

WEST NEWBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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Moulton Street

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# FORM B – BUILDING

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

## Photograph



Barn, ells, and southeast façade of main block; looking northwest from Moulton St.

## Locus Map



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

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2023

Assessor's Number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

0070 0000  
00190

Newburyport

WNB.157  
WNB.440

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Address:** 5 Moulton Street

**Historic Name:** Chase - Thurlow House

**Uses: Present:** Single Family Residence

**Original:** Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** 1731

**Source:** Esther Thurlow (1973 MHC Form)

**Style/Form:** Colonial

**Architect/Builder:** Not Known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Fieldstone? (not visible from street)

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Barn (late 19<sup>th</sup> - early 20<sup>th</sup> c) – well (early 20<sup>th</sup> c?)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Side additions (late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> c)

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 3.77 acres

**Setting:** Located on a cross-town thoroughfare, at its intersection with two other main thoroughfares, Cherry Hill and Bachelor streets; near the northern end of Indian Hill Reservoir. Rural area is lightly developed; open fields surround the property.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

5 MOULTON ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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☒ 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:**

5 Moulton Street is located on the southwest side of Moulton Street; one of its principal facades faces northeast towards the road, the other faces southeast in the traditional manner. The generally flat site is maintained in lawn and open fields. A variety of trees is scattered near the house, and a row of mature trees stands opposite the house on the northeast side of Moulton Street. The house is set a moderate distance from the road; a paved driveway extends along the south side of the house. The property contains a large L-shaped house and a substantial barn near its back corner.

The principal components of the house are an L-shaped main block near the street, a rear ell with a modern entrance addition, and an attached garage. The house is sheathed with clapboards and trimmed with corner boards, a narrow fascia with bed molding, and brief gable returns. Windows typically have 6/6 sash and flat trim.

The L-shaped main block has two five-bay facades, each having a prominent center entrance. Both entrances contain a single-leaf door, full-height sidelights, pilasters, and a high entablature. The south-facing door frame is tight to the plane of the wall; the east-facing door frame is displayed on a shallow vestibule with a hip roof. Each wing of the ell has a center chimney. The street-facing wing of the L has a saltbox roof with a modern, screened porch wrapping around its west corner.

Attached to the back end of the south wing of the main block is a two-story, gabled ell with sparse fenestration. A cross-gabled appendage at its southern end has oversize windows on its side elevation and a monumental, recessed porch with two pairs of French doors within. The southernmost appendage on this axis is a one-story gable structure (identified as a garage by the assessor's records); it is not clearly visible from the street. A 6/6 window and a pedestrian door can be seen on its rear (northwest) elevation.

A substantial barn (WNB.440) stands to the southwest of the house. It measures 40 feet wide by 80 feet deep and rises 1½ stories to a front gable roof. Walls are sheathed with wood clapboards and trimmed with corner boards, flat fascia boards, and thin gable returns. Two small boxed-in ventilator structures are perched on the ridge near the front and back ends of the roof. The façade (northeast elevation) has a large, vertical-board, sliding barn door in the center, with a small 6/6 window centered above it in the loft and a pedestrian door offset at the right. The long southeast elevation has at least seven small window openings: three 3-light sash towards the front, over an open, shed roofed appendage; two 6-light sash in the center (along with a single-leaf, vertical board pedestrian door); and two blocked-in windows towards the rear. The long northwest elevation is not clearly visible from the public way; one 6/6 window was observed in the center.

Situated near the modern entry porch at the back of the house, a well structure is comprised of a circular, fieldstone wall with two stone piers supporting a gabled roof.

Well preserved and very well maintained, 5 Moulton Street is an outstanding example of Colonial period farmhouse architecture in West Newbury. Notable features include the near-pristine rural setting, L-shape massing and large size of the house; two principal five-bay facades with a small proportion of window to wall area; two sophisticated main entrances; a chain of rear ells and additions; and a voluminous early barn that appears largely intact.

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

The house is reported to have been constructed circa 1731 for Deacon Thomas Chase III and remains in the Chase-Thurlow family at the time of this survey. The house is also reported to have replaced an earlier building on the property (which appears

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on the 1729 map as belonging to Deacon Thomas Chase (#145).<sup>1</sup> Deacon Chase (1680-1765),<sup>2</sup> and his second wife Emma Kent Chase (1700-1783)<sup>3</sup> were married in 1726 in Newbury. It appears that the house was passed down through the family:

- To their son, Lt. Abel Chase (1739-1828),<sup>4</sup> who fought in the Revolutionary War. Abel Chase married Hannah Morse (1738-1810).<sup>5</sup>
- To Abel and Hannah Chase's son Thomas Chase (1772-1849).<sup>6</sup> Thomas Chase married Lois Ordway (1772-1857).<sup>7</sup>
- To Thomas and Lois Chase's daughter, Susan Chase (1805-1887).<sup>8</sup> Susan Chase married George Thurlow (1805-1879)<sup>9</sup> in 1830. George Thurlow established Cherry Hill Nurseries, which operated from 1832 until 2000. (See below.)

It appears that the house was then passed down:

- To George and Susan Thurlow's son, Thomas Chase Thurlow (1832-1909).<sup>10</sup> Thomas C. Thurlow married Sarah Kimball Hathaway (1845-1927).<sup>11</sup>
- To Thomas C. and Sarah Thurlow's son, George Chase Thurlow (1881-1952).<sup>12</sup> George Chase Thurlow married Annie Dunlap Goodrich (1881-1961)<sup>13</sup> in 1903. City directories indicate that the couple likely moved to this house between 1912 and 1918.
- To George C. and Annie Thurlow's son, George Harold Thurlow (1904-1963).<sup>14</sup> G. Harold Thurlow, as he was known, and his wife, Esther Dikeman Thurlow, moved into this house in the 1950s with their children. Esther B. Thurlow (ca. 1908-1978) was graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1928 and worked as a librarian at Governors Academy in Byfield.<sup>15</sup> G. Harold Thurlow worked in the family business. Esther Thurlow was the author of the 1973 MHC survey form for this property.
- To G. Harold and Esther's son, John, and his wife, Ellen. John Dikeman Thurlow (1936-2022)<sup>16</sup> worked as treasurer and president of the company. John Thurlow was the 10<sup>th</sup> generation of the family to live on the land.<sup>17</sup>

The house remains in the Thurlow family at the time of this survey.

### Cherry Hill Nurseries

In 1832, George Thurlow (1805-1879)<sup>18</sup> established the company that became Cherry Hill Nurseries. "According to an early catalog, [Thurlow] planted seeds obtained from 'cider' or natural apples. The little trees that grew from these he budded and planted...[H]e started selling trees to his neighbors because he had budded more than he needed."<sup>19</sup> George Thurlow began adding other fruit trees, including cherry, plum, pear, and peach, before transitioning over to planting ornamental trees and

<sup>1</sup> Esther Thurlow, "Chase-Thurlow House," MHC B Form, June 1973.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27375968/thomas-chase>. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27376223/emma-chase>. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27375917/abel-chase>. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27375942/hannah-chase>. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27375836/thomas-chase>. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27375812/lois-chase>. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27375754/susan-thurlow>. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27382992/george-thurlow>. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27373183/thomas-chase-thurlow>. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27375480/sarah-kimball-thurlow>. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/44472878/george-chase-thurlow>. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59276748/annie-dunlap-thurlow>. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59276312/george-harold-thurlow>. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>15</sup> Governors Academy Yearbook, 1965, U.S. School Yearbooks, 1900-2016, Ancestry.com. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>16</sup> Obituary for John Dikeman Thurlow, <https://obituaries.newburyportnews.com/obituary/john-thurlow-1085442097>. Accessed April 21, 2023.

<sup>17</sup> Janes, "A business..."

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27382992/george-thurlow>. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>19</sup> Janes, "A business..."

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shrubs and smaller fruit-bearing shrubs such as currant, strawberry, raspberry, and blackberry. Thomas Chase Thurlow (1832-1909)<sup>20</sup> joined the business in 1856 and introduced Norway spruce into the catalog.

After Thomas Chase Thurlow's death in 1909, his sons Winthrop Hale Thurlow (1887-1967)<sup>21</sup> and George C. Thurlow (1881-1952)<sup>22</sup> carried on the business and incorporated the endeavor as T. C. Thurlow's Sons, Inc. They were succeeded by George's son, G. Harold Thurlow. In the 1910s, David Stranger came to work for the Thurlow brothers and worked his way up in the business. In 1930, the business was renamed to Thurlow's and Stranger, Inc.<sup>23</sup> Upon Stranger's death in 1956, the business was returned to family control under the supervision of G. Harold Thurlow.

Peonies were a specialty of the nursery. Thomas Chase Thurlow began to collect and study peonies around 1880.<sup>24</sup> "For many years these colorful plants attracted hundreds of visitors in early summer" and if one called ahead, the nursery would send a carriage to collect visitors from the trolley stop.<sup>25</sup> "Until World War II, each season there would be a special peony exhibit on the ground floor of the main office."<sup>26</sup> Winthrop Hale Thurlow "continued their cultivation...the nursery did its own crossing of peonies, raising them from seed and creating new varieties... By 1906 there were more than 600 varieties and in the 1920s the nursery had a new planting of 10,000 roots each year."<sup>27</sup> Cultivation of peonies was discontinued in 1968.

In 1966, the corporate name was changed to Cherry Hill Nurseries, Inc. G. Harold Thurlow's sons, John and Richard, took over the business from their father. John's wife, Ellen, worked here as well and had responsibility for all container plants, while John had responsibility for all in-ground plantings.<sup>28</sup> "The fruit trees, small fruits and perennial flowers were gradually phased out after World War II... [By the 1980s,] business... [was] limited to wholesale, with the nursery concentrating on evergreen trees and shrubs, including rhododendrons, and deciduous trees and shrubs such as lilacs, azaleas, cotoneasters and many varieties of maples and flowering crabs."<sup>29</sup> Cherry Hill Nurseries closed in 2000.

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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27373183/thomas-chase-thurlow>. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/44473480/winthrop-hale-thurlow>. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/44472878/george-chase-thurlow>. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>23</sup> Thurlow, "Cherry Hill Nurseries."

<sup>24</sup> Janes, "A business..."

<sup>25</sup> Babendreier, "Cherry Hill Nurseries."

<sup>26</sup> Janes, "A business..."

<sup>27</sup> Janes, "A business..."

<sup>28</sup> Babendreier, "Cherry Hill Nurseries."

<sup>29</sup> Janes, "A business..."



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Barn façade, southeast façade of main block, northeast façade of main block; looking southwest from Moulton St.



Southeast façade of main block.

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Detail of main entrance on southeast façade.



Northeast façade of main block.



Detail of entrance on northeast façade.



Northwest elevations of main block.



# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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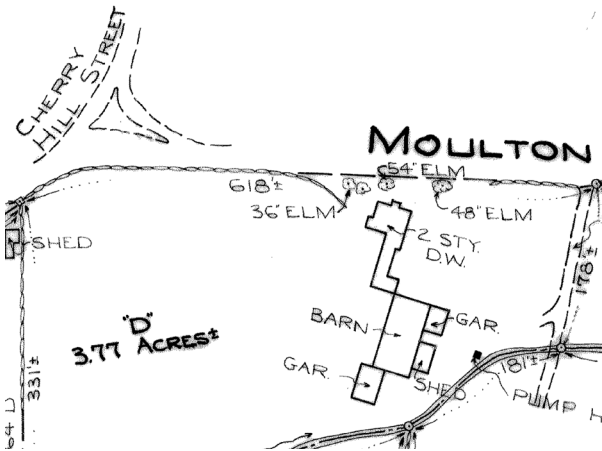
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Southeast and façade (northeast) elevations of barn.



Well structure, looking west.



Essex County Registry of Deeds Plan Book 157, Plan 36



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5 MOULTON ST

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

Check all that apply:

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

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

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

The Chase -Thurlow House at 5 Moulton Street is recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level. The house is significant for its association with the Thurlow family's substantial role in West Newbury's agricultural history. The house is also an outstanding example of Colonial period farmhouse architecture in West Newbury. Well-preserved and very well-maintained, the house's notable features include the near-pristine rural setting, L-shape massing and large size of the house; two principal five-bay facades with a small proportion of window to wall area; two sophisticated main entrances; a chain of rear ells and additions; and a voluminous early barn that appears largely intact. The house retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship. Information on the integrity of the interior and the nature and extent of modern alterations would be needed to confirm this recommendation.

# FORM B – BUILDING

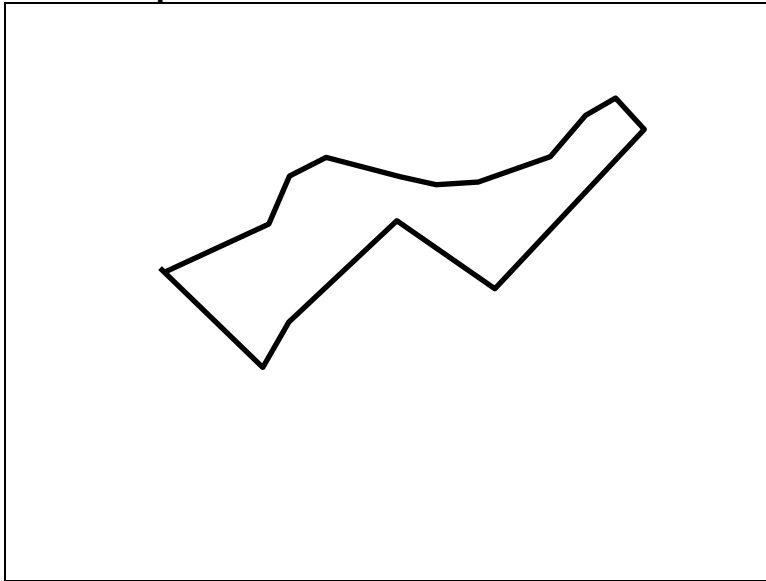
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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## Photograph



Northwest and façade (southwest) elevations.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Stacy Spies and Wendy Frontiero  
**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission  
**Date:** June 2023

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

0060 0000  
00180

Newburyport

WNB.187  
WNB.441

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Address:** 102 Moulton Street

**Historic Name:** Joseph and Anna Newell House / Elwell Farm

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1740-1780

**Source:** Visual Assessment

**Style/Form:** Colonial

**Architect/Builder:** Not Known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Not visible from street

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Barn (late 19<sup>th</sup> c?)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Rear ell (mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> c?) - rebuilt chimney, triplet of 6/6 windows on side elevation of main block (late 20<sup>th</sup> c)

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 18.83 acres

**Setting:** Located on a cross-town thoroughfare in a rural residential/agricultural area, lightly settled with houses on large lots surrounded by open fields and woodland.

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*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:

102 Moulton Street stands at the front of a very large, irregularly shaped parcel that lines the southern shore of Indian Hill Reservoir. Located opposite the intersection with Brickett Street, the house has a generous front setback that slopes up gently from Moulton Street. The yard around the house is maintained in lawn, with several mature trees. A partially paved driveway extends along the northwest side of the house, leading to a barn behind the north corner of the dwelling. A dry-laid stone wall lines the street edge in front of the house.

The house consists of a large main block and a substantial rear ell that is continuous with the southeast elevation of the main block. Walls are sheathed with wood shingles and trimmed with corner boards. Windows typically have 6/6 sash and band molding. The five by two bay main block measures 44 feet long by 20 feet deep and rises 2½ stories to a side gable roof with a large center chimney; no gable returns. The five bay façade (southwest elevation) has a center entrance with a large classical architrave, composed of a single-leaf door, ¾ height sidelights, pilasters, and a delicately molded entablature. Windows on the first story of the façade have 9/6 sash. A concrete block chimney rises up the right side (southeast elevation) of the main block. The rear ell has a gable roof with a ridgeline lower than the main block, smaller 6/6 windows, and a brick chimney rising up the exterior of its rear wall. The ell's northwest elevation features wood shingle siding and a plain, gabled entrance porch.

Near the north corner of the house is a large, English style barn (WNB.441) that rises 1½ stories above a banked basement level to a side gabled roof with a slender chimney positioned off-center. Walls are sheathed with clapboards on the façade (southwest elevation) and wood shingles on the northwest elevation; they are trimmed with corner boards. The façade has a large sliding barn door in the center and one 6/6 window on each side. The northwest elevation has a 6/6 window centered on the main floor and half-story, and a sliding barn door in the banked basement level. A circular well positioned near the northwest elevation of the house, in front of the barn, has mortared fieldstone walls and a metal cap.

Well preserved and well maintained, 102 Moulton Street is an excellent example of Colonial period farmhouse architecture in West Newbury. Notable features include its historic rural setting, the very large size of the main block, its small proportion of window to wall area, and the five bay façade with a finely detailed center entrance surround and taller windows on the first story. The intact and uncommon English banked barn is also remarkable, along with the surviving well structure.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The house appears to have been constructed circa 1740-1780 based on its appearance. At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the house was owned by Joseph Newell (1752-1825),<sup>1</sup> who was born in Brookline, Massachusetts. Newell married his wife, Anna March Newell (1765-1843),<sup>2</sup> in 1790 in Newbury. Joseph Newell had numerous land purchases in Newbury between 1779 and 1796; this property was likely one of them. A few of the purchases were from Newell's father, Moses Newell. (More research is recommended.)

In 1796, Joseph Newell sold the house and farm to "husbandman" Silas Moulton (1766-1856).<sup>3,4</sup> and lived here with his family. The property was passed down through the family to Silas and Hannah Poor Moulton's (1756-1834)<sup>5</sup> son, Col. Daniel Moulton

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58233144/joseph-newell>. Accessed May 12, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58230052/anna-newell>. Accessed May 12, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58474275/silas-moulton>. Accessed May 11, 2023.

<sup>4</sup> Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 159, p. 277.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58474332/hannah-moulton>. Accessed May 11, 2023.



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(1791-1878),<sup>6</sup> and then to Daniel's son, Daniel E. Moulton. The 1830, 1856, 1872, and 1884 maps identify this house as that belonging to "D. Moulton."<sup>7</sup> Col. Daniel Moulton married Diedamia Spofford (1788-1876)<sup>8</sup> of Georgetown in 1818. Census records indicate that Daniel Moulton worked as a farmer.

In 1888, Silas Moulton Titcomb purchased the house and farm from Daniel E. Moulton.<sup>9</sup> Silas Moulton Titcomb (1837-1924)<sup>10</sup> lived here with his wife, Hannah M. Poore Titcomb (1837-1916),<sup>11</sup> and their children. Titcomb worked as a master house carpenter, according to the 1860 census, and later as a farmer who produced prize-winning Oldmixon peaches.<sup>12</sup> (Also see 406 Middle St., WNB.155.)

In 1917, Albert Elwell purchased the house and farm from Silas Titcomb.<sup>13</sup> Albert Elwell (1867-1959) and his wife Edith D. Jones Elwell (1872-1956) were married in 1893 and had 5 children. At its largest, Maple Crest Farm, as the Elwells named it, contained approximately 180 acres. "For much of the 1900's, Maple Crest was mostly a cow and turkey farm with a chicken hatchery, pigs, sheep, horses, and all the fruits and vegetables the family needed. In the 1970's and 80's, [the couple's son] Albert E. Elwell was known for his vegetables, especially cauliflower, and strawberries at local and Boston markets. Elwell operated the last large strawberry farm in the area, which had once hosted twenty such farms.

In addition to tending his farm, Albert Everett Elwell (1899-1992) had a significant career in local and state government. When Albert E. Elwell was elected West Newbury Selectman in 1928, he was the youngest person in the state to hold that office. Elwell served as Selectman from 1928 until 1940 and again from 1950 until 1980. Elwell also served as forest fire warden, assessor (32 years), police officer (25 years), call fireman (23 years), and as a member of the board of health, the bureau of old age assistance, and as a water commissioner. Elwell advocated for zoning laws, which were adopted in the 1950s. In 1971, Elwell became the oldest freshman state legislator when he was elected to the first of two terms (1971-1974).

Albert E. Elwell married Pulitzer-prize winning author Margaret Coit in 1978. Margaret Coit (1919-2003) won the Pulitzer Prize in Biography in 1951 for her biography of South Carolina legislator John Calhoun. She later wrote a biography of Bernard Baruch. Coit moved to West Newbury after graduating from the University of North Carolina in 1941 to join her parents, who had recently moved to town. (See 254 Main Street, WNB.218.) Coit began her career as a newspaper reporter for the Lawrence *Daily Eagle*, the *Newburyport Daily News*, and *Haverhill Gazette* while working on the Calhoun biography. Coit later became a professor of English, history, and political science at Fairleigh-Dickinson College in New Jersey in 1954 and taught there until her retirement in 1984.

In the late 1990s, Albert's grandson, John C. Elwell and his wife, Carol Kane Elwell, took over the farm. The property is owned by the Elwell family at the time of this survey.

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<sup>7</sup> The "O. H. Moulton" label on the 1884 map appears to be a transcription error.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58474110/diedamia-moulton>. Accessed April 20, 2023.

<sup>9</sup> Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 1042, p. 143.

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<sup>12</sup> Essex Agricultural Society, *Transactions for the year 1906*, p. 33.

<sup>13</sup> Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 2369, p. 341.

## INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

102 MOULTON ST

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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WEST NEWBURY

102 MOULTON ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Area(s) Form No.

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Barn and house, northwest and façade (southwest) elevations.



Detail of main entrance of house.



Façade (southwest) and southeast elevations of main block and ell.



Barn: Northwest and façade (southwest) elevations.



**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

**102 MOULTON ST**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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Well structure.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

102 MOULTON ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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

Check all that apply:

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

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

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

The Joseph and Anna Newell House / Elwell Farm at 102 Moulton Street is recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the agricultural history of West Newbury. The property was continuously farmed through Albert Elwell's tenure into the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. "Husbandman" Silas Moulton raised livestock and his son, Daniel Moulton, farmed the property. Silas Moulton Titcomb raised prize-winning Oldmixon peaches here. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Albert Elwell raised livestock. His son, Albert E. Elwell, specialized in strawberries and vegetables.

The house is also recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with Albert Everett Elwell, who had a significant career in local and state government. When Albert E. Elwell was elected West Newbury Selectman in 1928, he was the youngest person in the state to hold that office. Elwell served as Selectman from 1928 until 1940 and again from 1950 until 1980. Elwell also served as forest fire warden, assessor, police officer, call fireman, and as a member of the board of health, the bureau of old age assistance, and as a water commissioner. Elwell advocated for zoning laws, which were adopted in the 1950s. In 1971, Elwell became the oldest freshman state legislator when he was elected to the first of two terms.

The house is also recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with Pulitzer-prize winning author Margaret Coit, who married Albert E. Elwell in 1978. Margaret Coit won the Pulitzer Prize in Biography in 1951 for her biography of South Carolina legislator John Calhoun. She later wrote a biography of Bernard Baruch. Coit later became a professor of English, history, and political science at Fairleigh-Dickinson College in New Jersey in 1954 and taught there until her retirement in 1984.

The house is also recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level as an excellent example of Colonial period farmhouse architecture in West Newbury. Well-preserved and well-maintained, 102 Moulton Street's notable features include its historic rural setting, the very large size of the main block, its small proportion of window to wall area, and the five bay façade with a finely detailed center entrance surround and taller windows on the first story. The intact and uncommon English banked barn is also remarkable, along with the surviving well structure.

The house retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship. Information on the integrity of the interior and the nature and extent of modern alterations would be needed to

*Continuation sheet 6*

	WNB.187
	WNB.441

confirm this recommendation. Information on the integrity of the interior and the nature and extent of modern alterations would be needed to confirm this recommendation.