

WEST NEWBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Historic Sites Survey Table of Contents
Harrison Avenue

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FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

R1-470

Haverhill

WNB.25

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Photograph



View looking southwest.

Address: 4 Harrison Avenue

Historic Name: Nancy Carleton House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: Ca. 1875

Source: Visual, 1872 and 1884 maps

Style/Form: Italianate

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick; Stone, cut; Poured concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboards/ Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Detached Garage (1999)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Vinyl windows (L 20th C); Large addition at rear (Early 21st C)

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☐ yes ☒ **Date:** ca. 1875

Acreage: 1.0 acres

Setting: Located along a rural, narrow road, the property is surrounded by woodlands containing residences dating from the 18th-20th centuries. A small area of wetlands is located across the street at the northeast corner of Main Street and Harrison Avenue.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies

Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission

Date: June 2018

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

4 HARRISON AVE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.25

☐ 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 Harrison Avenue is set close to the road atop a small rise that slopes down to a stream at the north end of the lot. The irregularly-shaped lot is laid in turf at the north; in the south end, mature trees are located along the west and south edges of the lot, near the house. The house faces east toward Harrison Avenue. An asphalt-paved driveway leads from Harrison Avenue to the two-story garage (circa 1999) located north of the house.

The house at 4 Harrison Avenue consists of a main block and two small ells dating from the 19th century, and one large ell, constructed in the early 21st century, that nearly doubled the size of the house. Measuring 26 feet wide and 18 feet deep, the main block rises 2½ stories from a brick foundation. The main block is 4-over-5 bays wide and three bays deep. The front-gabled roof has overhanging eaves with paired brackets and gable-end cornice returns. The house is covered with wood clapboards and wood corner boards. An interior brick chimney is located on the south roof slope of the main block. The center entrance features a hipped-roof shelter supported by large, scrolled wood brackets. The four-panel wood door contains a row of small lights at the top appears to date from the early 20th century. Brick steps lead from the entrance to Harrison Avenue. Windows on the main block have wide, flat surrounds with pintels that remain from earlier shutters. The windows are recent vinyl replacements.

A small, 12'x'16 ell is attached to the south elevation and rests on a cut stone foundation. This ell has a side-gabled roof with overhanging eaves. The east elevation contains two bays: a four-panel wood door identical to the front door and a 6/6 wood sash window. Both bays have flat surrounds. The south elevation contains a 6-light fixed window.

A one-story, gabled-roof ell is attached to the rear (west) elevation and connects the original building to the recent addition. The ell features overhanging eaves and rests on a poured concrete foundation. The large two-story ell, constructed in the early 20th century, also rests on a poured concrete foundation. The two-story, side-gabled ell has overhanging eaves with brackets that echo those on the main block. An exterior brick chimney is located on the south elevation. A hipped-roof porch with square-section columns is located at the north elevation of the large ell.

The odd dimensions of the main block, i.e. wider than it is deep, and early ells, as well as the unusual configuration of the window bays, corroborates an account that this house was fashioned from buildings moved from other locations. The overhanging, bracketed eaves and bracketed entrance are noteworthy features. The very large addition at the rear of the house and replacement windows diminish the historic integrity of the building.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

The house and lot at 4 Harrison Avenue were purchased in 1881 for \$500 by Nancy Carleton (1811-1883)¹ from her late husband, Samuel Carleton's (1806-1871), cousins, comb makers Harrison Gray Otis Chase and Thomas Meady Chase.² (See 14 Harrison Avenue WNB.200.) The house appears on the 1884 map but does not appear on the 1872 or earlier maps. The 1973 MHC survey form for the property states, unfortunately without citation, that the house was created from portions of two

¹ West Newbury Vital Records, Ancestry.com.² Essex Deed Book 1069, p. 162.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

4 HARRISON AVE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.25

other structures: a portion of the John and Elizabeth Noyes House (a.k.a. Tyler Tavern) (WNB.62, 220 Main Street) and the ell from the Rising Sun Tavern, location unknown. (Also see 178 Main Street, WNB.54.)

4 Harrison Avenue was inherited by Harry G. Chase (1871-1931)³, a relative and executor of the estate of comb manufacturer H.G.O. Chase, who died in 1896. Harry G. Chase also inherited the H.G.O. Chase homestead (14 Harrison Ave. WNB.200). Mary F. Chase inherited the property from Harry G. Chase.⁴ In 1947, Mary F. Chase sold the house to Walter and Alice Swap, who had purchased 14 Harrison Avenue in 1919.⁵

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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West Newbury Tax Assessor records.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES

East elevation. Small ell at left, main block at right.
Garage partially visible at right.

³ Findagrave.com Memorial #178563706.

⁴ Suffolk Probate Record No. 243586, cited in Essex Deed Book 3566, p. 293.

⁵ Essex Deed Book 3566, p. 293.

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

R1-480

Haverhill

WNB.199

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Photograph



View looking southwest.

Address: 10 Harrison Avenue

Historic Name: Amos H. Pierce House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1900

Source: Maps; will

Style/Form: No style

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, uncut

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboards/ Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Garage (ca. 1960)

Major Alterations (with dates): Enclosed porch (L 20th C)

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.0 acres

Setting: Located along a rural, narrow road, the property is surrounded by woodlands containing residences dating from the 18th-20th centuries. A small area of wetlands is located across the street at the north corner of Main Street and Harrison Avenue.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies

Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission

Date: June 2018

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

10 HARRISON AVE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.199

☐ 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.*

10 Harrison Avenue is set close to the street on the level portion of a lot that slopes down to a small stream at the south property line. The house is oriented to the northeast and Harrison Avenue. The irregularly-shaped lot is laid in turf with mature trees along the north and west edges of the lot. An asphalt-paved driveway leads from Harrison Avenue along the north property line to a detached garage located west of the house. A wood post-and-rail fence is located at the east property line along Harrison Avenue.

Measuring 39 feet wide and 18 feet deep, the house rests on a fieldstone foundation and rises two stories to a shallow side-gabled roof with close eaves. A small, gable-roof vestibule is attached to the west end of the northwest elevation. A shed-roof ell with a brick foundation and full-height glass slider doors is located at the south end of the rear elevation. A slender interior brick chimney rises from the south end of the ridge. The house is clad with narrow wood clapboards and trimmed with corner boards. The house is five bays wide and two bays deep. The center entrance features narrow fluted pilasters that support a molded elliptical-arch pediment. The pediment is decorated with an incised sunburst motif. Half-height sidelights flank the six-panel door. Three brick steps lead from the entrance to the lawn. Windows throughout the house are vinyl sash and feature narrow molded surrounds. Second-floor windows are flush with the plate.

A detached garage (ca. 1960) is located near the rear elevation and faces north at an angle to the house. The frame building has an asymmetrical gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. A small cupola with louvered panels is located atop the gable peak. The building is covered with vertical board and batten. A wood-frame picture window consisting of 28 small lights is located in the southeast elevation and flanked by wood shutters.

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 property at 10 Harrison Avenue was the location of the H.G.O. & T.M. Chase comb factory (no longer extant), which was founded in 1842 or 1843¹ by Harrison Gray Otis Chase and Thomas Meady Chase. The H.G.O. & T.M. Chase factory closed in 1895.² The property at 10 Harrison Avenue was inherited by Harry G. Chase (1871-1931)³, a relative and executor of the estate of comb manufacturer H.G.O. Chase, who died in 1896. Harry G. Chase also inherited the adjacent H.G.O. Chase homestead (14 Harrison Ave. WNB.200). Harry G. Chase sold the property in 1914 to Amos H. Pierce, a local physician who, according to city directories of the time, lived on Main Street. Pierce's heirs sold the property in 1937⁴ to Philip G. and Helen Gervais. Philip Gervais worked as the manager of an ice cream factory. The Gervais family sold the property in 1956.⁵

The building's construction date is unclear, as the extant house does not appear on any of the historic maps up to 1884. The presence of a building is not mentioned in any deed until 1937; however, it appears that it was likely in use as a residence during the 1920s, as census data indicates there were as many as six families owning and renting houses on Harrison Avenue at that time. Further research is merited.

¹ Walton, *Comb Making in America*, 24.² Walton, 27.³ Findagrave.com Memorial #178563706.⁴ Essex Deed Book 3117, p. 349.⁵ Essex Deed Book 4319, p. 571.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

10 HARRISON AVE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.199

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West Newbury Tax Assessor records.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES

Detail, entrance. Note incised arch detail.

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

R1-490

Haverhill

WNB.200
WNB.201

Town/City: West Newbury

Place:

Address: 14 Harrison Avenue

Historic Name: Harrison Gray Otis Chase House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1845

Source: Visual

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, cut

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboards/ Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Barn

Major Alterations (with dates): Vinyl windows (L 20th C)

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.90 acres

Setting: Located along a narrow, rural road the property is surrounded by woodlands containing residences dating from the 18th-20th centuries.

Photograph

View looking west.

Locus Map

Recorded by: Stacy Spies

Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission

Date: June 2018

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

14 HARRISON AVE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.200
	WNB.201

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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.

14 Harrison Avenue is set close to the street and is oriented to the northeast toward the intersection of Harrison Avenue and Pleasant Street. The house is located atop a small rise; the land slopes down to the north and west. The trapezoidal lot is laid in turf with trees along the northwest and southeast property lines. A very large copper beech tree is located southeast of the house at the southeast property line. An asphalt-paved driveway leads from Harrison Avenue past the southeast elevation of the house toward the barn located south the house. A dry-laid fieldstone wall is located along the north edge of the property that fronts Pleasant Street.

Measuring 23 feet wide and 32 feet deep, the main block of the house rises 2½ stories from a cut stone foundation to a front-gabled roof with gable-end cornice returns. (Photos 1 and 2) A slender brick chimney rises from the southeast roof slope. The house is clad with wood clapboards and trimmed with wide, paneled corner pilasters. A wide fascia wraps around the side elevations from the tops of the pilasters. The house is three bays wide and four bays deep with a side-hall plan. The recessed entrance, located in the north bay of the façade, features a high entablature with channeled pilasters and a projecting cornice. The paneled wood door is flanked by full-height sidelights and sheltered by a multi-light storm door. Two brick steps lead from the entrance to an asphalt-paved walkway that leads to the driveway. Windows throughout the main block contain narrow molded wood surrounds and vinyl sash windows.

A one-story hipped-roof porch is located along the southeast elevation. The porch is enclosed with clapboards and two window bays at the west end. The north end of the porch has a square-section balustrade enclosed with plywood and fixed 1/1 wood-frame windows. A door is located on the east porch elevation. Two gable-roof lateral ells extend from the rear elevation. Both ells are covered with clapboards. The 1½-story ell connects to the house and has an exterior brick chimney at the rear elevation. The north elevation contains a 4/1 wood sash window at the first floor and a small 6-light window at the second floor. The end ell is an attached outbuilding. This single-story ell contains two bays of 6/6 wood sash windows and two vertical board doors on the northwest elevation. The southeast elevation contains a garage bay and one 6/6 wood sash window. Both ells are clad with clapboards and trimmed with corner boards.

A 2½-story frame Barn (WNB.201) (Mid-Late 19th C) (Photos 3 and 4) is located south of the house. The building is oriented toward the dooryard to the north. The gable roof has overhanging eaves and is covered with asphalt shingles. A large sliding vertical-board door hung from an overhead track is located in the west end of the north, gable-end, elevation. Four bays of 6/6 wood sash windows are located on the second floor of the north elevation; a single 6/6 wood sash window is located in the attic-level gable peak. The east elevation contains four bays of 6/6 wood sash windows on the first and second floors. Windows throughout the barn have wide, flat surrounds. The north and east elevations are clad with wood clapboards and trimmed with cornerboards. The south elevation is clad with board and batten siding.

The H.G.O. Chase House demonstrates several characteristics of the Greek Revival style in the pilasters and gable-front design. The lateral ells and barn retain the layout of a working farm and retain a high level of 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.

14 Harrison Avenue was likely constructed for Harrison Gray Otis Chase circa 1845 around the time the H.G.O. & T.M. Chase comb factory, located next door at 10 Harrison Avenue, came to dominate West Newbury comb manufacturing. H.G.O. Chase

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

14 HARRISON AVE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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(1812-1896) married Eliza Jones in 1836. The H.G.O. & T.M. Chase comb manufactory was founded in 1842 or 1843¹ by Harrison Gray Otis Chase and his brother, Thomas Meady Chase (1820-1895). Thomas' son, Elwood N. Chase, joined the business in 1891.² "At first they manufactured only tortoise-shell combs, but later did an extensive business in raw and clarified horn combs. They made fancy combs of every variety, hairpins, bonnet pins and puff-combs."³

Comb manufacturing in the United States began in West Newbury in the mid-18th century, "and matured there and in Newburyport in the days when cattle horn, rather than synthetic compounds, was the comb makers' raw material of choice. The growing use of synthetics coincided with the twentieth-century ascendancy of the comb factories of Leominster and Fitchburg over those of Newburyport; nevertheless, combmaking was a prominent aspect of life at the mouth of the Merrimack River for over 150 years."⁴ Combmaking in the colonies emerged as a distinct trade by the early 1750s⁵ and was expanded by West Newbury combmaker Enoch Noyes beginning in 1759. Noyes' success prompted other residents to take up comb manufacturing. By 1835, more than 30 comb manufactories were located in West Newbury.⁶

As technology advanced and the scale of the operations increased, foot-powered, horse-powered, and later, steam-powered machinery came into use. Among West Newbury's strongest contributions to the combmaking industry were the innovations in comb-manufacturing machinery. By the 1840s, two firms dominated West Newbury comb manufacturing: S.C. Noyes & Co. and H.G.O. & T.M. Chase. In 1845, comb production in West Newbury exceeded \$70,000.⁷ After the peak years of the 1830s and 1840s in West Newbury, some manufacturers set off to create larger concerns in Newburyport; Smaller shops were no longer able to compete and fell away. During the 1850s, it was reported that some comb shops were idle for parts of the year; these smaller operators often returned to shoemaking.⁸ By 1878, only S.C. Noyes & Co. and H.G.O. & T.M. Chase were still in business. However, these two, "with eighty hands and their new machines, produce[d] more goods in two months than could all the small shops...in the whole year." In 1870, their invested capital was \$175,000 and their annual production was \$110,000 per year.⁹ In spite of these successes, larger operations in the new comb manufacturing centers of Leominster and Fitchburg were to be the next chapter in Massachusetts comb manufacturing. The H.G.O. & T.M. Chase factory closed in 1895, after the death of Thomas Meady Chase in that year.¹⁰ H.G.O. Chase died the following year. S.C. Noyes & Co. closed in 1904.¹¹

14 Harrison Avenue was inherited by Harry G. Chase (1871-1931),¹² a relative and executor of the estate of comb manufacturer H.G.O. Chase, who died in 1896. In 1908, Harry G. Chase sold the house and 16 acres to C. Annie Swap.¹³ In 1919, widow C. Annie swap sold the property, "on the westerly side of Pleasant Ave. and a private way now called Harrison Ave.," to her son, Walter Swap, and his wife Alice,¹⁴ although it appears that all three lived in the house. At the time of the 1920 census, Walter and Alice Swap worked in a shoe shop. In 1940, Walter farmed the land and Annie owned a grocery store.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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City Directories 1870, 1909, 1912, 1918, 1925.
Essex South Registry of Deeds.
Massachusetts Birth indices. Ancestry.com.

¹ Walton, *Comb Making in America*, 24.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid., 24-26.

⁴ William G. Scheller. "The Comb Industry in Newburyport and West Newbury," in *1635-1985: Newbury, Newburyport, West Newbury: 350th Anniversary Essays*, 202.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid., 204 and Walton, 22.

⁷ Walton, 29.

⁸ Poor, 246.

⁹ Cyrus Tracy, *History of Essex County*, 422.

¹⁰ Walton, 27.

¹¹ Walton, 47.

¹² Findagrave.com Memorial #178563706.

¹³ Essex Deed Book 1935, p. 350.

¹⁴ Essex Deed Book 2414, p. 525.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

14 HARRISON AVE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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West Newbury Tax Assessor records.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Photo 2. House: Northwest elevation.



Photo 3. Barn: South and east elevations.



Photo 4. Barn: East and north elevations.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

14 HARRISON AVE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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Undated view looking west from Main Street. 14 Harrison Avenue is at far right. H.G.O. & T.M. Chase comb factory at center, factory outbuilding at left. A "private way," later Harrison Avenue is enclosed by fencing. Walton, *Comb Making in America*, p. 24.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

14 HARRISON AVE

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Area(s) Form No.

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district
☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GStatement of Significance by Stacy Spies*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The Harrison Gray Otis Chase House is individually eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion A at the local level for its association with the comb manufacturing industry in West Newbury. The building retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship. The period of significance begins in 1845 and continues to 50 years prior to the present day.

Comb manufacturing in the United States began in West Newbury in the mid-18th century, "and matured there and in Newburyport in the days when cattle horn, rather than synthetic compounds, was the comb makers' raw material of choice. The growing use of synthetics coincided with the twentieth-century ascendancy of the comb factories of Leominster and Fitchburg over those of Newburyport; nevertheless, combmaking was a prominent aspect of life at the mouth of the Merrimack River for over 150 years."¹⁵ Combmaking in the colonies emerged as a distinct trade by the early 1750s¹⁶ and was expanded by West Newbury combmaker Enoch Noyes beginning in 1759. Noyes' success prompted other residents to take up comb manufacturing.

By 1835, more than 30 comb manufacturers were located in West Newbury¹⁷ and by the 1840s, the field was dominated by S.C. Noyes & Co. and H.G.O. & T.M. Chase. The H.G.O. & T.M. Chase comb factory was founded in 1842 or 1843 by brothers Harrison Gray Otis Chase and Thomas Meady Chase. After the peak years of the 1830s and 1840s in West Newbury, smaller shops were no longer able to compete and fell away. By 1878, only S.C. Noyes & Co. and H.G.O. & T.M. Chase were still in business. In 1870, their invested capital was \$175,000 and their annual production was \$110,000 per year.¹⁸ The H.G.O. & T.M. Chase factory closed in 1895,¹⁹ followed by S.C. Noyes & Co. nine years later.

¹⁵ William G. Scheller. "The Comb Industry in Newburyport and West Newbury," in *1635-1985: Newbury, Newburyport, West Newbury: 350th Anniversary Essays*, 202.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid., 204 and Walton, *Comb Making in America*, 22.

¹⁸ Cyrus Tracy, *History of Essex County*, 422.

¹⁹ Walton, 27.