

WEST NEWBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Historic Sites Survey Table of Contents
Georgetown Road

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FORM B – BUILDING

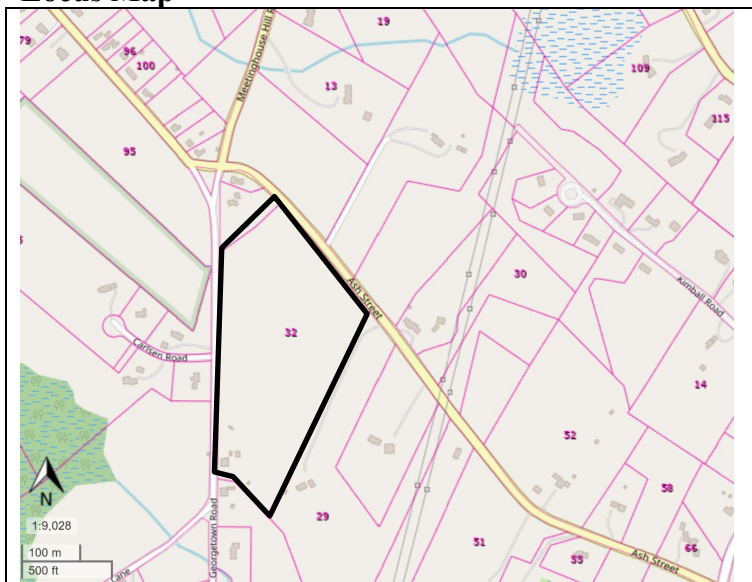
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Photo 1. Facade (west) and south 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

0090 0000
00140

Newburyport

WNB.386
WNB.387
WNB.388
WNB.389

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 32 Georgetown Road

Historic Name: Oliver and Mary Brown House

Uses: Present: Multiple Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1830

Source: 1830 Map, Deeds

Style/Form: Greek Revival / Italianate

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Workshop (19th c) and barn, storage shed (early 20th c)

Major Alterations (with dates): Replacement window sash, rear sun porch, concrete porch floor and possibly porch (late 20th c)

Condition: Fair to Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 19.00 acres

Setting: Located on a main cross-town thoroughfare in a remote, rural setting, near the prominent intersection of Maple Street, Meetinghouse Hill Road, Ash Street, and Georgetown Road. Lightly developed neighborhood with heterogenous houses, mostly on large lots. Open fields lie to the north and west of the house.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

32 GEORGETOWN RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

WNB.389220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.386
WNB.387
WNB.388

☐ 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.

32 Georgetown Road occupies a very large lot stretching from the east side of Georgetown Road to the south side of Ash Street. Clustered at the southwest corner of the parcel, the house and two visible outbuildings are set a moderate distance from the road. The house stands on a berm several feet above street level, and the terrain generally slopes up gently to the east. The land immediately surrounding the buildings is maintained in lawn; a row of regularly spaced, mature street trees line the street edge in front of the house. A paved driveway separates the north side of the house and the two adjacent outbuildings. Woodlands are located east of (behind) the house, and open fields stand to the north on the property.

The house consists of a main block and rear ell, whose south wall is continuous with the main block. A tall chimney rises from the rear slope of the main roof; a small chimney rises from the back end of the ell's roof. Walls are sheathed with clapboards and trimmed with flat sill boards, corner boards, and fascia with narrow bed molding. Windows typically have 1/1 or 2/1 sash with molded trim.

The five by two bay main block measures 39 feet wide by 18 feet deep and rises 2½ stories from a granite block foundation to a low-pitched, side-gable roof with modest gable returns. A broad cross-gable is positioned slightly off-center on the façade and has a single 1/1 window in the half-story. The gable ends have a six-light window in the half-story. The façade's center entrance features a single-leaf door with flat trim and a flat-roofed hood supported by substantial carved brackets. A side door on the south elevation has a single-leaf door with flat jambs and a peaked lintel. A four-bay, flat-roofed porch spans the north façade of the main block and the rear ell. It is composed of a concrete platform, square posts, and a simple entablature.

The three-bay rear ell is two (or possibly 2½) stories high and measures 21 feet wide by 27 feet deep. The ell's north façade has an off-set, single-leaf door with flat trim. A triplet of 6/6 windows is located to its side on the first floor, while three 1/1 windows are evenly spaced on the second floor. The south elevation of the ell has similar fenestration. A one-story, gabled sunporch is attached to its southeast corner and is fenestrated with pairs of sliding windows.

Two visible outbuildings are situated close to the northeast end of the house. The western outbuilding, nearer to the street, is a front-gable building (perhaps built as a work-shop) (WNB.387) with wood siding and trim and slender gable returns. It has a single-leaf door positioned slightly off-center on its south façade, three 6/6 windows evenly spaced on its west elevation, and two windows towards the back of its east elevation. The eastern outbuilding is a one-story, side-gabled barn or storage shed (WNB.388) with exposed rafter ends. It has wood clapboards and trim and three large, sliding, vertical-board doors on its west facade. [On a separate parcel of land across the road but said by the current owner to be historically associated with 32 Georgetown Road, is a small, wood-frame shed (WNB.389) set a few feet from the street. It has a side-gable roof, an offset door facing the road, and a small 6-light window on the north elevation.]¹

Well preserved, 32 Georgetown Road is a striking example of the evolution of architectural design in an outlying area of West Newbury over several centuries. The house has elements of early, perhaps turn-of-the 19th century design overlaid with Greek Revival and Italianate features. Notable features include the house's simple massing; five-bay, center entrance facade; large, asymmetrical cross-gable; simple Greek Revival side door and bold Italianate main entrance detail; and its still-rural setting. The survival of three historic outbuildings associated with the house is also remarkable.

¹ The land on the west side of Georgetown Road and north of Tewksbury Road was historically part of the same farm, based on boundary descriptions in the deeds.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

32 GEORGETOWN RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

WNB.389220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.386
WNB.387
WNB.388
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 was likely constructed circa 1830 for Oliver Brown, who appears on the 1830 map and owned land here in 1832.² Oliver Brown (1798-1861)³ and his wife, Mary Chase Brown (1798-1884) were married in 1819. By the time of the 1850 census, Oliver Brown was working as the Keeper of the Poor House and 32 Georgetown Road was owned by shoemakers John Hoyt and John E. Bartlett, who lived here with their families.⁴ Bartlett and Hoyt were still living here at the time of the 1860 census.

In 1864, John Hoyt and Mary Brown sold the house to Harriet P. Shute.⁵ The 1872 map identifies the house as owned by Joseph B. Shute. Joseph B. Shute and his wife, Harriet P. Shute moved to a new house at 169 Bachelor Street (See WNB.3.) and sold the house in 1872 to Charles W. and George E. Gowen.⁶ The 1880 census includes farmer Charles W. Gowen and his wife, Rhoda, living here with their sons, Charles A. and Frank Gowen. City directories indicate that Frank L. Gowen and his wife, Janet, made this their residence into the 1920s. Frank L. Gowen farmed the property and lived here until his death in 1960. The house remained in the Gowen family until 2020.⁷

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.
- Beers, D. G., J. H. Goodhue, and H. B. Parsell. *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: Beers, D. G. & Co., 1872.
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- Town of West Newbury. "An Invoice and valuation of the rateable polls and estates, within the town of West Newbury, taken... 1851...and 1852." West Newbury: Indian Hill Press, 1852.
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- United States Census. Ancestry.com.
- Walling, Henry Francis. *A Topographical Map of Essex County, Massachusetts...* Boston: Smith & Worley, 1856.
- Walker, George H. & Co. *Atlas of Essex County*. Boston: George H. Walker & Co., 1884.

² Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 269, p. 148. Brown sold land to next-door neighbor Otis Little in 1832. The boundaries cited include land already owned by Brown.

³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59211390/oliver-brown>. Accessed June 3, 2023.

⁴ "Rateables...." 1851.

⁵ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 672, p. 256.

⁶ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 852, p. 121.

⁷ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 26047, p. 414.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

32 GEORGETOWN RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

WNB.389220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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WNB.387
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Photo 2. Façade (west elevation) of main block.



Photo 3. Detail of main entrance.



Photo 4. North elevations of rear ell and main block.



Photo 5. Outbuildings and porch on north side of main block.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

32 GEORGETOWN RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

WNB.389220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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Photo 6. Workshop: Façade (south) and east elevations.



Photo 7. Workshop: West and façade (south) elevations.



Photo 8. Barn: Façade (west) and south elevations.



Photo 9. Shed on west side of Georgetown Road: South and façade (east) elevations.

FORM B – BUILDING

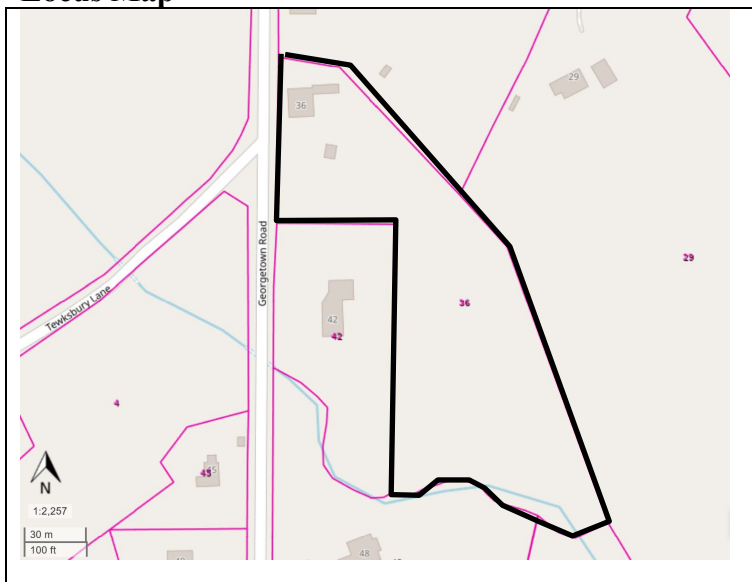
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Photo 1. Façade (west) and south 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
00260

Newburyport

WNB.390
WNB.391

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 36 Georgetown Road

Historic Name: Samuel and Elizabeth Tenney House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1777

Source: Deeds; Marriage Date; Visual Assessment

Style/Form: Georgian

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Fieldstone and granite block

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Shed (19th C?)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Re-built north chimney
(late 20th – early 21st c)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 3.50 acres

Setting: Located on a main cross-town thoroughfare in a remote, rural setting, across from a prominent intersection with Tewksbury Lane. Lightly developed neighborhood with heterogenous houses, mostly on large lots.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

36 GEORGETOWN RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.390
	WNB.391

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Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

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

36 Georgetown Road is located on the east side of the road, set on a berm several feet above street level. Georgetown Road slopes significantly down from north to south; the terrain of the property slopes gently up to the east. A dry-laid fieldstone retaining wall is situated between the house and a paved driveway to the south; another dry-laid fieldstone wall lines the street edge south of the driveway. A mature tree stands on the north side of the driveway entrance; most of the yard around the house is maintained in lawn. The property contains a house and a shed to its southeast.

The house consists of a substantial main block with a hip roof and a gabled rear ell. Clapboard walls are trimmed with flat sill boards and corner boards. The main block has an elaborate entablature that includes modillion blocks and cornice molding. The eave of the rear ell is minimally detailed and has no gable returns. Twin interior chimneys on the main blocks have a broad slab shape and corbelled top. Two narrow pedimented dormers punctuate the front slope of the roof. Exterior walls are clad with clapboards. Windows typically have 6/6 sash with molded casings.

The five by three bay main block measures 44 feet long by 36 feet deep and rises 2½ stories from a fieldstone and granite block foundation to a hip roof. The first-floor windows have cornice molding, while the second-story windows are framed into the molded entablature. The center entrance on the façade has an elaborate, classical frame, with an eight-paneled door surmounted by a glazed transom, fluted pilasters, a bolection molding on the entablature, and a modillioned pediment. A granite step accesses this entrance.

The 13 feet wide by 39 feet long rear ell is two stories high. Projecting slightly beyond the north elevation of the main block, the ell features a single-leaf door facing the street. The ell's north elevation contains four regularly spaced windows on each story.

To the southeast of the house, a modest, wood-shingled shed (WNB.391) has a front-gabled roof, dry-laid fieldstone foundation, and board and batten siding. A large barn or garage door opening is centered on the façade (north elevation). No windows are visible from the public way.

Well preserved and well maintained, 36 Georgetown Road is a handsome and unusually high style example of Georgian architecture in West Newbury and is especially remarkable for its rural location. Notable features include its simple massing, large size, generous hip roof with pedimented dormers, elaborately detailed main entrance and wall entablatures, and broad twin chimneys. Further investigation of the barn structure is recommended, to confirm its approximate date and possible significance as an agricultural 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 was likely constructed circa 1777, around the time that Samuel Tenney (Tenny) purchased land here.¹ A native of Bradford, Deacon Samuel Tenney (1748-1821)² and his wife, Elizabeth Smith Tenney (1751-1846),³ were married in 1771 in Newbury. Samuel Tenney served as a private in Captain John Savory's 2nd Bradford Company, which marched in response to

¹ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 135, p. 176.

² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/78321130/samuel-tenney>. Accessed June 3, 2023.

³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/78321276/elizabeth-tenney>. Accessed June 3, 2023.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

36 GEORGETOWN RD**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.390
	WNB.391

the alarm of April 19, 1775.⁴ The property was later owned by the couple's son, Samuel Tenney, Jr. Samuel Tenney Jr. (1791-1828) and his wife, Mary Little Poore (1799-1857) were married in Newbury in 1821. Samuel Tenney, Jr. died intestate just seven years later in 1828 and the house was sold at public auction to Otis Little.⁵

Otis Little (1801-1885)⁶ married Catherine Gerrish Poor (1804-1845) in 1829, the year after he purchased the house. Otis Little married a second time in 1858 to Louisa B. Brickett (1811-1858). Otis Little worked as a carpenter and as a farmer, according to census records.

In 1886, Maurice O'Connor purchased the house from the estate of Otis Little.⁷ In 1909, Maurice O'Connor worked as a farmer and self-employed coal dealer. City directories indicate that his coal business was also located on Georgetown Road. Maurice and Abbie O'Connor sold the property in 1922 to C. Elizabeth Myrick.⁸ (That sale also included 32 Georgetown Road, WNB.386). C. Elizabeth Myrick does not appear in West Newbury census records. C. Elizabeth Myrick lost the property to foreclosure in 1938.⁹

William and Blanche Geekie purchase the house from the bank in 1942 and owned the house for ten years.¹⁰ Prior the purchase, the couple live in Boston, where Scottish immigrant William Geekie worked as a self-employed sanitary engineer.¹¹ In 1962, the property was sold to the Rogers family, who owned the house until 2013.¹²

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.
- Beers, D. G., J. H. Goodhue, and H. B. Parsell. *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: Beers, D. G. & Co., 1872.
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- Walker, George H. & Co. *Atlas of Essex County*. Boston: George H. Walker & Co., 1884.
- World War II Draft Registration Cards. Ancestry.com.

⁴ Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War, Vol. 15, p. 489.

⁵ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 251, p. 157.

⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59195415/otis-little> . Accessed June 3, 2023.

⁷ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 1180, p. 63.

⁸ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 2526, p. 507.

⁹ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 3139, p. 515.

¹⁰ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 3295, p. 29 and Book 3894, p. 393.

¹¹ World War II Draft Registration Cards.

¹² Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 4899, p. 288 and Book 32413, p. 124.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

36 GEORGETOWN RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.390
WNB.391

Photo 2. Façade (west elevation).



Photo 3. Detail of main entrance.



Photo 4. Rear ell: North and west elevations.



Photo 5. Shed: West and south elevations.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

36 GEORGETOWN RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

	WNB.390
	WNB.391

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 ☐ DCriteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by Stacy E. Spies and Wendy Frontiero, Historic Preservation Consultant
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Samuel and Elizabeth Tenney House at 36 Georgetown Road is recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level as a high-style example of Georgian architecture. Well-preserved and well maintained, 36 Georgetown Road is a handsome and unusually high style example of Georgian architecture in West Newbury and is especially remarkable for its rural location. Notable features include its simple massing, large size, generous hip roof with pedimented dormers, elaborately detailed main entrance and wall entablatures, and broad twin chimneys. 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

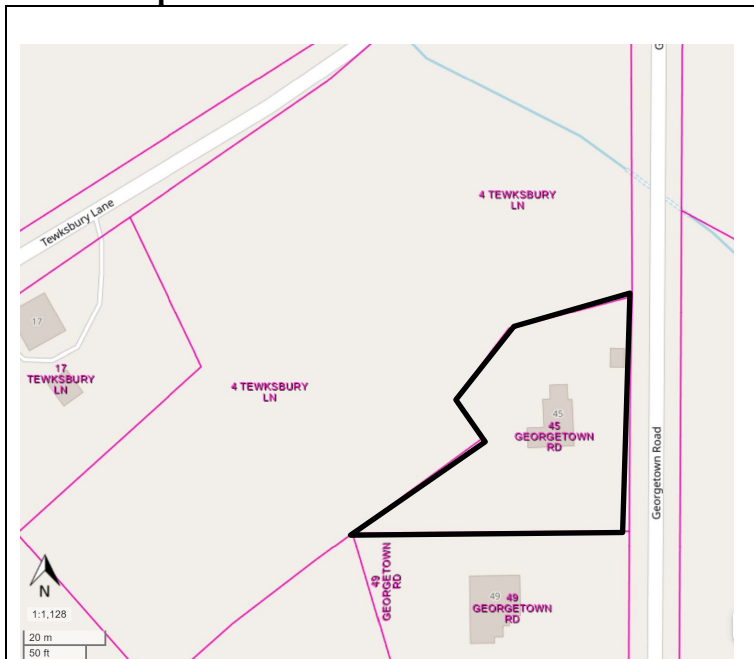
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Photo 1. Façade (east) and north 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

11

0030 0000
00220

Newburyport

WNB.23

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 45 Georgetown Road

Historic Name: William and Sophia Ordway House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1831

Source: Deed; Marriage Date

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite block ?

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Shed in back of house (not visible from the public way)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Screened porch (late 20th c) - metal roof and re-built chimney (early 21st c)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.56 acres

Setting: Located on a main cross-town thoroughfare in a remote, rural setting, near a prominent intersection with Tewksbury Lane. Lightly developed neighborhood with heterogenous houses, mostly on large lots.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY 45 GEORGETOWN RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.23

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45 Georgetown Road is located on the west side of the road, set a moderate distance from Georgetown Street on a low berm. A boulder wall lines the street edge; most of the yard in proximity to the house is maintained in lawn, with ornamental trees and shrubs occupying the front yard. The house consists of a main block with a rear ell and a screened porch on one side. The terrain slopes up to the west behind the house.

The five by one bay main block measures 36 feet long by 19 feet deep and rises 2 stories to a side-gabled roof. A square chimney with a corbelled top rises from the ridge line, north of the center point. A re-built chimney rises from the rear slope of the roof, west of the center point. Exterior walls are clad with wood clapboards and trimmed with flat sill boards and corner boards and bed molding at the eave; there are no gable returns. Windows typically have 9/6 sash on the first floor, 6/6 sash on the second floor, and band molding.

The five bay façade contains a center doorway with a single-leaf door and a broad classical frame having half-height sidelights, tapering pilasters, an entablature with end blocks, and a pronounced cornice. Wood steps access the doorway. The north elevation has one window centered in the second story; a two bay by two bay screened porch with a gable roof covers most of the first floor. The south elevation of the main block has two windows and a door with a pilastered enframing (not clearly visible from the street) on the first floor, two windows on the second floor, and a louvered opening in the gable peak. The rear ell is continuous with the south elevation of the main block and displays two windows on each floor.

Well preserved and well maintained, 45 Georgetown Road is a handsome example of Federal period architecture in West Newbury and is remarkably intact for its rural location. Notable features include its simple massing, five-bay façade with window heights differentiated between the two stories, two stylishly detailed entrances, and prominent historic chimney.

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 was likely constructed circa 1831, the year in which shoemaker William Ordway purchased land here on "the new located road [sic] leading to Rowley" (Georgetown Road).¹ William Ordway (ca. 1802-1877)² and his wife, Sophia Cogwell Tenney Ordway (1797-1884)³ were married in 1828 in West Newbury. When their son, William Tenney Ordway (1829-1877)⁴ married his wife, Mary Tappan Gilman Ordway (1827-1897),⁵ the two households shared the house. Subsequent deeds mention that ownership of the house, as well as of each outbuilding, was shared equally (e.g., "the northwest half of the house...").⁶ The Ordway family owned the house until 1884.⁷

¹ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 261, p. 86.² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59310298/william-ordway>. Accessed June 1, 2023.³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59310318/sophia-cogwell-ordway>. Accessed June 1, 2023.⁴ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59309663/william-tenney-ordway>. Accessed June 1, 2023.⁵ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59309679/mary-tappan-ordway>. Accessed June 1, 2023.⁶ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 1225, p. 100.⁷ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 1225, p. 100.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY 45 GEORGETOWN RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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WNB.23

In 1886, Thomas Kelleher purchased the house.⁸ Irish immigrants Thomas and Margaret Dooling Kelleher lived here with their seven children. The property remained in the Kelleher family until 1924, but census records and city directories appear to indicate that the family lived elsewhere.

In 1924, Katherine C. Knight purchased the house from Thomas and Margaret Kelleher's daughters, Catherine and Mary Kelleher.⁹ Widow Katherine Knight (1876-1943)¹⁰ lived here with her brother, George Willard, who worked as a farm laborer. William and Blanche McCoubrie purchased the house in 1943 from Katherine Knight's estate.¹¹

In 1945, William and Blanche McCoubrie sold the house to Lillian G. and Edwin W. Blake of Seabrook, New Hampshire.¹² Edwin Blake worked in construction as a carpenter, according to city directories and census records. In 1975, Lillian G. Blake sold the house to Richard and Alma Skaare.¹³

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.
- Beers, D. G., J. H. Goodhue, and H. B. Parsell. *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: Beers, D. G. & Co., 1872.
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⁸ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 1180-98.

⁹ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 2613, p. 571.

¹⁰ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/181931161/katherine-c.-knight>. Accessed June 1, 2023.

¹¹ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 3348, p. 86.

¹² Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 3406, p. 468.

¹³ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 6135, p. 436.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY 45 GEORGETOWN RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.23



Photo 2. South elevations: Ell and main block.



Photo 3. Detail of main entrance.

FORM B – BUILDING

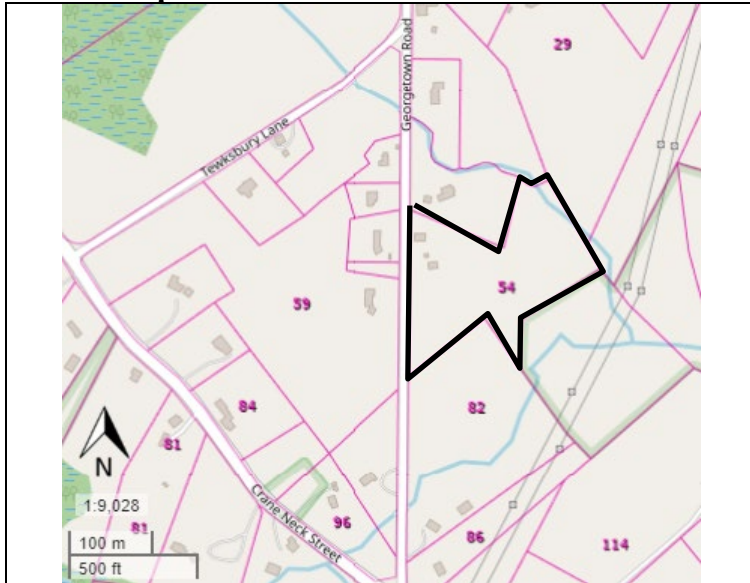
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Photo 1. Façade (west) and south 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

15

0030 0000
00280

Newburyport

WNB.24

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 54 Georgetown Road

Historic Name: Otis Little Rental House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1831

Source: 1830 map, Visual Assessment

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: Not Known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Modern barn and shed (late 20th c)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): One-story rear addition (mid to late 20th c?) - Replacement window sash, door surrounds (late 20th – early 21st c)

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 6.08 acres

Setting: Located on a main cross-town thoroughfare in a remote, rural setting, near the intersection with Tewksbury Lane. Lightly developed neighborhood with heterogeneous houses, mostly on large lots.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

54 GEORGETOWN RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

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WNB.24

☐ 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.

54 Georgetown Road is located on the east side of the street, set a moderate distance from the street on a slight rise. The yard in proximity to the building is maintained in lawn, with shrubbery around the perimeter of the house, rolling fields to the north and south, and woodland to the east. The house consists of a large main block and two rear ells. A modest barn and small shed stand to the southeast of the house, near the road.

Walls are clad with wood shingles and trimmed with flat corner boards and a narrow bed molding at the eaves. Windows typically have double-hung sash—taller on the first floor (9/6 grilles) and shorter on the second floor (6/6 grilles)—and flat trim. (The original 1973 survey form and its 1989 photo update show the 9/6 and 6/6 window pane configuration on wood window sash.) The five by one bay main block measures 28 feet long by 13 feet deep and rises two stories to a low-pitched, side-gable roof with gable returns and a center chimney. Its center entrance has a single-leaf, Victorian door (featuring a pair of arched glass panes) and a modest classical enframing that post-dates 1989. Continuous with the south elevation of the main block, the rear ell is three bays long and two stories high. It has two windows on each floor (all the same size, with 6/6 grilles) and a center doorway detailed similarly to the main entrance (post-1973). A one-story addition at the northeast corner of the building has a shed roof and is continuous with the north elevation of the main block. It contains a single-leaf door and one window on its north elevation.

Well preserved and generally well maintained, 54 Georgetown Road is a good example of Colonial-style architecture in an outlying area of West Newbury. It is notable for its compact size, simple massing, five-bay façade and center chimney, and differentiation in window heights between the first and second floors on the main block. The lack of historic door trim detracts from the historical integrity of its design.

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 was likely constructed (or moved here) circa 1831, around the time that the section of Georgetown Road between Tewksbury Lane and Crane Neck Street was constructed. The house's appearance places its construction date as (ca. 1790-1820.) At that time, the property was owned by Otis Little (1801-1885),¹ who lived at 36 Georgetown Road (WNB.390). The walling map indicates that the house was occupied by "D. Eaton" in 1856. This appears to be shoemaker David Eaton and his wife, Ruth H. Eaton, who appear in this location in the 1850 and 1855 censuses.

In 1863, Otis Little sold the house to farm laborer Cornelius Harrigan.² Irish immigrants Cornelius (1832- 1907) and Julia (1833-1908) Harrigan were married in 1853 in Newburyport and lived here with their children. In 1904, Cornelius Harrigan sold the house to Abbie and Maurice O'Connor,³ who also owned 36 Georgetown Road (See WNB.390). Maurice O'Connor worked as a farmer and self-employed coal dealer. City directories indicate that his coal business was also located on Georgetown Road.

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59195415/otis-little> . Accessed June 3, 2023.

² Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 646, p. 173.

³ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 1751, p. 54

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

54 GEORGETOWN RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Area(s) Form No.

WNB.24

In 1916, Velzora H. Emerson purchased the house from Abbie O'Connor.⁴ The 1920 census recorded Velzora Emerson and her husband, George, living here with her father. George Emerson worked as a cloth cutter in a shoe factory. In 1946, Wendall and Marion Wheeler of West Newbury purchased the house from the estate of George R. Emerson.⁵

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Photo 2. North and façade (west) elevations.



Photo 3. Façade.

⁴ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 2342, p. 16.

⁵ Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 3486, p. 210.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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WNB.24



Photo 4. Detail of main entrance.



Photo 5. Façade (south elevation) of rear ell.