

WEST NEWBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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Main Street 900's Block

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<a href="#">928 Main St</a>	13-16	Individual	This was the winter home of philanthropists Mary Elizabeth, Louisa, Frances, and Georgianna Emery. <a href="#">Click here to see their Minute History.</a>
<a href="#">961 Main St</a>	17-20	Individual	Former Co-operative Creamery

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

R27-60	Newburyport		WNB.126
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Town/City:      West Newbury

Place:

Photograph



Façade. View looking southeast.

Address: 901 Main Street  
Historic Name: Abel Huse, Jr. House  
Uses: Present: Single Family Residence  
Original: Single Family Residence

Date of Construction: pre-1710

Source: 1729 map; Currier: 354

Style/Form: Georgian

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone, cut

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards / Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (with dates): Large side addition with garage (post-1973)

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒      yes ☐      Date:

Acreage: 0.48 acres

Setting: Located along two-lane State Route 113, the property is bounded to the southwest by wooded lots containing residences dating from the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Open fields and woodlands are located to the north and east.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies

Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission

Date: June 2018

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

901 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.126

☐ 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.*

901 Main Street is set very close to the street on a level lot at the intersection of Main Street and Felton Lane. The house is oriented toward the north on a rectangular lot. The lot is laid in turf with trees near the house and at the rear property line. The original house measures 42' wide and 18' deep. An 18' by 18' ell, likely added during the 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, extends from the east end of the rear elevation. A large, approximately 1,500 square foot, addition was constructed on the west end of the house after 1973. This two-story, side-gabled addition is connected to the original house by a very small, 4'x6' connector that leaves intact the volume and form of the original house. An asphalt-paved driveway leads from Felton Lane to the two garage bays at the west end of the addition.

The original house is five bays wide and two bays deep with a center entrance. The building rises 2½ stories from a granite slab foundation to a side-gable roof with close eaves. On the façade, second-story windows abut the plate beneath a narrow box cornice. The west elevation contains two bays of windows; the east elevation containing a single bay of windows. The ell is one bay deep. A large parged interior chimney rises from the west end of the main block's ridge. The large east ell is two stories high and one bay deep. A second, very large parged chimney extends from the ell's ridge. The building is covered with narrow clapboards and cornerboards. The center entrance contains a six-panel wood door surrounded by gracefully tapered pilasters with pronounced capitals and defined plinths that support the high entablature and substantial pediment. Windows throughout the original house and ell are 6/6 wood sash with narrow molded surrounds. First-floor windows are slightly taller than those on the second floor.

Well-maintained and well-preserved, 901 Main Street is a good example of 18<sup>th</sup> century residential architecture in West Newbury. The sophisticated entrance likely indicates the influence of a design book. The pediment is similar to that at 914 Main Street (WNB.129) and the tapered pilasters are nearly identical to those at 254 Main Street (WNB.218). The paneled door and early windows are also noteworthy.

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.

**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.*

901 Main Street was likely constructed ca. 1693 for Abel Huse, Jr. (ca. 1665-1757)<sup>1</sup>. In 1693,<sup>2</sup> Abel Huse, Jr. married Judith Emery (ca. 1673-1753).<sup>3</sup> The couple had four sons and three daughters.<sup>4</sup> Abel and Judith Huse's son, Abel Huse III, and their daughter, Sarah Huse Kimball (1712-1793)<sup>5</sup> lived next door with their families at 905 Main Street (WNB.127).

The 1729 map shows three dwellings in this vicinity: #173 John Huse; #174 Abel Huse; and, #175 Abel Huse. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, this house was owned by Hannah Chase (ca. 1765- ), "singlewoman." In 1811, Hannah Chase sold the property to

<sup>1</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #98429646.

<sup>2</sup> Genealogical Publishing Co., U.S., New England Marriages Prior to 1700. Ancestry.com.

<sup>3</sup> SAR Membership #48283. Application of William Albert Huse. Ancestry.com.

<sup>4</sup> *Emery: Four Generations of the descendants of John Emery, Sen. Of Newbury.*, p. 9.

<sup>5</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #101100878.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

901 MAIN ST

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.126

yeoman Jonas Bartlett.<sup>6</sup> Jonas Bartlett (1807-1885) and his wife, Ann (1811-1902), lived here with their daughter, Hannah. Jonas Bartlett worked as a farmer and shoemaker, according to census records. Ann and Hannah Bartlett lived here until Ann's death in 1902.

The property was sold in 1905 to the Emery sisters (See 21 Emery Lane, WNB.19),<sup>7</sup> in anticipation of the construction of All Saints Church and St. John's Memorial Hall, for which the four sisters provided land and construction funds. The church and hall are located adjacent to the house to the west. In 1946, the surviving Emery sister, Georgiana, sold 901 Main Street to William and Helen Hall.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Essex South Deed Book 202, p. 22.

<sup>7</sup> Essex South Deed Book 1783, p. 421.

<sup>8</sup> Essex South Deed Book 3458, p. 251.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

**901 MAIN ST**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.126

**SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES**

Detail, entrance. Note tapered pilasters.



East (left) and north elevations.



# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

R27-50

Newburyport

WNB.127

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Address:** 905 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Abel Huse III House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1735

**Source:** 1729 map, visual

**Style/Form:** No style

**Architect/Builder:** Not determined

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Not visible

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard / Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** None

**Major Alterations (with dates):** Attached garage (post-1989)

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.85 acres

**Setting:** Located along two-lane State Route 113, the property is bounded to the southwest by wooded lots containing residences dating from the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Open fields and woodlands are located to the north and east.

## Photograph



View looking south.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Stacy Spies

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2018

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

905 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.127

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

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

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:**

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

905 Main Street is set close to the street on a wooded level lot. The house is oriented toward the north and Main Street on an irregularly-shaped lot. An asphalt-paved driveway leads from Main Street to a parking area in the front yard.

Measuring 48 feet long and 21 feet deep, the six-by-two bay houses rises 2½ stories to a side gable roof with overhanging eaves and gable-end cornice returns. Replacement of the wood clapboards has obscured clues that might help determine the building's earlier form. However, the grouping of the easternmost three bays appears to be the most symmetrical, indicating perhaps that the house was originally had a three-bay side-hall plan. A parged interior chimney rises from the east end of the rear (south) roof slope. A second parged chimney is located at the ridge, centered over the three west bays. The building is sheathed with wood clapboards trimmed with cornerboards. Windows are 9/6 wood sash with narrow molded surrounds and external metal-frame storm windows. The entrance, located in the third bay from the east end of the house, contains a simple molded surround and is sheltered by an attached garage attached perpendicularly to the façade. The attached garage contains two vehicular bays in the west elevation.

905 Main Street is an example of 18<sup>th</sup> century architecture in West Newbury that has evolved and been expanded to meet owners' needs. The building's historic integrity has been diminished with the addition of the large garage addition to the façade.

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.

**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 Abel Huse III house was likely constructed circa 1729 for Abel Huse III (1696-1770). Abel Huse III was one of seven children of Abel and Judith Huse, who lived next door at 901 Main Street (WNB.126). Abel Huse III married Elizabeth Little in 1729 (1710-1735). The 1729 map shows three dwellings in this location: #173 John Huse (likely Abel Huse III's brother); #174 Abel Huse; and, #175 Abel Huse.

Abel Huse III's sister, Sarah Huse (1712-1793),<sup>1</sup> married Caleb Kimball (1707-1795) in 1735 and it appears that the couple also made 905 Main Street their residence. The 1790 census notes 14 family members in this household. Through the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, maps indicate that the house was owned by several generations of men named Caleb Kimball.

In 1869, William Macintosh purchased the property.<sup>2</sup> Census records and historic maps through the end of the 1900s indicate that ownership of the property was shared by farmers Nathaniel Kimball and William Macintosh and their extended families. In 1923, Gertrude Macintosh sold the property to George Mingo of Lynn.<sup>3</sup>

Census records indicate that George Mingo was a farmer. At the time of the 1940 census, Russell Mingo and his wife, Leah, lived in one half of the house. Russell was employed as a "poultryman." George and Etta Mingo lived in the other half of the

<sup>1</sup> Findagrave.com Memorial #101100878.

<sup>2</sup> Essex South Deed Book 785, p. 259.

<sup>3</sup> Essex South Deed Book 2567, p. 189.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

905 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.127

house. A very large elm tree was located in front of the house and became a local landmark. The 1940 city directory includes a listing for the "Big Elm Stand" and proprietor George Mingo. Russell Mingo worked as a clerk at the business, which also included gasoline pumps.<sup>4</sup> The Mingo family owned the house at least into the 1950s.

**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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Findagrave.com

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Walling, Henry Francis. *A Topographical Map of Essex County, Massachusetts...* Smith & Worley, 1856.

<sup>4</sup> Follansbee and Wild, *Images*, p. 106.



# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

R28-170

Newburyport

WNB.128  
WNB.252

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Address:** 914 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Joseph Lowell House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** pre-1729

**Source:** 1729 map; style

**Style/Form:** Georgian

**Architect/Builder:** Joseph Lowell, possibly

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards / Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Barn (19<sup>th</sup> C); Shed (unknown date)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Small ell (post-1973)

**Condition:** Excellent

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.94 acres

**Setting:** Located along two-lane State Route 113, the property is bounded to the southwest by wooded lots containing residences dating from the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Open fields and woodlands are located to the north and east.

## Photograph



View looking northwest.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Stacy Spies

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2018

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

914 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.128
	WNB.252

☒ 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.*

914 Main Street is set very close to the street on a level, irregularly-shaped lot. Maintained chiefly in lawn near the house, the north (rear) half of the lot is wooded. A gravel driveway leads from Main Street past the east elevation toward the barn.

Measuring 38 feet long and 19 feet deep, the five-by-one-bay main block rises 2½ stories from a brick foundation to a side-gable roof with close eaves. A narrow, molded cornice is located beneath the shallow eaves of the façade. A two-story shed-roof ell is located at the northeast corner of the house. The offset ell rests on a fieldstone foundation. A 12x16, one-story, shed-roof ell is located at the northeast corner of the ell. Two interior brick chimneys with rounded brick caps rise from the rear (north) roof slope of the main block. A third interior brick chimney rises from the east slope of the two-story ell. The building is sheathed with narrow wood clapboards trimmed with cornerboards, as well as with a skirtboard on the facade. The center entrance is defined by fluted pilasters atop articulated plinths. Compound moldings support a substantial pediment. The heavy wood door contains nine molded panels similar in design to 750 Main Street (WNB.109) and 803 Main St. (WNB.116): three tall vertical panels / three square panels / three vertical panels. A four-light fixed transom is located above the door. Windows throughout the main block are 9/6 wood sash with a compound molded cap. Windows on the first floor are protected by 9-light wood-frame storm windows.

A one-story, side-gabled Barn (WNB.252) (ca. 1840) is located northeast of the house. The asphalt-shingled roof has close eaves and is covered with wood shingles. The entrance, centered on the south elevation, contains two sliding vertical-board, top-hung doors. A 14-light, wood-frame fixed transom is located above the door, abutting the narrow, molded cornice. A single, personnel sliding door is located on the west elevation. This vertical board door is suspended from an overhead track. A 9/6 wood sash window is centered in the west gable peak.

914 Main Street is an excellent example of 18<sup>th</sup> century architecture in West Newbury. The building has several noteworthy features, including the sophisticated classical entrance and early door, the 9/6 wood sash windows, and the narrow clapboards. The barn is a rare survivor of West Newbury's agricultural history and retains a high level of integrity.

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.

**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.*

914 Main Street may have been constructed circa 1729 by Joseph Lowell (1680-1753). The 1729 map indicates that the house was owned by Joseph Lowell in that year.<sup>1</sup> Joseph Lowell, "joyner (i.e. a carpenter)," sold a house and property in 1758 to Daniel Bartlett.<sup>2</sup> Further research will be required to clarify the chain of title.

<sup>1</sup> The MHC Survey form for the house undertaken in 1973 notes that a Joseph Lowell served in Capt. Stephen Emery's company in the expedition to Crown Point in 1754-1756. Further research will need to be undertaken to determine whether this is a child of Joseph Lowell.

<sup>2</sup> Essex South Deed Book 105, p. 37.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

914 MAIN ST

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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	WNB.128
	WNB.252

The 1830 map indicates that 914 Main Street was owned by cordwainer Dudley Heath. Dudley Heath married Achsah Brown in 1811. The couple appears in the 1820 and 1830 West Newbury censuses. In 1840, Dudley Heath died in Methuen. According to probate records, he left behind his wife and three children under ten years of age.

From the 1850s through the 1880s, the house was owned by the Emery family, which had its family home at 21 Emery Lane. (See form WNB.19). The 1856 map indicates Eliphalet Emery as owner of 914 Main Street. Eliphalet Emery, Esquire (1781-1869) married Sarah Hale in 1820. Their daughter, Mary Hale Emery (1821-1898), inherited the property from her parents. Mary Hale Emery married Reverend Samuel Moody Emery (1803-1883) in 1841. Rev. Samuel Emery was an Episcopal minister at St. Paul's Church in Newburyport. The couple had six children: Sarah (1842-1903); Mary Elizabeth (1846-1927); Louisa (1849-1939); Samuel (ca. 1851-1904); Frances (1857-1933); and, Georgianna (1859-1952). It appears that none of the children married and that all continued to live in the house on Emery Lane for the remainder of their lives. After their father's death, Sarah took over management of the farm, including 914 Main Street.

In the 1940s and 1950s, 914 Main Street was the home of Rudolph and Doris Currier. Rudolph Currier was the owner of the Currier Camera Shop at 34 Inn Street, Newburyport.<sup>3</sup> Doris Currier worked as the supervisor of music instruction in schools in West Newbury and Newbury.

In 2013, The Society of St. John the Evangelist purchased the property for use as part of its retreat center (See 21 Emery Lane (WNB.19)).

**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>3</sup> "View of Studio Players' Oldtown Barn 'Theatre'," *Newburyport Daily News*, Feb. 24, 1939, p. 1.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

914 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	WNB.128
	WNB.252

**SUPPLEMENTAL IMAGES**

Entrance detail.



Barn. West (left) and south elevations.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

914 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

	WNB.128
	WNB.252

**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 Joseph Lowell House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an excellent example of Colonial-period architecture in Essex County. The building has several noteworthy features, including the sophisticated classical entrance and early 9-panel door, the 9/6 wood sash windows, and the narrow clapboards. The barn is a rare survivor of West Newbury's agricultural history.

The building and barn retain 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

0280 0000  
0180

Newburyport

WNB.129  
WNB.433

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

## Photograph



Photo 1. Façade (south elevation).

**Address:** 928 Main Street

**Historic Name:** Emery Sisters House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** circa 1905

**Source:** Newspaper article

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Not Known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Brick / Brick, stone, wood trim

Roof: Slate Shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Garage (mid- to late-20<sup>th</sup> C?); Storage building (early 20<sup>th</sup> C?)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Replacement window sash (late 20<sup>th</sup> – early 21<sup>st</sup> c) - Rear entry vestibules (mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> c?)

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 2.0

**Setting:** Located on a main thoroughfare in a semi-rural residential area, with distantly spaced development. Nearby buildings are a heterogeneous mix of styles, forms, and construction eras.

## Locus Map



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

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** December 2022

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

928 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.129  
WNB.433

☒ 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.*

928 Main Street is located on the north side of Main Street, set well back from the road on a large rectangular lot that is bordered on two sides by open fields. The street edge and eastern property line are bordered with rubble stone walls and a row of trees. The terrain slopes up significantly from the street to the rear of the lot; the front setback is occupied primarily by lawn. The house consists of a 2-½ story main block having an original 2 story rear ell with a small, 1-story projection at the back. A gravel driveway extends up the eastern edge of the property, leading to two small outbuildings. A modest garage set to the northeast of the house has a side gable roof, wood shingle siding, and a single door facing the street. A plain outbuilding located to the east of the house has a side gable roof, an offset brick chimney, and wood shingle siding. A 4-panel door is positioned at the south end of its facade (the elevation facing the house); another, flush door is centered on the south elevation, and a window is centered on the north elevation.

The rectangular main block rises 2-½ stories to a side gable roof with slate shingles and no gable returns. Interior end-wall chimneys rise from the side elevations. The brick façade is trimmed by a wood cornice with a molded fascia and pronounced dentil course; a heavy cornice molding lines the raking gable ends. Windows typically contain 8/8 double-hung sash with molded wood trim and stone (perhaps marble or limestone) or cast stone sills. Rectangular windows on the first and second stories typically have flared brick lintels, while round-arched windows in the half-story are crowned with header-course bricks.

The three-bay, center-entrance plan features a prominent front entry with a brick stoop, 6-panel door, ¾ sidelights, and a gabled portico having Tuscan columns and pilasters, a substantial entablature, and a pedimented gable roof. The symmetrical east elevation of the main block has two windows on the first and half-stories and three on the second story; the lower two floors have rectangular windows, while the half-story contains round-arched windows with arched, 6/4 sash. The rear ell has a high hip roof, a symmetrical east elevation with two 6/6 windows on the first floor and one window (sash configuration not visible from the public way) on the second story. The ell's rear elevation has a small one-story brick projection with a hip roof and two utilitarian, wood-frame vestibules attached to its side and rear elevations. Two second-story windows on the rear of the ell are not clearly visible. The west elevation of the main block, although not clearly visible from the street, exhibits two rectangular window openings on the second story and two round-arched windows in the half story.

Well preserved and well maintained, 928 Main Street, the house is a handsome example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century residential development in West Newbury. Ambitious in scale, materials, and detailing, the house is notable for its locally-uncommon slate roof, end chimneys, and brick construction, as well as for its carefully detailed front portico, cornice, and window trim.

## 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.*

928 Main Street was constructed circa 1905, a few years after the six Emery siblings received a surprise inheritance of \$1 million (About \$30 million today) from distant relative Nathaniel Noyes in 1899.<sup>1</sup> The "Emery sisters," as they were known (Sarah (1842-1903); Mary Elizabeth (1846-1927); Louisa (1849-1939); Frances (1857-1933); and, Georgianna (1859-1952)) and their brother, Samuel (ca. 1851-1904), were members of the Emery family who had owned land here since the 1640s when the Selectmen allotted 40 acres along the Artichoke River to John Emery, Senior (1598-1683). (Colonel Stephen Emery (1710-

<sup>1</sup> Ladd, "Contentious Citizens," pp. 137-139.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

928 MAIN STREET

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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1795)<sup>2</sup> constructed the house at 21 Emery Lane (WNB.19) around 1745.) The six siblings, all unmarried, lived at their childhood home at 21 Emery Lane. After their father's death in 1883, Sarah Emery took over management of the farm. Samuel worked as a dentist in Newburyport.

The Emery sisters' personal surroundings did not substantially change after the inheritance. While they had the 12-room house at 928 Main Street constructed for winter use, they continued to live at 21 Emery Lane in the summer. They also gave a small house at 961 Main Street (WNB.130) to brothers John and Daniel Lyons who managed their household and farm. Their charitable contributions to West Newbury and the surrounding area, on the other hand, were substantial. In 1907, the sisters provided land and funds to construct St. John's Memorial Hall (WNB.124) on Main Street. (The Hall was designed by architects Henry Paston Clark and John W. Russell. It is possible that they also designed 928 Main Street. More research is recommended.) In 1912, the sisters were given permission by the bishop to construct All Saints Church (WNB.125). The sisters also provided land and funds to construct the G.A.R. Library (WNB.186). Financial donations were made to Anna Jacques Hospital and more than forty other organizations.

The last surviving sister, Georgianna, died in 1952. Georgianna Emery bequeathed this house to All Saints Church, the current owner, which used the building as a rectory. Georgianna Emery also bequeathed 154 adjacent acres along Emery Lane to the Society of St. John the Evangelist. Over the years, the sisters had become acquainted with the Cowley Fathers of St. John's Episcopal Church, Bowdoin Street, Boston and supported their work with the urban poor. In order to further their work, her estate left the 154 acres at Emery Lane and an endowment to the Society of St. John the Evangelist, the present owners of that property.

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY 928 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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Photo 2. Detail of main entrance on façade.



Photo 3. East (side) elevation of main block and rear ell.



Photo 4. Outbuilding to east of house; west and south elevations.



Photo 5. Garage; south and east elevations.

## FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

R27-30

Newburyport

WNB.130

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Address:** 961 Main Street

**Historic Name:** West Newbury Co-Operative Creamery

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Agricultural

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1905

**Source:** Creamery rebuilt after fire

**Style/Form:** No style

**Architect/Builder:** Albert L. Wales, builder

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone, uncut

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard / Wood trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** none

**Major Alterations** *(with dates)*: Porch added after conversion to dwelling (early 20<sup>th</sup> C)

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.5 acres

**Setting:** Located along two-lane State Route 113, the property is bounded to the southwest by wooded lots containing residences dating from the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Open fields and woodlands are located to the north. Woodlands and the Artichoke River are located to the east.

### Photograph



View looking southwest.

### Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Stacy Spies

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2018



**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

961 MAIN ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:**

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

961 Main Street is set close to the street on a level, trapezoidal lot near the intersection of Main Street and Emery Lane. Maintained chiefly in lawn near the house, the lot is wooded to the south, west, and east. A gravel driveway is located near the east elevation of the house.

Facing north, the 1½-story frame dwelling has a side-gabled roof with overhanging eaves and rests on a stone foundation. Two slender interior brick chimneys are located at the east and west ends of the ridge. The fascia board features decorative curved jigsawn details at the ends of the boards. The house measures 28 feet wide and 26 feet deep. A small screened porch is located at the southwest corner of the house. A wood deck of late 20<sup>th</sup> century construction is located at the southeast corner of the house. The building is four bays wide along the north façade with an entrance centered on the façade; two bays are located west of the entrance and one bay is located east of the entrance. Windows throughout the house are 2/2 wood sash with flat surrounds. A porch extends nearly the entire north (façade) elevation. Square-section wood columns and engaged columns support the shed roof. The square-section balustrade encloses the tongue-and-groove wood floor. The entrance features a molded architrave with half-height sidelights of a single light each.

Well-maintained and well-preserved, 961 Main Street is a good example of a residential building converted from agricultural use and an unusual survivor of an agricultural building in West Newbury. The porch, wood sash windows, and paired chimneys are notable features. The façade's unusual fenestration pattern reflects its original agricultural use.

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

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

The house at 961 Main Street was originally constructed as a creamery building for the West Newbury Co-Operative Creamery, which was organized in 1899 by local dairy farmers.<sup>1</sup> Samuel O. Ordway served as president and Robert S. Brown served as treasurer.<sup>2</sup> The "fully-equipped plant" was put in production by January of 1900.<sup>3</sup> In 1899, the co-op had leased one-half acre at this location from Charles M. Evans. Two years later the co-op purchased the property.<sup>4</sup> The creamery operated for only a few years. In 1905, an arsonist burned the icehouses and four other buildings at the creamery.<sup>5</sup> The existing creamery building at 961 Main Street was rebuilt, but by the time construction was completed, the market had changed and the business struggled. In 1909, "the stockholders voted to dispose of the entire plant, including land, buildings, and machinery."<sup>6</sup> Newspaper

<sup>1</sup> Organization certified with state June 9, 1899. Pub. Stat., c.106. The West Newbury Co-operative Creamery. Massachusetts Department of Tax Commissioner. *Report of the Tax Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the year ending November 30, 1910*. Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co. 1911. p. 463.

<sup>2</sup> Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture. *58<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture (1910)*. Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co. 1911. Page 240. 1912, p. 239.; 54<sup>th</sup>...(1906), 1907, p. 303.

<sup>3</sup> "The Making of Butter. Inauguration of the Creamery Business in West Newbury." *Newburyport Daily News*. January 9, 1900. P. 1.

<sup>4</sup> Essex Registry of Deeds Book 1587, p. 123 and 1639, p. 206.

<sup>5</sup> "Indictment Quashed," *Boston Herald*, Sept. 29, 1905, p. 5.

<sup>6</sup> Follansbee and Wild, *Images of America: West Newbury*, 26.

## INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

961 MAIN ST

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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advertisements in 1909 described the property for sale: "1-2 acres land, creamery building, ice house, and machinery necessary for the equipment of a first-class creamery."<sup>7</sup>

In 1909, the Emery sisters, Mary Elizabeth, Louisa, Frances, and Georgianna, purchased the property as a residence for their employee Daniel Lyons and his family.<sup>8</sup> The sisters' extensive landholdings were located across Main Street from the former creamery building. The Emery sisters, as they were known, were five unmarried sisters who lived nearby at 21 Emery Lane (WNB.19) in the house constructed by their three-times-great-grandfather Stephen Emery in 1745 on freehold land given to their ancestor John Emery (1598-1683) around 1645.<sup>9</sup> The sisters inherited a substantial fortune circa 1905, with which they became benefactors of the local library and the Episcopal church, among many other organizations and causes.

Recent Irish immigrants, brothers John and Daniel Lyons, managed the Emery household and farm for the sisters. Daniel's wife, Bridget, worked as a cook for the sisters. They remained in the Emery's employment into the 1950s, when the last of the sisters died.<sup>10</sup> In 1933, the Emery sisters gifted the house to Daniel and Bridget Lyons.<sup>11</sup> Daniel and Bridget both died in 1957 and the house was transferred to their nephew, silversmith Thomas Healy and his wife, Nina, who had lived with them for several decades.<sup>12</sup> The Healys lived here into the 1970s.

Note: One account states that the creamery building burned to the ground and the Emery sisters constructed a new house for the Lyons family.<sup>13</sup> However, in comparing the existing house to a photograph of the creamery building illustrated in Follansbee and Wild, the house is very close in size and shape to the creamery building. In addition, the chimney location is identical. It appears that the existing house is likely a creamery building that was rebuilt after the 1905 fire and purchased by the Emery sisters in 1909.

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<sup>7</sup> "For Sale: Creamery." *Newburyport Daily News*. March 20, 1909. P. 5.

<sup>8</sup> Essex Registry of Deeds Book 1989, p. 213.

<sup>9</sup> The oldest Emery sister, Sarah, died in 1903.

<sup>10</sup> "30 Cousins Share Will of Spinster They Never Met." *Boston Globe*. April 4, 1954. Newspaper clipping. Vertical Files. G.A.R. Library, West Newbury.

<sup>11</sup> Essex Registry of Deeds Book 2955, p. 223.

<sup>12</sup> Essex Registry of Deeds Book 4420, p. 112.

<sup>13</sup> See photograph in Follansbee and Wild, *Images of America: West Newbury*, 26

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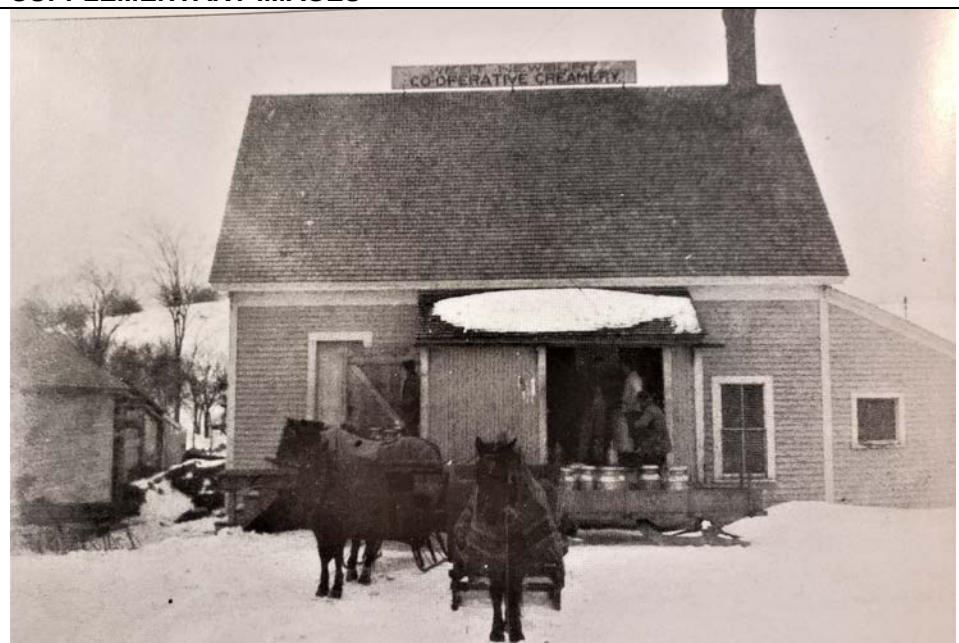
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**SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES**

Undated photograph. Window at left and smaller, lower window at right are in same location as those on existing building. Chimney, clapboards and fascia are the same as on the existing building.