

WEST NEWBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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Main Street 800's Block

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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

R25-100

Newburyport

WNB.E

WNB.114

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

## Photograph



View looking northwest.

**Address:** 800 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Tristram Greenleaf House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** Pre-1729?

**Source:** map, marriage, lot acquisition

**Style/Form:** Colonial

**Architect/Builder:** Not determined

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards / Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** garage, well

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Side porch and extension (mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> c) – Real ell (L 20<sup>th</sup> c?)

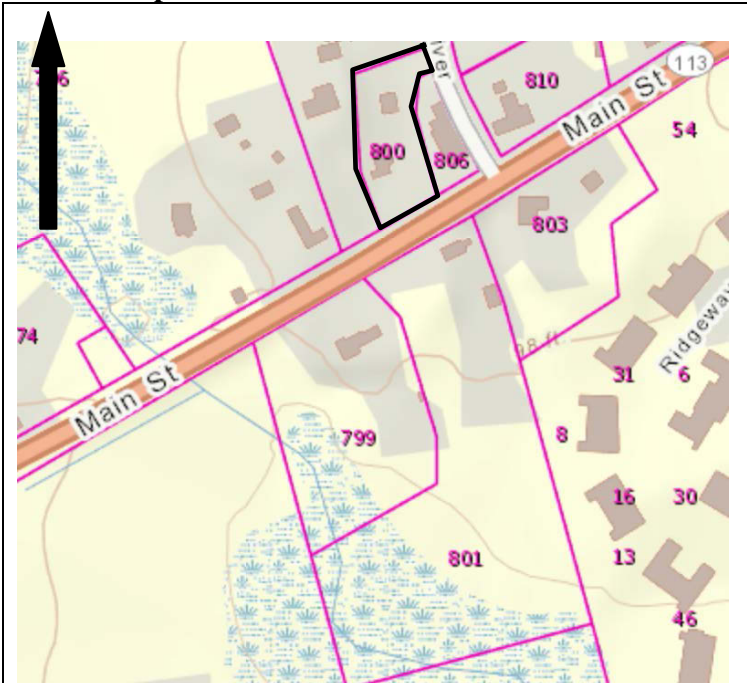
**Condition:** Excellent

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.55 acres

**Setting:** Located on the busy thoroughfare of Main Street (Route 113), in the center of a cluster of 17<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> century residential buildings, set relatively close to the street on large parcels. Surrounding buildings are typically wood-frame construction and 2½ stories high with side-gable roofs and clapboard siding. Situated near the intersection of Main Street and Way to the River.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Wendy Frontiero and Stacy Spies

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2018

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

800 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.E

WNB.114

☒ 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.*

800 Main Street occupies a comparatively small, deep lot on the north side of Main Street; the parcel bends around the back of the adjacent First Meeting House parcel and has a small frontage on Way to the River. The house is positioned near the western edge of the property, with a deep front setback. Generally flat, the yard is maintained chiefly in lawn, with scattered mature trees, a border of trees on the western property line, and a gravel driveway from Way to the River to a late 20<sup>th</sup>-century garage at the back of the site. A small covered well (of undetermined date) is situated in the southwest corner of the lot. The house consists of a main block with a rear ell.

The rectangular main block rises 2½ stories from a granite block foundation to a side gable roof with twin interior chimneys; no gable returns. Walls are sheathed with wood clapboards and trimmed with narrow cornerboards and a narrow fascia board with bed molding and a boxed cornice. Windows typically contain 9/6 double-hung sash on the first floor and 6/6 sash on the second floor; they appear to be trimmed with narrow band molding.

The symmetrical façade has five bays and a center entrance with one granite step and a single-leaf door framed by classical pilasters and entablature. The symmetrical west (left side) elevation has two widely-spaced windows on each of the first and second floors and a 6/6 window centered in the half-story. The east (right side) elevation has the same fenestration on its second and third floors. The first floor has one 9/6 window in the forward bay, behind a small porch at the end of a hip-roofed extension that extends the length of this elevation. The porch has a turned post at the corner and a square post balustrade. A secondary entrance facing north on this extension has a four-paneled door with two arched panels at the top, flanked by full-height sidelights. The side elevation of the extension has paired modern windows and a concrete block foundation towards the rear.

Slightly recessed from the east wall of the main block, the square-shaped rear ell is 2½ stories high with a gable roof without returns and two bays on the east and north (rear) elevations (all with 6/6 windows). A modern, one-story porch with a hip roof wraps around the east side and back elevations.

Well preserved and maintained, 800 Main Street is a handsome, vernacular example of colonial-period architecture in West Newbury. It is distinguished by its generous volume, twin chimneys, Victorian side porch, and imposing setting. Significant alterations include the modest side porch and extension, which represent an interesting 19<sup>th</sup> century evolution of the house, and the seemingly modern rear ell, which although large does not detract from the historic character of the main block.

**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 1729 map includes a house at this location owned by Tristram Greenleaf; further research will be required to determine whether the house was constructed for Tristram Greenleaf, Senior (1668-1741)<sup>1</sup> or Tristram Greenleaf, Junior (1702-1754).<sup>2</sup> Tristram Greenleaf, Sr.'s brother, John Greenleaf, owned the adjacent house to the west, 796 Main Street (WNB.113). Tristram

<sup>1</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #100871377.<sup>2</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #100870148.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

800 MAIN ST

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.E

WNB.114

Greenleaf, Jr. married Dorothy Rolf in 1728. Further research may provide information on whether the existing house was constructed later in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, or whether the existing house is a result of substantial additions to the 1729 house.

In 1811, David Ordway, Jr. purchased the house and land from Moses Brown.<sup>3</sup> David Ordway Jr. (1778-1847)<sup>4</sup> and his wife, Mary, were married in 1802 and had seven children. David Ordway, Jr., worked as a trader. In 1847, David Ordway, Jr., died of typhus. In his will, he left all of his real estate to his sons, Isaac and David Ordway. It appears that 800 Main Street became the property of Daniel Ordway III.

David Ordway III (ca. 1791- before 1850) married Catherine Coker in 1836. Catherine G. Coker Ordway (1794-1878) was widowed by the time of the 1850 census. Catherine Ordway's brother, Samuel Coker, worked as a farmer and lived with her for the remainder of her life. In 1870, Catherine Ordway lived here with her brother, Samuel Coker, her nephew Arthur Rogers, who ran the milk wagon, and his wife, and her teenage niece, Mary Hills.

Carpenter Jarvis H. Gambrell purchased the house in 1879 from Catherine Ordway's estate.<sup>5</sup> Born in England, Jarvis Gambrell (1846-1917) lived here with his wife, Mary, and their daughter, Alice. In 1900, Jarvis Gambrell's activities were noted in the local newspaper; in 1900, Gambrell repaired the "Carmody house."<sup>6</sup> (This may have been 400 Main Street (WNB.88), which the Carmody family sold in that year.)

Eben S. Poore purchased the property in 1918.<sup>7</sup> Eben Poore worked as a cutter in a shoe shop, according to census records and city directories. Eben Poore's estate sold the property in 1949 to Gertrude M. Ackerman of Ipswich.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Essex South Deed Book 194, p. 241.

<sup>4</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #179530661.

<sup>5</sup> Essex South Deed Book 1011, p. 253.

<sup>6</sup> "West Newbury," *Newburyport Daily News*, June 6, 1900. P. 3.

<sup>7</sup> Essex South Deed Book 2401, p. 471.

<sup>8</sup> Essex South Deed Book 3766, p. 270.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

800 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.E

WNB.114

**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*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The Tristram Greenleaf House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource to the Way to the River Historic District. The district is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the early settlement of West Newbury. Into the last quarter of the 17th century, present-day West Newbury was known as the "Upper Commons" or "Upper Woods" of 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 within the bounds of present-day West Newbury.

Each Sunday, residents were required to travel to Newburyport for worship services. The distance became too great for some and in 1693, a group petitioned the freeholders for permission to hire their own minister. In 1698, they erected a meeting house on Pipestave Hill, on Main Street a short distance west of the Way to the River Area. By 1711, approximately 50 families lived within one-half mile of the meeting house and 96 families lived "above the Artichoke River." By 1729, 181 houses containing 183 families lived in the West Parish. In 1759, land was purchased at 806 Main Street and a new meeting house constructed. In 1840, a new building was constructed on the site of the 1759 building. Residents of the Way to the River Area were predominately farmers, with the exception of Moses Ridgway's carriage shop at 801 Main Street.

The Way to the River Historic District is also eligible under Criterion C as an excellent example of Colonial-period and Greek Revival architecture in Essex County. The District exhibits a highly significant collection of First Period and Colonial dwellings constructed during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries in addition to substantial representation of vernacular Greek Revival dwellings and ecclesiastical architecture. All of these buildings retain a very high level of integrity.

The building retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship.



## FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

R26-60

Newburyport

WNB.E

WNB.115

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

### Photograph



View looking south.

**Address:** 801 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Caleb Moody Carriage Shop

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Carriage Shop

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1850

**Source:** Huse, p. 47

**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 (1975)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Side addition (L 19th – E 20th c?)

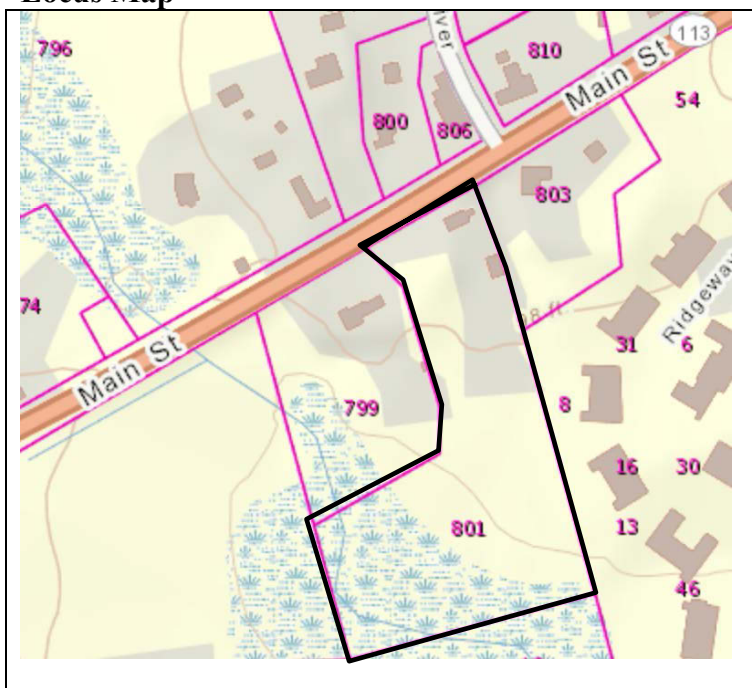
**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 3.78 acres

**Setting:** Located on the busy thoroughfare of Main Street (Route 113), in the center of a cluster of 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century residential buildings, set relatively close to the street on large parcels. Surrounding buildings are typically wood-frame construction and 2 ½ stories high with side-gable roofs and clapboard siding. Situated near the intersection of Main Street and Way to the River.

### Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Wendy Frontiero and Stacy Spies

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2018

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

801 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.E

WNB.115

☒ 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.*

801 Main Street occupies a long, deep, irregularly-shaped lot on the south side of Main Street. The terrain is flat at the street edges and slopes gently down to the south behind the house. The yard around the house is maintained chiefly in lawn with occasional shrubs and trees. The west portion of the lot is thickly wooded and includes a dry-laid fieldstone wall along the street edge. A gravel driveway to the east of the house extends to a 1½ story, front-gabled garage that appears to have living quarters above.

The main block rises 2½ stories from a very low fieldstone foundation (with parging or solid concrete in limited sections) to a side gable roof with minimal overhang; no gable returns or visible chimney. Walls are sheathed with clapboards and trimmed with narrow corner boards. Windows typically contain 6/6 double-hung sash with flat casings; the proportion of wall area to windows is high.

The symmetrical façade (north elevation) of the main block has five bays and a center entrance. The single-leaf doorway is framed with flat pilasters with stylized capitals, flat fascia, and plain cornice board. The symmetrical west (right side) elevation has two widely spaced, vertically-aligned windows on the first and second floors and two small paired windows in the half-story.

The east (left side) elevation has a single window towards the front of the second floor and small, paired windows centered in the half-story. The first floor of this elevation is largely obscured by a small, side-gabled appendage, constructed a half-level below the ground floor of the main block; this addition contains one 6/6 window centered on its north elevation and a single-leaf door on the gable end.

Well preserved and maintained, 801 Main Street is notable for its intact massing and fenestration and minimalist door enframing. The most significant alteration is the side appendage, whose scale, form, and detailing are compatible with the original main block.

**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.*

801 Main Street is reported to have been constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Caleb Moody II as a shop.<sup>1</sup> This former outbuilding was part of the extensive Caleb Moody I (1637-1698) property; the ca. 1659 Caleb Moody I house is located next door at 803 Main Street (WNB.116). (Much of the detailed information about 801 Main Street is from the detailed reminiscences and history of the property by Mabel (Ridgway) Huse (1883-1971), the daughter of the last full-time operator of the shop, Moses Ridgway. In her recollections, published as The Old Home in 1957, she used Roman numerals to differentiate the different generations of Caleb Moody, a practice continued in the text below.)

Deacon Caleb Moody II (1666-1740) married Ruth Morse and the couple had eight children. Caleb Moody II served as constable in 1665-1666 and served as selectman in 1670 and 1684-1685. In 1677-1678, Caleb Moody II represented Newbury in the General Court of Massachusetts. Caleb Moody II was one of three men appointed on February 28, 1705 to build a meeting house on the top of Pipestave Hill that became First Parish Church. Caleb Moody III married Elizabeth Emery in 1727 and the couple also had eight children.

<sup>1</sup> Huse, Mabel H. *The Old Home*, p. 47.

## INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

801 MAIN ST

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.E

WNB.115

1829, Moses Ridgway (1800- 1888) purchased the property from the Moody-Ridgway family and the farm came to be known as "Ridgeway Farm." In 1834, Moses Ridgway married Sarah Locke and the couple had six children. Moses Ridgway lived at 803 Main Street and used the shop at 801 Main Street for the painting of chaises and harness-making; a large doorway allowed chaises to be pulled into the shop.<sup>2</sup> The building also contained a work area for shoemaking.<sup>3</sup>

In 1935, Clara Ridgway sold 23 acres along Main Street between 801 Main Street and Chase Street to Herbert and Bessie Bridges of Newton, Massachusetts.<sup>4</sup> In 1941, Herbert and Bessie Bridges sold 801 Main Street, on a smaller lot, to Nina and Cornelius Murphy, a newspaper advertising salesman, of Medford.<sup>5</sup> The current owner, Paul O. Kelly, purchased the property in 1972.<sup>6</sup>

It is unclear at what time 801 Main Street was converted to a house. The building is identified as a shop through the time of an 1896 state highway map.<sup>7</sup> The 1935 and 1941 deeds do not specifically mention a dwelling in the transactions.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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1896 Massachusetts Highway Commission Map. [Tracing of map.] "Lower Parish Historic District" Vertical file. G.A.R. Library. West Newbury, Mass.

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<sup>2</sup> Huse, 48.

<sup>3</sup> Huse, 48.

<sup>4</sup> Essex Deed Book 3055, p. 75.

<sup>5</sup> Essex Deed Book 3248, p. 592.

<sup>6</sup> Essex Deed Book 5919, p. 426.

<sup>7</sup> Tracing of Massachusetts Highway Commission map in "Lower Parish Historic District" vertical file, G.A.R. Library, West Newbury, Mass.



**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

801 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.E

WNB.115

**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*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The Caleb Moody Shop is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource to the Way to the River Historic District. The district is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the early settlement of West Newbury. Into the last quarter of the 17th century, present-day West Newbury was known as the "Upper Commons" or "Upper Woods" of 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 within the bounds of present-day West Newbury.

Each Sunday, residents were required to travel to Newburyport for worship services. The distance became too great for some and in 1693, a group petitioned the freeholders for permission to hire their own minister. In 1698, they erected a meeting house on Pipestave Hill, on Main Street a short distance west of the Way to the River Area. By 1711, approximately 50 families lived within one-half mile of the meeting house and 96 families lived "above the Artichoke River." By 1729, 181 houses containing 183 families lived in the West Parish. In 1759, land was purchased at 806 Main Street and a new meeting house constructed. In 1840, a new building was constructed on the site of the 1759 building. Residents of the Way to the River Area were predominately farmers, with the exception of Moses Ridgway's carriage shop at 801 Main Street.

The Way to the River Historic District is also eligible under Criterion C as an excellent example of Colonial-period and Greek Revival architecture in Essex County. The District exhibits a highly significant collection of First Period and Colonial dwellings constructed during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries in addition to substantial representation of vernacular Greek Revival dwellings and ecclesiastical architecture. All of these buildings retain a very high level of integrity.

The building retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship.

## FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

R26-50

Newburyport

WNB.E

WNB.116

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Address:** 803 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Caleb Moody House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** 1659

**Source:** Huse

**Style/Form:** First Period/Colonial

**Architect/Builder:** Caleb Moody

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Not visible

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards / Wood trim

Roof: Wood Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Garage

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Ell ca. 1775

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.5 acres

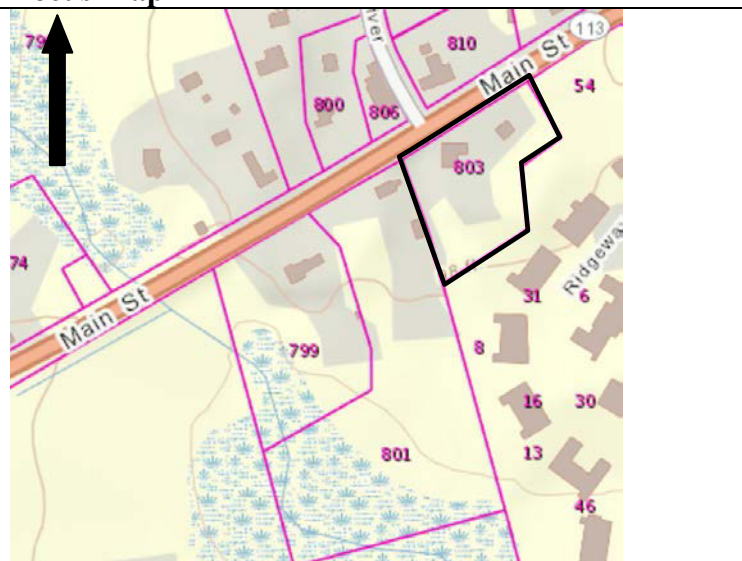
**Setting:** Located on the busy thoroughfare of Main Street (Route 113), in the center of a cluster of 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century residential buildings, set relatively close to the street on large parcels. Surrounding buildings are typically wood-frame construction and 2½ stories high with side-gable roofs and clapboard siding. Situated opposite the intersection of Main Street and Way to the River.

### Photograph



View looking southeast.

### Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Wendy Frontiero and Stacy Spies

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2018

## INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

803 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.E

WNB.116

☒ 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.*

803 Main Street occupies a large, irregularly shaped lot on the south side of Main Street, directly opposite the intersection with Way to the River and the First Parish Meeting House. The terrain is flat at the front and slopes gently down to the south behind the house. Along the street edge, the lot is maintained chiefly in lawn; a single mature tree stands near the northeast corner of the house. The western and southern parts of the lot are wooded. A gravel driveway leads to a mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century garage located to the east of the house. The garage has a concrete block foundation, board and batten siding, side gable roof with rear lean-to, and two segmentally arched, double-leaf doors.

Positioned on a skew to the road, the L-shaped house sits very low to the ground on what appears to be a flat fieldstone foundation; it rises 2 ½ stories to a wood-shingled roof with a minimal overhang. Its two ample, gabled wings meet at a hip at the northwest corner of the house. Two large, parged chimneys rise from the ridgelines—one near the intersection of the two wings and one at the south end of the rear wing. Walls are sheathed with wood clapboards and trimmed with flat sill boards and corner boards. Windows are small and narrow and typically contain double-hung sash with a variety of casings. Windows on the façade and east elevation are significantly smaller than those on the west elevation.

The long, asymmetrical façade (north elevation) has six bays of vertically aligned windows with 9/6 sash, minimal band molding, and wood storm sash. The main entrance is contained in a small, one-story vestibule with a low hip roof; single-leaf, 9-panelled door (similar to 750 Main St (WNB.109) and 914 Main St. (WNB.128); and a narrow 4/4 window on each side. The east gable end has a single window bay, with one 6/6 window (newer sash) on each floor; no gable returns. The west elevation has three vertically-aligned, 12/8 windows with band molding on each floor—one window bay near the front and two loosely grouped bays towards the rear.

Based on a 1957 description of the house by a member of the extended Moody family, the ca. 1659 south end of the house, bracketed by the chimneys, was the original house and contained a kitchen and a living room at the first floor and two bedrooms at the second floor.<sup>1</sup> In 1773, eight rooms were added to the house, extending eastward from the north end of the original block. The 1957 description states that the extension included a parlor, dining room, store room, and bedrooms.<sup>2</sup> The 1973 MHC survey form states that the paneling in the house is very similar to that of the 1675 Emery House (no longer extant) that was located near the present-day location Norino Drive<sup>3</sup> and the 1717 Short House in Newbury (NEW.215 and HABS MA-468).

Interior inspections were beyond the scope of this survey, but a closer examination of surviving framing, floorplans, and interior features and finishes by an architectural historian with expertise in early Massachusetts building technology could provide additional insights into a likely original construction date and on the physical evolution of the building over time.

Well preserved and maintained, 803 Main Street is a handsome example of vernacular, colonial period architecture in West Newbury, displaying the evolution of a simple residence over several centuries. Although minimally detailed, the house is distinguished by its substantial massing, clarity of form and composition, prominent roof volumes, large chimneys, entrance vestibule, and variety of early fenestration, window sash, and trim.

<sup>1</sup> Huse, 12.<sup>2</sup> Huse, 36.<sup>3</sup> Howells, Figures 234 and 237.

## INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

803 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.E

WNB.116

## 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.*

803 Main Street is reported to have been constructed in 1659 by Caleb Moody I (1637-1698) on a land grant given to his father, William Moody. Caleb Moody I was born to parents William and Sarah Moody, who arrived in Newbury in 1635. Caleb Moody I married Sarah Pierce in 1658 and constructed this house in the Newbury "Upper Commons" just a few years after a road was created to connect Newburyport to Bradford (now Groveland) and Haverhill. (Much of the detailed information about 803 Main Street is from the detailed reminiscences and history of the property by Mabel (Ridgway) Huse (1883-1971), the daughter of Moses Ridgway. In her recollections, published as The Old Home in 1957, Ms. Huse used Roman numerals to differentiate the different generations of Caleb Moody, a practice continued in the text below.)

Deacon Caleb Moody II (1666-1740) inherited the house from his father. Caleb Moody II married Ruth Morse and the couple had eight children. Caleb Moody II served as constable in 1665-1666 and served as selectman in 1670 and 1684-1685. In 1677-1678, Caleb Moody II represented Newbury in the General Court of Massachusetts. Caleb Moody II was one of three men appointed on February 28, 1705 to build a meeting house on the top of Pipestave Hill that became First Parish Church. Caleb Moody III married Elizabeth Emery in 1727 and the couple also had eight children. Caleb Moody III is reported to have enlarged the house circa 1773, building "eight rooms across the front of the house," for a total of 12 rooms.<sup>4</sup>

Moses Sargent Moody (1757-1817), son of Caleb Moody IV, was the next owner of the house. Moses Moody served Newbury as a selectman in 1813. Elizabeth Moody Ridgway, daughter of Caleb IV, married Joseph Ridgway of Boston in 1793 and the couple had three sons. Ridgway is reported to have been the first chaise maker in the Merrimack Valley, having established a business in Newburyport.<sup>5</sup> Joseph Ridgway died in 1802 and Elizabeth Moody Ridgway returned with her sons to live with her family at 803 Main Street.

Moses Moody Ridgway (1800-1888), son of Elizabeth Moody and Joseph Ridgway, was the next owner of the house. In 1829, Moses Ridgway purchased the property from the family and the farm came to be known as "Ridgeway Farm." In 1834, Moses Ridgway married Sarah Locke. The couple had six children. Moses Ridgway used a shop on the property, now 801 Main Street, for the painting of chaises and harness-making. This shop would later be converted to a dwelling (See 801 Main Street, WNB.115). In 1880, 80-year-old Moses Ridgway lived here with his wife, Sarah, their children, Sarah, Moses, and Jennie. In that year, Moses Ridgway, Junior, married Mary Warren Hale and bought a house next door.<sup>6</sup>

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the house occupied by tenants. In 1937, the house was sold to author John Marquand (1893-1971) and his wife, Adelaide,<sup>7</sup> with the intent of moving the house to Kent's Island, Newbury.<sup>8</sup> Marquand wrote stories and serials for mass-circulation magazines for more than 20 years before publishing his first novel. Marquand wrote the Mr. Moto secret agent novels portrayed by Peter Lorre in the onscreen adaptations. Marquand is best known for his satirical treatment of WASP-ish northeast elites, especially in *The Late George Apley*, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1938.<sup>9</sup> Marquand sold the property, with house intact, in 1940 to Harvard music professor and composer Randall Thompson, who reportedly had similar plans to move the house.<sup>10</sup> In 1950, the house was sold to Beatrice and Thomas Downey, who lived here into the 1970s.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Huse, 36.

<sup>5</sup> Huse, 40.

<sup>6</sup> Huse, 49.

<sup>7</sup> Essex South Deed Book 3117, p. 138 and Essex South Deed Book 3236, p. 115.

<sup>8</sup> Essex Deed Book 3236, p. 115.

<sup>9</sup> Spaulding, Martha. "Martini-Age Victorian: The Novelist John P. Marquand was a brilliant satirist with a 'dictaphonic ear' for dialogue." *The Atlantic*. May 2004. <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2004/05/-martini-age-victorian/302954/>. Accessed April 18, 2018.

<sup>10</sup> Essex Deed Book 3247, p. 343.

<sup>11</sup> Essex Deed Book 3768, p. 297.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

803 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.E

WNB.116

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**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

803 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.E

WNB.116

**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*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The Caleb Moody House is individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a fine example of First Period architecture in Essex County. The building shares exterior design features, such the nine-paneled front door, with other First Period dwellings in the vicinity. The building retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship.

The Caleb Moody House is also eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource to the Way to the River Historic District. The district is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the early settlement of West Newbury. Into the last quarter of the 17th century, present-day West Newbury was known as the "Upper Commons" or "Upper Woods" of 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 within the bounds of present-day West Newbury.

Each Sunday, residents were required to travel to Newburyport for worship services. The distance became too great for some and in 1693, a group petitioned the freeholders for permission to hire their own minister. In 1698, they erected a meeting house on Pipestave Hill, on Main Street a short distance west of the Way to the River Area. By 1711, approximately 50 families lived within one-half mile of the meeting house and 96 families lived "above the Artichoke River." By 1729, 181 houses containing 183 families lived in the West Parish. In 1759, land was purchased at 806 Main Street and a new meeting house constructed. In 1840, a new building was constructed on the site of the 1759 building. Residents of the Way to the River Area were predominately farmers, with the exception of Moses Ridgway's carriage shop at 801 Main Street.

The Way to the River Historic District is also eligible under Criterion C as an excellent example of Colonial-period and Greek Revival architecture in Essex County. The District exhibits a highly significant collection of First Period and Colonial dwellings constructed during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries in addition to substantial representation of vernacular Greek Revival dwellings and ecclesiastical architecture. All of these buildings retain a very high level of integrity.



**FORM B – BUILDING**

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

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

R25-110

Newburyport

WNB.E

WNB.117

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Address:** 806 Main Street

**Historic Name:** First Parish Meeting House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Church

**Date of Construction:** 1840

**Source:** Currier, *History*: 362

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Not determined

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards / Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** none

**Major Alterations (with dates):** Spire replaced (1950)  
 Addition between rear ell and main block (1st story, L 19th –  
 E 20th c?; 2nd story, L 20th c)

**Condition:** Fair

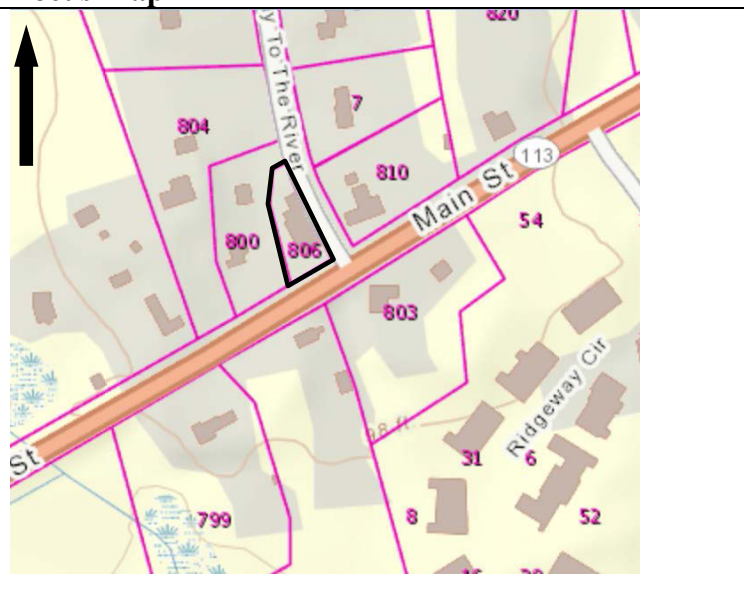
**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.2 acre

**Setting:** Located on the busy thoroughfare of Main Street (Route 113), in the center of a cluster of 17<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> century residential buildings, set relatively close to the street on large parcels. Surrounding buildings are typically wood-frame construction and 2½ stories high with side-gable roofs and clapboard siding. Situated on a prominent corner lot at the intersection of Main Street and Way to the River. Twentieth-century suburban development stands to the north along Way to the River.

**Photograph**

View looking north.

**Locus Map**

**Recorded by:** Wendy Frontiero and Stacy Spies

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2018

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

806 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.E

WNB.117

☒ 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.*

The First Parish Meeting House occupies a small, narrow lot on the north side of Main Street, at the intersection of that road and Way to the River. The building is positioned on the east side of a generally flat lot, with a minimal setback on Way to the River and a moderate front setback on Main Street. The parcel is maintained chiefly in turf, with a gravel driveway and parking area on the west side of the property. The rear of the lot contains a rubble foundation surmounted with concrete block pillars and infilled with a mound of earth. Mature trees line the western property line near the front of the site. The building consists of a main block, a rear ell, and a small rear appendage in the corner between them.

The rectangular main block rises 2 stories from a low, granite block foundation to a front gable roof with fully pedimented façade. Walls are sheathed with clapboards and trimmed with wide flat corner pilasters and a very high, flat entablature; minimal gable returns on the rear elevation. A short chimney rises from the ridge line near the back of the main block. Windows have 15/10 double hung sash on the façade (south elevation) and 18/18/18 triple hung sash on the side elevations; flat casings are trimmed with a rectangular band at the perimeter and hollow corner blocks at the top.

Framed by wide corner pilasters, the symmetrical, flushboarded façade contains two bays, each with a recessed doorway on the first floor and large window on the second story. Single leaf, four-panel wood doors are flanked by  $\frac{3}{4}$  height sidelights and ornamented with a classical enframing of flat pilasters, entablature, and prominent cornice; each is accessed by three granite steps. The tympanum has a blank, recessed triangular panel, also filled with flushboard. A two-stage tower rises from the roofline near the front of the main block. Its square base is blank, with flat cornerboards and cornice. The taller upper stage has wide, flat corner pilasters; rectangular louvered openings on each side; a very high, flat fascia; and a prominent cornice. The tower is capped by a small, polygonal spire with a metal ball finial and weathervane. Both side elevations of the main block have three evenly spaced but not quite symmetrical 18/18/18 triple-hung windows. The rear (north) elevation of the main block is largely obscured by the rear ell; a small 12/8 window is centered in the gable peak.

Minimally set back from the east wall of the main block, the rear ell rises one story above a rubble foundation to a gable roof with minimal returns. Walls are sheathed with clapboards and trimmed with flat corner boards and a flat fascia with bed molding. Its east elevation has three evenly spaced 12/8 windows with flat trim and a small single-leaf, vertical-wood door adjacent to the main block. The entrance has flat casings and a poured concrete stoop. The north (rear) wall of the ell is blank. The west elevation is not clearly visible from the street; one window is discernible. A modestly-scaled appendage connects the rear ell with the main block on the west side; it features a shed roof over the first floor and a large gabled dormer/half-story addition with a tripartite window unit.

Remarkably intact but not well maintained, the First Parish Meeting House is a handsome example of Greek Revival institutional architecture in West Newbury. It is distinguished by its combination of aspirational and vernacular architecture features, including the flushboard façade and corner pilasters; domestically-scaled, recessed main entrances; original fenestration and sash (particularly the unusual triple-hung sash); simple tower; and original, or early, rear ell. Other than construction of a new steeple in 1950, significant alterations are confined to the appendage between the main block and rear ell and are not easily visible from a public way.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

806 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.E

WNB.117

**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.*

Constructed in 1840, the First Parish Meeting House is the second building constructed on this site, and the fourth overall, for the First Parish. Even though present-day West Newbury was intended to remain "perpetual commons," by the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, approximately 300 people lived in the West Newbury area near "the road to Bradford," i.e. Main Street. Each Sunday, residents were required to travel to Newburyport for worship services. The distance became too great for some and in 1693, a group petitioned the freeholders for permission to hire their own minister. They erected a meeting house on Pipestave Hill in 1698.

In 1759, Joseph Huse sold the property at 806 Main Street to First Parish Church to build a new meeting house. That meeting house served the congregation from 1760 until 1840, when the existing church building was constructed. The building was dedicated on December 22, 1841. From 1841 until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the congregation grew from 46 members in 1857 to 117 members in 1898. A chapel was built for the growing Sunday school in 1875. A religious society was formed in 1887 and the Ladies Missionary Society was established in 1892.

In 1909, the First Parish Church merged with the First Congregational Church. The existing church building and the parsonage at 1 Chase Street were sold to the First Congregational Church.<sup>1</sup> In 1919, unable to support a full-time minister, the merged congregation shared ministers with other congregations. During the second quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the population in West Newbury underwent a dramatic population decline. The reduced number of residents was reflected in a dwindling number of parishioners. In the 1940s, Gordon College Divinity School students were in the pulpit on Sunday mornings for lack of funds to pay a minister.<sup>2</sup> In 1950, the church steeple was removed and replaced with a smaller spire. The sanctuary ceiling was also lowered at that time.

In 1963, the First Congregational Church and the Second Congregational Church merged and the name was changed to the Congregational Church of West Newbury.<sup>3</sup> In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the church was vacant for a period of time. In 1975, The First Parish Community Church was organized here and operated for a number of years. In 1990, the building was sold to Pamela Bracci for use as a dwelling.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Essex South Deed Book 2000, p. 62.

<sup>2</sup> Undated newspaper clipping, "First Parish" file, G.A.R. Library.

<sup>3</sup> Essex South Deed Book 5377, p. 677.

<sup>4</sup> Essex South Deed Book 12485, p. 137.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

806 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.E

WNB.117

**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*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The First Parish Meeting House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource to the Way to the River Historic District. The district is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the early settlement of West Newbury. Into the last quarter of the 17th century, present-day West Newbury was known as the "Upper Commons" or "Upper Woods" of 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 within the bounds of present-day West Newbury.

Each Sunday, residents were required to travel to Newburyport for worship services. The distance became too great for some and in 1693, a group petitioned the freeholders for permission to hire their own minister. In 1698, they erected a meeting house on Pipestave Hill, on Main Street a short distance west of the Way to the River Area. By 1711, approximately 50 families lived within one-half mile of the meeting house and 96 families lived "above the Artichoke River." By 1729, 181 houses containing 183 families lived in the West Parish. In 1759, land was purchased at 806 Main Street and a new meeting house constructed. In 1840, a new building was constructed on the site of the 1759 building. Residents of the Way to the River Area were predominately farmers, with the exception of Moses Ridgway's carriage shop at 801 Main Street.

The Way to the River Historic District is also eligible under Criterion C as an excellent example of Colonial-period and Greek Revival architecture in Essex County. The District exhibits a highly significant collection of First Period and Colonial dwellings constructed during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries in addition to substantial representation of vernacular Greek Revival dwellings and ecclesiastical architecture. All of these buildings retain a very high level of integrity.

The building retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship.

## FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

R25-210

Newburyport

WNB.E

WNB.118

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Address:** 810 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Thomas Huse House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1700

**Source:** Visual, marriage date

**Style/Form:** First Period(?) / Colonial

**Architect/Builder:** Not determined

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: main block not visible; rubble veneer  
at side ell

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards / Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Shed, barn

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Side ell (L 20<sup>th</sup> c)

**Condition:** Excellent

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.68 acres

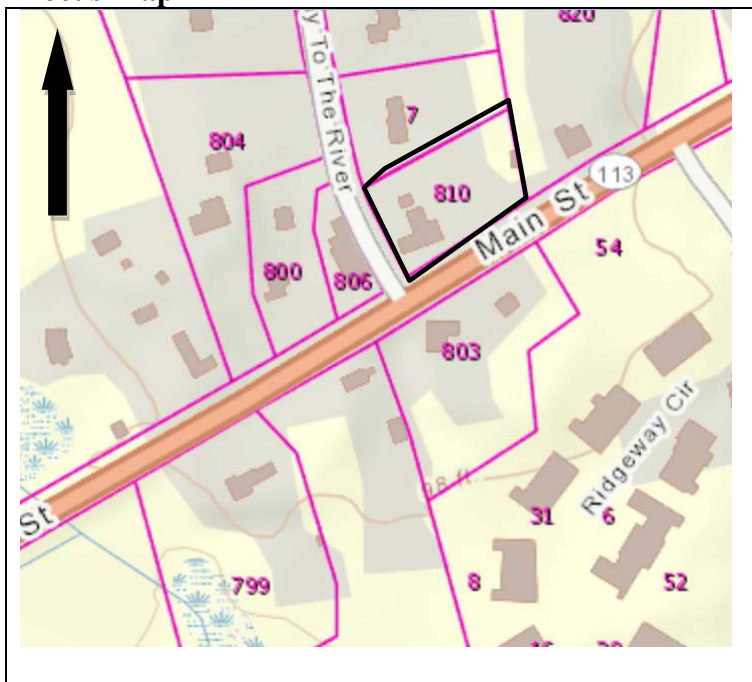
**Setting:** Located on the busy thoroughfare of Main Street (Route 113), near the middle of a cluster of 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century residential buildings, set relatively close to the street on large parcels. Surrounding buildings are typically wood-frame construction and 2 ½ stories high with side-gable roofs and clapboard siding. Situated on a prominent corner lot at the intersection of Main Street and Way to the River. Twentieth century suburban development stands to the north along Way to the River.

### Photograph



View looking north.

### Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Wendy Frontiero and Stacy Spies

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2018



## INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

810 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.E

WNB.118

☒ 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.*

810 Main Street occupies a substantial lot on the northeast corner of the intersection of Main Street and Way to the River. The generally rectangular lot has its longest frontage along Main Street. The mostly flat site is enclosed with a low fieldstone retaining wall along the street frontages. Trees line the perimeter of the site, which is otherwise maintained chiefly in lawn. A single, mature tree stands at the southwest corner of the lot, near the street intersection. The property contains a main block with side and rear ells at the west edge, a free-standing barn to the northwest, and a small outbuilding at the northeast corner of the site.

Set at grade, the rectangular main block rises 2 ½ stories to a side-gable roof with a large parged chimney in the center of the ridge; no gable returns. Walls are sheathed with clapboards and trimmed with a narrow sillboard at the façade and narrow corner boards throughout; no cornice trim is visible. Windows are typically 9/6 double-hung with band molding.

The asymmetrical façade (south elevation) has a slightly off-center door with two vertically-aligned window bays to the west (left), and, to the east (right), three 6/6 windows on the first floor and two 9/6 windows on the second floor. The center entrance has a single-leaf, vertical board door with a multi-light transom, embellished with slender pilasters and a narrow entablature.

The west (left side) elevation of the main block has a single bay of windows centered at each level; the window in the half-story contains 6/6 sash. The east (right side) elevation of the main block has a 6/6 window centered in the half story. The remainder of this elevation is obscured by the side ell, a side-gabled block that has a one-story façade with three evenly spaced, 9/6 windows with flat casings and stone veneer on the foundation. The east (side) elevation of the side ell is not clearly visible from the street, but contains varied modern fenestration. The back of the ell rises to two stories.

The rear elevation of the main block has two widely spaced window bays. The substantial rear ell is two stories high, with a gable roof (no returns), clapboards, sill boards, and narrow corner boards. A large chimney rises from the ridgeline near the north end of the roof. The rear ell's west elevation has four bays of evenly spaced, narrow 9/6 windows with band moldings. A single-leaf door in the bay nearest the main block is trimmed with slender pilasters and a narrow entablature. The north (rear) elevation of the rear ell has an offset doorway at the first floor with a simple entablature and prominent cornice; a 6/6 window is set high in the second story.

The 1 ½ story barn (ca.1950) in the northwest corner of the property has a rectangular main block with a front-gable roof and a one-story lean-to appendage towards the front of the north side. The barn has a flat fieldstone foundation, clapboard siding, and a wood-shingle roof. Centered on the ridgeline is a small square cupola with 6-light windows on each side. The barn's façade (west elevation) has double-leaf sliding wood doors, a single 6/6 window in the lean-to and a 6/6 window centered in the half-story. The south (right side) elevation has three large 6/6 windows and a slightly off-center, single-leaf door. The north (left side) elevation has an open storage shed at the end of the lean-to appendage and two 6/6 windows visible towards the back. The rear (east) elevation of the barn contains a large 6/6 window in the half-story.

Standing in the northeast corner of the lot, and barely visible from the street, is a small, low outbuilding (ca. 1950) with a flat fieldstone foundation and a gable roof clad with wood shingles; no gable returns. The symmetrical west elevation contains two 9/6 windows. The south elevation has two indeterminate openings on the ground floor and a small 6-light window centered in the gable peak.

Excellent preserved and maintained, 810 Main Street is a fine example of vernacular, colonial period architecture in West Newbury, displaying the evolution of a simple residence over several centuries. Although minimally detailed, the house is

*Continuation sheet 1*



**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

810 MAIN ST

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.E

WNB.118

distinguished by its clarity of form and composition, slightly irregular façade, simple but carefully detailed door enframements, substantial chimneys, early outbuildings, and harmonious setting. Modern alterations are largely confined to the east side ell and are congruous with the historic architecture.

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

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

In 1691, Thomas Huse (1666-1733)<sup>1</sup> married Hannah Webster, with whom he had three children. In 1713, Thomas Huse purchased freeholder lots 73 and 75,<sup>2</sup> a one-half acre lot with a dwelling house,<sup>3</sup> and a 10-acre lot and house that had belonged to the late William Bolton.<sup>4</sup> One of these parcels may be the land upon which 810 Main Street is located. The 1729 map indicates that the house was owned by Thomas Huse at that time.

In 1830, 810 Main Street was owned by wheelwright Joseph Bailey. Joseph Bailey (ca. 1776-1860) lived here with his wife, Susan (1800- ), whom he wed in 1839. At the time of the 1850 census, Joseph and Susan Bailey were living with carpenter Charles Shapley.

After Joseph Bailey's death, widow Susan Bailey sold the house to cordwainer Charles Ordway.<sup>5</sup> Charles Ordway (ca. 1806-1896) lived here with his wife, Julia Sargent Ordway (ca. 1812- ), whom he had married in 1831. In 1908, the property was sold to heir Newell B. Ordway, a laborer.<sup>6</sup> In 1913, Newell B. Ordway sold the property to Wallace B. Ordway.<sup>7</sup>

Wallace Ordway (1886-1950)<sup>8</sup> lived here with his wife, Effie (1889-1964), and his mother, Mary Ordway. Wallace Ordway worked as a chauffeur for a private family for several decades. Wallace Ordway is remembered as a naturalist who led bird-watching walks. Ordway established the Artichoke River Wildlife Sanctuary and served as its keeper. After Walter's death, Effie Ordway sold the property to Walter G. Mace.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #76167313.

<sup>2</sup> Essex South Deed Book 26, p. 248.

<sup>3</sup> Essex South Deed Book 26, p. 224.

<sup>4</sup> Essex South Deed Book 26, p. 224.

<sup>5</sup> Essex South Deed Book 659, p. 83.

<sup>6</sup> Essex South Deed Book 1945, p. 476.

<sup>7</sup> Essex South Deed Book 2217, p. 549.

<sup>8</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #66282561.

<sup>9</sup> Essex South Deed Book 3931, p. 499.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

**810 MAIN ST**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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. Library of Congress. Archive.org.  
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**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

810 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.E

WNB.118

**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*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The Thomas Huse House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource to the Way to the River Historic District. The district is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the early settlement of West Newbury. Into the last quarter of the 17th century, present-day West Newbury was known as the "Upper Commons" or "Upper Woods" of 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 within the bounds of present-day West Newbury.

Each Sunday, residents were required to travel to Newburyport for worship services. The distance became too great for some and in 1693, a group petitioned the freeholders for permission to hire their own minister. In 1698, they erected a meeting house on Pipestave Hill, on Main Street a short distance west of the Way to the River Area. By 1711, approximately 50 families lived within one-half mile of the meeting house and 96 families lived "above the Artichoke River." By 1729, 181 houses containing 183 families lived in the West Parish. In 1759, land was purchased at 806 Main Street and a new meeting house constructed. In 1840, a new building was constructed on the site of the 1759 building. Residents of the Way to the River Area were predominately farmers, with the exception of Moses Ridgway's carriage shop at 801 Main Street.

The Way to the River Historic District is also eligible under Criterion C as an excellent example of Colonial-period and Greek Revival architecture in Essex County. The District exhibits a highly significant collection of First Period and Colonial dwellings constructed during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries in addition to substantial representation of vernacular Greek Revival dwellings and ecclesiastical architecture. All of these buildings retain a very high level of integrity.

The building retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship.

## FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

R25-220

Newburyport

WNB.E

WNB.119

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Address:** 820 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Abraham and Harriet Dow House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** pre-1830

**Source:** 1830 map; visual

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Not determined

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards / Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Modern shed

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Side vestibule? (L 20<sup>th</sup> c?)

**Condition:** Excellent

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.81 acres

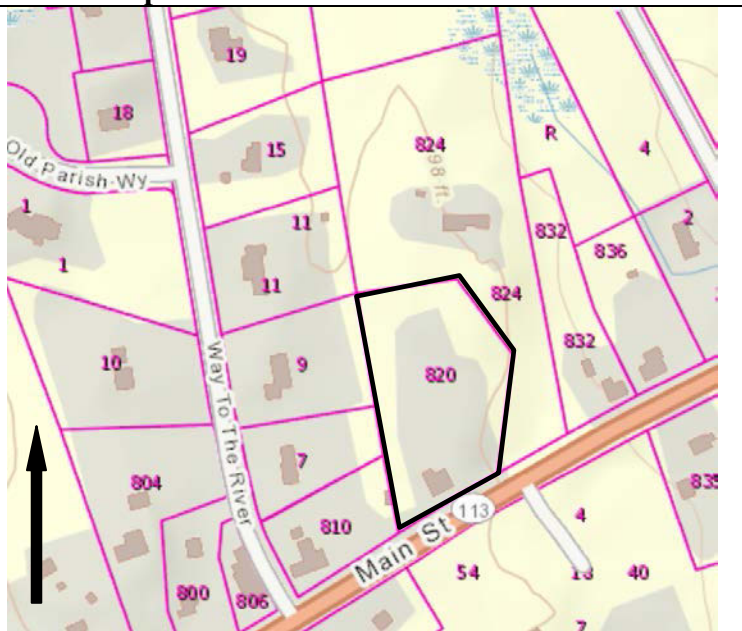
**Setting:** Located on the busy thoroughfare of Main Street (Route 113), near the east end of a cluster of 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century residential buildings, set relatively close to the street on large lots. Surrounding buildings are typically wood-frame construction and 2½ stories high with side-gable roofs and clapboard siding.

### Photograph



View looking northwest.

### Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Wendy Frontiero and Stacy Spies

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2018

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

820 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.E

WNB.119

☒ 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.*

820 Main Street occupies a large, irregularly shaped lot on the north side of Main Street, which slopes down to the east in front of the house. Positioned in the southwest corner of the parcel, the house has a moderate setback from the street and a dry-laid fieldstone wall along the street edge; granite steps lead to the brick-paved front walkway. The L-shaped building is set several feet above street level and is surrounded chiefly by turf. A gravel driveway arcs across the front setback, with a parking area to the west side of the house. A line of trees and dense shrubbery line the west property line, while a single mature tree stands to the southwest of the house.

The substantial, rectangular main block raises 2½ stories above a low, rubble foundation to a side-gable roof with minimal gable returns; twin interior chimneys with simple corbelled tops rise from the ridge line at both ends of the roof. Walls are sheathed with clapboards and trimmed with flat corner boards and a narrow flat fascia with bed molding; the second story windows are set close to the eaves. Windows typically contain 6/6 sash with flat casings and a lightly molded, peaked lintel.

The symmetrical, five-bay façade has a center entrance with a granite stoop, flat pilasters, and a very high entablature with prominent cornice. The modern, single-leaf door has narrow, full-height sidelights. The west (left side) and east (right side) elevations both contain two bays of widely-spaced, vertically-aligned windows on the first two floors and a pair of windows centered in the half-story.

A two-story rear ell on the west side of the house appears flush with the main block. Two bays wide, it has two windows on the second floor. The first floor seems to be entirely covered by a one-story gabled appendage with one small window facing the street and another small window with a peaked lintel facing west. A one-bay wide, shed-roofed extension is visible at the back of the east side of the main block.

Well preserved and maintained, 820 Main Street is a handsome example of vernacular Greek Revival architecture in West Newbury. It is distinguished by its conservative side-gable form, generous depth, prominent center entrance, peaked window lintels, and imposing setting, including fieldstone wall, granite staircase, and mature tree in the front yard.

**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 Abraham and Henrietta Dow house appears to have been likely constructed before 1830. Farmer Abraham Dow, Jr. (1809-1884) married Henrietta Carr (1808-1845) in West Newbury in 1833. The couple had two children, George Dow and Abraham Arthur Dow. Abraham married for the second time in 1866 to Hannah Heath. Hannah's son, William Heath, came to live with them as well. Arthur A. Dow inherited the property upon his father's death in 1884.

In 1886, Abraham A. Dow sold the property to Charles Rowell of Amesbury.<sup>1</sup> Charles Rowell's son, Clarence Rowell (1855-1928) and his wife, Persis (1855- ), lived here with their daughters, Anna and Idella. Clarence Rowell operated "Rowell's Haverhill and Newburyport Express." In addition to his express business, Clarence Rowell operated a small grocery from his home and had gas pumps at this location.<sup>2</sup> Idella Rowell married Charles Poor in 1914 and the couple lived at 820 Main Street.

<sup>1</sup> Essex South Deed Book 1364, p. 193.<sup>2</sup> Follansbee and Wild, p. 106, p. 113.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

820 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.E

WNB.119

Idella and Charles' daughter, Ruth, became a public-school teacher; their daughter, Rachel, worked as a librarian. Charles Poor died in 1974; Idella Rowell Poor died in 1982.<sup>3</sup>

N.B. The 1973 MHC survey form states that the house appears on the 1729 map. This is unlikely, as the existing house contains characteristics that indicate a 19<sup>th</sup> century construction date.

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<sup>3</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #58434354.



**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

820 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.E

WNB.119

**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*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The Abraham and Harriet Dow House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource to the Way to the River Historic District. The district is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the early settlement of West Newbury. Into the last quarter of the 17th century, present-day West Newbury was known as the "Upper Commons" or "Upper Woods" of 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 within the bounds of present-day West Newbury.

Each Sunday, residents were required to travel to Newburyport for worship services. The distance became too great for some and in 1693, a group petitioned the freeholders for permission to hire their own minister. In 1698, they erected a meeting house on Pipestave Hill, on Main Street a short distance west of the Way to the River Area. By 1711, approximately 50 families lived within one-half mile of the meeting house and 96 families lived "above the Artichoke River." By 1729, 181 houses containing 183 families lived in the West Parish. In 1759, land was purchased at 806 Main Street and a new meeting house constructed. In 1840, a new building was constructed on the site of the 1759 building. Residents of the Way to the River Area were predominately farmers, with the exception of Moses Ridgway's carriage shop at 801 Main Street.

The Way to the River Historic District is also eligible under Criterion C as an excellent example of Colonial-period and Greek Revival architecture in Essex County. The District exhibits a highly significant collection of First Period and Colonial dwellings constructed during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries in addition to substantial representation of vernacular Greek Revival dwellings and ecclesiastical architecture. All of these buildings retain a very high level of integrity.

The building retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship.

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

R28-10

Newburyport

WNB.E

WNB.120

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Address:** 832 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Charles and Julia Ordway House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1843

**Source:** Deed

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Not determined

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards / Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Garage (1970s)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): 2/2 window sash (L 19<sup>th</sup> c) - rear addition (L 20<sup>th</sup> c?)

**Condition:** Excellent

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.0 acre

**Setting:** Located on the busy thoroughfare of Main Street near the east end of a cluster of 17th–19th century residential buildings, set relatively close to the street on large lots. Surrounding buildings are typically wood-frame construction and 2½ stories high with side-gable roofs and clapboard siding. Visually paired with a similar and closely-spaced house at 836 Main Street.

## Photograph



View looking north.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Wendy Frontiero and Stacy Spies

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2018

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

832 MAIN ST

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.E

WNB.120

☒ 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.*

832 Main Street is positioned in the southeast corner of a deep, narrow lot on the north side of Main Street. The building stands on a slight berm. The generally flat lot is maintained chiefly in lawn, with shrubs and trees along the perimeter and small foundation plantings. The house is conspicuously paired with #836, which is proximate to the west and shares a similar size, form, setback, and design. A modern, one-car garage stands near the northwest corner of the house. The house consists of a rectangular main block and a small addition at the back on the west side.

The main block rises 2½ stories from a low brick foundation to a steeply pitched, side-gable roof with brief but emphatic returns. One slender chimney rises near the center of the house on the front slope, and a similar chimney rises above the back slope near the east end. Walls are sheathed with wood clapboards and trimmed with wide flat corner boards and a similar fascia board with cornice molding. Windows typically contain 2/2 double-hung wash with a flat band molding.

The symmetrical, five-bay façade has a broad center entrance embellished with flat pilasters and a wide entablature; its single-leaf door with six wood panels (appears original or early) is framed by half-height sidelights and a solid transom panel. The entrance is accessed by poured concrete steps and stoop. Both side elevations have two vertically-aligned bays on the first two floors and one window centered in the half-story. A modest one-story addition is flush with the west elevation at the rear of the house. Rising from a concrete block foundation to a pitched roof, it has vertical-board siding, an off-center single-leaf door, and three small 1/1 windows.

Well preserved and maintained, 832 Main Street is a handsome example of Greek Revival design with some later Italianate influences. It is distinguished by its brick foundation, conservative side-gable form, high-pitched roof, and modest Greek Revival doorway and window trim. Its visual pairing with the similar and closely-spaced house at 836 Main Street is also remarkable. The most significant alteration to this building is the rear addition, whose stylistic incongruity is tempered by its size and scale.

**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 Charles and Julia Ordway house was likely constructed circa 1843 when Charles Ordway purchased this lot of land from Sarah Bannister.<sup>1</sup> Charles Ordway's brother, Rufus, constructed a nearly identical house next door in the following year. (See 836 Main Street, WNB. 121.) Charles Ordway (ca. 1806-1896) married Julia Sargent (ca. 1811- ) in 1831 and the couple had a son, Charles. Charles Ordway worked as a shoemaker and farmer, according to census records. In 1878, Charles and Julia Ordway sold the house to next-door neighbor Hannah Dow,<sup>2</sup> presumably for her recently-married son, William Heath.

William Heath (1849-1930)<sup>3</sup> was born in New Hampshire. After his father's death, his mother, Hannah, remarried to Abraham Dow and the family lived next door at 820 Main Street (WNB.119). William Heath married Eva Giddings (1857-1942)<sup>4</sup> in 1873

<sup>1</sup> Essex South Deed Book 340, p. 84.<sup>2</sup> Essex South Deed Book 1020, p. 172.<sup>3</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #177188934.<sup>4</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #168218278.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

832 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

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WNB.E

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and had nine daughters. William Heath worked as a day laborer and, for many years, as a mechanic. After his death, the property was sold to Lillian Coleman.<sup>5</sup>

Lillian Coleman and her husband, Thomas, purchased the house in 1935. Thomas Coleman worked as a "fireman" at an electric plant. At the time of the 1940 census, the couple had four young children. In 1944, Katherine E.K. Fogg and Irene F. Goodsell purchased the property and lived there until 1959.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Essex South Deed Book 3060, p. 468.

<sup>6</sup> Essex South Deed Book 3367, p. 579.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

832 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

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WNB.E

WNB.120

**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*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The Charles and Julia Ordway House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource to the Way to the River Historic District. The district is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the early settlement of West Newbury. Into the last quarter of the 17th century, present-day West Newbury was known as the "Upper Commons" or "Upper Woods" of 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 within the bounds of present-day West Newbury.

Each Sunday, residents were required to travel to Newburyport for worship services. The distance became too great for some and in 1693, a group petitioned the freeholders for permission to hire their own minister. In 1698, they erected a meeting house on Pipestave Hill, on Main Street a short distance west of the Way to the River Area. By 1711, approximately 50 families lived within one-half mile of the meeting house and 96 families lived "above the Artichoke River." By 1729, 181 houses containing 183 families lived in the West Parish. In 1759, land was purchased at 806 Main Street and a new meeting house constructed. In 1840, a new building was constructed on the site of the 1759 building. Residents of the Way to the River Area were predominately farmers, with the exception of Moses Ridgway's carriage shop at 801 Main Street.

The Way to the River Historic District is also eligible under Criterion C as an excellent example of Colonial-period and Greek Revival architecture in Essex County. The District exhibits a highly significant collection of First Period and Colonial dwellings constructed during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries in addition to substantial representation of vernacular Greek Revival dwellings and ecclesiastical architecture. All of these buildings retain a very high level of integrity.

The building retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship.



## FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

R28-20

Newburyport

WNB.E

WNB.121

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

### Photograph



View looking north.

### Locus Map



**Address:** 836 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Rufus and Susan Ordway House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1844

**Source:** Deed

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Not determined

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards / Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Garage (1970s)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): 2/2 window sash (L 19<sup>th</sup> c) - rear addition (L 20<sup>th</sup> c?)

**Condition:** Excellent

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** .82 acre

**Setting:** Located on the busy thoroughfare of Main Street near the east end of a cluster of 17th–19th century residential buildings, set relatively close to the street on large lots. Surrounding buildings are typically wood-frame construction and 2½ stories high with side-gable roofs and clapboard siding. Visually paired with a similar and closely-spaced house at 836 Main Street.

**Recorded by:** Wendy Frontiero and Stacy Spies

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2018



**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

836 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.E

WNB.121

☒ 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.*

836 Main Street occupies a deep, narrow lot on the north side of Main Street; the house is positioned near the southwest corner of the parcel, with a modest front setback occupied mainly by mulch and small shrubs. The house stands on a slight berm, with a paved driveway to the east of the house. Generally flat, the lot is maintained chiefly in turf, with trees along the perimeter behind the house. The house is conspicuously paired with #832, which is proximate to the west and shares a similar size, form, setback, and design. A small modern shed is located near the northeast corner of the house, replacing a large front-gable barn that is visible in the photo on the 1973 MHC survey form.

The rectangular main block rises 2 ½ stories from a low, granite block foundation to a low-pitched, side-gable roof with brief gable returns and twin interior chimneys. Walls are sheathed with wood clapboards and trimmed with paneled corner pilasters; windows are set close to the eaves, with a very narrow fascia and bed molding. Windows typically contain 6/6 double-hung sash with channeled casings and flat corner blocks.

The symmetrical, five-bay façade has a broad center entrance containing a single-leaf door, full-height sidelights, a high entablature with prominent cornice molding, and two concrete steps. The west (left side) elevation is asymmetrical, with a small, angled bay window towards the rear of the first floor (supported on wood posts), a single window towards the front of the first floor, two single windows (vertically aligned) on the second floor, and a small window centered in the half-story.

The east (right side) elevation contains two widely-spaced windows at the second story and a small window centered in the half-story. The first floor has a single window towards the front and narrow hip-roofed appendage across its full length, featuring a small open porch at the front (with a Tuscan corner post and square post balusters), a single-leaf door facing the street, and a single window on the side. A rear addition with a low-pitched roof has been extended flush with and to the north of the porch, fronted by a modern, 3-bay porch with a single-leaf door facing east, square posts, and a square post balustrade.

Well preserved and maintained, 836 Main Street is a handsome example of early Greek Revival design, retaining earlier, Federal period influences and receiving later, Italianate modifications. It is distinguished by its granite block foundation, conservative side-gable form, and low eaves yet confidently Greek Revival corner pilasters, doorway, and window trim. Its visual pairing with the similar and closely-spaced house at 832 Main Street is also remarkable. While stylistically incongruous, the rear addition's location and scale minimize its effect on the historic character of the building.

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

The Rufus and Susan Ordway house was likely constructed circa 1843 when Charles Ordway purchased this lot of land from Sarah Bannister.<sup>1</sup> Rufus Ordway's brother, Charles, constructed a nearly identical house next door in the prior year. (See 832 Main Street, WNB. 120.) Rufus Ordway (1808-1870)<sup>2</sup> had married Susan Bailey (1813-1899)<sup>3</sup> in 1839. Rufus Ordway worked as a harness maker and was a deacon of his church, according to census records. Susan Ordway continued to live here until the end of her life.

<sup>1</sup> Essex South Deed Book 345, p. 223.<sup>2</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #185148911.<sup>3</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #185148880.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

836 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.E

WNB.121

The Knight family owned the property beginning in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At the time of the 1910 census, Oliver Knight and his wife, Mary, lived here with their adult children Lucy and Richard, and two grandchildren. Richard Knight lived here for many years with his wife, Edith. Richard Knight worked in a shoe factory, as a laborer in one of the local nurseries, and as a farmer. In later years, Knight worked as a produce dealer and had a farm stand at the property.<sup>4</sup> Knight is reported to have also had a fish delivery route. Richard Knight was also "instrumental in organizing the Garden Street fire station."<sup>5</sup> The Knight family owned the property until 1977.<sup>6</sup>

**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.
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<sup>4</sup> Follansbee and Wild, photograph on page 28.

<sup>5</sup> Follansbee and Wild, 28.

<sup>6</sup> Essex South Deed Book 6241, p. 413.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

836 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.E

WNB.121

**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*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The Rufus and Susan Ordway House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource to the Way to the River Historic District. The district is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the early settlement of West Newbury. Into the last quarter of the 17th century, present-day West Newbury was known as the "Upper Commons" or "Upper Woods" of 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 within the bounds of present-day West Newbury.

Each Sunday, residents were required to travel to Newburyport for worship services. The distance became too great for some and in 1693, a group petitioned the freeholders for permission to hire their own minister. In 1698, they erected a meeting house on Pipestave Hill, on Main Street a short distance west of the Way to the River Area. By 1711, approximately 50 families lived within one-half mile of the meeting house and 96 families lived "above the Artichoke River." By 1729, 181 houses containing 183 families lived in the West Parish. In 1759, land was purchased at 806 Main Street and a new meeting house constructed. In 1840, a new building was constructed on the site of the 1759 building. Residents of the Way to the River Area were predominately farmers, with the exception of Moses Ridgway's carriage shop at 801 Main Street.

The Way to the River Historic District is also eligible under Criterion C as an excellent example of Colonial-period and Greek Revival architecture in Essex County. The District exhibits a highly significant collection of First Period and Colonial dwellings constructed during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries in addition to substantial representation of vernacular Greek Revival dwellings and ecclesiastical architecture. All of these buildings retain a very high level of integrity.

The building retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship.

**FORM B – BUILDING**

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

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

R27-40A

Newburyport

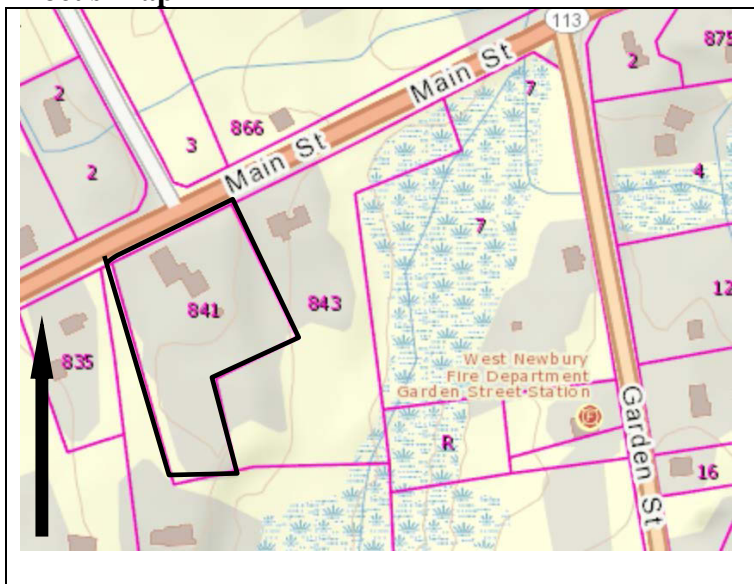
WNB.122

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Photograph**

View looking east.

**Locus Map**

**Address:** 841 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Samuel and Mary Davis House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1840

**Source:** Deed

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Not determined

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards / Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Barn, pool, tennis court.

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Bay windows and brackets at main entrance (L 19<sup>th</sup> c) - Side addition (L 20<sup>th</sup> c)

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.77 acres

**Setting:** Located on the busy thoroughfare of Main Street near the east end of a cluster of 17th–19th century residential buildings, set relatively close to the street on large lots. Surrounding buildings are typically wood-frame construction and 2½ stories high with side-gable roofs and clapboard siding.

**Recorded by:** Wendy Frontiero and Stacy Spies

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2018

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

841 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.122

☐ 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.*

841 Main Street occupies a large, L-shaped lot on the south side of Main Street, opposite its intersection with Norino Drive. Positioned near the street behind a moderate front setback, the house stands on a low flat berm above the level of the street, which slopes down to the east. A hedge of small trees lines the street edge to the east of the house, and a gravel drive extends along the western side of the house and curves around the back. Mostly flat, the lot is maintained chiefly in lawn, with foundation plantings near the building and trees along the perimeter of the parcel. The L-shaped building consists of a main block with a large rear ell and an attached barn at the southeast.

The rectangular main block rises 2½ stories above a low brick foundation to a low-pitched, side gable roof with gable returns and slender, twin interior chimneys. Walls are sheathed with clapboards; they are trimmed with a sillboard only at the west elevation, corner pilasters, and a narrow cornice molding. Second floor windows are set close to the roof eaves. Windows typically have 6/6 double hung sash with band molding.

The symmetrical, five-bay façade has a center entrance with two granite block steps, a single-leaf door, and solid wood panels at the locations of sidelights and a transom. The doorway is framed by paneled pilasters and carved brackets that support a boldly projecting cornice molding. The symmetrical, east (left side) elevation has two widely-spaced, vertically-aligned windows on each of the lower two floors and a window centered in the half-story. The symmetrical, west (right side) elevation contains two widely-spaced bays with small, angled bay windows with flat roofs on the first floor and single windows above; a single window is centered in the half-story.

The rear ell is flush with the east side of the main block; it has a gabled roof with a center chimney at the ridge line and cornice molding at the low eaves. On its east elevation, five windows are asymmetrically arranged on the second floor; the first floor has two windows in the forward bays and a large, one-story addition with a shallow shed roof at the back. The ell's west elevation features a screened, hip-roof porch on the first floor and four windows visible from the street on the second floor. The shape and design of the ell indicates that the ell may have been a dwelling moved to this location and used as the ell of this newer dwelling.

The large attached barn, reported to date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is located southeast of the house. The barn is 2½ stories high with a front-gable roof, clapboard siding with flat trim, and irregular fenestration, including several small 6/6 windows and a very large, multi-paned window in the half-story of the front (north) elevation.

Well preserved and maintained, 841 Main Street is a handsome example of early Greek Revival design, retaining earlier, Federal period influences and receiving later, Italianate modifications. It is distinguished by its conservative side-gable form, L-shaped massing, low eaves yet assertive corner pilasters, boldly bracketed doorway, and bay windows on the side elevation.

**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 Samuel and Mary Davis house was likely constructed circa 1840, shortly after Samuel Davis purchased the property. Samuel Davis (1793-1864)<sup>1</sup> married Mary Swasey in 1822. It appears that they had two daughters, Sarah and Julia Davis. Julia Davis (ca. 1825- ) married Hiram Rogers in 1843.

<sup>1</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #103293184.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

841 MAIN ST

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.122

Samuel Davis, cordwainer, purchased 15 acres here in 1838 from Moses Ridgway and Jacob Farnham, a chaise maker.<sup>2</sup> The deed noted that the property had buildings on it, indicating that there was a house on the property. Based on its appearance, the existing house was constructed after 1838, likely replacing an earlier house in this location. The rear ell of 841 Main Street has the appearance of the house; it is possible that the house on site in 1838 when Samuel Davis purchased the property was rotated 90 degrees and reused as the ell for the existing house.

In 1860, Samuel Davis sold the house and fifteen acre-property to his son-in-law, Hiram Rogers.<sup>3</sup> The 1865 Massachusetts census noted that farmer Hiram Rogers (1805-1882)<sup>4</sup> living here with his wife, Julia, his mother-in-law, Mary S. Davis, and Joseph Moores, perhaps a boarder. The 1880 census reported that Hiram Rogers worked as a clock maker. From 1882 through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the house was owned by Moses Ridgeway and was part of the extensive Moody-Ridgway farm (See 803 Main Street, WNB.106.)<sup>5</sup>

In 1914, the Emery sisters (See 21 Emery Lane, WNB.19) purchased the house and property for use as a parsonage for their newly-constructed All Saints Church nearby.<sup>6</sup> The Rev. Glenn Tilley Morse lived here during the time of his ministry there from 1914-1938. Rev. Glenn Tilley Morse had an interest in local history and was president of the Newburyport Historical Society.<sup>7</sup> Rev. Elbert Holmes lived here from 1938-1940 with his wife, Effie and his daughter, Elizabeth. Rev. George Dempsie lived here from 1948-1951 and Rev. Edward Thurlow lived here from 1952-1954. In 1954, the church sold the property to Arnold and Jane Currier of Lexington, Massachusetts.<sup>8</sup>

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

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- Beers, D.G. & Co. *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: D.G. Beers and Co., 1872.
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<sup>2</sup> Essex South Deed Book 309, p. 35.

<sup>3</sup> Essex South Deed Book 605, p. 232.

<sup>4</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #103205761.

<sup>5</sup> Essex South Deed Book 1079, p. 199.

<sup>6</sup> Essex South Deed Book 2257, p. 525.

<sup>7</sup> "Rowley: Historical Society Meeting," *Newburyport Daily News*, August 12, 1920, p. 2.

<sup>8</sup> Essex South Deed Book 4168, p. 97.



**FORM B – BUILDING**

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

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

R28-150

Newburyport

 WNB.249  
 WNB.250  
 WNB.251

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Address:** 866 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Walter and Sarah Poor House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1890 / Ca. 1852 / Ca. 1946

**Source:** Deed

**Style/Form:** Queen Anne / no style

**Architect/Builder:** Not determined

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboards / Wood Trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Shop (ca. 1852);  
 Farm Stand (ca. 1946); Barn (Ca. 1970s); Stable (ca.  
 1970s); Pump house (unk.); Poultry House (unk.)

**Major Alterations (with dates):** none

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 9.0 acres

**Setting:** Located along two-lane State Route 113, the property is surrounded by woodlands to the east and south. These wooded areas contain residences dating from the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. A late 20<sup>th</sup> C suburban development is located to the north and west.

**Photograph**

View looking north.

**Locus Map**

**Recorded by:** Stacy Spies

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2018

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

866 MAIN ST

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.249  
WNB.250  
WNB.251

☒ 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.*

The farm buildings at 866 Main Street are arranged in a linear form facing south toward Main Street on a trapezoidal lot. Brown Spring and woodlands are located along the east boundary of the property. Suburban development is located at the north and west boundaries. A dirt drive leads north from Main Street past a very large willow tree and turns westward past the stable, barn, and shop, and ends in a loop at the house. The house is located atop a terraced rise set back from the roadway; large maple trees form a wind break along the west elevation of the house. The farm stand is located at the southwest corner of the property. An elliptical-shaped dirt drive leads from Main Street past the farm stand and returns to Main Street. Two large maple trees are located between the drive and Main Street. A stone wall leads from the westernmost maple tree to Norino Drive.

The Water and Sarah Poor House (ca. 1890) (WNB.249) is a 2½-story, L-plan frame dwelling measuring approximately 29 feet square. The house is two bays wide with a side-hall entrance at the west end. The front-gabled building has overhanging eaves and is capped with an asphalt shingle roof and a slender brick chimney at the ridge line. The building rests on a brick foundation and is sheathed with wood clapboards with corner boards. The fascia boards are decorated with molded rectangular panels separated by small blocks incised with three small circles arranged vertically. At the gable peak, a panel in the shape of an inverted V contains an inset floral motif. The exposed ends of the fascia boards feature a jigsawn profile curved around an incised circle. A narrow, molded cornice connects the fascia board to the roof edge. A hipped-roof, one-story porch is located in the angle at the southeast corner of the house between the main block and the 2½-story L. The porch has turned wood posts and a decorative jigsawn balustrade comprised of square-section posts that alternate with pendants.

A hipped-roof, one-story porch is located in the angle at the southeast corner of the house between the main block and the 2½-story ell. The porch has turned wood posts and a decorative jigsawn balustrade comprised of square-section posts that alternate with pendants. The façade (south) elevation contains a half-light paneled wood door in the west end of the elevation. The entrance is sheltered with a shallow shelter supported by bracketed wood corbels. Poured concrete steps lead to the lawn. A bay window containing 4 tall, narrow wood sash windows above a paneled wood base is located in the east end of the elevation. A dentilled fascia caps the windows.

The façade's second story contains a 2/2 wood sash window and a pair of narrow 1/1 wood sash windows. Window architraves feature flat lintels with incised circles at the corners and shallow corbels at the sills. The attic-level window features a third incised circle centered on the lintel. Windows throughout the remainder of the house are 2/2 wood sash. A one-story rear ell, measuring 15x16 feet, appears to have been constructed at the same time as the house. The ell rests on a brick foundation and is clad with wood clapboards.

The Emerson Gardner Shop (ca. 1852) (WNB.250) is located east of the house. Two bays wide and two bays deep, the single-story "10-footer"-type shop is clad with clapboards with a temple-front cornice detail on the gable elevations. The gable roof has close eaves. The entrance is located at the north end of the east elevation. An interior brick chimney is located at the north end of the gable peak.

The Barn and Stable (ca. 1970s), identified as such in assessor's records, are sheathed with unpainted vertical boards. The barn has a shed roof. A shed-roof porch extends the width of the barn's south elevation. A paneled wood overhead garage door is located in the west end of the south elevation. The 1-story stable has close eaves and is also sheathed with unpainted vertical boards. Vinyl-frame windows are located in the south and west elevations.

A building that appears to be a Pump House is located at the southeast corner of the property at Main Street. The small frame building is sheathed with stained wood shingles. The gable roof has asphalt shingles and overhanging eaves.

*Continuation sheet 1*

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

866 MAIN ST

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.249  
WNB.250  
WNB.251

The Farm Stand (ca. 1946) (WNB.251) is a single-story frame building with a pyramidal roof covered with asphalt shingles. The overhanging eaves have exposed rafter tails. The building is clad with novelty siding and corner boards. 2/2 wood sash windows with rolled glass lights are located throughout the building. An undercut porch along the south (main) elevation contains a wide plank wood floor and a built-in wood produce tray. The porch shelters the entrance, which consists of a seven-paneled wood door with small lights. The farm stand has been expanded to the north and west with several small additions. Shed-roof additions at the north and west elevations are enclosed with painted Masonite. These additions are connected to a small gable-roof outbuilding at the northwest corner of the farm stand. This outbuilding, perhaps moved to this location, is covered with rolled roofing material.

**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.*

Emerson Gardner (1800-1868) was born in Newburyport. Gardner worked as a painter and lived in Lowell with his wife, Mary, and their children before purchasing 54 acres on Main Street, West Newbury, in 1852<sup>1</sup> and becoming a farmer. It is likely that the shop on the property was constructed during this time. Emerson and Mary's son, Claudius B. Gardner (1835-1884), worked in Lowell as a clerk as a young adult but returned to the farm by 1860. In 1866, Claudius married Orianna Sherwin and they raised their family on the farm. In 1860, the Gardner farm included 55 cultivated acres valued at \$4,000.<sup>2</sup> In 1870, with the same number of acres under cultivation, the Gardner farm produced \$1,800 in market gardens, which is a significant number compared to others on the schedule.<sup>3</sup> Ten years later, Claudius Gardner had just 25 acres under cultivation, with \$3,000 in market gardens.<sup>4</sup> That year, Claudius appears in the city directory as a "market gardener" at Brown's Spring. The multiple generations of the Gardner family grew plants and flowers and were awarded prizes from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.<sup>5</sup> Claudius' death records list his profession as a "florist" and deeds include mention of several greenhouses.<sup>6</sup> The farm included an earlier barn and silo, no longer extant.<sup>7</sup> After Claudius' death at age 49, Orianna Sherwin Gardner was unable to meet mortgage payments and the property was sold.

The present house appears to have been constructed for the Poor family ca. 1890 on the site of an earlier farmhouse, given the style and age of the extant house. Walter Scott Poor (1863-1943) had married Sarah Knight (1868- ) in 1888<sup>8</sup> and purchased the property in 1890. The Poores took over the farm established by Emerson Gardner. Walter and Sarah lived here with their children Chester, Mattie, Lydia, and Calvin. Walter Poor farmed the property into the 1940s. (N.B. The surname is sometimes listed as Poore in 20<sup>th</sup> century documents.)

After Walter Poor's death, the 55-acre property was sold in 1946 to Margaret and Joseph Cooney.<sup>9</sup> Joseph Cooney (1913-1993) and his wife, Margaret McGrath Cooney (1911-2006), operated the farm as "Brown Spring Farm." Given the design and appearance of the farm stand, barn and stable, it is likely that they were constructed by the Cooney family.

In 1966, 22 acres were sold and the Norino Drive housing development constructed. In 1971, 20 acres at the north end of the property were sold and the Mirra Way housing development constructed. Brown Spring Farm was active until 2014. The remaining acreage is currently owned by the Cooney family trust and is currently for sale (2017).

The Walter and Sarah Poor Farm is a representative example of the numerous farms that once characterized West Newbury. While small manufactories comprised a substantial portion of West Newbury's economy during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, by the early 20<sup>th</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Essex Deed Book 471, p. 53.

<sup>2</sup> United States Census, 1860 Agricultural Schedule.

<sup>3</sup> United States Census, 1870 Agricultural Schedule.

<sup>4</sup> United States Census, 1870 Agricultural Schedule.

<sup>5</sup> Tracy, 422.

<sup>6</sup> Massachusetts Death Records; Essex Deed Book 1223, p. 554.

<sup>7</sup> Photograph in Follansbee and Wild, *Images of America: West Newbury*, p. 33.

<sup>8</sup> Essex Deed Book 1275, p. 339.

<sup>9</sup> Essex Deed Book 3516, p. 251.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

866 MAIN ST

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.249  
WNB.250  
WNB.251

century, agriculture was once again the dominant local industry. The farm's longevity, operating into the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, is rare in West Newbury.

**SITE MAP****BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

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Walker, George H. & Co., *Atlas of Essex County*. Boston: George H. Walker & Co., 1884.

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West Newbury City Directories. 1870, 1909, 1912, 1918, 1925.

West Newbury Tax Assessor records.



**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

866 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.249  
WNB.250  
WNB.251
**SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES**

Photo 1. View looking northwest. L to R: House; willow tree; shop; barn; stable.



Photo 2. Emerson Gardner Shop. View looking northwest. Barn at right.



Photo 3. View looking east. Pump house. Main Street at right.



Photo 4. View looking west. Farm stand. Main Street at left. Two large maple trees are located at the farm stand. A field stone wall extends westward from the maple trees to Norino Drive.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

**866 MAIN ST**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.249  
WNB.250  
WNB.251

Photo 5. View looking northwest. Farm Stand.



**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

866 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.249  
WNB.250  
WNB.251
**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*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The Walter and Sarah Poor House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource to the Way to the River Historic District. The district is eligible under Criterion A for its association with Agriculture in West Newbury during the Late Industrial and Early Modern Periods. The building retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship.

During the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, West Newbury's economy was dominated by manufacturing; however, by the start end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, its economy once again reverted to its past economic focus: agriculture. At the same time, West Newbury's population decreased from 2,102 in 1875 to 1,405 in 1905. The number of farms increased steadily from the 1870s through 1915. Many of these were dairy farms, with attendant milk production increasing by 700% from 1865 to 1875 and by another 66% between 1875 and 1905. Several orchards operated in town, including Long Hill Orchard on Main Street. Truck gardens and nurseries also flourished, including Claudius Gardener's flower farm at 866 Main Street. Cherry Hill Nursery became known for its flowers and trees. During the 1930s and 1940s, the effects of the Great Depression were significant in West Newbury. Many farms were lost to foreclosure and the population dropped to approximately 1,000 people in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Many houses were vacant or identified as rental properties at the time of the 1940 census.

The Walter and Sarah Poor Farm, also known as the Cooney Farm or Brown Spring Farm, is a representative example of the numerous farms that once characterized West Newbury. The shop and farm stand are survivors of West Newbury's agricultural past. The Poor Farm's longevity, operating into the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, is rare in West Newbury.

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	WNB.124
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Saint John's Memorial Hall
<b>Common Name:</b>	All Saints' Episcopal Church Parish House
<b>Address:</b>	885 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	West Newbury
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	893
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1907
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	English Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Church Hall; Community Center; Grange; Library; Private School
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Religion
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Wall: Brick; Half Timbering; Stucco; Wood Foundation: Brick



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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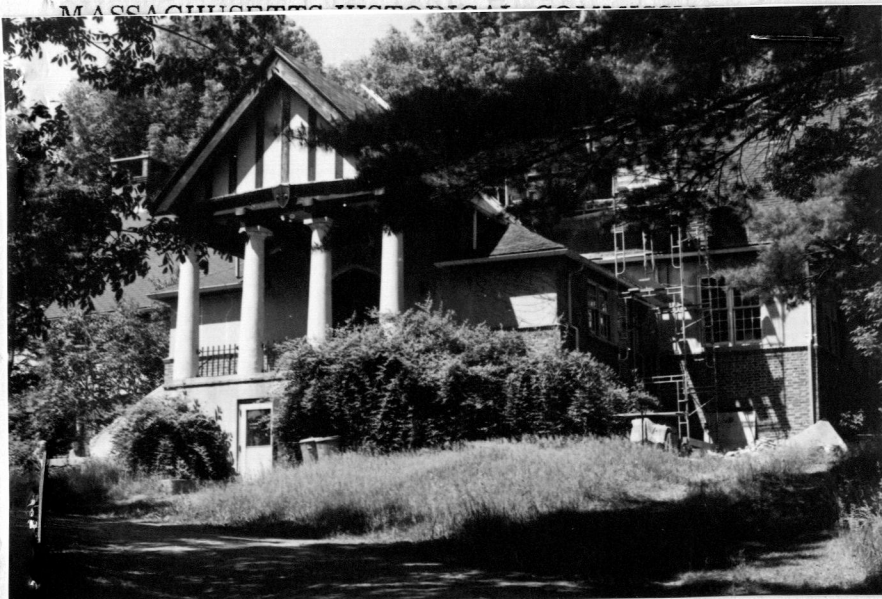
USGS NEWIN  
SET A

CARD# MAP#

(Attach photo here)

## FORM B - BUILDING SURVEY

	124	893
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West Newbury, Mass

at address 893 Main St.

e St. John's Hall (All Saints' Parish House)

original &amp; present Church, Grange Hall &amp; Community House

sent owner All Saints Episcopal Church.

n to public Yes

1907 Style English Gothic Reprod.

ce of date Church history

itect

OR part of Area #

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

## 4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material brickWALL COVER: Wood lower story - Brick Stone Other upper half stucco over timbersROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard

Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster ElaborateSTORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ells Shed one large ell becoming a porticoPORCHES: 1 2 3 4 PORTICO large, pillared Balcony one small ell at end forming semi-circular roomFACADE: Gable end Front side toward street OrnamentEntrance: Side Front Center Side Details: under large portico with 4 big pilarsWindows: Spacing Regular Irregular Identical Varied 9 pane casements mullions both 9/8 and 1/6 - wing + lower floor 8/8Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards stucco or brick

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street 25'  
Property has 141 feet frontage on streetRecorder Mary A. PooreFor W.N. Historical CommissionPhoto # \_\_\_\_\_ Date June 18, 1973

SEE REVERSE SIDE

JUN 29 1973

MAIN ST

Garden St. Loudon Hall Church Felton Lane



# RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

1. Outbuildings none
2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal Informal  
 Predominant features large trees, shrubs, lawn,  
 Landscape architect \_\_\_\_\_
3. Neighboring Structures  
 Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.  
 Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern Eng. Gothic Reprod.  
 Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

## GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

Built in 1907 as a community house, and really it was a plea for a parish here. Named "St. John's" Memorial Hall that it might plead "like the voice of one crying in the wilderness", and be an inducement for a Church to come. Religious services were held here on occasion before the Church was built. The League met here regularly for some years, and art shows, concerts, dances, and all kinds of community affairs carried on here. One room is a library. The Sunday School has met here during all the years. Right now the Northern Essex Retarded Children's Group use it five days a week for classes.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1. Historical Sketch by first pastor of the Church - Rev. Glenn Tilley Morse and personal experience

## RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: The Four Emery Sisters

Deed Information: Book Number 4430 Page 556, Salem Registry of Deeds

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	WNB.125
<b>Historic Name:</b>	All Saints' Episcopal Church
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	885 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	West Newbury
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	895
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1912
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Neo Gothic Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Church
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Religion
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Slate Wall: Brick; Cast Concrete; Glass; Stone, Cut Foundation: Brick; Stone, Uncut



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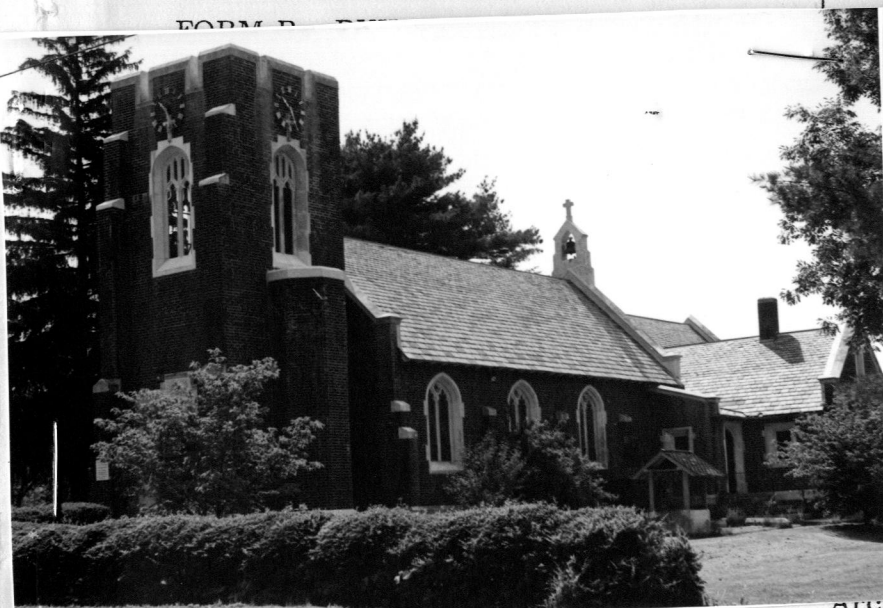
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SECT A

CARD#

MAP#

125

895



West Newbury, Mass.

et address 895 Main St.

e All Saints' Episcopal Church

original &amp; present Church

sent owner All Saints' Episcopal Church

n to public Yes

1912 Style English Gothic Reproduction

ce of date Church Records

modelled after St. Nicholas' Church in

Architect Newbury, England.

Architectural reason for inventorying:

modelled after St. Nicholas' Church in Newbury, England - OR part of Area #

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

## 4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material brick, above cemented stonesWALL COVER: Wood Brick Stone OtherROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard slate shingles, graduating in size smaller, near the  
1 Towers Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork ridgepole  
Small bell tower near back. Large square tower, crenelated top, Gothic windows each sideCHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster ElaborateSTORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed one wingPORCHES: 1 2 3 4 none PORTICO BalconyFACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament tower - with a cement dove descending  
and 2 cement shields, over front entranceEntrance: Side Front Center Side Details:Windows: Spacing: Regular Irregular Identical Varied 4 are stained glass, 2 are tiny  
others are gothic arched, many diamond  
leaded panes -Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street 30'  
Property has 138 feet frontage on streetRecorder Mary A. PooreFor West Newbury Historical CommissionPhoto # \_\_\_\_\_ Date June 18, 1973

SEE REVERSE SIDE

Main St.

Louden

Hall -

Church

Elton Lane Smith

Garden St.



# RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

WNB.125<sup>50</sup>

1. Outbuildings none
2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal Informal  
 Predominant features lawn, flowering trees, privet hedge  
 Landscape architect \_\_\_\_\_
3. Neighboring Structures  
 Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.  
 Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern English Gothic Reprod.  
 Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

*Used regularly for Church services since its building -*



## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

## RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: All Saints Trustees of Protestant Episcopal Church  
 Deed Information: Book Number 5500 Page 272, Salem Registry of Deeds