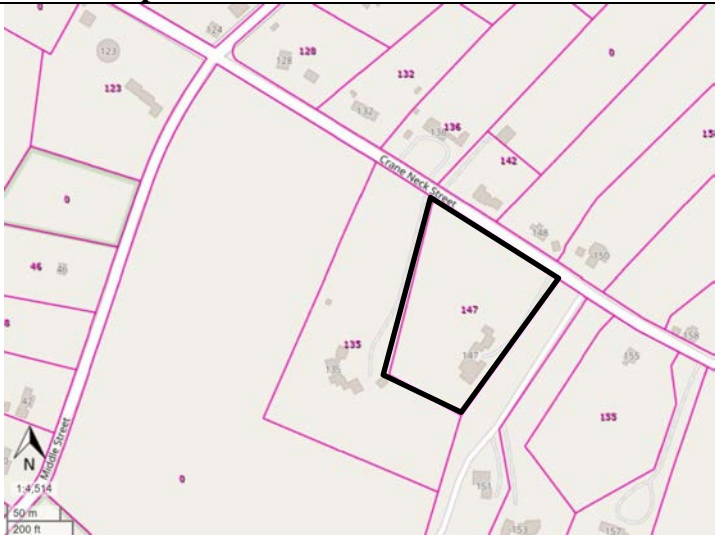
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



South additions and main house, façade (southeast) and 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

0030 0000
00010

Newburyport

WNB.14
WNB.428

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 147 Crane Neck Street

Historic Name: Samuel and Sarah Thurlow House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1786

Source: Deed

Style/Form: Georgian/Federal

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick, concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Barn (19th century)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Center entrance (mid-19th c), side additions and ells (20th - early 21st c)

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 4.00 acres

Setting: Located on a cross-town thoroughfare in a semi-rural, residential area. Surrounding development is a heterogeneous mixture of forms, ages, and styles. Large lots and dwellings are typical on the southern side of the road; smaller houses on narrow lots prevail on the north side.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

147 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Area(s) Form No.

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	WNB.428

☒ 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:

147 Crane Neck Street is located on the south side of Crane Neck Street, facing southeast. The house stands on a hilltop, set far from the street, with a curvilinear, paved driveway lined with rhododendrons and dry-laid stone walls at the entrance. Ornamental shrubs are planted around the perimeter of the house; expansive lawns surround the house and slope downward to the east and north. The property contains a main house with assorted additions on both sides and an attached barn at the southern end of the assemblage.

The five by three bay main block measures 37 feet long by 28 feet deep and rises 2½ stories from a brick foundation to a side gable roof with minimal gable returns and two interior chimneys. Exterior walls are clad with wood clapboards and trimmed with flat wood sill boards, corner boards, and fascia boards. Windows typically have 6/6 double hung sash and flat trim. The asymmetrical façade has a center entrance comprised of a single-leaf door with narrow full-height sidelights and a classical architrave with flat pilasters and entablature and cornice molding. The gable ends each have a narrow, 9/6 window in the half-story. The rear elevation of the main block has four window bays, loosely grouped in pairs.

Set back from the façade of the main block on its north end is a 1½ story addition with a concrete foundation, gable roof, and recessed entry porch on the façade. It has two window bays on each exposed elevation, displaying 6/6 windows with flat trim. Extending from the north side of the main block is a sequence of three small 1-story, gabled ells with concrete foundations, typically 6/6 windows on the façades, and multifarious windows on the rear elevations. The addition immediately adjacent to the main block is fronted by a shed-roofed porch having plain wood posts and square-section balusters; a single-leaf door accesses the north elevation of the main block. The rear elevation of this addition has a band of three contiguous windows. The façade of the narrow middle addition has a single-leaf door in the center, flanked by pairs of narrow, 6-light casement windows. Its rear elevation has a recessed porch and fenestration similar to the front. The low, southernmost ell has a center entrance flanked by a 6/6 window on each side of the façade; its rear elevation is clad with wood shingles.

The large, attached barn (WNB.428) measures approximately 40 feet square and rises 1½ stories from a concrete foundation to a broad, front-gabled roof. Walls are typically clad with wood clapboards. The front gable-end of the barn has a large sliding door with vertical-board construction at ground level and a small 6/6 window positioned off-center in the half-story. The rear gable-end has a small 2/2 window positioned off-center in the half-story. The long, southeast elevation of the barn is asymmetrically composed with three 3/3 windows and a pair of sliding, vertical-board doors. The original volume of the barn has several modern appendages, including a small gabled addition on its façade; a four by one bay, open shed with heavy-timber framing across the back (southwest) end; and a long, shed-roofed addition along the northwest side.

Well maintained and largely intact, 147 Crane Neck Street is a handsome example of rural, Colonial style architecture in West Newbury, illustrating the evolution of properties from agricultural use to suburban housing. Notable features include its striking hilltop setting, the unusually large size of the main house, its asymmetrical façade with an early 19th century door frame, and twin interior chimneys. Modern side additions are relatively small in scale and sympathetic in form and detailing. The survival of the uncommonly large, early barn is also remarkable, although its historic form has been compromised by additions on all sides.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The house was likely constructed circa 1786, the year in which Samuel Thurlow, Sr. purchased a 137-acre farm here from Moses and Mary Little.¹ Samuel Thurlow, Sr. (ca. 1740-1818) and his wife, Sarah Little Thurlow (ca. 1750-1825), were married

¹ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 146, p. 248.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

147 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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	WNB.14
	WNB.428

in 1770. Per probate records, the couple had two sons, Enoch and Samuel, Jr. In his will, Samuel Thurlow, Sr. left the house to his son, Enoch (1771-1836).

In 1838, Samuel Thurlow Jr. (1783-1860)² purchased the expansive farm³ from his nephew, Stephen Coffin Thurlow, Enoch's son. Farmer Samuel Thurlow, Jr. and his second wife, Phebe Phelps Thurlow (1786-1879),⁴ were married in 1827 in West Newbury. Samuel Thurlow, Jr. was the uncle of Sarah Emery Smith (1787-1879), who presented her memoirs of the Crane Neck Hill neighborhood in *Reminiscences of a Nonagenarian* (published in 1879).⁵

After her husband's death, Phebe Thurlow sold the house to farmer Richard Linch (Lynch) of West Newbury in 1860.⁶ Irish immigrants Richard Linch (1826-1901)⁷ and his wife, Rebecca McDaid Linch (1824-1889),⁸ were married circa 1849. Richard Linch served in the Civil War, serving with Company B, 2nd Heavy Artillery Regiment, Massachusetts and discharged with a disability in June 1865. It appears that the couple's daughters, "Addie" Adeline T. Linch (ca. 1855-1941)⁹ and Jennie R. (possibly Rebecca Jane) (1856-1927),¹⁰ did not marry and lived here until nearly the end of their lives. Addie T. Linch sold the house in 1939.¹¹

Farmer Howard R. Sheys and his wife, Alice Sheys, owned the house from 1939 until 1949.¹² The property has been owned since 1949 by Donald D. and Nancy D. Mitchell.¹³

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² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/57878626/samuel-thurlow>. Accessed May 19, 2023.

³ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 304, p. 206.

⁴ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/57878724/phebe-thurlow>. Accessed May 19, 2023.

⁵ *Reminiscences of a Nonagenarian*, p. 7.

⁶ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 616, p. 198.

⁷ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58479187/richard-linch>. Accessed May 19, 2023.

⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58479156/rebecca-linch>. Accessed May 19, 2023.

⁹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58552668/adeline-t-linch>. Accessed May 19, 2023.

¹⁰ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58552497/rebecca-jane-linch>. Accessed May 19, 2023.

¹¹ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 3185, p. 269.

¹² Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 3185, p. 269.

¹³ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 3652, p. 508.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

147 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.14
WNB.428

Façade of main house.



Detail of main entrance.



South additions, façade (southeast) elevations.



Façade (northeast elevation) of barn.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

147 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.14
WNB.428

Southeast and façade (northeast) elevations of barn.



Southeast elevation of barn and façade (southeast elevation) of main house.



Rear (northwest) elevations of main house, additions, and barn.



Rear elevations of north addition and main house.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

147 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.14
WNB.428**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, Historic Preservation Consultants
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Samuel and Sarah Thurlow House is recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level. The house is recommended as eligible under Criterion A for its association with West Newbury's agricultural history. The house is also recommended as eligible under Criterion C as a handsome example of rural, Colonial style architecture in West Newbury. Well-maintained and largely intact, 147 Crane Neck Street illustrates the evolution of properties from agricultural use to suburban housing. Notable features include its striking hilltop setting, the unusually large size of the main house, its asymmetrical façade with an early 19th century door frame, and twin interior chimneys. Modern side additions are relatively small in scale and sympathetic in form and detailing. The survival of the uncommonly large, early barn is also remarkable, although its historic form has been compromised by additions on all sides. The house retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship. Information on the integrity of the interior and the nature and extent of modern alterations would be needed to confirm this recommendation.

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

40

R4-6

Newburyport
West

WNB.290
WNB.291

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 155 Crane Neck Street

Historic Name: Little House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1794

Source: Visual

Style/Form: Georgian

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite rubble (?)

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: shed/workshop (19th C?)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Rear ells and additions (19th-20th C?); Rebuilt center chimney (L20th C-early 21st C); Foundation (early 20th C)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 3.58 acres

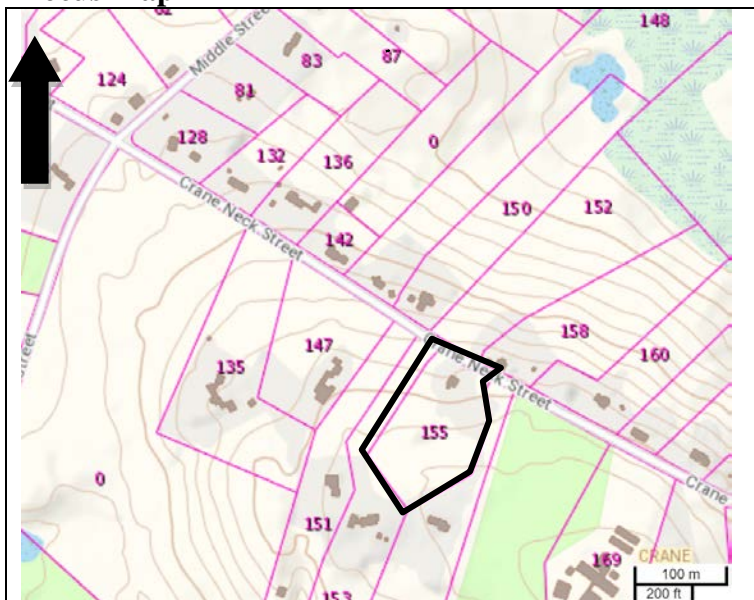
Setting: Located on a main country thoroughfare near its intersection with Middle Street. Set in a semi-rural residential area developed with a heterogeneous mix of buildings from the 18th through late 20th centuries, most occupying large open lots.

Photograph



View looking west.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero

Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

155 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.290
	WNB.291

☐ 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.

155 Crane Neck Street is located on the southwest side of the road, approximately in the center of the street frontage of its irregularly shaped lot, with a generous front setback. Crane Neck Street slopes down from southeast to northwest in front of the parcel, while the terrain slopes up from the street to the rear of the lot. The house stands well above street level, on a flat terrace. The yard is maintained chiefly in lawn; three mature street trees are evenly spaced in front of the house. A gravel driveway extends along the left (southeast) side of the property. The house consists of a main block with large rear additions and ells. A small workshop/shed stands to the southwest of the dwelling.

The main block rises 2-½ stories from a low foundation to a side-gable roof without gable returns and with a low chimney set on the rear slope, approximately in the center of the volume. Walls of the main block and rear extensions are sheathed with wood clapboards and trimmed with flat corner boards and fascia boards. Windows typically have 9/6 double-hung sash on the first floor of the main block and 6/6 sash elsewhere, all with band molding.

The symmetrical façade (northeast elevation) has five bays with a center entrance and a relatively high proportion of wall to window area. Detail is focused on the entrance, which has a single-leaf door with wide molded pilasters and a gabled entablature (not a full pediment). The symmetrical left (southeast) elevation has two evenly spaced windows on the first floor and one window centered in the second story and half-story above. The gabled rear addition is in the same plane as the end gable of the main block; it displays a large tri-partite window on the first floor and two single windows above. Set back from the plane of the main block and rear addition, the gabled rear addition is also two stories high, with a shed roofed porch across the front, sheltering a single-leaf door, and two single windows above.

The right (northwest) elevation of the main block is asymmetrical, with two different window sash on the first floor, one on the second floor, and one in the half-story. The two-story rear addition is flush with the gable end of the main block; like the southeast elevation, it contains a large tri-partite window on the first floor and two single windows above. Set back from the plane of the rear addition, the rear ell has two vertically-aligned window bays on its northwest elevation.

Positioned to the west of the house is a workshop or shed, comparable in size to a one-bay garage, with a front gable roof without gable returns, clapboard siding with flat corner boards and fascia, and a wood shingle roof. The northeast elevation has two widely spaced, 6/6 windows with band molding. A large, multi-pane picture window is centered on the northwest gable-end, while a pair of French doors is centered on the southwest gable-end.

Well preserved and well maintained, 155 Crane Neck Street is a handsome example of late 18th – early 19th century development in remote areas of West Newbury. The house is notable for its rural setting, hillside site with a deep setback from the street, trio of mature street trees, dignified scale and size, classical main entrance surround, historic fenestration, and potentially early outbuilding.

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 at 155 Crane Neck Street was likely constructed circa 1790, based on its appearance, by descendants of Enoch Little (1685-1766) and Elizabeth Worth Little (1688-1766), who were married in 1707 and owned a house in this location. The existing house replaced the earlier house (or houses) in this location that appears on the 1729 map.

Continuation sheet 1

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

155 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.290
	WNB.291

At the time of the 1830 map, the existing house was owned by Stephen M. Little, great-grandson of Enoch and Elizabeth Little. Stephen Moody Little (1777-1845)¹ was married first to Elizabeth Brickett in 1794 and, for a second time, to Sarah Chase in 1839. Census records indicate that Stephen M. Little worked as a farmer.

The house was passed down through the Little family until 1846, when the property, which grew to 76 acres, was purchased by Henry Merrill.² Henry Merrill (ca.1778-1859) married Lydia Jackman in 1803 and Alice Moulton in 1820. At the time of the 1850 census, two households lived here: Henry and Alice Merrill and daughter Lydia; and, Henry's son William, his wife Catherine, and their five children. After his father's passing, William Merrill, Sr. lived here with second wife, Catherine Pearson Merrill. William and Catherine's son, William, Jr. inherited the property and lived here until his death in 1937.

From 1947 to 1953, 155 Crane Neck Street was the summer home of Roland and Helen Hayes of Brookline, Massachusetts.³ Roland Hayes (1883-1977) was an internationally-acclaimed concert tenor who had come to West Newbury on the urging of neighbor Julian Steele (see WNB.13). Born to an emancipated slave, in Georgia, Hayes began his career in the 1920s, initially gaining success in Europe before returning to the United States. Hayes performed with the Boston, Philadelphia, Detroit and New York Symphony orchestras and received eight honorary degrees.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58273388>. Accessed Feb. 21, 2020.

² Essex South Deed Book 367, 203

³ Essex South Deed Book 3504, p. 202 and Book 4007, 125.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

155 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.290
	WNB.291

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES

Shed/workshop.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

155 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.290
	WNB.291

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually 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 Spies and Wendy Frontiero*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

155 Crane Neck Street is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criteria A and C as a representative example of development in West Newbury and as an excellent example of Georgian architecture in Essex County. Into the last quarter of the 17th century, present-day West Newbury was known as the "Upper Commons" or "Upper Woods" for Newbury, and was to be held perpetually in common for all residents of Newbury. However, the "road to Bradford," (i.e. Main Street) was in use by the 1650s and houses began to be constructed near the road in this common area. Pressures mounted to open the upper commons to development and in 1686, the town voted that each freeholder would be allotted a 20-acre lot between the Artichoke River and the Merrimack River by the Bradford (Groveland) line. Crane Neck Street was laid out before 1729 as an important connector between Main Street and Newbury.

Well-preserved and well-maintained, 155 Crane Neck Street is a handsome example of late 18th – early 19th century development in remote areas of West Newbury. The house is notable for its rural setting, hillside site with a deep setback from the street, trio of mature street trees, dignified scale and size, classical main entrance surround, historic fenestration, and potentially early outbuilding. Information on the integrity of the interior of the building would be needed to confirm this recommendation.

FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

45

R4-8

Newburyport
West

WNB.292
WNB.293

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Photograph



View looking north.

Address: 158 Crane Neck Street

Historic Name: Moses and Sarah Pillsbury House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1772

Source: Deed

Style/Form: Georgian

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

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

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Re-built chimney (20th C?); side vestibule (late 20th C); Replacement windows (L 20th C-early 21st C)

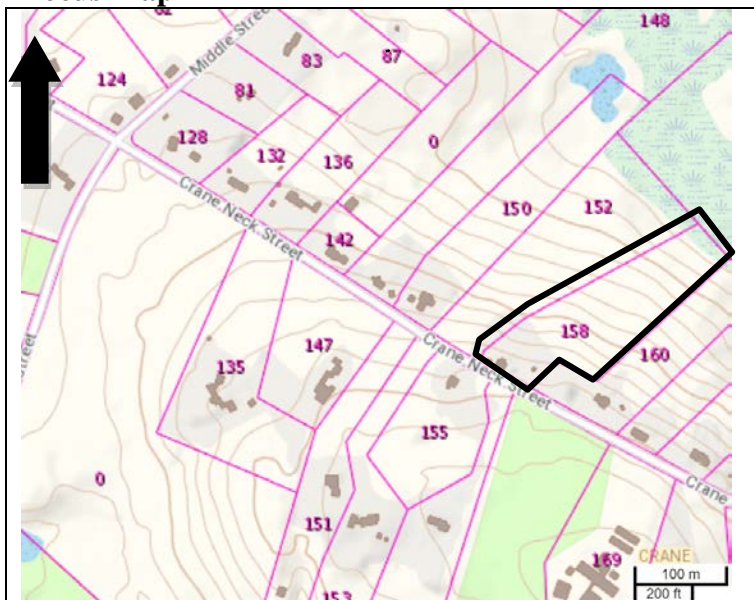
Condition: Excellent

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 5.0 acres

Setting: Located on a main country thoroughfare near its intersection with Middle Street. Set in a semi-rural residential area developed with a heterogeneous mix of buildings from the 18th through late 20th centuries, most occupying large open lots.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero

Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

158 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.292
	WNB.293

☒ 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.

158 Crane Neck Street stands on the northeast side of the road, at the western corner of its long, deep, and irregularly shaped lot, with a modest front setback. Crane Neck Street slopes down from southeast to northwest in front of the property; a dry laid stone wall extends across the street frontage. The parcel is flat between the street and the house, and slopes down sharply towards the back of the property. The yard is maintained chiefly in lawn, with ornamental shrubs and trees as foundation plantings. A gravel parking area fronts a small barn/garage set immediately to the northwest of the house.

The house rises 2 ½ stories above a very low stone foundation to a side gable roof with a modest chimney positioned slightly off-center on the front slope of the roof; no gable returns. Walls are sheathed with wood clapboards and trimmed with a flat sill board, corner boards, and fascia boards. Windows typically contain 6/6 sash with flat casings. Windows on the façade and the right (southeast) elevation have narrow molded cornice caps.

The symmetrical five-bay façade (southwest elevation) has a center entrance ornamented with simple pilasters and a molded entablature. The right (southeast) elevation has one window centered in the half-story, two widely spaced windows symmetrically arranged on the second floor, and one window (vertically aligned with the second story) towards the front of the first floor. A small gabled appendage at the rear of the first floor may be a side entrance; a narrow horizontal window is set high on its street-facing (southwest) elevation. The left (northwest) elevation of the main block has the same fenestration as the right gable-end, without the vestibule addition.

The modest, utilitarian barn/garage is one-story high with a front gable roof having exposed rafter ends. Set at the edge of a steep grade change, it is supported by wood posts at the back. The side elevations are clad with vertical boards, while the façade (southwest elevation) has horizontal board siding. Large tarps cover the ground level of the façade and may conceal garage door openings.

Well preserved and well maintained, the main house is a handsome example of unpretentious 18th century development in outlying areas of West Newbury. The house is notable for its historic setting, intact 2 ½ story form, classically detailed main entrance surround, modest but elegant window cornices, and historic outbuilding.

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.

158 Crane Neck Street was likely constructed circa 1772. In 1772, Ezra Pillsbury sold his estate, divided equally, to "yeoman or cordwainer" Moses Pillsbury and Daniel Pillsbury, including half of a house and barn each and approximately 18 acres of land each.¹

Moses Pillsbury (1749-1833)² and his wife, Sarah Hale Pillsbury (1754-1830),³ were married in 1772. After Moses' death, the property transferred to his son, Oliver Pillsbury (1774-1855)⁴ and Oliver's wife, Mary Bartlett Pillsbury (1774-1835).⁵ Oliver and

¹ Essex South Deed Book 130, p. 190 and p. 191.

² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58238554/moses-pillsbury>. Accessed Feb. 20, 2020.

³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58238843/sarah-pillsbury>. Accessed Feb. 20, 2020.

⁴ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/99565589>. Accessed Feb. 20, 2020.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

158 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.292
	WNB.293

Mary Pillsbury were married in 1797. Captain Oliver Pillsbury was one of six representatives elected to serve the Massachusetts General Court in 1813.⁶ At the time of the 1850 census, Oliver Pillsbury was listed as head of the household along with Theodore Bartlett and his family. Theodore Bartlett served as executor of Oliver Bartlett's estate when he died intestate in 1855.⁷

In 1861, farmer John C. Tarleton (1837-1898)⁸ purchased the property.⁹ Tarleton lived here with his wife, Melissa, and children Nellie and J. Fred Tarleton. The Tarleton family owned the property until 1926.¹⁰

From 1932 to 1941, brothers Rodolphe and Phillip Langelier of Lynn operated a poultry farm on the property.¹¹

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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⁵ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58237323/lydia-pillsbury>. Accessed Feb. 20, 2020.

⁶ John J. Currier, *History of Newbury, Mass., 1635-1902*, p. 684

⁷ Massachusetts Wills and Probate Records, Ancestry.com. Accessed Feb. 20, 2020.

⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59217772>. Accessed Feb. 20, 2020.

⁹ Essex South Deed Book 624, p. 252.

¹⁰ Essex South Deed Book 1980, p. 185.

¹¹ Essex South Deed Book 2918, p. 283 and Book 3258, p. 23.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

158 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.292
	WNB.293

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES

Entrance.



Barn/Garage. View looking north.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

158 CRANE NECK ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.292
	WNB.293

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually 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 Spies and Wendy Frontiero
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

158 Crane Neck Street is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C as an excellent example of Georgian architecture in Essex County. Well preserved and well maintained, the main house is a handsome example of unpretentious 18th century development in outlying areas of West Newbury. The house is notable for its historic setting, intact 2 ½ story form, classically detailed main entrance surround, modest but elegant window cornices, and historic outbuilding.

FORM B – BUILDING

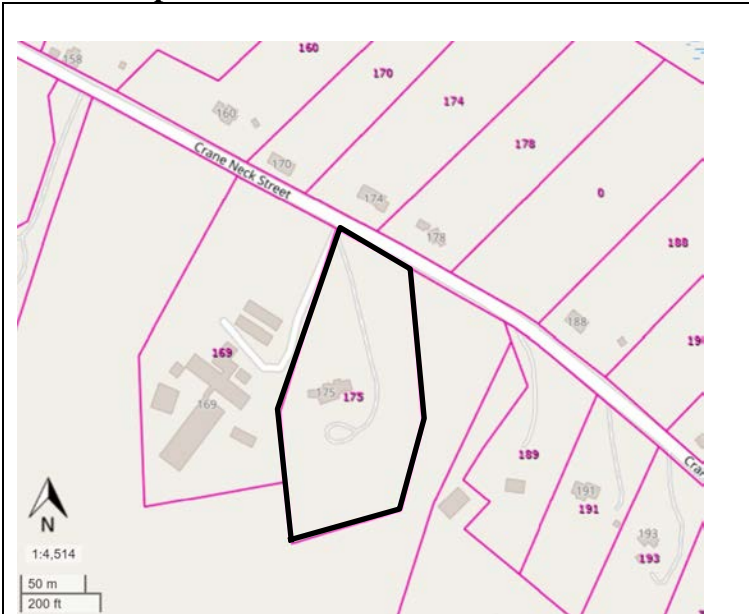
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Façade (south) and east 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

50

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0005B

Newburyport

WNB.15

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 175 Crane Neck

Historic Name: James and Elizabeth Smith House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: Ca. 1720

Source: Emery, *Reminiscences...*; Hurd:1869

Style/Form: First Period

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None visible

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Side additions (2006);
Casement window sash on main block (Ca. 2007)

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 4.62 acres

Setting: Located on a cross-town thoroughfare in a semi-rural, residential area. Surrounding development is a heterogeneous mixture of forms, ages, and styles. Large lots and dwellings are typical on the southern side of the road; smaller houses on narrow lots prevail on the north side.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

175 CRANE NECK

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.15

☐ 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:

175 Crane Neck Street is located on the south side of Crane Neck Street, facing south in the traditional manner. The house stands on a hilltop, set far from the street and accessed by a long, gravel driveway with a circular turnaround in front of the house. Expansive lawn and fields surround the house and slope downward to the north, east, and south. The property contains a main house with substantial additions on both ends.

The three by one bay main block measures approximately 45 feet long by 21 feet deep and rises 2½ stories from a fieldstone foundation to a side-gable roof. A large stucco-ed chimney has a corbelled top and is positioned approximately in the center of the ridge. Walls are sheathed with wood clapboards and trimmed with narrow corner boards; no gable returns or eave trim. Windows typically have narrow casement sash (not original) with diamond-paned leaded glass; occur singly, in pairs, and in triples, and are trimmed with flat casings.

The facade has a very high proportion of wall to window area, with a nearly-centered entrance (aligns with the chimney) featuring a vertical-board door with narrow flat trim; a small single window is centered above. Fenestration in the outer bays consists of paired casement sash to the left (west) of the entrance and three conjoined sash to the right (east). The gable ends have paired sash on the lower two floors and a single sash in the half-story; the half-story projects slightly beyond the lower part of the wall. The rear (north) elevation of the main block was not clearly visible during this investigation. A one-story extension approximately in the center of this elevation has a shed roof and is glazed with full-height, multi-pane, doors and/or windows.

Two significant additions were made to the main block in 2007. On the west side of the main block, a one-story addition with a steeply pitched gable roof is positioned at an angle. Measuring 24 feet across the front by 18 feet deep, this wing is sheathed with vertical boards on the walls and wood shingles on the roof. The gable peak projects slightly beyond the lower part of the wall. Its symmetrical façade displays double-leafed French doors flanked by 15-light windows, all topped by multi-light transoms. The west gable end has 15/15 windows at the ground level.

A substantial addition extending from the east side of the main block rises 2½ stories from a concrete foundation to a side-gabled volume with a cross-gabled end pavilion. A chimney rises from the front slope of the side-gabled roof. The façade has double-leaf French doors in the side-gabled volume. Small-paned casement windows populate the addition, occurring singly and in groups of two, three, four, and five. Small 6-light windows occur in the half-story of each gable end and at the second story of the rear elevation. A shed-roofed addition at the rear provides an entry vestibule with a single-leaf door and a variety of fenestration.

The main block is notable for its overhanging gable peaks on the side gables, large parged chimney, high proportion of wall area to windows, asymmetrical façade, and great economy of materials and design. The leaded-glass casement windows are not original but are in keeping with the original fenestration. The recent side additions are sensitively massed to allow the original building to dominate the assemblage. Building additions are compatible in proportions, scale, massing, materials, 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 Smith House, as it is known, is reported to have been constructed in the first quarter of the 18th century for Capt. James Smith and occupied by four generations of households headed by the name James Smith.¹ Capt. James Smith (1696-1757)

¹ *Reminiscences*, p. 118.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

175 CRANE NECK

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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inherited 100 acres here from his grandfather, James Kent, circa 1719 and "put up a small house -- the back part of the present dwelling; the front was built a few years later."² Capt. James Smith married Elizabeth Moody (1701-1754) in 1719 and the couple had ten children.³ Capt. James Smith II (1725-1787) and his wife, Elizabeth Noyes Smith (–1817), were married in 1748 and the couple had seven children, including James Smith III.⁴ James Smith III (1761-1853) married Prudence Little (1767-1836)⁵ in 1787.

In *Reminiscences of a Nonagenarian*, Sarah Smith Emery (1787-1879) presented her memoirs of the house and area. (The book was published in 1879 by her daughter, Sarah Anna Emery.) Sarah Smith Emery recalled that after her husband's death, widow Elizabeth Noyes Smith shared this house with her children and their families... "My father and mother [i.e., James III and Prudence Smith], recently married, occupied one half of the house; my widowed grandmother, with another son [Enoch] and daughter [Sarah], resided in the other half."⁶

The house was described in detail by Sarah Smith Emery: "How vividly I recall the old homestead – the large brown house, built in 1707, with its wide, sloping, back room, and many sized and shaped windows; the long barn and other farm buildings in the rear; the well, with its graceful sweep in front, and the usually huge wood pile at the back... Crossing the broad, unhewn doorstone and opening the wide front door, you saw a narrow entry with a flight of winding stairs at the back... The house was constructed in the style common to the period, two spacious rooms on either side of the front entry, with wide fireplaces and low ceilings crossed in the center by a broad beam. The two front windows in both rooms were long and narrow; the one in the end was square. Opening from these apartments were the summer kitchen, bed-rooms and the dairy. The fireplaces, both below and in the chambers, showed an attempt at ornament, in the high mantel pieces..."⁷

The 1830, 1856, and 1872 map identified "J. Smith" as owner of the house. The 1850 census recorded James Smith III, age 88, living at this residence with his son, James Smith IV (1791-1888)⁸ and his wife, Sarah Little Smith (1796-1863).⁹ The 1880 census recorded widower James Smith IV living here with his daughter, Adeline, and her husband, Horatio Treat, and his niece, Sarah Anna Emery (1821-1907).¹⁰

Dairy farmer John W. McDonald and his family owned the extensive property from 1889 until 1928¹¹ and made it their residence, according to census records. In 1948, Ruth Orcutt purchased the house.¹² Ruth Orcutt was married to Wallace Lyman Orcutt (1883-1950). Dr. Wallace Orcutt came to West Newbury around 1915 to replace the town doctor, Dr. Amos Pierce, who died that same year. A native of Vermont, Orcutt interned at New Haven Hospital and Worcester State Hospital. ¹³ In his time outside of the medical practice he established on Main Street, Orcutt was involved with Morgan horses, as were his five sons. "Orcland Farms" was established around 1925 at 174 Crane Neck Street. Orcutt family horses, including Ulysses and Ulendon, were victorious for 40 years beginning in 1939. ¹⁴ Orcland Farms' Wonderman won the grand championship at first national Morgan Horse Show in 1939. Ruth Orcutt sold the house in 1993.¹⁵

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

² *Reminiscences*, p. 121.

³ *Reminiscences*, p. 121.

⁴ *Reminiscences*, p. 121.

⁵ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/103261275/prudence-smith>. Accessed Feb. 22, 2020.

⁶ *Reminiscences*, p. 6.

⁷ *Reminiscences*, pp. 5-6.

⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59196653/james-smith>. Accessed June 2, 2023.

⁹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59196686/sarah-smith>. Accessed June 2, 2023.

¹⁰ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/214275157/sarah-ann-emery>. Accessed June 2, 2023.

¹¹ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 2766, p. 89.

¹² Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 3641, p. 226.

¹³ Cecil Sears, "Dr. Wallace Orcutt, President of Morgan Horse Club of America, Is Interviewed."

¹⁴ Herold, "Morgan Americana: The Orcutt Family Legacy," *The Morgan Horse*, July 2013, pp. 55-59..

¹⁵ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 12350, p. 431.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

175 CRANE NECK

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.15

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Façade elevation.



Façade of main block.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

175 CRANE NECK

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.15



West elevation of main block.



East and rear (north) elevations.

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	WNB.802
Historic Name:	Crane Neck Cemetery
Common Name:	
Address:	194 Crane Neck St
City/Town:	West Newbury
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	1749
Architect(s):	Brown
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Burial Ground
Significance:	Community Planning; Religion
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	

Digital Photo
Not Yet
Available

The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Saturday, November 21, 2020 at 10:38 AM

FORM E - BURIAL GROUNDS
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

Religious affiliation ?

Owner Mr Lyman ORCUTT

Who has further information about burial ground?

Mrs Charles Thompson,

(Address) 278 MAIN ST. W. Newbury

What type information: lot plans inscriptions
gravestone descriptions other

1. Town WEST NEWBURY

Location CRANE NECK STREET

Name CRANE NECK Cemetery

Condition: Well kept up ☒ Neglected
(if neglected, explain how)

Surrounded by private property (ORCUTT)

LATEST BURIAL, EARLY 1800's

Approx. number gravestones 69

Earliest death date 1749-12-22

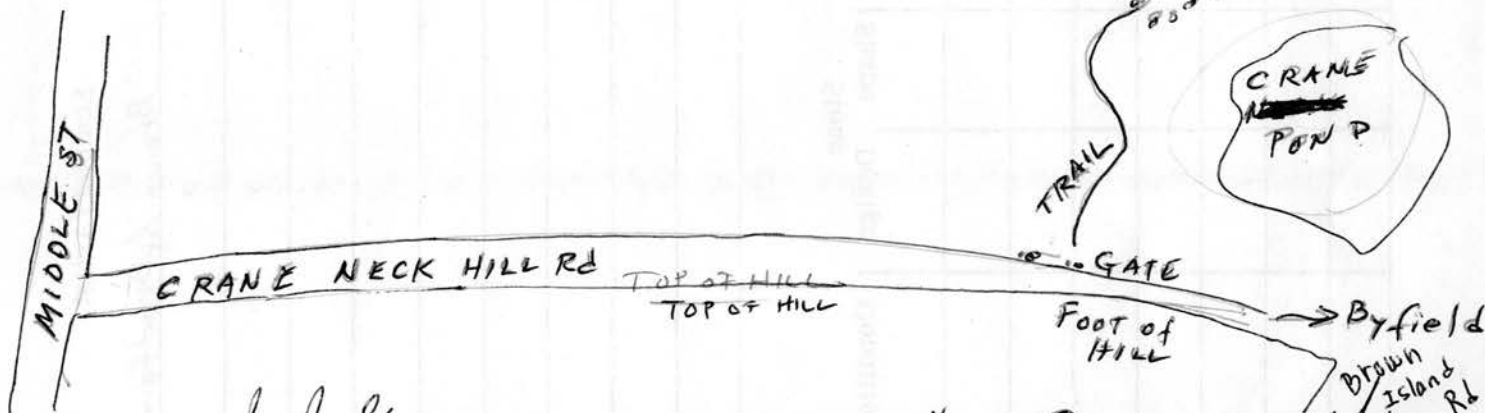
Most recent death date 1809

2. HISTORY OF BURIAL GROUND

FIRST BURIAL OCCURRED WHEN FUNERAL PARTY COULD
NOT REACH ^{walnut hill} cemetery because of snow.

3. MONUMENTS-Overall condition: upright fallen (approx. no.) 14 inscription legibility Good

4. MAP: Footage from street APPROX. 1200.



Name of Recorder J. J. George Organization HIST Comm Date 6/26/73

For MHC use: USGS Form #

WNB. 8572

Family Name	Date of Monument	Type	Sculptor/Artist	Photo
Adams	1749	slate	Brown / of Bradford, Mass	
Brown Brown	1817	"	?	
Colcord	1837	"	?	
Dole	1747	"	?	
HALE	1778	"		
LITTLE	1866	"		
Smith	1754	"		
Thurlow	1794	"		
Plummer	1772	"		

[illegible]