

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

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# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

R13-45

Newburyport  
West

WNB.365

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Address:** 12 Steed Avenue

**Historic Name:** William and Emma Salmon House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1917

**Source:** Deed

**Style/Form:** No style

**Architect/Builder:** Not determined

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite rubble

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Attached garage  
(Late 20<sup>th</sup> C)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Replacement window  
sash (late 20<sup>th</sup> – early 21<sup>st</sup> c) – side wing and connector to  
garage (late 20<sup>th</sup> c)

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.0 acres

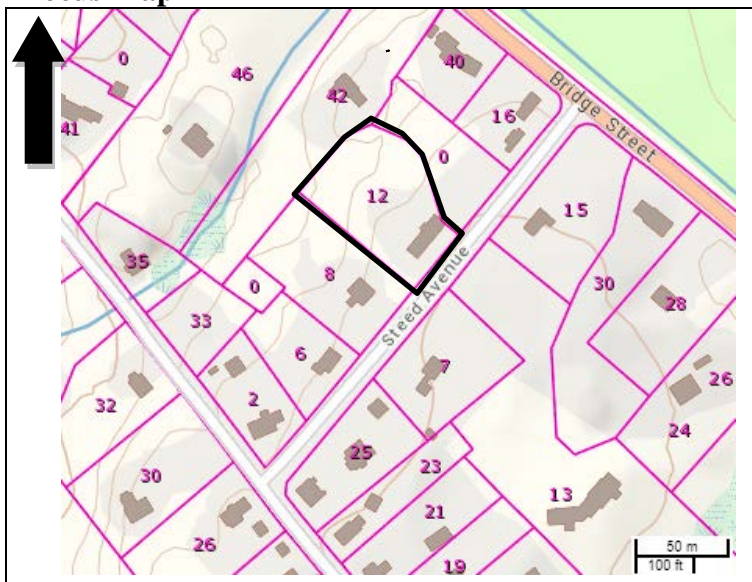
**Setting:** Located in a suburban residential neighborhood  
with large lots and small scale, heterogeneous development  
largely dating to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, near the main thoroughfare  
of Bridge Street.

## Photograph



View looking west.

## Locus Map



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

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2020

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

12 STEED AVE

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.365

☐ 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.*

12 Steed Avenue is located on the northwest side of the street, in the east corner of its irregularly shaped lot, with a moderate front setback. The parcel is generally flat near the street edge and slopes down to the back behind the house. The yard is maintained chiefly in lawn, with a paved parking area in front of the garage. The building consists of an original cottage, low connector, and attached two-car garage.

The modest main block rises 1-½ stories from a low foundation to a side gable roof with exposed purlin ends at the eaves, no gable returns, and a small chimney positioned slightly off-center. Walls are sheathed with wood clapboards and trimmed with corner boards and a narrow fascia board. Windows typically contain 6/1 or 1/1 double-hung replacement sash with flat casings.

The symmetrical façade has a shallow, gabled entrance vestibule with a single-leaf doorway, pilasters, informal pediment, and fieldstone steps. Flanking the entry are tri-partite window units; the surviving historic unit has a 6/1 center window and 4/1 side windows. A shed-roofed dormer covering most of the front slope of the roof is continuous with the plane of the main wall and contains two pairs of 6/1 windows. The symmetrical right (northeast) elevation of the main block has two widely spaced windows on the first floor and two closely spaced windows in the half-story.

The gabled, one-story connector to the left (southwest) of the main block has two parts. The section closer to the original building has a concrete block foundation, clapboard siding, and a modern, polygonal bay window. The section closer to the garage has a façade recessed from the main wall and clad with cobblestone veneer and vertical board siding; its fenestration consists of an offset door and modern, polygonal bay window. The front-gabled garage has two vehicle bays, clapboard siding, and flat corner boards and door trim.

12 Steed Avenue is a modest example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century residential development in an outlying area of West Newbury. It retains its historic form and façade composition, notable for its tri-partite window units, simple entry vestibule, assertive shed-roofed dormer, and exposed purlin ends. Alterations to window sash, an incongruous side entrance, and lack of maintenance detract from the historic integrity of the original building.

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

Although Steed Avenue was laid out by developer Samuel S. Chase in the 1850s, no house appears in this location on historic maps through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. William and Emma Salmon purchased a parcel of land at 12 Steed Avenue in 1917.<sup>1</sup> William Salmon (1877-1943) and his wife, Emma (ca. 1880-1956), were married in 1900 and lived here with their daughter, Bessie. William worked as a wood heeler in a shoe factory and later, at the United Shoe Lace Company in Lawrence, Massachusetts.<sup>2</sup> Emma Salmon worked as a stitcher in a shoe factory. In 1951, Emma Salmon sold the property to Paul and Loretta Renda.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Essex South Deed Book 2383, p. 59.<sup>2</sup> United States World War II Draft Registration Card. Ancestry.com. Accessed March 4, 2020.<sup>3</sup> Essex South Deed Book 3848, p. 535.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

12 STEED AVE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.365

**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.

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

R13-46

Newburyport  
West

WNB.366

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Address:** 16 Steed Avenue

**Historic Name:** Thomas H. and Ellen Steed House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1877

**Source:** Deed

**Style/Form:** Italianate

**Architect/Builder:** Not determined

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Flat fieldstone rubble

Wall/Trim: Vinyl siding and trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Modern storage shed (late 20<sup>th</sup> c)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Rear addition (20<sup>th</sup> c) - Vinyl siding, replacement windows (late 20<sup>th</sup> c)

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.0 acres

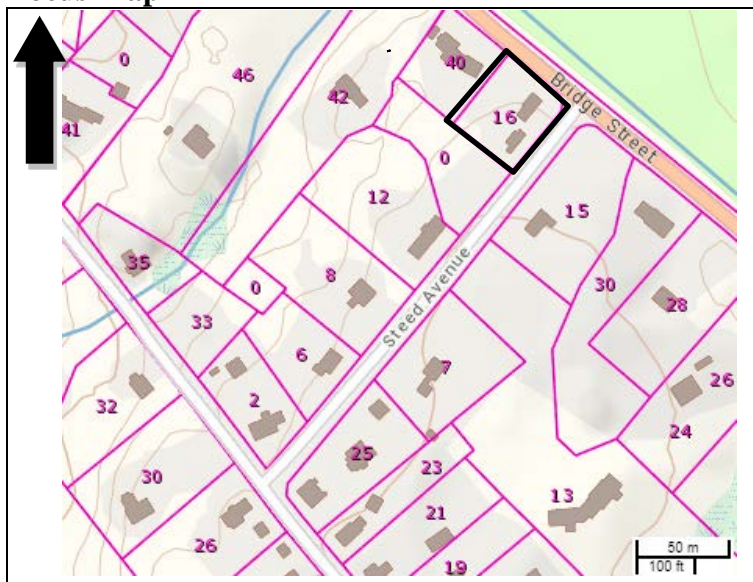
**Setting:** Suburban residential neighborhood with large lots and small scale, heterogeneous development largely dating to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, facing the main thoroughfare of Bridge Street, which connects Main Street (Route 113) and Haverhill.

## 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

16 STEED AVE

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.366

☐ 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.*

16 Steed Avenue is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Bridge Street and Steed Avenue; despite its official street address, the building actually faces Bridge Street. It is set in the east corner of its rectangular parcel, with a moderate setback from Bridge Street. The terrain slopes down gently from the south corner of the lot to the northwest and northeast, with the house standing several feet above Bridge Street. The yard is maintained chiefly in lawn. The building consists of a main block and a modest rear addition.

The main block rises 1-½ stories from a low stone foundation to a front gable roof with thin but pronounced gable returns; a small chimney rises from the left (southeast) slope of the roof. Walls are clad with vinyl siding and trim. Windows typically contain 1/1 double-hung replacement sash; it is unclear if their flat trim is wood or vinyl.

The façade (northeast elevation) of the main block has two windows and an offset doorway on the first floor, and two windows centered in the half-story. The entrance has a single-leaf door, flat casing, and small brackets supporting a shallow, plain, flat hood. The right (northwest) elevation contains two windows of varied size towards the back. The left (southeast) elevation has three windows, one towards the front of the building and two towards the back.

The rear (southwest) elevation of the main block has two windows of varied size centered in the half-story. A one-story addition with a shallow gabled roof extends from the first floor of the main block, set back from both of the original building's side walls. The addition has an offset doorway and tripartite picture window unit facing Steed Avenue and paired windows offset on its gable end.

Well maintained, 16 Steed Avenue is a modest example of traditional, vernacular architecture in outlying areas of West Newbury. The building is notable for its prominent setting on a rise, its intact form, and the restrained ornament of its main entrance.

**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.*

16 Steed Avenue was likely constructed circa 1877 when Thomas H. Steed purchased the parcel from developer Samuel S. Chase.<sup>1</sup> The house is still owned by descendants of Thomas H. Steed. Thomas H. Steed (1853-1939) was born in Ireland; his wife, Ellen Hogan (ca. 1855-1927), was born in England. As a child, Ellen Hogan Steed lived nearby at 15 Prospect Street. The couple was married in West Newbury in 1874. Thomas Steed worked as a comb finisher in a comb factory and later, as a laborer and farmer. The Steed family contained eight children; In the 1920s, Thomas and Ellen Steed's daughters, Alice Harnois and Catherine Steed, also lived with them.

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Essex South Registry of Deeds.

<sup>1</sup> Essex South Deed Book 986, p. 114.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

**16 STEED AVE****MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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