

WEST NEWBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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Merrill Street

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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

R10-290

Newburyport  
West

WNB.335

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Address:** 3 Merrill Street

**Historic Name:** Helen M. and Samuel Noyes House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1858

**Source:** Deed, Marriage date

**Style/Form:** No Style

**Architect/Builder:** Samuel Noyes?

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Vinyl siding and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Modern garden shed  
(Late 20<sup>th</sup>-early 21<sup>st</sup> C)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Colonial Revival entry  
portico; Synthetic siding; replacement window sash; rear  
additions (Late 20<sup>th</sup> C)

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.5 acres

**Setting:** Set near the intersection of Merrill Street with Main  
Street, in a densely settled, mostly residential neighborhood  
of substantial 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century homes.

## Photograph



View looking south.

## Locus Map



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

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2020

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

3 MERRILL ST

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.335

☐ 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.*

3 Merrill Street is located on the southwest side of Merrill Street, positioned near the north corner (right side) of its square-shaped lot, with a modest front setback. A picket fence extends from the front right corner of the house to the side property line. Merrill Street slopes slightly down from northwest to southeast in front of the property; the terrain slopes down from the street towards the back of the lot. The yard is maintained chiefly in lawn, with a low hedge immediately in front of the house and a mature tree at the street edge. A paved parking area is located to the left (southeast) of the house. The building consists of an L-shaped main block extended by a large rear ell, and lower infill additions at the back of the house.

The main block rises 2 -1½ stories from a low brick foundation to a front-gabled roof with gable returns and a gabled side wing extending to the left, along the front of the property. Walls are clad with vinyl siding and trim; the ghost of a wide entablature is suggested at the eaves. Windows typically have 1/1 replacement sash and no trim; windows on the first floor of the façade are significantly taller than on the second floor.

The front-gable façade (northeast elevation) has three evenly spaced bays on the first two floors and one window centered in the half-story. The offset entrance on this section of the façade has a modern doorway with single-leaf door, half-height sidelights, and a gabled, Colonial Revival style portico with square posts and brick steps.

The right (northwest) elevation of the front gabled volume has one window towards the front of the building on the first floor, and three unevenly spaced windows on the second floor. A flush, two-story ell at the back of this volume has a utilitarian, offset entrance, two small windows on the first floor, and one window on the second floor on both of its side (northwest and southeast) elevations.

Continuous with the plane of the front gabled section, the gabled side wing is two bays long across the front and one bay wide. The left (gable end) elevation has only one window, centered in the second story of its gable end. Attached to the back of this wing is a one-story addition with a utilitarian side entrance and shed roof. A lower, one-story addition to its rear has a shed roof and two pairs of small casement windows.

3 Merrill Street continues Main Street's pattern of high visual impact development down a minor side street. The building is notable for its L-shape, large size, distinctive façade composition (front gable and side wing), and tall first floor windows. The historic integrity of the building has been severely compromised by the addition of vinyl siding and the loss of most of its original/early

**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 Helen and Samuel Noyes House was likely constructed circa 1858 by house carpenter Samuel Noyes. In 1856, Samuel Noyes (1833-1913) married Helen Stanwood (1836-1907). Two years later, Helen Stanwood Noyes purchased this land adjoining her parent's property (i.e. 201 Main Street, WNB.211) from her father, Joseph Stanwood.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Essex South Deed Book 567, p. 246.

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In 1882, Francis Noyes (1845-1923) and his wife, Mary (ca. 1856- ) purchased the house<sup>2</sup> and likely expanded it to its present size. Francis W. Noyes worked as a bookkeeper for his father's business, S.C. Noyes & Co., the largest comb manufacturer in West Newbury.<sup>3,4</sup> Francis' older brother, Somerby N. Noyes (WNB.79), lived at 323 Main Street and their father, Somerby C. Noyes, lived at 319 Main Street (WNB.76). Francis and Mary Noyes lived at 3 Merrill Street with their three children, Alice, Howard, and Irene, and a household servant until 1921.<sup>5</sup>

During the 1920s through the early 1940s, the house was sold five times, two of those a result of foreclosures during the Great Depression, a not-uncommon occurrence in West Newbury at the time.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

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

West Newbury Tax Assessor records.

<sup>2</sup> Essex South Deed Book 1074, p. 199.

<sup>3</sup> Walton, *Comb Making in America*, 42.

<sup>4</sup> Tracy, *History of Essex County*, 422.

<sup>5</sup> Essex South Deed



# FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

R10-190

Newburyport  
West

WNB.336

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Address:** 6 Merrill Street

**Historic Name:** Somerby C. and Mary Follansbee House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1857

**Source:** Deed

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Not determined

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite block

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Left side addition (late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> c) – Replacement sash (L 20<sup>th</sup> – E21<sup>st</sup> c)

**Condition:** Fair to Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.923 acres

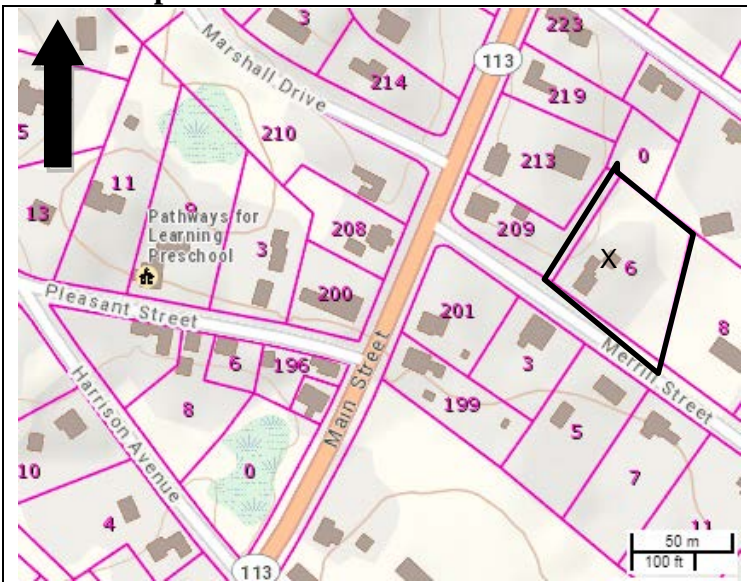
**Setting:** Set near the intersection of Merrill Street with Main Street, in a densely settled, mostly residential neighborhood of substantial 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century homes.

## Photograph



View looking north.

## Locus Map



X indicates outbuilding that is no longer standing.

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

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2020

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

6 MERRILL ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.336

☐ 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.*

6 Merrill Street is located on the northeast side of the road, near the west corner of its large, trapezoidal lot, behind a modest front setback. Merrill Street slopes slightly down from northwest to southeast in front of the property. The house stands on a low berm; most of the lot slopes gently down to the southeast with the street. A paved driveway extends into the property along the right (southeast) side of the house. Around the building, the yard is maintained chiefly in lawn; to the right of the driveway is an open field.

The main block rises 2-½ stories from a low granite block foundation to a front-gable roof with gable returns and a slender chimney positioned about halfway back on the right slope. Walls are sheathed with wood clapboards and trimmed with corner boards and flat fascia boards with bed molding. Windows typically contain 6/6 replacement sash with flat casings.

The three-bay façade (southwest elevation) has an offset entrance with ornament focused on the doorway, which consists of a single-leaf door, full-height sidelights, plain pilasters, and a high entablature with a prominently projecting cornice. Both the first and second floors have three evenly spaced bays; one window is centered in the half-story. The prominent right (southeast) elevation of the main block is five bays long, with two bays of vertically-aligned windows on each floor flanking a modest entrance in the center of the elevation. This side entry features a single-leaf door with a multi-pane transom and bracketed cornice shelf.

The asymmetrical left (northwest) elevation has three bays of windows towards the rear of both floors. The rear (northwest) elevation of the main block has one bay of vertically aligned windows towards the right side of the volume and one window centered in the half-story.

A one-story, gable-roofed barn is attached to the rear north corner of the main block. On its southeast elevation it has a small entry vestibule adjacent to the back wall of the main block, a 6/6 window in the middle, and a pair of hinged, vertical-board doors in the outer bay.

Well preserved, 6 Merrill Street is a restrained yet handsome example of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century development in the center of West Newbury. The building is notable for its setting on a large open lot, its large proportions, Greek Revival-style main entrance, simple Italianate side entrance, and modest attached barn.

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

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

6 Merrill Street was likely constructed circa 1857 for Somerby C. Follansbee (1821-1873) and his wife, Mary Whittier Follansbee (1815-1891). In 1856, Newman Follansbee sold his son, Somerby C. Follansbee, a portion of his property at "a new way laid out by [Newman Follansbee] and Joseph Stanwood,"<sup>1</sup> which would come to be known as Merrill Street. Somerby C. Follansbee had this house constructed behind his father's house, 209 Main Street (WNB.58). Somerby C. Follansbee worked as a comb maker and lived here with his wife and their six children.

<sup>1</sup> Essex South Deed Book 531, p. 45.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Martha Ann and William S. Merrill of Providence, Rhode Island purchased the property in 1869 and likely served as the source of the street name.

Joseph F. Hills (1842-1933)<sup>2</sup> and his wife, Mary (1843-1898) acquired the property in 1885.<sup>3</sup> He and his descendants owned the property until 1992.<sup>4</sup> Joseph F. Hills worked as a McKay stitcher (a McKay machine sewed uppers to soles) in a shoe factory; At the time of the 1920 census, all of the men, and some of the women, living on Merrill Street worked in shoe factories. By 1920, Edith Hills Hobson and her husband, Frank Hobson, were living here with her father, and children. Frank Hobson also worked as a McKay stitcher and raised poultry.<sup>5</sup>

**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 Tax Assessor records.

**SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGE**

View looking northwest.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/109513858>, Accessed November 15, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Essex South Deed Book 1150, p. 98.

<sup>4</sup> Essex South Deed Book 11361, p. 469.

<sup>5</sup> City directory. 1940.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

6 MERRILL ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.336

**National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form**

Check all that apply:

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

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

6 Merrill Street is also eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C as a restrained yet handsome example of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century residential development in the center of West Newbury. Two traditional floor plans remained popular during Early Industrial Period (1830-1870) in West Newbury. One and one-half story and two-story frame houses in the vernacular Greek Revival style were typical. Greek Revival styles appeared in side-gabled forms, as well as front-gabled forms such as 6 Merrill Street. Houses in West Newbury were typically conservative in terms of form, i.e. frame construction, gable roof, two stories, yet builders were cognizant of design trends such as the addition of Greek Revival recessed entrances. In West Newbury, these design trends took the form of features applied to conservative forms; in other localities, grand temple forms, for example, would have been more commonly used. The building is notable for its setting on a large open lot, its large proportions, Greek Revival-style main entrance, simple Italianate side entrance, and modest attached barn. The building retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship.

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



# FORM A - AREA

Assessor's Sheets

USGS Quad

Area Letter

Form Numbers in Area

R10

Newbury-  
port West

WNB.I

See Data  
Sheet

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

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place** (*neighborhood or village*):

**Name of Area:** Merrill Street Area

**Present Use:** Single-family and Multi-family Residential

**Construction Dates or Period:** ca. 1857-1888

**Overall Condition:** Fair to Good

**Major Intrusions and Alterations:** Vinyl siding, new clapboard siding, replacement sash, rear additions (late 20<sup>th</sup>-early 21<sup>st</sup> century)

**Acreage:** 3.0 acres

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

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date** (*month/year*): June 2020

## Photograph



Photo 1. View looking southeast. At left, 10 and 12 Merrill St. (at rear). At right, 11 and 13 Merrill St. (at rear).

## Locus Map



see continuation sheet

## INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY MERRILL STREET AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Sheet

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**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

*Describe architectural, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.*

The Merrill Street Area is a group of six properties at the end of Merrill Street, a dead-end road extending southeast from Main Street in the center of town. For ease of terminology, the street is assumed here to run east/west. Merrill Street ascends gradually to the east from its intersection with Main Street; the land slopes gently down from north to south across the survey area. The Merrill Street Area is characterized by regularly spaced, single-family and multiple-family houses standing close to the street edge, with yards maintained in lawn, paved driveways at the sides, occasional retaining walls and hedges at the street edge, and scattered trees and shrubs throughout. Buildings are consistently positioned with moderate front setbacks along Merrill Street (deeper along the north side of the road) and long rectangular lots. The main houses are set near the street, with outbuildings and one accessory residential building set to the rear of and close to the main buildings. (Photo 1)

Merrill Street has no curbs or sidewalks. The front yards slope gently up to the houses on the north side of the street and are mainly flat on the south side. Yards are landscaped principally with lawn and scattered shrubs and trees, especially along the foundations. A low retaining wall constructed of modern masonry units lines much of the front edge of 14 Merrill Street, while hedges define the street edge at #12 and extend across the side yard of the 9 Merrill Street property.

Houses in the survey area are typically very modest examples of 19<sup>th</sup> century forms and styles. 2 ½ story, gabled rectangular volumes predominate (in 2/3 of the main houses), accompanied by 1 ½ story cottages; brick foundations are universal. Building orientations are split equally between front-gabled and side-gabled forms. Wood siding and trim predominates, mostly in the form of clapboards; one house (#11) is clad with vinyl. Double-hung windows are typical, with 1/1 and 6/6 replacement sash prevalent; flat trim is most common. New siding, windows, and rear additions are common alterations. All but one of the properties has an outbuilding—barn and/or garage—of some kind. Following is a sample of representative individual buildings within the survey area.

11 Merrill Street (ca.1864) (Photos 4, 5) is a 2 ½ story, side-gabled house with a 2-story rear ell whose roof form is unclear (it appears flat). Its asymmetrical, 4-bay facade has a plain single leaf door set slightly to the east of center with two bays to the right (west) and one to the left (east); a modern octagonal window surmounts the entrance on the second floor. Narrow flat corner boards and a wider fascia board with pronounced gable returns trim the otherwise vinyl-clad walls and windows. The narrow building is one room deep with two windows on the first floor of each side elevation. A modern one-story addition with a shed roof fills in the rear corner between the main block and the side ell. (N.B. A number attached to the house identifies this as 9 Merrill St.; town records identify it as 11 Merrill St.)

At the east end of the survey area, Enoch D. and Hannah Chase House, 13 Merrill St., (WNB.340) (Photos 6, 7) is a 1 ½ story side gabled cottage with a high post stud wall. Sheathed in wood clapboards, the building is trimmed with narrow flat corner boards and fascia; no gable returns. The five bay, center entrance façade is asymmetrical; side elevations of this two-room deep building are symmetrically arranged with two widely spaced window bays. A one-story, gabled ell extends from the right rear (southwest) corner of the main block. To the southwest of the main block is a small 1 ½ story barn on a poured concrete foundation; it is sheathed with wood clapboards and trim. Its front gabled facade has no gable returns, a horizontal wood track across the entire wall, and a sliding barn door with vertical boards; a small six-light window occupies the gable peak. Rafter ends are exposed on the side elevations, which have no fenestration.

## INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

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14 Merrill Street (ca. 1870) (Photos 8, 9), on the north side of the road, is one of the most substantial and stylistically ambitious houses in the survey area. The main block rises 2 ½ stories with the primary entrance facing the left (west) side of the property; a 2-story rear ell with a hip roof appears original or early. Walls are sheathed with wood shingles and trim; windows have mostly 6/6 sash with flat trim. The asymmetrical façade (west elevation) has four bays with a slightly off-center, single-leaf doorway sheltered by a deep porch with square posts and a hip roof. The street-facing (south) elevation has a wide, angled bay window offset at the first floor and three bays across the second floor. A relatively large, 1 ½ story barn set close to the back of the house appears to be late 20<sup>th</sup> century construction.

Next door and at the east end of the survey area, 16 Merrill Street (1888) (Photos 8, 10) is another relatively large, front-gabled residence. The side-hall plan building rises 2 ½ stories to a standing seam metal roof. It has a shed-roofed porch across the entire façade (south elevation) and a one-story, shed-roofed addition across the back. New wood clapboard siding and 6/6 replacement sash appear to be trimmed with vinyl. The three-bay façade has an offset entrance with a single leaf door and plain trim. A utilitarian garage at the back of the house appears to be mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century construction. This garage-shed has beveled clapboard siding, two individual vehicle doors at one gable end, and a low-pitched gabled roof.

Although it has experienced significant alterations in building materials, the Merrill Street Area is a well maintained and cohesive area of 19<sup>th</sup> century development. It is notable for its consistent setbacks and rhythmic spacing, repetitive yet varied building forms and roof shapes, and vernacular styling.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this relates to the historical development of the community.*

The Merrill Street neighborhood was first developed in the 1850s, when Main Street neighbors Joseph Stanwood (201 Main St., WNB.210) and Newman Follansbee (209 Main St., WNB.58) laid out a “way” between their houses that would come to be known as Merrill Street. The street first appears on the 1856 map although no houses are depicted along it. In 1857, a deed describes the “new” road as three rods wide (i.e. 49.5 feet).<sup>1</sup> By the 1880s, the road had come to be known as Merrill Street.<sup>2</sup>

The first house to be constructed on the street was the Enoch D. and Hannah Chase House, 13 Merrill St., (WNB.340). Enoch Dole Chase (1829-1880) married Hannah J. Carr (1831-1868) in 1853 and in 1857 purchased this lot of land<sup>3</sup> located near his parents’ house on Main Street.<sup>4</sup> Enoch D. Chase worked as a grocer.

11 Merrill Street (WNB.338) was likely constructed shortly after the lot was purchased by the H.G.O. & T. M. Chase comb company.<sup>5</sup> At that time, the company was one of two companies, the other being S.C. Noyes & Co., that dominated comb manufacturing in West Newbury in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. H.G.O. & T. M. Chase purchased and constructed numerous dwellings in West Newbury to house their Harrison Street factory employees. An 1872 map identifies the name Hayes as the owner of 11 Merrill Street; However, John Hayes didn’t own the property until 1876 when he purchased it from the H.G.O. & T. M. Chase.<sup>6</sup> John Hayes (ca. 1820-1895) and his wife, Julia (ca. 1822-1895), were born in Ireland and by 1860 were living in West Newbury where John Hayes worked as a comb maker. John and Julia Hayes lived at 11 Merrill Street with their sons John, Jr. and Michael, who both worked in a shoe factory. The family also owned nearly seven

<sup>1</sup> Essex South Deed Book, 554, p. 284 and Essex South Deed Book 537, p. 258

<sup>2</sup> As noted in 1882 Essex South Deed Book 1074, p. 198.

<sup>3</sup> Essex South Deed Book 554, p. 284.

<sup>4</sup> See 210 Main St., WNB.59.

<sup>5</sup> Essex South Deed Book 672, p. 126.

<sup>6</sup> Essex South Deed Book 959, p. 89.

## INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY MERRILL STREET AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

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WNB.I

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acres of land at the end of Merrill Street, which they would later develop as 16 Merrill Street (WNB.343) The Hayes family sold 11 Merrill Street in 1897.<sup>7</sup>

The John and Ann Eliza Bartlett House, 14 Merrill Street (WNB.342) was likely constructed circa 1870 based on its appearance and the family's presence in this neighborhood at the time of the 1870 census. John Emery Bartlett, Jr. (ca. 1813-1890) and his wife Ann Eliza Follansbee Bartlett (1820-1913) purchased this lot in 1856 for \$225.<sup>8</sup> John E. Bartlett worked as a shoemaker. The Bartlett family owned the property until 1914.<sup>9</sup>

The remainder of the area, along the north side of Merrill Street, was developed during the late 1880s with the construction of houses on speculation. Some of the houses appear to have been used as rental properties for an extended period of time. In 1887, Charles T. Moseley (1886-1941) purchased a ½-acre lot, divided it in half, and constructed two houses, one for his family and one on speculation, at 10 and 12 Merrill Street (WNB.337 and WNB.339).<sup>10</sup> Charles T. Moseley married Cora Carlton in 1887 and census records appear to indicate that the couple lived at #12 with their daughters. Proximity to family may have been a contributing factor in the decision to purchase this property; Charles T. Moseley was raised at 219 Main Street (WNB.61). It appears that after 1909, 10 Merrill Street was used for rental purposes, as the property changed hands several times over the following decade and the names on census data do not match owner names.<sup>11</sup> 14 Merrill Street also appears to have been used as a rental property from 1914 until the 1940s.<sup>12</sup> From 1915 to 1928, 14 Merrill Street was owned by William West, who lived on Mechanic Street. Like 10 Merrill Street, census data does not match owner names.

The Anna L. Chase rental house at 16 Merrill Street (WNB.344) was constructed during late 1887 and early 1888. In November 1887, Anna L. Chase purchased a partially-constructed house at 16 Merrill Street.<sup>13</sup> Anna Chase was married to Elwood N. Chase, the son of comb manufacturer Thomas Meady Chase (see 11 Merrill Street above). Deed records indicate that Elwood N. Chase also owned several rental properties at any given time throughout town. Given that Anna L. and Elwood N. Chase lived at 220 Main Street (WNB.62) beginning in 1871, the property at 16 Merrill Street was likely used as a rental property.

During the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, adult male residents of Merrill Street were nearly exclusively factory employees. One exception was John F. Tarleton and his wife, Drusilla, who lived at 11 Merrill Street with their three children. John Tarleton worked as a collector at an express company in Haverhill. The other exception was John W. Bartlett (1875-ca. 1960). Bartlett and his wife, Alice, purchased 12 Merrill Street in 1910.<sup>14</sup> John W. Bartlett worked in Newburyport as a shoemaker, as did his grandfather, John E. Bartlett, who owned the house next door at 14 Merrill Street. (WNB.342). John W. and Alice Bartlett owned 12 Merrill Street until 1960.<sup>15</sup>

By the time of the 1920 census, all of the men, and several of the women, living in the Merrill Street Area worked in shoe factories. For example, John H. Dawkins and his wife, Lois, purchased 13 Merrill Street in 1899.<sup>16</sup> John Dawkins worked in a shoe factory and the couple lived here with their extended family until 1910. Ethel and William W. Bond purchased 13

<sup>7</sup> Essex South Deed Book 1517, p. 68.

<sup>8</sup> Essex South Deed Book 537, p. 258.

<sup>9</sup> Essex South Deed Book 2273, p. 16.

<sup>10</sup> Essex South Deed Book 1208, p. 394.

<sup>11</sup> Essex South Deed Book 1967, p. 49; Essex South Deed Book 2236, p. 524; Essex South Deed Book 2276, p. 493; Essex South Deed Book 2330, p. 418; Essex South Deed Book 2365, 68.

<sup>12</sup> Essex South Deed Book 2273, p. 16.

<sup>13</sup> Essex South Deed Book 1212, p. 416.

<sup>14</sup> Essex South Deed Book 2058, p. 113.

<sup>15</sup> Essex South Deed Book 4647, p. 5.

<sup>16</sup> Essex South Deed Book 1573, p. 374.

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Merrill Street in 1916.<sup>17</sup> George Z. Mercier (ca. 1881- ) purchased 10 Merrill Street in 1917 and lived here with his wife, Geneva, and their three children.<sup>18</sup> Mercier worked as a shoe stitcher.

During the Great Depression, the owners of 13 and 14 Merrill Street experienced financial hardship resulting in foreclosure. For example, from 1928 to 1943, 14 Merrill Street was sold seven times, with a majority of those sales being a result of mortgage defaults. This is consistent with the experiences of other West Newbury residents during that time. During the Great Depression, West Newbury suffered greatly economically. Many houses in town were vacant at the time of the 1940 census, a result of foreclosures and owners' abandonment of property.

By the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, residents were more likely to be employed in sales than as factory workers. Salesman Earl Hight lived at 11 Merrill Street with his wife, Gladys. Eugene (1902-1972) and Mary (ca. 1902- ) Willis purchased 14 Merrill Street in 1943.<sup>19</sup> The couple lived here with their five children while Eugene worked as a farm laborer. Their son, Eugene M. "Shike" Willis, Jr. (1933-2004) lived with them and was sworn in as Police Chief at the age of 24 in 1958.<sup>20</sup> Willis became the full-time police chief in 1970 and served until 1994. He also served as constable, as a volunteer fire fighter, and as a school bus driver from 1965-1970 and from 1980 until 1999.<sup>21</sup> Eugene M. Willis, Jr. purchased the house from his parents in 1960 and lived here with his wife, Jacqueline.<sup>22</sup> The property is currently owned by the Willis family.

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<sup>17</sup> Essex South Deed Book 2353, p. 429.

<sup>18</sup> Essex South Deed Book 2365, 68.

<sup>19</sup> Essex South Deed Book 3356, p. 121.

<sup>20</sup> "Acting Police Chief Idol of West Newbury Kids," *Newburyport Daily News*, April 9, 1958, p. 6.

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.thewillistree.info/eugene-shike-willis-1933-2004-us-police-chief-for-24-years/>. Accessed Nov. 19, 2019.

<sup>22</sup> Essex South Deed Book 4713, p. 397.



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Assessor's #	MHC #		Street Address	Construction Date	Style	Acreage
R10-200	WNB.337	Charles T. and Cora Moseley Rental House	10 Merrill St.	Ca. 1888	No Style	0.25
R10-260	WNB.338	H.G.O. & T.M. Chase Rental House	11 Merrill St.	Ca. 1864	No Style	1.0
R10-210	WNB.339	Charles T. and Cora Moseley House	12 Merrill St.	Ca. 1888	No Style	0.25
R10-250	WNB.340 WNB.341	Enoch D. and Hannah Chase House Barn	13 Merrill St.	Ca. 1857 Ca. 1910	Greek Revival	0.5
R10-220	WNB.342	John and Ann Eliza Bartlett House	14 Merrill St.	Ca. 1870	Italianate	0.5
R10-230	WNB.343 WNB.344	Anna L. Chase Rental House Shed	16 Merrill St.	1888 Ca. 1960	No Style No style	0.5

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Photo 2. 10 Merrill Street. View looking north.



Photo 3. 12 Merrill Street. View looking north.



Photo 4. 11 Merrill Street at right. 13 Merrill Street in distance. View looking southeast.



Photo 5. 11 Merrill Street. View looking southeast.



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Photo 6. 13 Merrill Street. View looking southeast.



Photo 7. 13 Merrill Street. Barn. View looking south.



Photo 8. 14 Merrill Street and 16 Merrill Street in distance. View looking east.



Photo 9. 14 Merrill Street. View looking east.



Photo 10. 16 Merrill Street. View looking east.

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