

WEST NEWBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 Historic Sites Survey Table of Contents  
Turkey Hill Road

Street Address	Page ##	Individual or Group Form	WN Historical Commission Comments
<a href="#">11-25, 51-135 Turkey Hill Rd</a>	1-40	Individual	The Common Pasture, which extends through West Newbury, Newbury, & Newburyport
<a href="#">35 Turkey Hill Rd</a>	41-43	Individual	
<a href="#">43 Turkey Hill Rd</a>	44-48	Individual	Ordway Family Burial Ground
<a href="#">43 Turkey Hill Rd</a>	49-52	Individual	
<a href="#">134-136 Turkey Hill Rd</a>	53-60	Individual	This is the site of the Quaker Cemetery. <a href="#">Its Historic Minute is available here.</a> Latest known death date with no stone is 1913.
<a href="#">135 Turkey Hill Rd</a>	61-67	Individual	This is the site of the Brown homestead where an Indian raid occurred in 1695. <a href="#">Its Historic Minute is available here.</a>

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	WNB.D
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Common Pasture
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>City/Town:</b>	West Newbury
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Agricultural Field; Other Governmental or Civic
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture; Conservation
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (<http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm>)

Data available via the MACRIS web interface, and associated scanned files are for information purposes only. THE ACT OF CHECKING THIS DATABASE AND ASSOCIATED SCANNED FILES DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTING A DEVELOPER AND/OR A PROPOSED PROJECT THAT WILL REQUIRE A PERMIT, LICENSE OR FUNDING FROM ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY YOU MUST SUBMIT A PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM TO MHC FOR MHC'S REVIEW AND COMMENT. You can obtain a copy of a PNF through the MHC web site ([www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)) under the subject heading "MHC Forms."

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

This file was accessed on: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 6:42: AM

**FORM A - AREA**

Assessor's Sheets USGS Quad Area Letter Form Numbers

NWB 85-91  
WNB R-19  
NEW R43-44Newbury-  
port~~NA~~

see data sheet

NEW.G  
NWB.BF WNB.D**Town** Newbury, Newburyport, West Newbury**Place** (neighborhood or village)**Name of Area** Common Pasture**Present Use** Agriculture, residential,  
open space**Construction Dates of Period**

1635 (land use pattern established)

**Overall Condition** Good**Major Intrusions and Alterations**Non-agricultural construction including  
Route 95**Acreage** Approximately 1,000 acres**Recorded by** Shary Page Berg  
Gretchen G. Schuler  
Mary Harbaugh**Organization**Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Essex National Heritage Commission  
Heritage Landscape Inventory Program**Date** December 2005MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Common Pasture, Newbury, view north from Scotland Rd.

**Sketch Map**

*Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Circle and number properties for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Attach a continuation sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate north.*

See Attached

**RECEIVED**

FEB 06 2006

**MASS. HIST. COMM**

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town	Property Address
NEWBURY	COMMON PASTURE
NEWBURYPORT	.
WEST NEWBURY	Area(s) Form No.

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

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION****Overview**

The Common Pasture, located in Newbury, Newburyport and West Newbury, is a remarkable remnant landscape with a history that dates back to 1635. It is one of the few surviving areas in Eastern Massachusetts to retain evidence of the common lands that were the foundation of 17<sup>th</sup> century Massachusetts land use patterns. The grasslands that characterize portions of the surviving area of the Common Pasture are rare as a historic landscape type in Massachusetts and are visible from multiple public ways. The Common Pasture is noteworthy for its size, unique landscape character and for the retention of large-scale agricultural use. Most of the area is currently not protected by any means, except as the state Wetlands Protection Act and Rivers Protection Act apply. A small part of the land is in Chapter 61A.

The portion of the Common Pasture addressed in this inventory form is a roughly 1,000-acre area that was part of a much larger common that existed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century; was divided into family farms in the 18<sup>th</sup> century; and has remained largely in agricultural use ever since. It contains most of the unique grasslands and remaining working farms in the area but is in a prime location that is also vulnerable to development. Key reasons for wishing to preserve the Common Pasture are its historical significance; its value as a working agricultural landscape; and its importance as open space and wildlife habitat.

This Area Form conveys the context, history and general description of the landscape in Essex County known as the Common Pasture, specifically a portion of the area that was known in the 17<sup>th</sup> century as the lower common. The focus of this form is on the heritage landscape that retains the agricultural character of the Common Pasture and subsequent family farms. The framework used to document and evaluate the Common Pasture is that of a rural historic district as described in National Register Bulletin 30. A rural historic district is a,

*"geographic area that historically has been used by people or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings, roads and waterways, and natural features."*

The significance of the Common Pasture derives from its early history as common land as well as its continued agricultural use as family-owned farms from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present. In the context of Massachusetts settlement, the Common Pasture is of statewide significance as a rare surviving area where 17<sup>th</sup> century land use patterns are still evident in the landscape. The Common Pasture is also one of the largest and most cohesive agricultural areas in Essex County, with regional significance that extends beyond the three communities in which it is located. Ironically while Route 95 is an intrusion into the Common Pasture, it also is a prime location for viewing the landscape, making it visible to thousands of travelers daily. Like most rural historic districts, the Common Pasture was not frozen in time but has evolved over nearly 400 years of continuous agricultural use while retaining its essential agricultural character.

**Boundaries**

The heritage landscape described in this Area Form includes land on either side of Route 95 in Newbury, Newburyport and West Newbury. East of Route 95 it is bounded on the south by Scotland Road in Newbury; on the east by the Little

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town	Property Address
<b>NEWBURY</b>	<b>COMMON PASTURE</b>
<b>NEWBURYPORT</b>	.
<b>WEST NEWBURY</b>	Area(s) Form No.

River; and on the north by Crow Lane in Newburyport. West of Route 95, it is generally bounded on the north by Hale Street, on the west by Turkey Hill Road in Newburyport and Turkey Hill Street in West Newbury, and on the south by residential development (see Maps 7 and 8). (Note: while Turkey Hill Road/Street is generally considered the western boundary of the area, the property at 100 Turkey Hill Road is also included even though it is on the west side of the road because of its strong associations with the Common Pasture.) This boundary includes land that retains the rural character and traditional uses of the historic grazing common, woodlots and farmland while excluding incompatible modern uses. In a few cases modern buildings are included where they are surrounded by rural land and are well screened from public roads.

The description that follows is broken down into three major areas: South Pasture, North Pasture and Turkey Hill. These are modern distinctions that are used here to clarify the descriptions.

**South Pasture**

The area at the heart of the historic Common Pasture, which is referred to here as South Pasture, is the largest and most cohesive section of the Common Pasture comprising about 640 acres. South Pasture lies in Newbury, Newburyport and West Newbury and is bounded by Route 95 on the west, Scotland Road on the south, the Little River on the east and Hale Street on the north. It is visually distinctive with broad expanses of grassland broken by scattered trees and hedgerows, extensive agricultural use and ownership in large parcels. South Pasture has regionally significant long distance views across the grassland from Route 95 and dramatic rural landscape views along the north side of Scotland Road and the south side of Hale Street. South Pasture has been designated a current priority focus area by conservation groups working to preserve the Common Pasture. The South Pasture area is zoned agricultural/residential and contains the largest concentration of farms remaining in Newburyport. Large parts of it are also designated wetlands. For descriptive purposes, the South Pasture area is presented below into two sections: the north side of Scotland Road and the south side of Hale Street.

***North Side of Scotland Road***

Scotland Road delineates the southern boundary of the South Pasture. Land along the north side of Scotland Road is considered part of the Common Pasture, while land along the south side of the road has been developed and no longer retains its rural, agricultural character. The area is described from west to east.

The landscape begins on the north side of Scotland Road in Newbury about one half mile east of the intersection with Route 95. The Herrick property (Parcels R44-3 and R44-5 in Newbury and 89-3 in Newburyport, Supplemental Photo 1) is an important 22-acre parcel that contains wetlands and wooded uplands and is a critical part of the Common Pasture viewshed, framing the landscape as one travels east along Scotland Road. Historic maps indicate that buildings never existed on this site. The Herrick land is largely wooded with mixed deciduous second growth forest. The terrain is irregular, with some evidence of recent earth moving and logging. There is a rough gravel road leading into the site over a small stream. The northern edge of the property is delineated by a piled fieldstone wall with a wire fence on top of it. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has recently reached an agreement to purchase this parcel, which is valued in part because it provides access to the extensive grassland area east of Route 95 (Photo 2 and Supplemental Photo 2).

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town	Property Address
<b>NEWBURY</b>	<b>COMMON PASTURE</b>
<b>NEWBURYPORT</b>	.
<b>WEST NEWBURY</b>	Area(s) Form No.

Traveling east, the next group of fields along the north side of Scotland Road is among the most scenic in the entire Common Pasture. There are three large fields (Parcels R44-6, R44-8 and R44-10, all in Newbury as well as several smaller parcels,<sup>1</sup> Supplemental Photo 3) ranging from 10 to 15 acres each that consist of relatively flat pasture framed by deciduous trees along the hedgerows. The Coffin farm was located here in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Capt. C. Coffin on the 1830 map and W. Coffin on the 1872 map (Maps 3 and 4), but no buildings after that). Part of this land is low and wet, with a small stream running through the area. There is a wooded upland north of the open fields, which are still used for grazing cattle as they have been for centuries. There are no buildings associated with these fields but there are several cart paths leading into the area from Scotland Road. East of these three fields is a 25-acre L-shaped field (parcel R44-11, also in Newbury) that is slightly drier but similar in character. Although the four parcels are in different ownerships they are unified by their common use as pasture land with individual fields visually defined by hedgerows and in some cases by piled fieldstone walls. The next property to the east is a deep 71-acre parcel (Parcel R-45-1, Photo 1) that is used for hay. The large size of the field is unusual for present day New England where most fields are much smaller.

Further east at 50 Scotland Road is the 50-acre Colby Farm (Parcel R45-5 in Newbury, Supplemental Photo 4) which grows a small number of crops, brokers hay and also raises pigs. The 19<sup>th</sup> century name associated with the Colby Farm is S. Thurlow, with the homestead set back from Scotland Road then as it is today (see Maps 3 and 4). There are no buildings on this property shown on the 1884, 1942 or 1952 USGS maps. The 1968 USGS map shows a drive leading into the site of the present house but no buildings. Today the farm fields are visible from the road as is the farmstand, a one-story wooden vernacular shed located adjacent to the road. The circa 1980s one-story Cape house and a cluster of farm buildings are located at the end of a long lane and are not visible from Scotland Road (information on buildings is limited as the owner declined access). The Colby Farm is a popular local institution that is highly valued by local residents. Through the high visibility of its fields and the presence of an active farmstand, it is an important link with the agricultural history of the community. Portions of the farm are in Chapter 61A (Agriculture) and conservation groups are working with the owners to establish an agricultural preservation restriction.

Along the eastern edge of the Colby Farm is a tributary of the Little River that forms the western boundary of a 17.9 acre pasture (Parcel R45-6 in Newbury) that extends north and to the Little River which generally forms the eastern edge of the South Pasture. Land east of the Little River is in mixed industrial/commercial uses and no longer retains the distinctive characteristics of the Common Pasture so it is excluded from this Area Form.

### ***South Side of Hale Street***

Hale Street (Photo 3) runs roughly parallel to Scotland Road about one mile to the north. It does not appear on the 1830 map but is shown on the 1872 map as Tappan Street. Today it is a narrow two lane bituminous paved roadway approximately 22' wide with center stripe and no shoulders. It widens slightly as it crosses over Route 95, where it also has curbs and a sidewalk on the north side. Vegetation comes right up to the edge of the road giving it a narrow rural character.

The land along the south side of Hale Street from Route 95 east to the Little River comprises the northern portion of the South Pasture. It is described from west to east. Parcels along Hale Street are all in Newburyport although some extend south to connect with the parcels along Scotland Road in Newbury that are described above.

<sup>1</sup> The parcels in the Common Pasture are complex. Only large parcels are listed in the text. See data sheet for complete list of parcels.



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town	Property Address
<b>NEWBURY</b>	<b>COMMON PASTURE</b>
<b>NEWBURYPORT</b>	.
<b>WEST NEWBURY</b>	Area(s) Form No.

Running along the eastern edge of Route 95 and south of Hale Street is a large expanse of open fields (Parcels 87, 88 and 89 in Newburyport, portions of which have been divided into smaller lots, Supplemental Photo 5). This important area, which is characterized by open grassland with scattered clumps of trees, is highly visible from the northbound travel lane of Route 95 but has only limited frontage on Hale Street, where it is partly screened by roadside vegetation. From the highway this area initially appears as a vast piece of open land, but closer inspection reveals hedgerows and stone walls that define the historic parcel boundaries. This part of the Common Pasture is still used for grazing cattle, as it has been for nearly 400 years. Much of the area is low and wet, which contributes to its landscape character and has also prevented development to date. Historic maps do not show that any buildings were ever built here and none exist now. Dirt tracks provide some access through the area. The land retains the historic grassland character of the Common Pasture and is one of the most visible and dramatic portions of the South Pasture. It is also of particular interest from a wildlife habitat perspective.

East of the pasture land along Route 95 is the Sweeney/Myette Farm (99 Hale Street, Parcels 84, 85 and 86 in Newburyport, Supplemental Photo 6) with frontage that extends along most of Hale Street between Route 95 and the Little River, totaling about 172 acres. The 1830 map does not show any farmsteads in this area, while the 1872 map shows D. Purrington located somewhat south of Hale Street and J. Smith located slightly further east and much closer to the road (neither is on the site of any existing buildings). No buildings are shown in this area in the 1884 USGS map. The 1942 USGS map shows a building slightly west of the present Myette house and east of where the D. Purrington house was located in 1872. The land, which lies roughly north of the Colby Farm, is actively hayed and offers expansive views of the open fields from Hale Street. There is a wetland area (part of the Little River drainage) at the northwest corner of the property and the Little River runs along the eastern edge of the property. Most of the farm is fairly flat with a low rise near the center where the present house and farm buildings are located.

The current house and farm buildings associated with the Sweeney/Myette Farm are at the end of a long lane and are not visible from Hale Street. Assessors data indicates that there is a Colonial style house (probably mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century) as well as a pole barn, a one-story barn, three frame sheds and two garages (information on the buildings is limited because the owner declined to provide access). Also associated with the Sweeney farm is a late 20<sup>th</sup> century Cape style house with attached barn at 101 Hale Street (parcel 86-3 in Newburyport) which is located close to Hale street.

**North Pasture**

The area known today as North Pasture is another large and relatively cohesive section of the Common Pasture comprising about 240 acres. North Pasture lies entirely in Newburyport and is bounded by Route 95 on the west, Hale Street on the south, the Little River on the east and Crow Lane on the north. Like the South Pasture it has areas of wetland and grassland broken by scattered trees and hedgerows, changing to shrub lands and woods near Crow Lane. Portions of North Pasture have been designated a focus area by conservation groups working to preserve the Common Pasture.

North Pasture is visible from Route 95 and from Hale Street but is less dramatic than South Pasture because it is more heavily forested with limited areas of grassland and shorter views. Immediately east of Route 95 on the north side of Hale Street is the 1954 road alignment (now a walking trail) that runs parallel to the current Route 95. East of that is the headquarters of the Cabot Corporation, a late 20<sup>th</sup> century office complex (Parcel 95-2-A, Supplemental Photo 8) that is well-screened from Hale Street by vegetation except at the entrance road. East of that is a 102-acre parcel of mixed

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town	Property Address
NEWBURY	COMMON PASTURE
NEWBURYPORT	.
WEST NEWBURY	Area(s) Form No.

woodland and open grassland, part of the former Cooper Farm (Parcel 95-2, Supplemental Photo 7). The Trust for Public Land has recently reached an agreement to purchase this parcel. The North Pasture extends only as far east as the Little River. East of that, the land has largely been subdivided for residential use. Some of the land north of Crow Lane is wooded but the presence of the Newburyport landfill and other industrial uses dominate, therefore land north of Crow Lane is not included in this heritage landscape.

**Turkey Hill Area**

The Turkey Hill area includes land west of Route 95 that was historically part of the lower common in Newburyport and West Newbury. It is bordered by Hale Street on the north, generally by Turkey Hill Road in Newburyport and Turkey Hill Street in West Newbury on the west, and private property to the south. This area includes a range of landscape types that reflect various aspects of the Common Pasture, including farmland, forest and open grassland. It is also more topographically varied than the area to the east.

While Turkey Hill Road/Street, a narrow winding rural roadway that follows its historic alignment, generally forms the western boundary of the district, the Col. Moses Little House at 100 Turkey Hill Road (Parcel 91-5, Supplemental Photo 9) is also included in this Area Form because of its strong historic associations with the Common Pasture. This Georgian style dwelling with attached barn was constructed in ca. 1750. Also west of Turkey Hill Road/Street (but not included in this area form) is the Artichoke Reservoir (built in the 1930s) and properties associated with 19<sup>th</sup> century Quakers. The reservoir and properties on the west side of the road associated with the Quakers are excluded because they are not directly related to the Common Pasture. They could be the subject of further study if a National Register nomination is pursued in the future. Land along the southern part of Turkey Hill Street is also excluded because most of it has been developed and no longer retains the distinctive features of the Common Pasture.

In Newburyport's Turkey Hill area, there are several important properties that are part of the Common Pasture. On the south side of Hale Street, which has the character of a narrow rural road, is the 47-acre Newburyport City Forest (Parcel 87-3 in Newburyport), which reflects the use of the Common Pasture for woodlots as well as pasture. The topography is varied and irregular and the area has primarily deciduous second growth forest with areas of evergreens at the southern edge. The forest has trails through it and is a popular walking and nature study area. Immediately south of the City Forest is a 37-acre slice (Parcel 91-2 in Newburyport) of upland farmland owned by the Myette family (owners of the Sweeney-Myette Farm on Hale Street) that is currently used for hay.

The former Hale Farm at 101 Turkey Hill Road (Parcel 91-3 in Newburyport, Photo 4) now owned by the Maskiewicz family, is a long narrow piece of land that extends southeast to Route 95. At its eastern end the farm encompasses the summit of Turkey Hill. From the road, dry laid stone walls line the driveway that leads up the hill to a circa 1860 three-bay, two and one-half story brick house. This imposing structure, which faces south so that its gable end is viewed from the road, has four tall chimneys rising from the slate roof, rests on a granite block foundation and has simple 6/6 sash set in wood frames with granite sills and lintels. The rear ell also is of brick construction and appears to be original to the house. To the east of the house rising up the hill to the fields are multiple one-story barns and sheds, most dating from the 1950s. The farm remains in limited agricultural use, primarily for haying, with other fields kept open for the views south and west towards the Upper Artichoke Reservoir.



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town	Property Address
<b>NEWBURY</b>	<b>COMMON PASTURE</b>
<b>NEWBURYPORT</b>	.
<b>WEST NEWBURY</b>	Area(s) Form No.

South of the Hale Farm, Turkey Hill Road becomes Turkey Hill Street as it enters West Newbury. On the east side of the road, is a large field (Parcel R-19-3 in West Newbury, Supplemental Photo 10) next to a small modern subdivision on part of Arrowhead Way which once was part of the Common Pasture. South of Rogers Street, open landscapes on the east side of Turkey Hill Street include grasslands and grazing fields with wetlands that extend east to Route 95, part of the Common Pasture historically known as the Birchen Meadow. The 55-acre Ordway Reservation on Turkey Hill Street (Parcel R-19-10 in West Newbury) is a 2003 acquisition of the Essex County Greenbelt Association. It extends along the west side of Route 95 from Turkey Hill Street north of the intersection with Scotland Road to connect with pastureland to the west. This property, located along the edge of the historic Common Pasture, supports a diversity of habitat, including open fields, upland forest and extensive freshwater marshlands. The southern boundary of the Common Pasture runs roughly from the bend in Turkey Hill Street southeast to Route 95 as the land further south along Turkey Hill Street has been developed for residential use.

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE****Common Pasture in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century**

In 1635 English immigrants established the town of Newbury on the Parker River, one of the earliest communities in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The original land grant extended all the way west to Bradford (now part of Haverhill), encompassing present-day Newbury, Newburyport and West Newbury as well as portions of other communities. The settlers were drawn to the area by the abundance of salt marsh, freshwater meadows, upland grassland and forests, which provided plentiful food, fuel and grazing land. The presence of open land was particularly fortuitous as the English settlers who came to New England were unaccustomed to clearing large forests and ill equipped to do so. The land that became Newbury was also highly desirable because the Parker and Merrimack Rivers provided safe harbors and easy water access to inland areas.

When the first settlement (now Newbury Old Town) was established near the mouth of the Parker River, each family was assigned a small lot where they built a house and a barn and grew crops for personal use. The village also included the meetinghouse and burial ground as well as a small common (which was distinct from the larger common lands and is now known as the Lower Green) and was used as a community gathering place and training ground for the militia.

The village occupied only a fraction of the large area granted to the Newbury proprietors. Most of the land remained in common ownership (see Map 1, 1640 map). The concept had its origins in English law which recognized various rights for use of common land including the right to graze livestock; the right to cut wood for personal use; the right to take soil, stone or gravel for personal use; and the right to fish. The primary purposes of the Newbury common lands were for grazing, fishing and lumbering on the rich meadows, marshes and forests of the Merrimack and Parker River estuary and inland. These agricultural and maritime land use practices have endured for centuries in Essex County and remain an important part of current land use patterns and the local economy.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century land owners, who were known as freeholders, were entitled by grant, purchase or inheritance to own shares in the common and undivided lands of Newbury. Freehold rights were frequently sold and purchased. In 1638 the town of Newbury appointed a herdsman for eight months of the year with responsibility for controlling the herd which grazed during the day on the common lands and were brought to the village common at night. He had specific

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town	Property Address
NEWBURY	COMMON PASTURE
NEWBURYPORT	.
WEST NEWBURY	Area(s) Form No.

responsibility for keeping the herd on Sundays and making sure that livestock were kept out of the village. Two hay wardens were appointed the same year with special responsibility for impounding pigs, which were considered a particular nuisance. The common lands remained open and unfenced while each family was responsible for fencing their own house lot to keep livestock out.

In 1641 the freeholders voted to divide the common lands closest to the village of Newbury into three separate pasture areas. In compliance with this vote, the cow common, the ox common and the heifer common were laid out and 563 "rights" in each pasture were divided among the freeholders in proportion to the number of shares owned by each. During the fall and winter, horses and cattle were allowed to run at large on Plum Island and in the upper and lower commons. In the summer they were more strictly regulated.

Keeping the free roaming livestock out of the town remained a major concern. In 1643 one of the town's priorities was to erect fences for the protection of gardens and fields from the intrusion of cattle. The town ordered that owners be responsible for their own livestock and liable for any damage that they did. Pigs were strictly regulated because they could do considerable damage to gardens and field crops. They were required to be yoked so they could not get through narrow gaps in fences and to have a ring in their snout so they could not damage crops by rooting. In 1666, the selectmen imposed strict penalties if the regulations were not obeyed.

Prior to 1665 there were few sheep in Newbury but subsequently large flocks were kept near the center of town. By 1670 the sheep were damaging the lower common so they were required to be under the care of a herdsman. In 1677 the two large flocks were relegated to special areas where they could graze and were required to be locked up at night so that they would do no damage. Sheep from the neighboring towns were expressly prohibited from the Newbury common lands. In 1683, 704 sheep owned by 16 persons were pastured in the third range extending from Henry Jaques pasture near Morse's corner to James Smith's farm near the brickyards to Trotter's Bridge over a branch of the Little River in Floyd's Lane. (This is near the present industrial site that lies immediately east of the South Pasture.)

By the latter part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century the common lands, which totaled roughly 8,000 acres, were divided into two distinct areas. The lower common, also known as the home common, in the eastern part of town extended from the Artichoke River east to Plum Island. It included pastures set aside for the use of milk cows, oxen, heifers and sheep. The upper common (sometimes referred to as the Artichoke common or the dry herd common) extended west from the Artichoke River to the Bradford line and included nearly all the territory within the present limits of West Newbury. By the 1660s, horses and dry cattle (all cattle except milk cows, working oxen and yearlings) were prohibited from the lower common during the summer season. Livestock in the village area were to be fettered and confined in private enclosures, otherwise they were to be placed in the charge of the herdsman and driven to the upper common. Each freeholder was charged a fee of sixpence for pasturage, with an additional fee if the livestock were driven over a mile.

In 1669 when the duties and responsibilities of the selectmen were defined for the first time several responsibilities were established relative to the common: to "order the business for herds" and to prohibit selling of the town's timber. In 1677 a new rule was added that prohibited inhabitants from allowing any sheep, cattle or horses owned by residents of other towns from using Newbury's common land or taking wood from it.

In 1686 the freeholders and inhabitants of Newbury voted that the upper common, consisting of roughly 6,000 acres, be divided, with each freeholder receiving a share in proportion to the size of his land holdings. The area, which extended

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town	Property Address
<b>NEWBURY</b>	<b>COMMON PASTURE</b>
<b>NEWBURYPORT</b>	.
<b>WEST NEWBURY</b>	Area(s) Form No.

from the Artichoke River west to Bradford, was laid out into 112 lots that were distributed by lottery among the freeholders. A road extending from the Artichoke River through present day West Newbury to Bradford was also laid out at this time. Also in 1686, a committee appointed to address issues related to the common recommended that the lower common east of the Artichoke River, which still belonged in common ownership to the freeholders of Newbury, be divided into five general pastures and the rest of the lower common into woodlots, which were to remain undivided for "feeding, burning and carting." (Currier 213)

**Common Pasture in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century**

By the early 1700s Newbury was divided into five parishes: Second and Fourth Parishes (now West Newbury), Third and Fifth Parishes (now Newburyport) and Byfield. Agriculture was the mainstay of the economy with thousands of acres used for grazing livestock. There were also small-scale industries such as saw, grist and fulling mills, tanneries and shoe-making, as well as various maritime related activities, but agriculture remained critical in supporting not only the food needs of the residents, but also the development of other industries.

In January 1701 the freeholders voted to divide the majority of the lower common, comprising 1,800 acres, while reserving pasturage for the town's ministers and free school as well as for the benefit of the town's poor. The wood remaining on the common land was measured and divided among the freeholders and inhabitants in 1701 and again in 1708. In July 1708 a committee appointed for the purpose reported in favor of dividing the woodlots into two general pastures to be held by persons to whom they were assigned for their sole use and benefit. This is the first indication of private use of the lower common. In 1714-15, the town granted several residents permission to build a pound by the country road (High Street) near John Hale's house to impound cattle trespassing on the general pasture. In 1727 the selectmen became responsible for keeping the town pound where stray livestock were corralled until they were claimed by their owners. (Currier 113)

In 1764 Newburyport broke off from Newbury to become a separate community. In the petition requesting the separation considerable emphasis was placed on the fact that residents of the port were involved with shipbuilding, maritime trade and commerce while the rest of the community was primarily agricultural. The initial land division allocated a relatively small area along the Merrimack River to the new community, which was later expanded to include additional land extending west to the Artichoke River and south along the Little River.

**Common Pasture in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

The area west of the Artichoke River that was initially known as the upper common separated from Newbury in 1818 and became West Newbury. It was incorporated as "Parsons" in 1819 and called West Newbury in 1820. It remained largely agricultural well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century but only a small portion of the area still retains the distinctive character of the Common Pasture.

The 1830 map of Newbury (Map 3) reveals a substantial community along the Merrimack in Newburyport with tightly drawn municipal boundaries extending only between North and South Streets with a portion of Newburyport extending south into the Common Pasture near where Newbury, Newburyport and West Newbury presently meet. The area along the Little River was still labeled "Common Pasture" even though it was no longer literally common land. Several farms were located along Scotland Road, including those of Captain R. Coffin and S. Thurlow. The Thurlow farm appears to be

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town	Property Address
<b>NEWBURY</b>	<b>COMMON PASTURE</b>
<b>NEWBURYPORT</b>	.
<b>WEST NEWBURY</b>	Area(s) Form No.

roughly where the Colby farm is presently. Roads also appeared on the 1830 map in the location of Turkey Hill Road and Crow Lane. Otherwise the area encompassed by this Area Form (north of Scotland Road, west of the Little River, south of Cross Street and east of Turkey Hill Road) was largely undeveloped, with portions of it shown as wetlands.

In 1872 (see Map 4) the Coffin (by this time William Coffin) and Thurlow farms still existed along Scotland Road (no buildings remain from either of these farms). Samuel Thurlow had 130 acres where he raised milking cows that produced nearly 3,000 gallons of milk in 1870. His was one of the larger farms with substantial dairy production according to the 1870 Agricultural Census. Coffin's farm was nearly as large as Thurlow's at 120 acres. The higher elevations in this area, including some of the Herrick property and some land nearby presently owned by Myette, were called "Coffin's Ledges" and still are, by a few oldtimers. By 1872 most of the Newbury, Newburyport, West Newbury area had become more densely settled but the area north of Scotland Road remained more rural than other portions of the three communities. There were two homesteads located south of Hale Street, D. Purington and J. Smith (neither of which exists today).

The Turkey Hill area was first settled in the mid 1700s when Col. Moses Little built his farmhouse (100 Turkey Hill Road, Newburyport, Supplemental Photo 9) in ca. 1748. He was reported to have fought in the Revolutionary War. This same farm remained in the Little family and by the late 1800s, John Gardner Little had 115 acres along Turkey Hill Road on which he grazed his dairy herd which produced one of the largest quantities of milk, locally – 3,650 gallons in 1870 according to the Agricultural Census of that year. The Little farmstead, although located on the west side of Turkey Hill Road, is included within the geographic boundaries of this Area Form because of its close associations to the Common Pasture. By 1830 A. Atkinson had a house in the approximate location of the Hale property (now owned by the Maskiewicz family). Just before the Civil War the imposing brick J.H. Hale house (Photo 4) was built overlooking the Artichoke River. Additional research is necessary to determine the type of farming done by the Hales, the Littles and subsequent owners of the Turkey Hill Road properties.

At least two farmsteads on the east side of Turkey Hill Street in Newbury belonged to Browns in the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, accounting for over 100 acres. In the 1870s both Robert L and Stephen Brown had substantial farms extending east from Turkey Hill Street in West Newbury. Between the two there were a number of cows on 105 acres that produced 500 pounds of butter and over 400 gallons of milk in 1870. Members of the Ordway and Rogers families also had substantial tracts of land on which cattle were raised in this southeasterly corner of West Newbury, which is the same as the southwest corner of the Common Pasture area.

Of the homesteads shown on the 1884 map of Newburyport (Map 5), only the Little and Hale houses remain. The R. Brown house on Turkey Hill Street in Newbury also existed by this time and is still extant.

**Common Pasture in 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

From the early 19<sup>th</sup> century through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century land use changed relatively little in the area that originally comprised the lower common. What had previously been common land became family farms where mixed husbandry and market farming predominated, initially for local use and later to feed urban markets in Essex County and as far away as Boston. Over the years the Common Pasture became a regional attraction, used for duck hunting, bird watching and as the subject of paintings.

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town	Property Address
NEWBURY	COMMON PASTURE
NEWBURYPORT	.
WEST NEWBURY	Area(s) Form No.

Early 20<sup>th</sup> century changes included the acquisition of land for a city forest along Hale Street north of Turkey Hill Road in 1941. The most dramatic change of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the construction of Route 95 through the center of the Common Pasture in 1954 (see Map 6, 1952 USGS map). At that time a tunnel was built under the highway to facilitate travel of cattle from the present Maskiewicz farm on Turkey Hill Road to pastures east of the new highway. The road was relocated slightly to the west in the 1970s and widened. Ironically while Route 95 is an intrusion into the Common Pasture, it also is a prime location for viewing the landscape, making it accessible to thousands of travelers daily. The farm most impacted by construction of the road is the Maskiewicz farm which was separated from much of its historic pasture land by the highway.

In the Turkey Hill area of West Newbury some of the former Brown and Ordway land was recently was developed into modern subdivisions, accounting for the loss of approximately 35 acres of farmland. There remain approximately 250 acres of pasture and woodland in the Turkey Hill area bounded generally by Turkey Hill Road/Street on the west and Route 95 on the east.

**Current Status**

The Common Pasture has long been recognized for its environmental and open space values. Recently it has garnered much attention and interest in its protection due to the uniqueness and significance of the landscape as well as the incremental losses at its edges and the intense development pressures that it faces.

The Common Pasture was identified as an important regional landscape in the Department of Environmental Management's (DEM – now DCR) 1982 *Massachusetts Landscape Inventory*. It was also identified by Newbury and Newburyport in 2004 as a Priority Landscape in the Essex County Heritage Landscape Inventory program (West Newbury did not participate in the program) and was selected by the Department of Conservation and Recreation as one of ten Essex County landscapes to receive further documentation on an MHC inventory form.

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program has designated the Common Pasture as a Priority Habitat. Rare species such as the upland sandpiper, American bittern, northern harrier, Long's bulrush, spotted turtle, barn owl and blue-spotted salamander have been documented in the area. The Common Pasture also supports a wide variety of both wetland and upland plants and animals. For many years the Common Pasture has been an important eastern Massachusetts location for grassland birds and other wildlife requiring moist open space.

In 2004 the Common Pasture was listed as one of the "Ten Most Endangered Historic Resources of Massachusetts" by Preservation Mass, a statewide preservation advocacy group. The citation said in part,

*"As is the case for many existing open spaces, development is a constant threat. With its extremely large expanse, the pasture is especially challenged since it is controlled by three different sets of municipal zoning regulations representing each community through which it spreads. Residents have expressed concern for the pasture's future at town meetings and encouraged town officials to work with appropriate agencies to secure formal protections for the entire Common Pasture area. The imminent threat is evidenced in that permitting processes are already underway for proposed development on a wooded section near the south end of the pasture. The land represents a feeling of "home" to the community and preserves our working heritage."*

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town	Property Address
<b>NEWBURY</b>	<b>COMMON PASTURE</b>
<b>NEWBURYPORT</b>	
<b>WEST NEWBURY</b>	Area(s) Form No.

The Common Pasture was also a central focus of the 2004 Newburyport Strategic Land Use Plan which recommended protecting the South Pasture as well as a portion of the North Pasture. The plan combines protection of an extensive open space corridor in the upper watershed of the Little River with infill development in the city's existing industrial park, train station, and Route 1 traffic circle which lie east of the area covered in this area form. Implementation will require the adoption of innovative zoning mechanisms as well as open space acquisition by public and private partners. Among the tools recommended for doing so is a transfer-of-development-rights bank with a receiving area that is recommended to become a transit-oriented-development district.

Most recently the City of Newburyport, the Town of Newbury, the Trust for Public Land, Essex County Greenbelt Association and the Parker River Clean Water Association have been working together to protect key portions of the Common Pasture. The project involves multiple strategies including land acquisition and agricultural preservation restrictions. Agreements are currently in place to acquire the Herrick property, a critical 22-acre parcel along Scotland Road in the South Pasture as well as 102 acres of the former Cooper Farm in the North Pasture, and to protect 50 acres of working farmland through an agricultural preservation restriction. Future efforts will involve negotiating with additional landowners and acquiring land for conservation and working farmland purposes.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES*****Books***

Cronon, William. *Changes in the Land, Indians, Colonists and the Ecology of New England*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1983.

Currier, John J. *History of Newbury, Massachusetts 1635 – 1902*. Originally published Newbury, MA: Damrell and Upham, 1912. Reprinted Newbury 350<sup>th</sup> Committee, circa 1985.

Fleming, Ronald Lee and Lauri A. Halderman. *On Common Ground, Caring for Shared Land from Town Common to Urban Park*. Harvard, MA: Harvard Common Press, 1982.

Russell, Howard. *A Long Deep Furrow, Three Centuries of Farming in New England*. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1976.

Stilgoe, John R. *Common Landscape of America, 1580 to 1845*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1982.

***Maps***

1830 *Map of the Original Town of Newbury* drawn by Philan. Anderson.

1850 *Map of Newburyport* by Philander Anderson.

1872 *Atlas Essex County*, Beers.



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town	Property Address
<b>NEWBURY</b>	<b>COMMON PASTURE</b>
<b>NEWBURYPORT</b>	.
<b>WEST NEWBURY</b>	Area(s)      Form No.

1884    *Atlas Essex County, The Old Maps of Northeastern Essex County, Mass in 1884.*

1952    USGS map.

2005    Trust for Public Lands, various GIS maps and aerial photographs.

***Other***

*Federal Agricultural Census: 1850, 1870, 1880 – Essex County: Newbury, Newburyport, West Newbury.*

“Preservation Mass 2004 Ten Most Endangered Historic Resources Nomination Form.” Prepared by Mary Harbaugh, Summer 2004.

**Note Regarding Photographs**

This Area Form include four photographs printed on archival paper (Photos 1-4) as well as 10 photographs (Supplemental Photos 1-10) that have been printed on a color laser printer. This was done by special arrangement with the Massachusetts Historical Commission to experiment with use of new photo technology for inventory forms.

**Common Pasture Data Sheet**  
 Newbury, Newburyport and West Newbury  
 12/22/05

Town	Assess #	MHC #	ST. #	Street Name	Historic Name	Present Name	Acreage
NEW	44-3	927		Scotland Rd.	links with Herrick land in Nbpt	William Herrick	5
NEW	44-5	928		Scotland Rd.	links with Herrick land in Nbpt	William Herrick	2.5
NEW	44-6	929		Scotland Rd.		Alexander J. Maskiewicz	10
NEW	44-7	930		Scotland Rd.	no frontage	Jere Myette	4
NEW	44-8	311		Scotland Rd.	W. Coffin (1872)	Alexander J. Maskiewicz	10
NEW	44-9	931		Scotland Rd.	no frontage	Arturo Gutierrez	8
NEW	44-10	932		Scotland Rd.		Arturo Gutierrez	15
NEW	44-11	933		Scotland Rd.		Jere Myette	25
NEW	45-1	934		Scotland Rd.		Stanley J Pikul R T	71
NEW	45-2	935		Scotland Rd.	no frontage	Arturo Gutierrez	23.2
NEW	45-3	936		Scotland Rd.	no frontage	William E. Sweeney	10.5
NEW	45-4	937		Scotland Rd.	no frontage	Jere Myette, Trustee	10
NEW	45-5	312	50	Scotland Rd.	S. Thurlow (1872), now late 20th c. Cape & farm buildings	William A. Colby	49.998
NEW	45-6	938		Scotland Rd.		Hiller Realty Trust	17.9
NEW	45-7	939		Scotland Rd.			11
NWBPT	85-1/1-A	3012	99	Hale St.	Sweeney/Myette Farm	Irene Myette	84
NWBPT	86-1	3013	99R	Hale St.	Sweeney/Myette Farm	Jere Myette	58.9
NWPT	86-2	3014	101	Hale St.	1949 House	Pauline Henderson	0.165
NWBPT	86-3	3015		Hale St.	Sweeney/Myette Farm	William & Irene Myette	6.7
NWBPT	87-1		966	Hale St.	wetland	Arturo Gutierrez	24.18
NWBPT	87-3		967	Hale St.	City Forest	City of Newburyport	47
NWBPT	88-1		968	Hale St.	wetland, no frontage	Arturo Gutierrez	44.08
NWBPT	88-2		969	Hale St.	wetland, no frontage	Arturo Gutierrez	57.5
NWPT	88-3		970	Hale St.	no frontage	Geoff Walker	4
NWBPT	89-2		971	Scotland Rd.	links with Herrick land	Maskiewicz	5
NWBPT	89-3		972	Scotland Rd.	links with Herrick land	William Herrick	8

**Common Pasture Data Sheet**  
 Newbury, Newburyport and West Newbury  
 12/22/05

NWBPT	89-4	973		Turkey Hill Rd.	no frontage	Maskiewicz	15.5
NWBPT	89-5	974		Turkey Hill Rd.	no frontage	Jere Myette	12.2
NWBPT	89-7	975		Turkey Hill Rd.	no frontage	Maskiewicz	45.6
WNB / NWBPT	90-1			Arrowhead Way	Developed?	Martin Phillips	12.6
NWBPT	90-2	977		Turkey Hill Rd.		Maskiewicz	2.8
NWBPT	91-2	978		Turkey Hill Rd.		William & Irene Myette	37.34
NWBPT	91-3	3016	101	Turkey Hill Rd.	J. Hale (in 1870s) ca. 1859 House and 1950s barns	Maskiewicz	3
NWBPT	91-3-A	979		Turkey Hill Rd.		Maskiewicz	39
NWBPT	91-5	538	100	Turkey Hill Rd.	ca. 1750 Col. Moses Little House	Kenneth Koocher	1.46
NWBPT	95.2	3017		Hale St.	Former Cooper Farm	???	102
NWBPT	95.2A	3018		Hale St.	Cabot Corp Headquarters	Cabot Ltd. Partnership	24.6
WNB	R-19-03	914		Turkey Hill St.	field		5.5
WNB	R-19-05	188	135	Turkey Hill St.	R. L. Brown House (in 1872)		4.7
WNB	R-19-21	915		Turkey Hill St.			30.99
WNB	R-19-06	912		Turkey Hill St.			35
WNB	R-19-08	917		Turkey Hill St.			30.83
WNB	R-19-10	918		Turkey Hill St.	Ordway Reservation	Essex County Greenbelt	55.15

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town  
**NEWBURY**  
**NEWBURYPORT**  
**WEST NEWBURY**

Property Address  
**COMMON PASTURE**  
Area(s) Form No.



1. Common Pasture, Newbury. View north from Scotland Rd



2. Common Pasture, Newburyport



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town  
**NEWBURY**  
**NEWBURYPORT**  
**WEST NEWBURY**

Property Address  
**COMMON PASTURE**  
Area(s) Form No.



3. Common Pasture, Newburyport. View east along Hale St.



4. Common Pasture, Newburyport. 101 Turkey Hill Rd. (NWB.3016)



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town  
**NEWBURY**  
**NEWBURYPORT**  
**WEST NEWBURY**

Property Address  
**COMMON PASTURE**  
Area(s) Form No.

**South Pasture**

Supplemental Photo 1 – Cart path on Herrick Property, Scotland Road, Newbury (October 2005)



Supplemental Photo 2 - View north from Herrick property, Newburyport (October 2005)



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town  
**NEWBURY**  
**NEWBURYPORT**  
**WEST NEWBURY**

Property Address  
**COMMON PASTURE**

Area(s) Form No.

**South Pasture**

Supplemental Photo 3 - Grazing land on north side of Scotland Road, Newbury (June 2004)



Supplemental Photo 4 - Colby Farmstand, view west along Scotland Road, Newbury (October 2005)

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town  
**NEWBURY**  
**NEWBURYPORT**  
**WEST NEWBURY**

Property Address  
**COMMON PASTURE**  
Area(s) Form No.

**South Pasture**

Supplemental Photo 5 - South Pasture, view northeast from Route 95 with cows, Newburyport (October 2005)



Supplemental Photo 6 - Sweeney Farm hayfield from Hale Street, Newburyport (October 2005)



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town  
**NEWBURY**  
**NEWBURYPORT**  
**WEST NEWBURY**

Property Address  
**COMMON PASTURE**  
Area(s) Form No.

**North Pasture from Hale Street**



Supplemental Photo 7 - Field in North Pasture looking north from Hale Street (October 2005)



Supplemental Photo 8 - View of Cabot Corporation from Hale Street (October 2005)

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

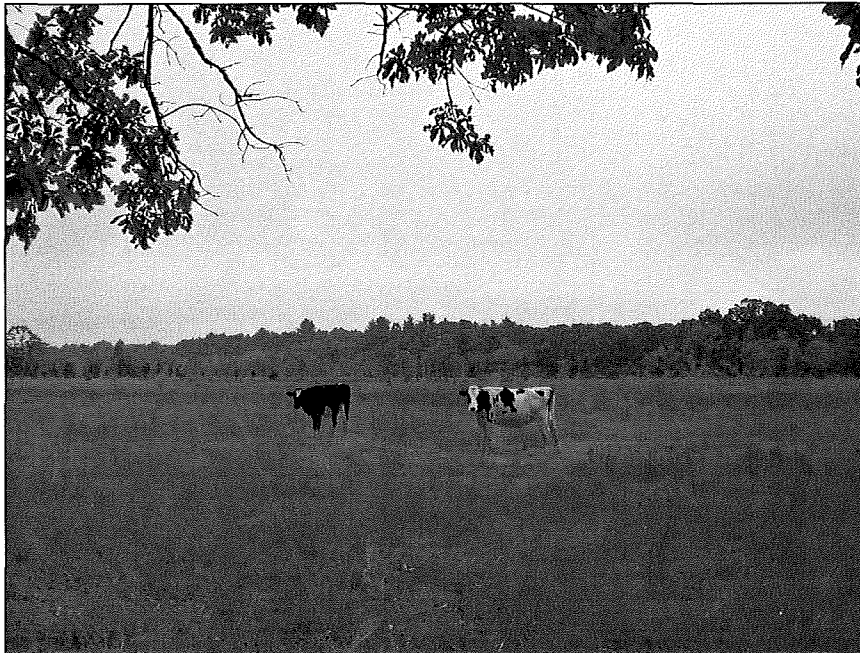
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town  
**NEWBURY**  
**NEWBURYPORT**  
**WEST NEWBURY**

Property Address  
**COMMON PASTURE**  
Area(s) Form No.

**Turkey Hill Area**

Supplemental Photo 9 – 100 Turkey Hill Road, Newburyport (October 2005)



Supplemental Photo 10 - Cows in pasture, east side of Turkey Hill Street, West Newbury (October 2005)

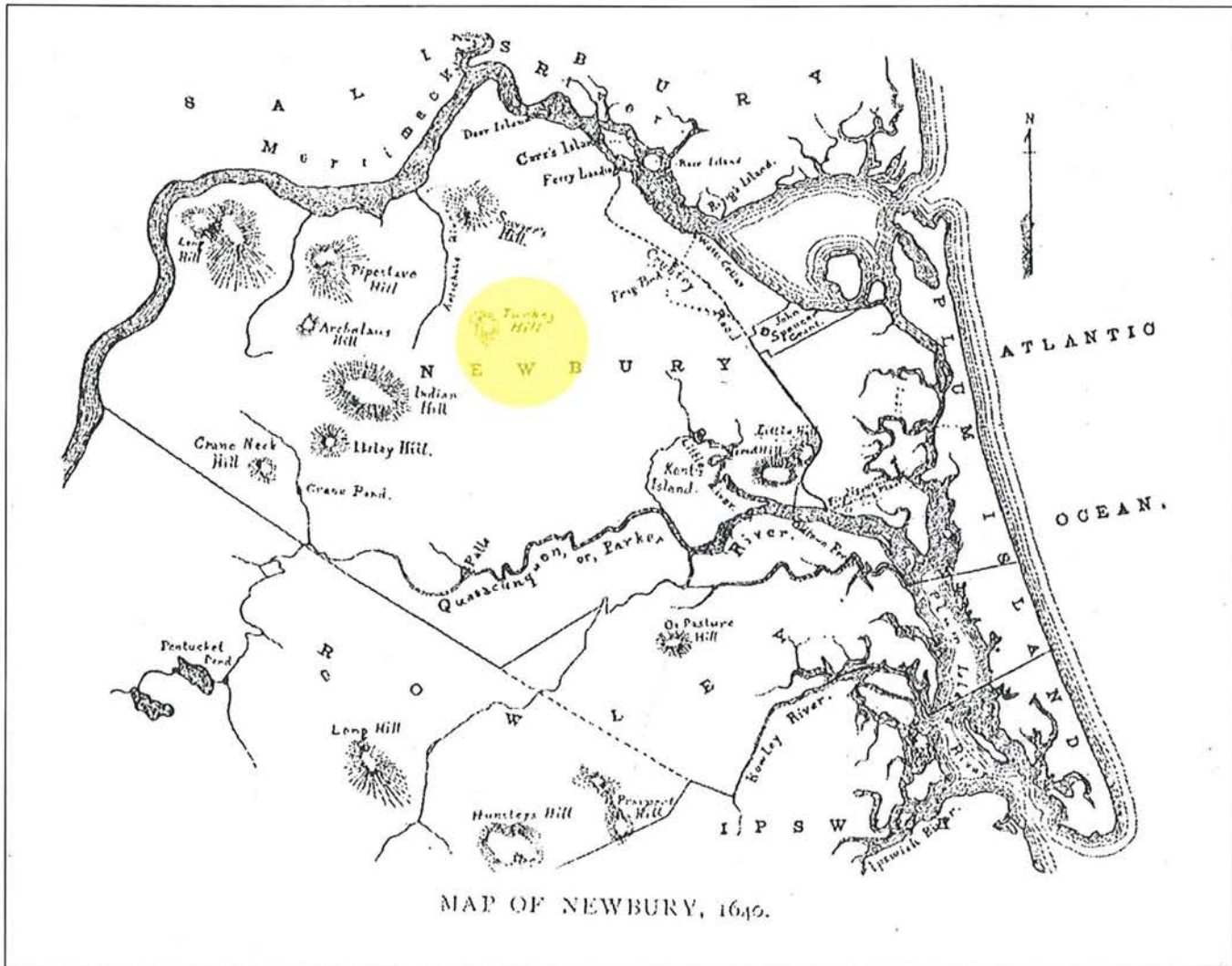


## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town  
 NEWBURY  
 NEWBURYPORT  
 WEST NEWBURY

Property Address  
 COMMON PASTURE  
 Area(s) Form No.



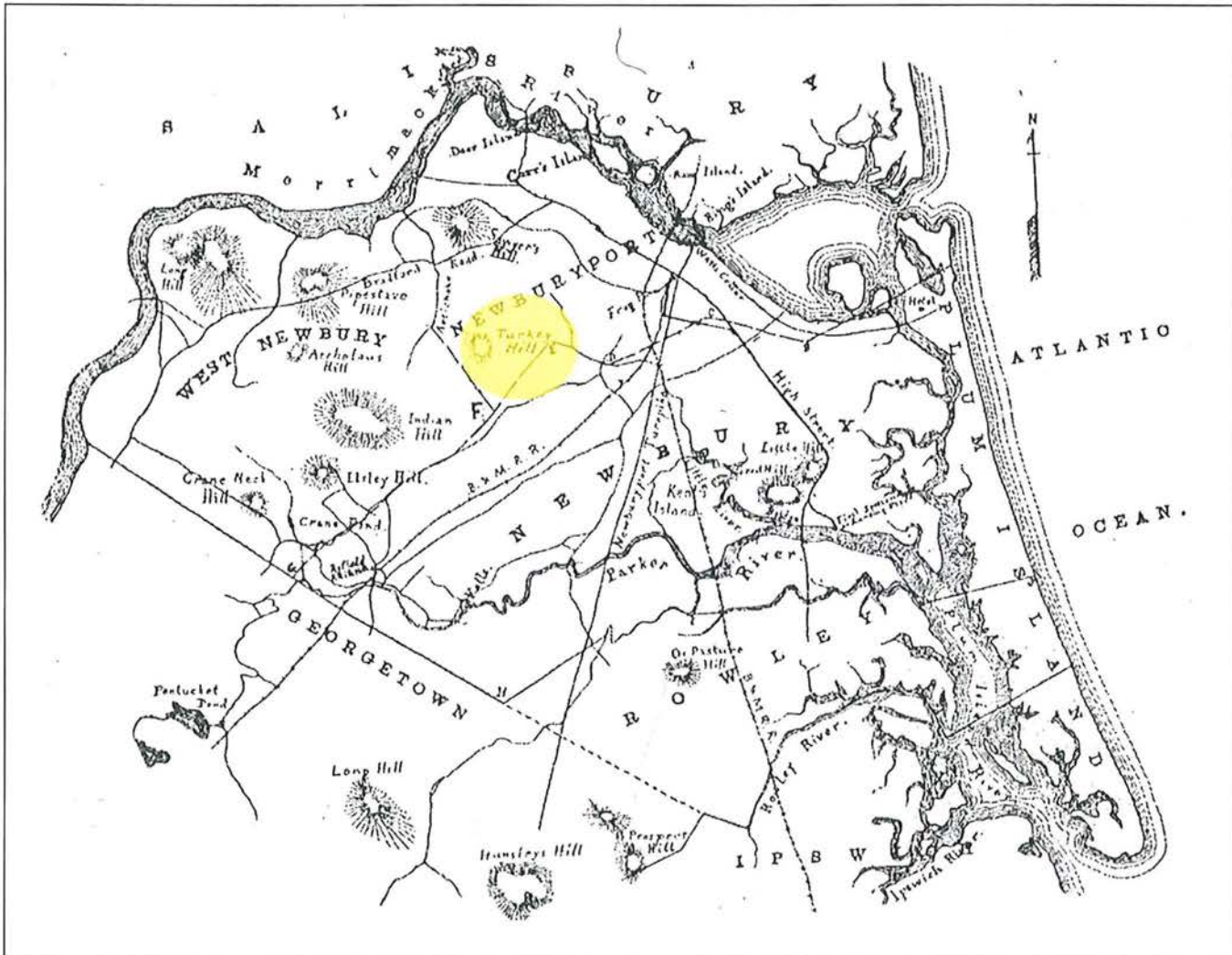
Map 1 – Map of Newbury in 1640. Yellow indicates approximate area addressed in this Area Form.

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town  
**NEWBURY**  
**NEWBURYPORT**  
**WEST NEWBURY**

Property Address  
**COMMON PASTURE**  
 Area(s) Form No.



Map 2 – 1640 map with overlay of 19<sup>th</sup> century transportation routes. Yellow indicates approximate area addressed in this Area Form.

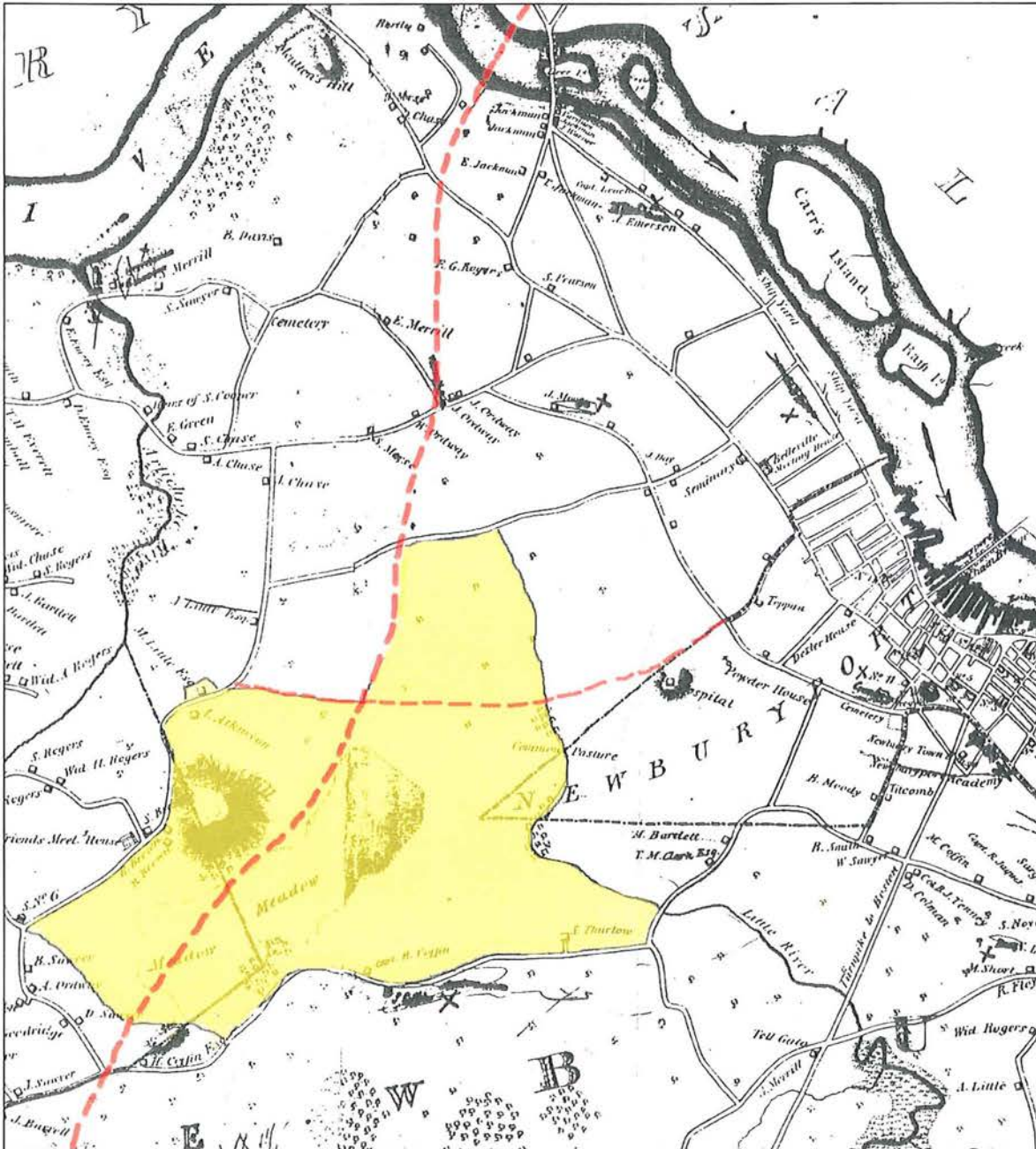


## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town  
**NEWBURY**  
**NEWBURYPORT**  
**WEST NEWBURY**

Property Address  
**COMMON PASTURE**  
 Area(s) Form No.



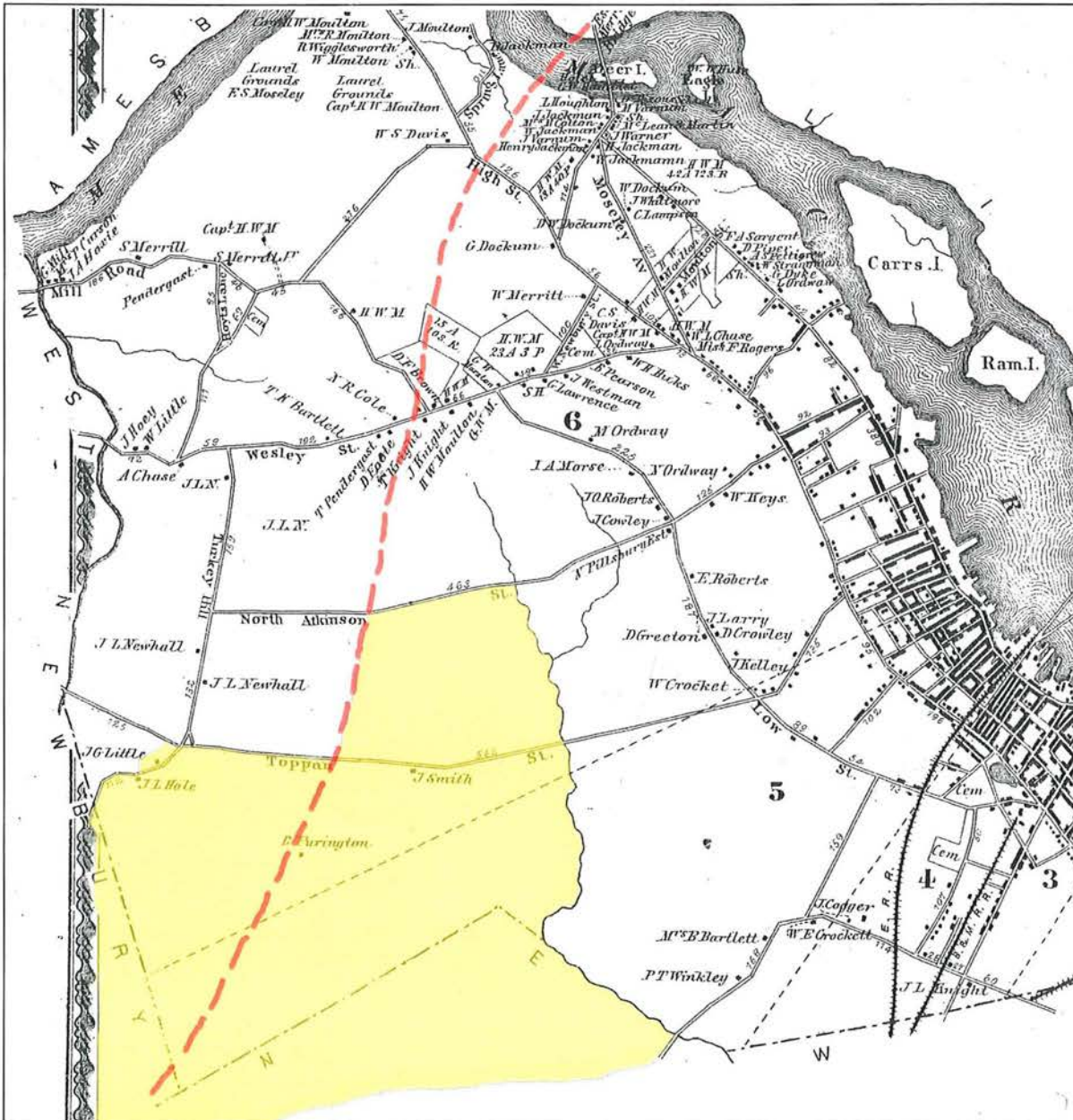
Map 3 – Detail of 1830 map. Yellow represents the approximate area covered by this Area Form. Scotland Road runs along the southern edge; the Little River forms the eastern edge; Crow Lane forms the northern edge and Turkey Hill Road generally forms the western edge. The wide red line represents the approximate location of Route 95. The narrow red line represents the approximate location of Hale Street. (Note: the boundaries of Newburyport were later expanded.)

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town  
**NEWBURY**  
**NEWBURYPORT**  
**WEST NEWBURY**

Property Address  
**COMMON PASTURE**  
 Area(s) Form No.



Map 4 – Detail of 1872 map of Newburyport. Yellow represents the approximate area covered by this Area Form although it is not precise for Newbury and West Newbury. The red line represents the approximate location of Route 95. Toppan Street is present day Hale Street and North Atkinson Street is now Crow Lane. The J. Smith farm is located roughly where the Sweeney/Myette farm is currently although the buildings are not in the location of the present Myette house. The J. L. Hale house is now 101 Turkey Hill Road (the present Maskiewicz farm) and the J.G. Little house is now 100 Turkey Hill Road.

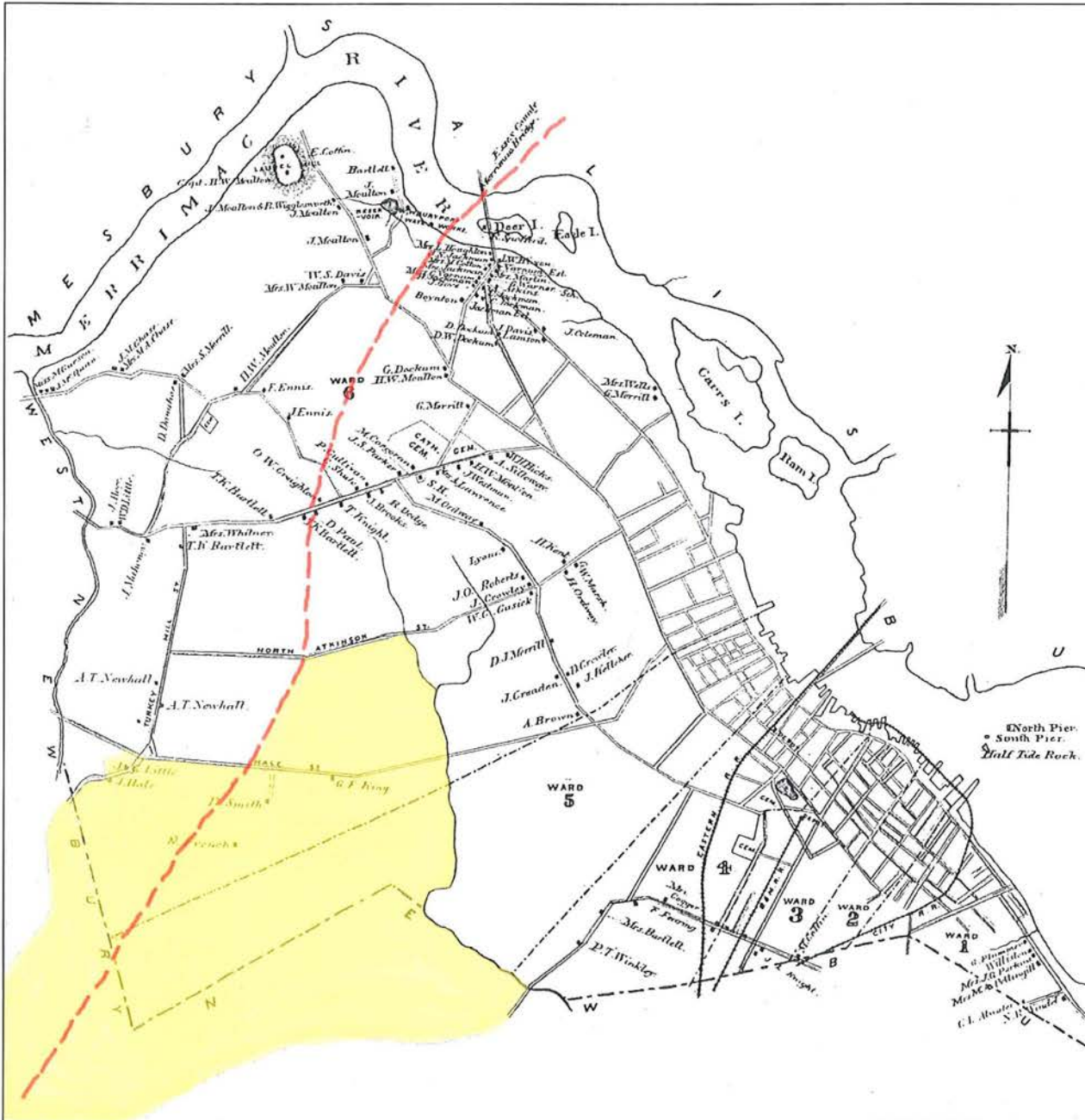


## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town  
**NEWBURY**  
**NEWBURYPORT**  
**WEST NEWBURY**

Property Address  
**COMMON PASTURE**  
 Area(s) Form No.



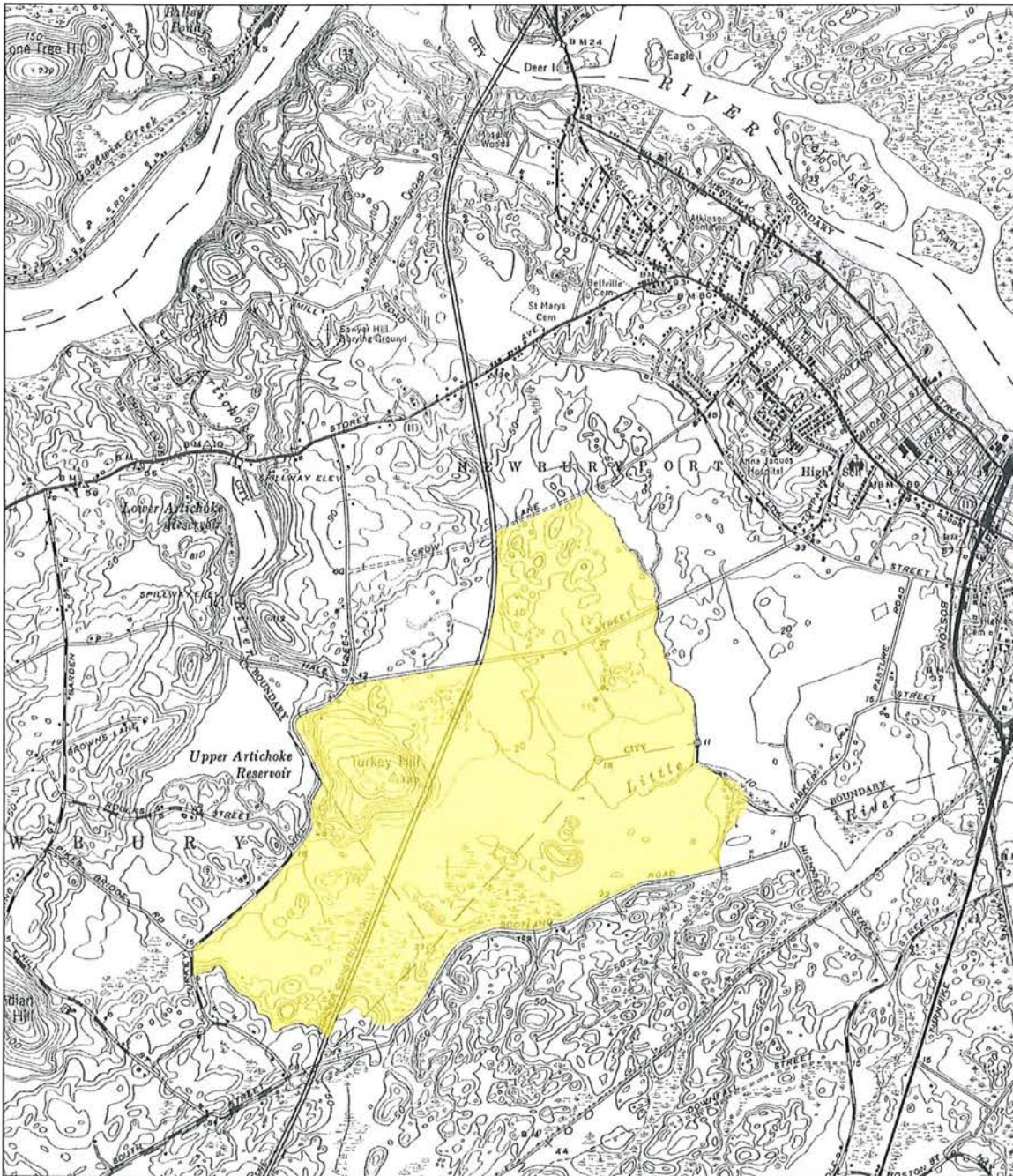
Map 5 – Detail of 1884 map of Newburyport. Yellow represents the approximate area of this Area Form although it is not precise for Newbury and West Newbury. The red line represents the approximate location of Route 95. The G.F. King farm corresponds roughly with the current Sweeney/Myette farm. The J. Hale and J.G. Little houses on Turkey Hill Road are still extant.



## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town	Property Address
NEWBURY	COMMON PASTURE
NEWBURYPORT	
WEST NEWBURY	Area(s) Form No.



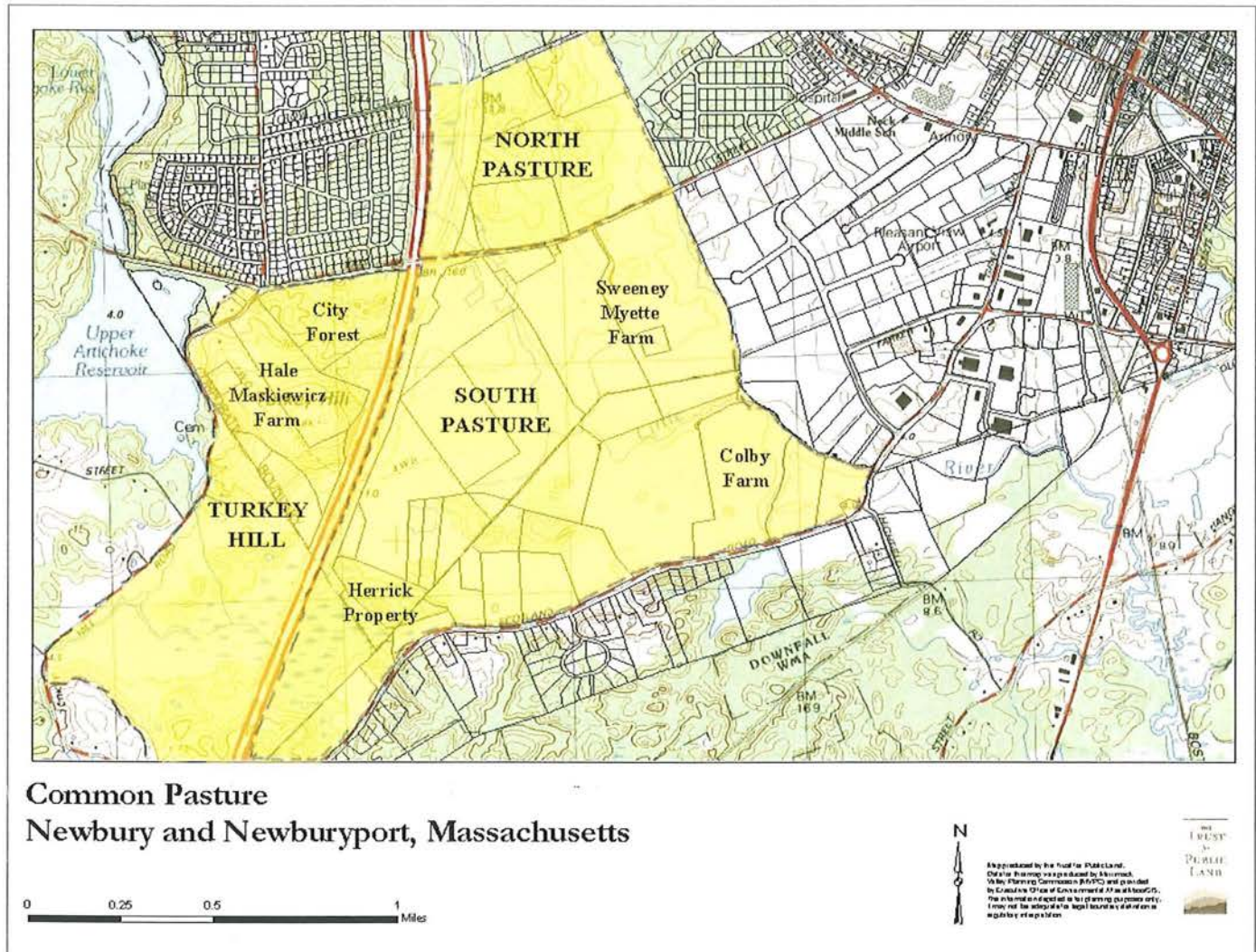
Map 6 - 1952 USGS map showing the Common Pasture around the time that Route 95 was constructed. At that time the area was far more rural than it is today. Yellow represents the approximate area covered by this Area Form.



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town	Property Address
NEWBURY	COMMON PASTURE
NEWBURYPORT	
WEST NEWBURY	Area(s) Form No.



Map 7 – 2005 Trust for Public Land Map showing the major areas and properties addressed in this Area Form.



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town  
**NEWBURY**  
**NEWBURYPORT**  
**WEST NEWBURY**

Property Address  
**COMMON PASTURE**  
 Area(s) Form No.



**Common Pasture**  
**Newbury and Newburyport, Massachusetts**

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



As provided by the Trust for Public Land.  
 Data is the property of the Trust for Public Land.  
 In the Planning Commission (BPPC) and provided  
 by the Office of Environmental Affairs (OEA).  
 The material is provided as is, without warranty of any kind, express or implied.  
 Users must be advised that the map is not a legal document and is not to be used for legal purposes.



Map 8 – Recent aerial photo of Common Pasture area. Courtesy of TPL. Yellow line represents the approximate boundary of this Area Form.



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town	Property Address
NEWBURY	COMMON PASTURE
NEWBURYPORT	
WEST NEWBURY	Area(s) Form No.

**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    ☐ D

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

Statement of Significance by Shary Page Berg/Gretchen G. Schuler

**Overview**

The Common Pasture addressed in this Area Form is a roughly 1,000-acre remnant of a much larger area established as common land in the Colonial period. While much of the original common has been converted to other uses, this core area has remained largely rural and agricultural. It is noteworthy for its size, landscape character and for the continuation of traditional uses. The grasslands, woodlands, wetlands and farmsteads that characterize this area are an evocative reminder of nearly four centuries of agricultural use, initially as common land and later as family farms. The landscape itself is extraordinary, particularly the grasslands -- a rare landscape type in New England that has long been recognized for its agricultural, environmental and scenic values.

The concept of common grazing land was central to the settlement and early development of Massachusetts communities but is rarely reflected in the New England landscape today. English colonists who arrived in Essex County in the 1630s placed high value on the grasslands because they were easy to settle, offering clearings where houses could easily be built as well as land for grazing and abundance of game. The early history of Newbury contains frequent references to the Common Pasture, which was originally undifferentiated land and was gradually regulated over time. As the number and types of livestock grew, the Common Pasture was divided into the lower common (east of the Artichoke River) and the upper common (west of the Artichoke in present day West Newbury). The area addressed here is part of the historic lower common. After the common lands were divided among the proprietors of Newbury in the early 1700s, family farms were established with a tradition of mixed husbandry and later, as transportation improved, market gardening. That agricultural tradition continues today.

The land addressed in this Area Form is historically significant and is eligible for listing in the National Register as a rural historic district with statewide significance. The period of significance extends from settlement of the area in 1635 through the 1950s, reflecting National Register policy of using a 50-year cut off date unless events of unusual significance have occurred within the past 50 years.

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town	Property Address
<b>NEWBURY</b>	<b>COMMON PASTURE</b>
<b>NEWBURYPORT</b>	.
<b>WEST NEWBURY</b>	Area(s) Form No.

The grasslands represent remnants of the 17<sup>th</sup> century landscape character. Land divisions and land use patterns established by the early 18<sup>th</sup> century are still reflected in the overall landscape patterns and spatial organization which changed relatively little from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century through the mid-20<sup>th</sup>. Most local roads were in place by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and the pattern of family farms of roughly 100-acres that was established by mid-19<sup>th</sup> century continues today. Land use, in the form of mixed husbandry with extensive hay and grazing land, also continues to reflect traditional agricultural use. There were approximately 10 homesteads in the area in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and of these three remain. There are some modern farm buildings, including residences and agricultural structures, but most are not visible from public roads. The primary intrusion is Route 95, built through the Common Pasture in 1954, which divides the area in two parts. Another intrusion is the late 20<sup>th</sup> century Cabot Corporation headquarters, which is surrounded on three sides by Common Pasture and is well-screened from the road. Despite these changes, the landscape would be easily recognizable to anyone who lived here from the 18<sup>th</sup> century on, which is an important test of integrity for a historic landscape.

**Historic Boundaries**

The early boundaries of the Common Pasture extended roughly from Plum Island to Haverhill encompassing nearly 8,000 acres. Land to the east of the Artichoke River was called the lower common and was used for milking cattle and other livestock in active use, while the upper common, which was west of the Artichoke River, was used for livestock that were not needed on a regular basis. This area form addresses roughly 1,000 acres of the lower common that remain as a clearly defined landscape entity.

The area east of Route 95 is the best-preserved and most evocative portion of the Common Pasture. For descriptive purposes this area is further divided by Hale Street into two areas -- the South Pasture and the North Pasture. The boundary for the South Pasture used in this form is similar to that of the conservation groups working to preserve the area except that a portion of the West Newbury wetland along the eastern edge of Route 95 has also been included here. The boundary for the North Pasture used in this Area Form is the same as that of the conservation groups.

The Turkey Hill area west of Route 95 was closely linked with South and North Pastures until construction of Route 95 in the 1950s. In fact the three areas were not historically differentiated but are called out here to clarify the description of a large and complex landscape. Turkey Hill Road is used as the western boundary in this Area Form because the properties on the east side of Turkey Hill Road that are mostly closely associated with the Common Pasture. The Moses Little farmstead on the west side of Turkey Hill Road is included in this Area Form because of its strong association with 19<sup>th</sup> century agricultural use of the area.

The Newburyport City Forest reflects the importance of woodlots as part of the continuum of land use history, initially as common land, later as private wood lots and most recently as a public resource whose function is as much for conservation and recreation as for lumber production. South of the forest is the former J. L. Hale farm, now known as the Maskiewicz farm, on the east side of Turkey Hill Road which originally extended east of Route 95. The current owner is elderly and is the last surviving member of her family. Conservation groups are working with her to preserve the farm. The Myette family, owners of the Sweeney farm on the east side of Route 95, owns land on both sides of Route 95. Thus the historic link continues despite the highway. Fields on the east side of Turkey Hill Road south of the Maskiewicz farm continue to be used for grazing cattle, just as they have been for almost 400 years. Essex County Greenbelt Association's

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

Town	Property Address
<b>NEWBURY</b>	<b>COMMON PASTURE</b>
<b>NEWBURYPORT</b>	.
<b>WEST NEWBURY</b>	Area(s) Form No.

Ordway Reservation, established in 2003, was the first conservation parcel established in the Common Pasture. It preserves an important 55-acre landscape that extends from Turkey Hill Street in West Newbury east to Route 95.

The area west of Turkey Hill Road/Street is generally excluded from this Area Form as it is less closely associated with the rest of the Common Pasture. Sites associated with an 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Quaker community located on the west side of Turkey Hill Street in Newbury could also be considered as possible additions to the area. Another boundary modification that might be considered in a National Register nomination would be elimination of the Cabot Corporation property in the north side of Hale Street, which is included here because it is well-screened and is surrounded on three sides by farms and woodlands.

**Rural Historic District**

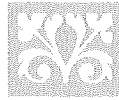
The framework that used to document and evaluate the Common Pasture is that of a rural historic district as described in National Register Bulletin 30. A rural historic district is a,

*“geographic area that historically has been used by people or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings, roads and waterways, and natural features.”*

The Common Pasture is the quintessential rural historic district. Like most rural historic districts, it was not frozen in time but has evolved over nearly 400 years of continuous agricultural use while retaining its essential landscape character. The emphasis is on the overall landforms and land use patterns, in other words the landscape that has endured over time, rather than on specific buildings or features which are more transient and ephemeral.

The significance of the Common Pasture derives from its early history as common land as well as its continued agricultural use as private farms from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present. In the context of Massachusetts settlement, the Common Pasture is of statewide significance as a rare surviving area where land use patterns such as grazing and woodlots, which were established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century are still reflected in current land uses and the general appearance of the landscape. The Common Pasture is also one of the largest and most cohesive agricultural areas in Essex County, with regional significance that extends beyond the three communities in which it is located.

Conservation groups working to preserve the Common Pasture have focused their attention on land east of Route 95, notably the areas referred to here as South Pasture and North Pasture. These two areas are visually linked, with only the narrow Hale Street between them, and have the highest integrity as rural, agricultural landscapes that reflect both the early common lands and subsequent privately owned farms.



## SHARY PAGE BERG

Landscape Preservation  
Planning and Design

November 1, 2005

To: Betsy Friedberg, NR Director MHC

From: Shary Berg

Re: Common Pasture NR evaluation

Enclosed are supplemental materials relating to the Common Pasture determination of eligibility. We have tried to address your questions directly in this memo. We have also made some revisions to the area form, although historical information is still coming in from Mary Harbaugh who is working with us, so we consider this another draft rather than a final form. As requested we have included a series of historic maps to illustrate evolution of the area. This is difficult to do accurately because the area includes portions of three communities but does help to illustrate change over time. On the historic maps the Common Pasture addressed in this form is roughly delineated in yellow and the location of Route 95 and Hale Street are shown in red. We have also numbered the photographs and keyed them to a map which should help.

### Boundaries

The early boundaries of the Common Pasture extended roughly from Plum Island to Haverhill encompassing nearly 8,000 acres. Land to the east of the Artichoke River was called the lower common and was used for milking cattle and other livestock in active use, while the upper common, which was west of the Artichoke River, was used for livestock that were not needed on a regular basis. This area form addresses the portions of the lower common that remain as a clearly defined landscape entity. It is roughly 1,000 acres.

Conservation groups have been focusing their preservation efforts on the portions of the Common Pasture east of Route 95 that are the most visible and cohesive (see Map 2 which shows the conservation focus area in an orange tone). We felt strongly that the MHC form should not be constrained by boundaries established by others with a different purpose, but should look broadly at remaining portions of the Common Pasture lying east of the Artichoke Reservoir, north of Scotland Road, west of the Little River and south of Crow Lane. Our intent was that the inventory form be as inclusive as possible with the idea that boundaries would be refined later if a National Register nomination is pursued.

The area east of Route 95 is the best-preserved and most evocative portion of the Common Pasture. For descriptive purposes this area is further divided by Hale Street into two areas - the South Pasture and the North Pasture. Our boundary for the South Pasture is very similar to that of the conservation groups except that we have added a portion of the West Newbury wetland along the eastern edge of Route 95. Our boundary for the North Pasture is the same as that of the





## SHARY PAGE BERG

conservation groups. We realize that the Cabot Corporation headquarters appears on the aerial photos as a major intrusion but in fact it is well screened from Hale Street by vegetation and, other than the two entrance roads to the complex, does not feel like a major intrusion when one is traveling along Hale Street or Route 95.

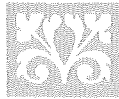
The Turkey Hill area west of Route 95 is not currently a focus of conservation groups but was closely linked with South and North Pastures until construction of Route 95. In fact the three areas were not historically differentiated but are called out here to clarify the description of a large and complex landscape. We used the Artichoke Reservoir as the western boundary of the area addressed in the area form because the Artichoke River was the historical edge of the lower common and also became a dividing point between Newburyport and West Newbury. However it is the properties on the east side of Turkey Hill Road that are mostly closely associated with the Common Pasture.

The Newburyport City Forest reflects the importance of woodlots as part of the continuum of land use history, initially as common land, later as private wood lots and most recently as a public resource whose function is as much for conservation and recreation as for lumber production. South of the forest is the former J. L. Hale farm, now known as the Maskiewicz farm, on the east side of Turkey Hill Road which originally extended east of Route 95. The current owner is elderly and is the last surviving member of her family. Conservation groups are working discreetly with her to protect the farm. The Myette family, owners of the Sweeney farm on the east side of Route 95, owns land on both sides of Route 95. Thus the historic link continues despite the highway. Fields on the east side of Turkey Hill Road south of the Maskiewicz farm continue to be used for grazing cattle, just as they have been for almost 400 years. Essex County Greenbelt Association's Ordway Reservation, established in 2003, was the first conservation parcel established in the Common Pasture. It preserves an important 55-acre landscape that extends from Turkey Hill Street in West Newbury east to Route 95.

Many of your questions pertain to the area west of Turkey Hill Road. We agree that this area is less closely linked to the rest of the Common Pasture but felt that it was important to take at least a cursory look at it during the inventory and evaluation stage. We are less familiar with West Newbury than with Newbury and Newburyport because it did not participate in the initial phase of the Heritage Inventory Program so we have less information readily available. It might make sense to exclude the area west of Turkey Hill Road from the determination of eligibility for now since there are so many questions about it and the connections to the Common Pasture are less clear.

### **History and Current Features of Farms**

Our primary sources for the history of the farms are old maps, federal census records and town histories. The maps, which we have not previously sent, are included here. In some cases they cover only a single community and we have had to interpolate where the boundaries fall in adjacent communities. They show the location of farmsteads, which remain surprisingly constant over time, but do not show farm boundaries, which were probably fairly fluid. The census records provide a window into 19<sup>th</sup> century farming activities and provide some sense of products



## SHARY PAGE BERG

and scale of operations. There are three extant farm complexes in the Common Pasture, as well as acreage that is not currently associated with a farmstead.

The present Colby Farm at 50 Scotland Road in Newbury appears to be on the site of the S. Thurlow farm which appears shown on the 1830 map and subsequent 19<sup>th</sup> century maps. No farmstead appears in that location on USGS maps from the 1940s and 50s. We did not have access to this farm except for what we could see from the road but the Newbury assessing files indicate that the current house (which is down a long drive and not visible from the road) is a 1980s Cape. Local residents who have visited the farm characterized the current outbuildings as late 20<sup>th</sup> century utilitarian. The 50-acre Colby farm grows a number of crops, brokers hay and raises pigs. It also includes a popular farmstand.

The 172-acre Sweeney farm at 99 Hale Street in Newburyport, now owned by the Myette family, probably included portions of the J. Smith farm and the D. Purington farm shown on the 1872 map as well as the G.F. King and the R. Smith farms on the 1884 map. These earlier farmsteads do not appear to have been in the location of the present Myette house. USGS maps from the 1940s and 1950s do show a building in the present location of the house. Newburyport assessors records indicate that the house (which is not visible from the road) is an 1800 Colonial, which seems very unlikely because map evidence does not support the presence of a Colonial house in that location and the photo of the house in the assessing files looks more like a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century version of a Colonial house set on a high foundation. The outbuildings which are visible from the road appear to be mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century shed-type structures although there is also reference to a pole-barn. We did not have access to this property. Most of the Sweeney farm is hayed to provide fodder for cattle.

The present Maskiewicz farmstead at 100 Turkey Hill Road shows up on the 1872 map as the J.L. Hale farm and the 1884 map as J. Hale and also appears on mid 20<sup>th</sup> century USGS maps. Continuing the historic use of the landscape to support livestock, it remained an active dairy farm well into the twentieth century and has been in the Maskiewicz family only since the 1920s. We did have access to this farm and a description of the house is included in the area form. The circa 1860 house and its hillside landscape setting are striking but the rather undistinguished outbuildings date from the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Mary Harbaugh from Newburyport is working with us to provide more information about specific farms through deed research but it is a tedious task and the information is coming in slowly. We agree that more detail on the farms would be useful but feel that this level of work would typically be done as part of a National Register nomination rather than an inventory form.

### **Artichoke Reservoir**

The Artichoke Reservoir was formed in the 1930s to provide a water supply for the city of Newburyport. The boundary area for this inventory form extends only to the eastern edge of the reservoir and the reservoir is not included in this inventory form. We suggest moving the boundary slightly further east to Turkey Hill Road in Newburyport and Turkey Hill Street in West Newbury, which would eliminate many areas of question and confusion. Please let us know your thoughts on this.



## SHARY PAGE BERG

Resources associated with the Quaker community, which are generally west of Turkey Hill Road, relate to a sub-theme that has not been a primary focus of our work. The cemetery overlooking the reservoir is the most visible evidence of the community. There is a historical marker for the site of the meetinghouse and several of the houses along the west side of the road may date back to original Quaker owners. This area of inquiry could be expanded but we feel our attention would be best focused on features that are central to the Common Pasture itself. Moving the western boundary of the area to Turkey Hill Road would eliminate this confusion.

### Route 95

We now have more information about Route 95 thanks to ongoing research by Mary Harbaugh. The farm most impacted by construction of the road is the farm known today as the Maskiewicz farm which was separated from much of its historic pasture land by the highway. When the road was constructed there was a cattle tunnel installed under it to provide access for livestock. Ironically while Route 95 is an intrusion into the Common Pasture, it also is a prime location for viewing the landscape, making it accessible to thousands of travelers daily.

### Rural Historic District

The framework that we used to document and evaluate the Common Pasture is that of a rural historic district as described in National Register Bulletin 30. A rural historic district is a,

*“geographic area that historically has been used by people or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings, roads and waterways, and natural features.”*

We feel that the Common Pasture is the quintessential rural historic district. Like most rural historic districts, it was not frozen in time but has evolved over more than 400 years of continuous agricultural use while retaining its essential character as open pasture land. While details are certainly helpful to round out the descriptions of individual properties, it is the overall landscape that is the primary focus of this inventory form. When talking about heritage landscapes or rural historic districts, we like to think of the landscape as the pizza and the buildings as the pepperoni.

The significance of the Common Pasture derives from its early history as common land as well as its continued agricultural use as private farms from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present. In the context of Massachusetts settlement, the Common Pasture is of statewide significance as a rare surviving area where land use patterns such as grazing and woodlots, which were established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century are still reflected in current land uses and the general appearance of the landscape. The Common Pasture is also one of the largest and most cohesive agricultural areas in Essex County, with regional significance that extends beyond the three communities in which it is located.

Please let me or Jessica or Gretchen know if you have more questions.

Original yellow form: Eligibility file  
 Copies: Inventory form  
       Town file(w/corresp.)  
       Macris  
       NR director \_\_\_\_\_

Community: Newburyport/Newbury

### **MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER**

Date Received: 9/20/05

Date Due:

Date Reviewed: 9/21/05

Type:        \_\_\_Individual  
 boundaries)

x District (Attach map indicating

Name: Common Pasture

Inventory Form:

Address:

Requested by: Jessica Rowcroft, DCR

Action:               \_\_\_Honor     \_\_\_ITC           \_\_\_Grant     \_\_\_R & C

Other:

Agency:

Staff in charge of Review: BF/JDS

#### **INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES**

#### **DISTRICTS**

\_\_\_ Eligible  
 \_\_\_ Eligible, also in district  
 \_\_\_ Eligible only in district  
 \_\_\_ Ineligible  
 \_\_\_ More information needed

\_\_\_ Eligible  
 \_\_\_ Ineligible  
X More information needed

**CRITERIA:**               \_\_\_A                       \_\_\_B                       \_\_\_C                       \_\_\_D

**LEVEL:**               \_\_\_Local                       \_\_\_State                       \_\_\_National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Betsy Friedberg

The Common Pasture, undoubtedly a picturesque locale, holds significant associations with the earliest development of Newbury by European settlers as common land, a role the area played from first settlement in 1635 until the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The area was also affected significantly by the successive division of land beginning in 1701, and its appearance today arguably reflects the impact of various farming and grazing practices of more recent centuries as much as or more than it does the uses by the earliest settlers. It is this aspect of the resource that needs to be developed further. The impact of farm practices on the landscape generally and of the associated buildings, structures, and objects, historic and nonhistoric, that survive in the defined area in particular needs to be addressed.

There has been difficulty obtaining visual access to a number of the farms, clearly visible from aerial photos, that exist in the midst of the Common Pasture area. However, more research



through assessors records, atlases, deeds, etc., will be necessary in order to ascertain the history of land division and the significance of the buildings and structures that make up these farm complexes. What is the period of significance for this resource? To what extent did lot and parcel configurations at the end of the period of significance reflect the division of the Common Pasture that began in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and how have they changed in more recent decades? What visible remnants reflect historic agricultural uses of the land, such as haying or market gardening? What constitute the groupings of farm buildings within the defined area? Several areas that would constitute intrusions are clearly visible and should be documented, through written records and photographically. Additional photos will be needed to document the area as a whole, and the clusters of buildings and structures, contributing and noncontributing, within the defined area.

Other questions that staff had related to the boundaries identified for the Common Pasture, and the impact of I-95. The district, if found eligible, would be discontinuous, which is acceptable by the National Register program when a portion of district has been separated by intervening highway construction and when the separated portion has sufficient significance and integrity to meet the NR criteria. Although the inventory form identifies the described area as a remnant, no clear boundary justification has been provided for the western side of I-95, nor has the general impact of the highway's construction been addressed. Why were the western boundaries selected? They appear to have been defined as a line of convenience that may not truly reflect the division between a still-rural agricultural landscape and a more highly developed one. Does the western section as defined retain sufficient integrity to be included? Are there resources associated with the creation of the Upper Artichoke Reservoir within or adjacent to the boundaries, such as a dam structure, and when was the reservoir created?

# FORM B – BUILDING

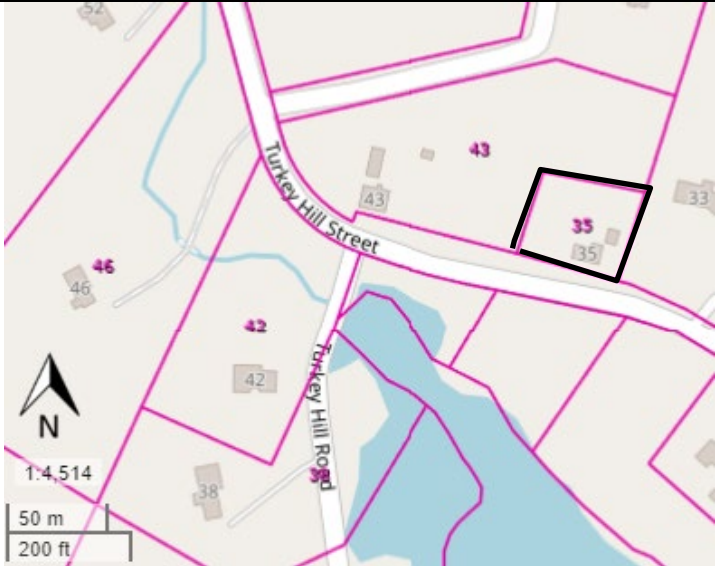
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## Photograph



Façade (south) and east 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 41

0190 0000 00090 Newburyport WNB.418

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Address:** 35 Turkey Hill Road

**Historic Name:** Charles W. and Caroline Ordway House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1865

**Source:** Marriage date; Visual Assessment

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Not Known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite Block

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Siding and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Garage (1980)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Synthetic siding and trim, replacement window sash, modern porch railing and steps (late 20<sup>th</sup> c)

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.5 acres

**Setting:** Located on a cross-town thoroughfare in a semi-rural neighborhood with rolling topography and open fields. Heterogeneous residential development typically on large lots.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

**35 TURKEY HILL RD****MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.418

☐ 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:**

35 Turkey Hill Road stands on the north side of the road, at the front of its relatively small, square lot. The land slopes up gently from the street, with a moderate front setback. The yard around the house is maintained in lawn, with a paved driveway on the east side that leads to a late 20<sup>th</sup> c garage.

The house consists of a rectangular main block and a rear appendage. The five by two bay main block measures 36 feet long by 18 feet deep and rises 2½ stories to a side gable roof with gable returns; no visible chimneys. Walls are clad with vinyl siding; a high fascia with bed molding appears to be wood. The five bay façade has a center entrance with a single-leaf 4-panel door, full height sidelights, and a flat surround with a prominent cornice. A one-story projection at the northeast corner of the house has a modern, angled bay window facing the side (east) and a secondary entrance facing the street. The entrance displays a four-panel door, narrow full-height sidelights, and a modest classical frame with flat jambs and a cornice molding over the lintel. An open porch covers most of the east elevation of the house, its flat roof supported by a turned column at the front corner.

Well maintained, 35 Turkey Hill Road is a modest but handsome example of Greek Revival farmhouses in outlying areas of West Newbury. Notable features include its historic setting, simple massing, granite block foundation, conservative five bay façade and side gable form, side porch, high wall fascia, and two classically-designed entrances with their historic doors. The installation of synthetic siding and replacement window sash detracts from the architectural integrity of the building.

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

The house was likely constructed circa 1865 for Charles W. Ordway and remained in the Ordway family until 2007.<sup>1</sup> Charles W. Ordway (1830-1920)<sup>2</sup> married Caroline Adams (1834-1902) in 1855. Initially, the young couple lived with his parents, but by the time of the 1865 census, Charles and Caroline Ordway were living in their own household, next door to his parents. Charles W. Ordway worked as a farmer as a young man, but by age 25 he had taken up shoemaking, which he continued for the duration of his career. In 1870, Hanson Ordway (1804-1883) sold a portion of his lot to his son, Charles W. Ordway for \$50,<sup>3</sup> presumably containing the lot upon which the house had been constructed. (See 43 Turkey Hill Road, WNB.419). In 1884, Charles W. Ordway sold the house<sup>4</sup> to his son, George A. Ordway (1857-1932).<sup>5</sup> The following year, George A. Ordway married his wife, Mary E. Titcomb Ordway (1854-1927).

In 1922, George A. Ordway sold the house to Esther L. Ordway.<sup>6</sup> Esther Louise Goodrich Ordway (1883-1985)<sup>7</sup> grew up on the Goodrich farm across Turkey Hill Road from the Ordway farm and married Carroll Colby Ordway (1882-1971)<sup>8</sup> in 1910. It's unclear which family members might have lived at this address. Carroll and Esther Ordway operated their family farm for more than 50 years. A native of West Newbury, Esther Ordway was a founder of the West Newbury Historical Society and was the first woman in West Newbury to obtain a driver's license.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 26722, p. 65.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/142218556/charles-william-ordway>. Accessed April 21, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 809, p. 9.

<sup>4</sup> Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 1140, p. 278.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/203877329/george-a-ordway>. Accessed April 21, 2023.

<sup>6</sup> Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 2507, p. 596.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/140266017/esther-louise-ordway>. Accessed April 21, 2023.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/160209061/carroll-colby-ordway>. Accessed April 21, 2023.

<sup>9</sup> Obituary, "Esther L. Ordway," *Athol (Mass.) Daily News*, 27 August 1985, p. 2.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

35 TURKEY HILL RD

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.418

In 1971, Esther L. Ordway sold the house to her son, Spencer C. Ordway, and his wife, Mary E. Ordway.<sup>10</sup> Spencer Colby Ordway (1915–2006) and Mary E. Hughes Ordway lived in Athol, Massachusetts where Spencer Ordway worked at the Starrett Tool Company for 37 years. After his retirement in 1978, he moved back to West Newbury.<sup>11</sup>

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

- Beers, D. G., J. H. Goodhue, and H. B. Parsell. *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: Beers, D. G. & Co., 1872. City Directories.
- Essex County Registry of Deeds.
- Findagrave.com.
- Follansbee, Susan Poore and Jane Wallace Wild. *Images of America: West Newbury*. Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2011.
- Ladd, Audrey, compiler and editor. "Contentious Citizens: A Compilation of Stories Telling the History of West Newbury, Massachusetts." G.A.R. Library, West Newbury.
- Massachusetts Census. Ancestry.com.
- Massachusetts Probate Records. Ancestry.com.
- Massachusetts Vital Records. Ancestry.com.
- Obituary for Esther L. Ordway. *Athol (Mass.) Daily News*. 27 August 1985: 2.
- Obituary for Spencer C. Ordway. *Athol (Mass.) Daily News*. 11 July 2006: 2.
- Town of West Newbury. Tax Assessor records.
- United States Census. Ancestry.com.
- Walling, Henry Francis. *A Topographical Map of Essex County, Massachusetts...* Smith & Worley, 1856.
- Walker, George H. & Co. *Atlas of Essex County*. Boston: George H. Walker & Co., 1884.



East elevation.



Detail of main entrance.

<sup>10</sup> Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 5744, p. 464.

<sup>11</sup> Obituary, "Spencer C. Ordway," *Athol (Mass.) Daily News*, 11 July 2006, p. 2.



# FORM E – BURIAL GROUND

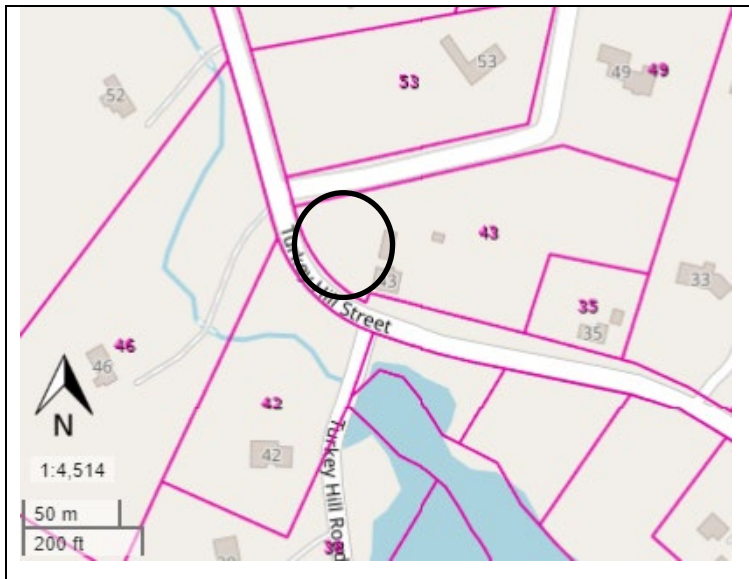
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## Photograph



Photo 1. View of cemetery, looking southeast.

## Locus Map



Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number 44

0190 0000  
00081

Newburyport

WNB.808

**Town:** West Newbury

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

**Address or Location:** 43 Turkey Hill Road

**Name:** Ordway Family Burial Ground

**Ownership:** ☐ Public ☒ Private

**Approximate Number of Stones:** 14

**Earliest Death Date:** 1746 (not original to this burial ground); 1803 (burial at this site)

**Latest Death Date:** 1833

**Landscape Architect:** None

**Condition:** Poor

**Acreage:** 30 square feet.

**Setting:** Located on the northeast side of Turkey Hill Road, a cross-town thoroughfare in a semi-rural neighborhood with rolling topography and open fields. Heterogeneous residential development typically on large lots.

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

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2023

**INVENTORY FORM E CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY ORDWAY FAMILY BURIAL GROUND

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.808

☐ 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.*

**VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT**

*Describe landscape features, gravestone materials, designs, motifs, and symbols that are either common. Note any known carvers.*

Turkey Hill Road Cemetery stands on a knoll high above the street on a residential parcel of land. The site slopes up gently to the southeast and contains several mature trees and underbrush. Measuring approximately 30 feet square, the burial ground is ringed by low fieldstone walls, typically only one stone high. Approximately six gravestones (both intact and partial) are set in the ground; approximately eight stones lie on the ground, lean against a tree, or are piled randomly on a corner of the wall.

The stones in Turkey Hill Road Cemetery typically are made of thin slabs of slate and marble and have curved tops—either round-headed or segmentally-arched. The markers are irregularly arrayed and typically face northwest. All but one marker dates from the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century; the earliest stone (commemorating a 1746 death) is not original to this site. Headstones are typically simply and minimally ornamented. Three display the willow and urn motif, and one has a winged skull. Only one epitaph was observed. The Turkey Hill Burial Ground is in poor condition: overgrown with vegetation; stones falling loose from the perimeter walls; and gravestones broken, slipped, missing, and moved. Careful cleaning and repair of stones is recommended. Note: The broken stones for Susannah Sawyer and Lydia Sawyer noted by Follansbee (1997) could not be located during this survey.

Representative and Notable Individual StonesMoses Power (d. 1746) (Photo 3)

Reportedly moved to this site from a nearby location in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century (see Follansbee), the marker for Moses Power is relatively elaborate for this burial ground. It consists of a round-headed stone with round shoulders, a winged, abstract skull on the tympanum, pinwheel-type rosettes in the shoulders, and decoratively carved side bars, whose design has weathered away. The inscription with Mr. Power's name, date of death, and age at death is carved in all-capital, serified letters. A smaller, peaked stone propped in front of the headstone and tipping to the side, may be the footstone noted in Follansbee; its front face is not visible.

Phebe Ordway (d. 1806) (Photo 4)

The "Consort" of Thomas Ordway, Phebe Ordway is commemorated on a slate stone with a round head and concave shoulders. The tympanum contains a simple, linear image of an urn flanked by willow branches. The tablet area is framed with a line of slightly convex dashes. The inscription is delicately written in a combination of all-capital and initial capital, italic and upright lettering.

Hosea Ordway Headstone and Footstone (d. 1822) (Photos 5 and 6)

Hosea Ordway, the son of Thomas and Lydia Ordway, died at the age of 19 months. His modest but decorative slate stone has a round head and square shoulders. A simple willow tree is incised in the tympanum, and wedge-shaped dashes form vertical borders on the sides of the tablet. The inscription contains the boy's name, his parents' names, his date of death, and age at death, all in serified, italic lettering. The slate footstone for this burial is propped up against a nearby tree. This tall, narrow marker has a segmentally arched top and displays only the initials "H.W.O.," in italicized capital letters.

Lucy Tenney (d. 1825) (Photo 7)

The 23-year-old daughter of Moses and Hannah Tenney is memorialized in the most elegant gravestone in this burial ground. Her slate marker is round-headed with square shoulders. An undulating willow tree drapes over an elaborately carved urn, set off by a picked background. The tablet is framed by a dotted line on the top and sides, and a narrow band with a decorative texture lining the sides. The inscription provides Miss Tenney's first name, parents' names, death date, and age at death in a

**INVENTORY FORM E CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY ORDWAY FAMILY BURIAL GROUND

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.808

fanciful combination of all-capital and initial capital, serified italic letters, some with scrolled trim. A significant portion of the top of the stone has broken off.

Thomas Ordway (d. 1833) (Photo 8)

Thomas Ordway's marble gravestone is a simple rectangular shape with cutaway, convexly curved upper corners. A willow tree is simply carved at the top of the stone, above Mr. Ordway's name, date of death, and age at death. His name is inscribed in all-capital, serified letters, while the remainder of the inscription features upper and lower case serified letters. Virtually illegible, a five-line epitaph at the bottom of the stone is written in small italic letters.

Mother, Susan, and Caroline O[rdway] (Photo 9)

Part of a jumble of marble stone pieces, these three markers consist of small white marble stones with segmentally arched tops on a shaped base. The inscriptions display bas-relief, block lettering for the interred person's name and a set of incised, serified initials. The three most visible stones commemorate "MOTHER / M.A.O.", "SUSAN / S.G.O.", and "CAROLINE / C.A.O."

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

*Explain religious affiliations, major period of use, and evaluate historical association of this burial ground with the community.*

The burial ground contains Ordway family members and is located on the property of the Hanson and Mary Ann Ordway House (ca. 1830, 43 Turkey Hill Road, WNB.419). In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a small grouping of Ordway family homes were located along Turkey Hill Road, including the Charles W. and Caroline Ordway House at 35 Turkey Hill Road (ca. 1865, WNB.418) and the Thomas Ordway house that was located in the vicinity of 59 Turkey Hill Road. Thomas Ordway (1776-1833)<sup>1</sup> is buried here with his first wife, Phebe Sawyer Ordway (1778-1806),<sup>2</sup> whom he married in 1800. Thomas Ordway married a second time in 1807 to Lydia Hanson (1786-1871). Thomas and Lydia Hanson Ordway had 13 children, including Hosea Wheeler Ordway (1821-1822), buried here, and Hosea Wheeler Ordway (1826-1910)<sup>3</sup> who lived at 31 Stewart Street (See WNB.417) and is buried in the Bridge Street Cemetery.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Beers, D.G. & Co. *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: D.G. Beers and Co., 1872.

Essex South Registry of Deeds.

Findagrave.com.

Follansbee, Susan, editor. *Cemetery Records of West Newbury, Massachusetts*. Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1997.

Massachusetts Vital Records. Ancestry.com.

Massachusetts Death indices. Ancestry.com.

Massachusetts Marriage indices. Ancestry.com.

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

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

United States Census. Ancestry.com.

West Newbury Tax Assessor records.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/145480923/thomas-ordway>. Accessed April 21, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/145481363/phebe-ordway>. Accessed April 21, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/99360883/hosea-wheeler-ordway>. Accessed April 21, 2023.



## INVENTORY FORM E CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY ORDWAY FAMILY BURIAL GROUND

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.808



Photo 2. View of cemetery from west corner, looking east.



Photo 3. Marker(s?) for Moses Power, d. 1746.



Photo 4. Marker for Phebe Ordway, d. 1806.



Photo 5. Headstone for Hosea W. Ordway, d. 1822.



## INVENTORY FORM E CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY ORDWAY FAMILY BURIAL GROUND

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.808



Photo 6. Footstone for Hosea W. Ordway, d. 1822.



Photo 7. Marker for Lucy Tenney, d. 1825.



Photo 8. Marker for Thomas Ordway, d. 1833.



Photo 9. Markers for Mother, Susan, and Caroline [Ordway].

# FORM B – BUILDING

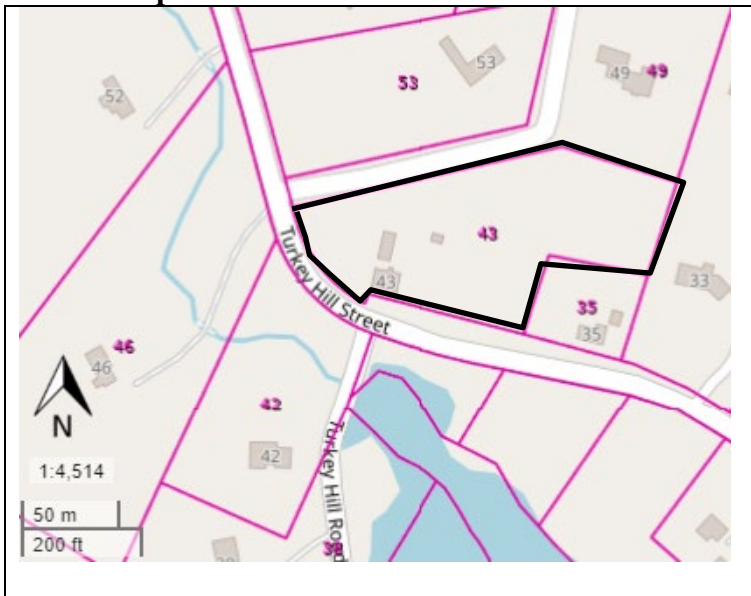
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## Photograph



Façade (south) and east 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

0190 0000  
00081

Newburyport

WNB.419

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Address:** 43 Turkey Hill Road

**Historic Name:** Hanson and Mary Ann Ordway House

**Uses:** Present: Single-Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1830

**Source:** Map, Marriage Date, Visual Assessment

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Not Known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite Block

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Barn (1970), shed (1986) per Assessor

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Enclosed sunporch on side, main entrance surround (mid 20<sup>th</sup> c)

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 2.65 acres

**Setting:** Located on a cross-town thoroughfare in a semi-rural neighborhood with rolling topography and open fields. Heterogeneous residential development typically on large lots.



**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

43 TURKEY HILL RD

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.419

☐ 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:**

43 Turkey Hill Road stands on the north side of the road, at the front of a large, irregularly-shaped parcel. The terrain slopes up gradually from the street, and the house stands behind a moderate front setback. The yard around the house is maintained generally in lawn, with ornamental foundation plantings and an L-shaped fieldstone retaining wall near the southeast corner of the house. A small shed is located to the northeast of the house and a large barn stands behind its northwest corner; neither is easily visible from the public way. A paved driveway extends along the east side of the house to the barn. The property also contains a small family burial ground at its southeast corner. (See burial ground form.)

The house consists of a rectangular main block with a one-story addition at the east side and a two-story appendage on the back of the house, on the west side. The five by two bay main block measures 36 feet long by 20 feet deep and rises 2½ stories to a side gable roof with gable returns and no visible chimney. Walls are sheathed with clapboard and trimmed with sill boards with a shaped top, corner boards, and a narrow fascia with bed molding. Windows typically have 2/2 sash and band molding. The five bay façade has a high proportion of wall to window area and a center entrance with a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, Colonial Revival door surround. The east elevation has a narrow, one-story appendage with a hip roof, an enclosed sunporch with concrete block walls towards the front, a single-leaf door facing the side, and an angled bay window at the rear. A two-story addition at the west end of the rear elevation of the house is significantly lower than the main block and has 2/2 windows; it may be early or original.

The outbuildings are not clearly visible from the public way and do not appear historic. The large, gambrel-roofed barn (1970; 24 by 44 feet) appears to have concrete block walls on the first floor and board and batten siding at the south gambrel end, and two wide vehicular doors on the east elevation. Further investigation is needed to confirm its age and historic functions.

43 Turkey Hill Road is a vernacular example of Greek Revival farmhouses in outlying areas of West Newbury. Notable features include the historic setting, simple massing, conservative five bay façade and side gable form, and relatively small windows. The replacement of the front entrance surround detracts from the architectural integrity of the building. The sunporch and entrance appendage on the east side may have been an original or early side porch and a secondary entrance, similar to the neighboring building at 35 Turkey Hill Road.

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

The house was likely constructed circa 1830 for Hanson Ordway and remained in the family until 2007. Hanson Ordway (1804-1883)<sup>1</sup> married Mary Ann Lunt (1804-1881) of Newbury in 1830. At the time of their marriage, Hanson Ordway was working as a cordwainer; later census records note his occupation as farmer. The property passed down through the family to Hanson and Mary Ordway's son, Charles W. Ordway (see 35 Turkey Hill Road, WNB.418), then from Charles W. Ordway to his son, George A. Ordway (1857-1932),<sup>2</sup> and then from George A. Ordway to his son, Clarence E. Ordway, in 1931.<sup>3</sup> With the exception of Clarence E. Ordway (1886-1939), who lived Haverhill and worked at the Knipe Brothers shoe factory, the Ordway family all farmed the property. In 1945, Hattie B. Ordway (Clarence's widow) sold the house to her daughter, Alice Ordway McCrillis, and

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/177377363/hanson-ordway>. Accessed May 2, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/203877329/george-a-ordway>. Accessed April 21, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 2896, p. 368.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

43 TURKEY HILL RD

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.419

her husband, Charles McCrillis.<sup>4</sup> Alice and Charles McCrillis, who had lived in West Newbury since the 1930s,<sup>5</sup> also farmed the property. Alice McCrillis Skovron sold the property in 2007.<sup>6</sup> The property remains in agricultural use.

**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. Boston Public Library Norman B. Leventhal Map Center Collection.
- Beers, D. G., J. H. Goodhue, and H. B. Parsell. *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: Beers, D. G. & Co., 1872. City Directories.
- Essex County Registry of Deeds.
- Findagrave.com.
- Follansbee, Susan Poore and Jane Wallace Wild. *Images of America: West Newbury*. Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2011.
- Ladd, Audrey, compiler and editor. "Contentious Citizens: A Compilation of Stories Telling the History of West Newbury, Massachusetts." G.A.R. Library, West Newbury.
- Massachusetts Census. Ancestry.com.
- Massachusetts Probate Records. Ancestry.com.
- Massachusetts Vital Records. Ancestry.com.
- Obituary for Charles McCrillis, *The Bangor Daily News*, 15 July 1965, p. 23.
- Town of West Newbury. "An Invoice and valuation of the rateable polls and estates, within the town of West Newbury, taken... 1851...and 1852." West Newbury: Indian Hill Press, 1852.  
<https://archive.org/details/invoicevaluation00west/page/n1/mode/1up>
- Town of West Newbury. Tax Assessor records.
- United States Census. Ancestry.com.
- Walling, Henry Francis. *A Topographical Map of Essex County, Massachusetts...* Boston: Smith & Worley, 1856.
- Walker, George H. & Co. *Atlas of Essex County*. Boston: George H. Walker & Co., 1884.
- West Newbury City Directories. Various publishers. Ancestry.com.



East elevation.



Façade (south elevation).

<sup>4</sup> Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 3395, p. 519.

<sup>5</sup> Obituary, Charles McCrillis, *The Bangor Daily News*, 15 July 1965, p. 23.

<sup>6</sup> Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 26490, p. 446.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

43 TURKEY HILL RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)    Form No.

	WNB.419
--	---------



West elevation; barn in background.



# FORM E – BURIAL GROUND

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

## Photograph



Entrance to cemetery, looking northwest from Turkey Hill Road.

## Locus Map



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

0190 0000  
00020

Newburyport

WNB.801

**Town:** West Newbury

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

**Address or Location:** 0 Turkey Hill Road

**Name:** Quaker Cemetery

**Ownership:** ☒ *Public* ☐ *Private*

**Approximate Number of Stones:** 25

**Earliest Death Date:** 1808 (moved from elsewhere)

**Latest Death Date:** 1913

**Landscape Architect:** None

**Condition:** Fair to poor

**Acreage:** 1.0

**Setting:** Rural location close to the Newburyport town line, along an important north-south roadway that extends from Newbury on the south to Newburyport on the north. Heavily forested location above the Upper Artichoke Reservoir, in an area of dispersed, heterogeneous development.

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

**Organization:** West Newbury Historical Commission

**Date:** June 2023

**INVENTORY FORM E CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

QUAKER CEMETERY

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.801

☐ 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.*

**VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT**

*Describe landscape features, gravestone materials, designs, motifs, and symbols that are either common. Note any known carvers.*

Quaker Cemetery occupies an acre of land on the west side of Turkey Hill Road, close to Upper Artichoke Reservoir. The triangular (pie-shaped) parcel measures approximately 290 feet on its southwest side and 240 feet along its northwest side; its eastern edge, along Turkey Hill Road, is curved. Dry-laid fieldstone walls line the parcel's southwest and northwest boundaries. The burial ground occupies a rise between the roadway and the reservoir, which lies about 25 feet from west corner of the property, at the intersection of the two stone boundary walls. An informal footpath runs roughly parallel to and near the southwestern boundary of the burial ground; mature evergreen and deciduous trees standing in this area may have been planted to define the path. Volunteer undergrowth and moderate- to large-size, second-growth trees occupy most of the site. Entrance to the site is gained at its south corner, where five large boulders along the roadway and a modern, rustic-style wood gate mark the beginning of the footpath.

Quaker Cemetery contains approximately 25 intact gravestones dating from the early 19<sup>th</sup> through early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and representing a limited palette of materials and motifs. The majority of extant stones face northeast and are arrayed in a single row near to and paralleling the footpath on its southwest side. A few stones are positioned in back (south) of this principal row. A handful of stones are located north of the footpath, including a short row of four stones (not all of them intact or legible) set a modest distance back from the west end of the path and two widely-spaced stones, set one behind the other, in the mid-section of the path.

Gravestones in Quaker Cemetery are typically simple, rectangular marble slabs with a variety of shaped tops, usually peaked or round-arched. Less common features include slate slabs, segmental-arched tops, and a center arch with shoulders. Nearly all of the stones are dedicated to a single person, but several stones identify multiple family members. Family names are all Sawyer and Brown, with the exception of one extant stone for a member of the Rogers family (Oliver D. Rogers, d. 1854).

Gravestones in Quaker Cemetery tend to be simple in shape, inscriptions, and decoration. Inscriptions are generally limited to names, death dates, age at time of death, spouse's names for wives, and parents' names for children. Only three epitaphs were noted, all short, sentimental comments written on the stones of children. Ornament is extremely simple and generally is limited to the use of calligraphy, including names carved in bas relief, often in an arched shape, and often combining a multiplicity of capital and lower case letters, italics, and/or bold bas-relief Victorian lettering on one stone. Two of the earliest gravestones have lightly inscribed lettering and delicate urn motifs. Victorian-era stones tend to have bolder and more varied lettering. The most distinctive ornament includes a floral sprig on a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century gravestone for two children and geometric, scrolled decoration on a late 19<sup>th</sup> century stone for a teenaged girl.

Of the 23 legible stones observed, 8 (approximately 35%) have death dates between 1808 and 1840 and 14 (more than 60%) have death dates between 1850 and 1883. Only one death (in 1909) post-dates the latter cluster. Fragments of several additional markers indicate additional burials that merit further research. (Vital records indicate that the last documented burial was in 1913.)

Distinctive burials include a likely family plot at the southwest end of the footpath, where a quartet of granite posts defines a rectangular plot with two extant markers; several iron hooks suggest that chains once spanned between the posts. Curiously, both extant stones memorialize the same individual, Micajah Brown, who died in 1808. The largest stone in the burial ground memorializes four members of the same family, including John Brown, his two wives, and one of his children.

## INVENTORY FORM E CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

QUAKER CEMETERY

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.801

Quaker Cemetery is a small, modest burial ground preserved within an intimate and remote setting. The gravestones are notable for their simplicity and consistency of design, their predominantly linear arrangement, and their contemplative setting with stone walls, mature trees, and a vista of the reservoir. Several stones have clearly broken or disappeared, while others have weathered to varying degrees or shifted from their original placement. The site is overgrown, and the landscaping appears to be minimally maintained. Further documentation and conservation of the gravestones are recommended.

Representative and Notable Individual StonesMicajah Brown (d. 1808) (Photos 7, 8)

Buried within the plot defined by granite posts, two stones of different styles memorialize Micajah Brown, who died at age 37. The earlier stone is slate, with an urn and willow motif incised within a round-arched top. The shoulders have a concave and stepped shape. Elegant, serified lettering uses lower case and initial capital letters for his name, date of death, and age of death; the death date and age are written in italics. The second stone for Micajah is more typical of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century death dates in this burial ground, consisting of a marble slab with a segmentally arched top and plainer calligraphy.

Stephen Brown (d. 1811) (Photo 5)

The stone for Stephen Brown, who died at age 79, is a marble slab with a round-arched top and concave shoulders. A simple, delicately-incised urn is positioned within the tympanum, and a dashed line is incised around the top and sides of the stone. Elegant, serified lettering using lower case and initial capital letters records his name, date of death, and age at death. (See 135 Turkey Hill Road, WNB.188.)

Stephen Sawyer (d. 1862) and an infant Sawyer (d. 1857) (Photo 4)

The monument to two young children of Henry W. and Harriet D. Sawyer is a marble stone with a round-arched top. A bas-relief floral sprig in a circular inset is centered in the tympanum, and an incised line borders the top and sides of the marker. "STEPHEN" and "AN INFANT" are carved in heavy serified letters within small, scalloped frames. Brief sentimental epitaphs commemorate their parents' grief; Stephen was only two, and the infant may have lived only a day.

David Sawyer (d. 1866), Hannah F. Sawyer (d. 1883), Mary A. Sawyer (d. 1864), and Edwin Sawyer (d. 1827) (Photo 3)

Four similar stones memorialize David Sawyer; his second wife, Hannah; their 27-year-old daughter Mary; and David's son Edwin, age 4, with his first wife (Rebecca, age 26, who is buried nearby with their 16-year-old daughter, Sarah Ann). All four markers are plain marble slabs with peaked tops; the interred person's name written in heavy serified, bas-relief letters in a curved shape; and a rich variety of calligraphy. Edwin's stone is placed behind the other three, which occupy the principal row of gravestones on the south side of the footpath.

John Brown (d. 1855), Ruth Brown (d. 1817), Mary Brown (d. 1872), and James N. Brown (d. 1816) (Photo 6)

A single marble gravestone with an atypical granite base records John, his first and second wives, and a son by his first wife. The tallest stone in Quaker Cemetery, it has a peaked top and a variety of calligraphy. Names are carved in all capital letters, while the death date and age are carved in lower case and initial capital letters. John died at age 71, while his first wife died at age 35, his second at age 77, and his son at age 8.

Abbie M. Brown (d. 1882) (Photo 9)

Abbie was the 19-year-old, only daughter of Charles E. and Amanda M. Brown, who observed of their loss that "God knew best." Located on the north side of the footpath, the gravestone is a marble slab on a marble base, with a pyramidal-shaped top. Abbie's first name and initial are incised in plain block letters, while her parentage, death date, and brief epitaph are carved in serified lower case letters with initial capitals; the epitaph is italicized. Simple, abstract geometric designs and scrolls ornament the upper corners of the stone.

## INVENTORY FORM E CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

QUAKER CEMETERY

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.801

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Explain religious affiliations, major period of use, and evaluate historical association of this burial ground with the community.*

In 1855, land for the Quaker Cemetery was purchased here from Josiah Little by David Sawyer and Robert L. Brown on behalf of the Society of Friends.<sup>1</sup> A Society of Friends in Hampton, New Hampshire was active as early as 1701, when a meeting house was constructed there. The Hampton meeting drew members from Hampton, Salisbury, Amesbury, and Newbury.<sup>2</sup> In 1743, a meeting house was constructed on High Street, Newbury. In June, 1825, the Newbury meeting house and land were sold and a new meeting house was constructed just over the town line in West Newbury at the southwest corner of Rogers Street and Turkey Hill Road.<sup>3</sup> As reflected in the death dates, some burials were relocated to West Newbury from Newburyport. Robert Lewis Brown (1819-1887)<sup>4</sup> lived across the street from the Quaker Cemetery, on the east side of Turkey Hill Road. David Sawyer (1793-1866)<sup>5</sup> lived at the south end of Turkey Hill Road, per the 1856 map.

The burials contain members of the Brown, Sawyer, and Rogers families. It appears that some of the stones were brought here from an earlier burial ground. The earliest marker belongs to Micajah Brown (1770-1808).<sup>6</sup> The most recent marker belongs to Miriam Brown (1825-1909). Blachowicz identifies the stone of Stephen Sawyer (d.1862) and an infant Sawyer (d. 1857) (Photo 4) as carved by Francis A. Brown of Haverhill.

After the meeting disbanded and the meetinghouse pulled down in 1917,<sup>7</sup> the burial ground was abandoned. In 2010, West Newbury resident Susan Follansbee and a number of volunteers began restoring the site. Overgrown vegetation was removed and the ground probed for markers that had become buried, some as deep as one foot underground. Broken stones, where they could be pieced together, were repaired. The burial ground is now owned by the town of West Newbury.

Gravestone Carver Francis A. Brown (1820-1893),<sup>8</sup> Haverhill, Mass.

Blachowicz identified 1 stone by Francis A. Brown in the Quaker Cemetery (Stephen Sawyer, c. 1862) (Photo 4) and 40 stones in other West Newbury cemeteries.<sup>9</sup> Born in Providence, Rhode Island, Francis A. Brown married Hannah A. Roby in Lowell, Massachusetts in 1842 and lived in Derry, New Hampshire circa 1842 to 1845. By 1847, Brown and his family were living in Haverhill. The birth record for Brown's son, George Henry Brown, in Haverhill in that year notes Francis A. Brown's occupation as "gravestone cutter."<sup>10</sup> The 1850 census recorded Brown and family in Haverhill, where his occupation was recorded as "marble cutter." Haverhill city directories indicate that Brown continued to work into the 1880s.<sup>11</sup> Brown's work is included in MACRIS in the Old Byfield Parish Cemetery, Georgetown and Newbury (GEO.803 and NEW.801) and Fairview Cemetery, Westford (WSR.806).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Beers, D.G. & Co. *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: D. G. Beers and Co., 1872.  
 Blachowicz, James. *From Slate to Marble: Gravestone Carving Traditions in Eastern Massachusetts, 1750-1850*. Volume 2. Evanston, Ill.: Graver Press, 2015.  
 Currier, John J. *History of Newbury, Mass. 1635-1902*. Boston: Damrell & Upham, 1902.  
<https://archive.org/details/historyofnewbury1902curr>

<sup>1</sup> Essex South Registry of Deeds Book 564, p. 281.

<sup>2</sup> Currier, *History of Newbury, Massachusetts*, 1902: 389.

<sup>3</sup> Currier, *History of Newbury, Massachusetts*, 1902: 392.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/206655374/robert-lewis-brown>. Accessed Dec. 20, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/234779997/david-sawyer>. Accessed Dec. 20, 2022.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/127496271/micajah-brown>. Accessed Dec. 20, 2022.

<sup>7</sup> Follansbee and Wild: 44.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/250384439/francis-a.-brown>. Accessed May 24, 2023.

<sup>9</sup> Blachowicz, Vol. 2, p. 291 with accompanying thumb drive of additional data and images.

<sup>10</sup> Blachowicz, Vol. 2, p. 288.

<sup>11</sup> Blachowicz, Vol. 2, p. 289.



## INVENTORY FORM E CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

QUAKER CEMETERY

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.801

Essex South Registry of Deeds.

Findagrave.com.

Follansbee, Susan, editor. *Cemetery Records of West Newbury, Massachusetts*. Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1997.Follansbee, Susan Poore and Jane Wallace Wild. *Images of America: West Newbury*. Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2011.

Massachusetts Vital Records. Ancestry.com.

Massachusetts Death indices. Ancestry.com.

Massachusetts Marriage indices. Ancestry.com.

Poore, Mary A. "Quaker Cemetery." MHC E Form WNB.801. June 1973.

Tilton, John. "Abandoned graveyard saved by volunteers." *Newburyport Daily News*. 13 Nov. 2010.Walker, George H. & Co. *Atlas of Essex County*. Boston: George H. Walker & Co., 1884.Walling, Henry Francis. *A Topographical Map of Essex County, Massachusetts...* Boston: Smith & Worley, 1856.

United States Census. Ancestry.com.

West Newbury Tax Assessor records.

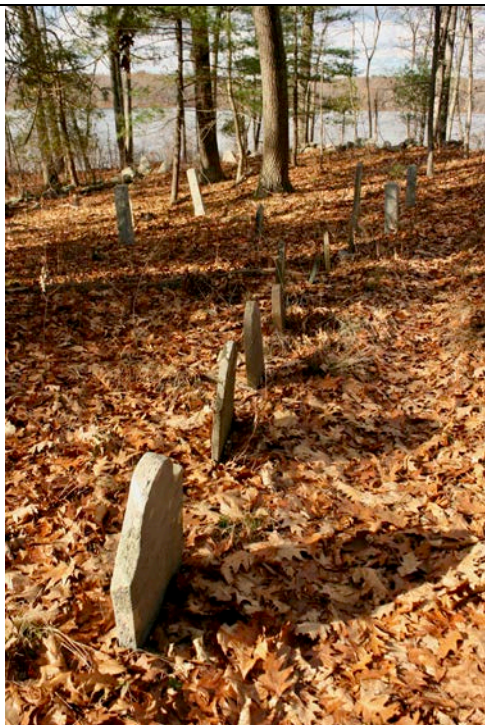


Photo 2. Footpath with principal row of gravestones in center, looking west.



Photo 3. Gravestones for David, Hannah, Mary, and Edwin Sawyer (d. 1866, 1883, 1864, and 1827).



## INVENTORY FORM E CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

QUAKER CEMETERY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.801



Photo 4. Gravestone for Stephan and Infant Sawyer (d. 1862 and 1857).



Photo 5. Gravestone for Stephen Brown (d. 1811).



Photo 6. Gravestone for John Brown, et al. (d. 1855, etc.).



Photo 7. Plot with gravestones for Micajah Brown, looking west.

## INVENTORY FORM E CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

QUAKER CEMETERY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.801



Photo 8. Detail of gravestone for Micajah Brown (d. 1808).



Photo 9. Gravestone for Abbie M. Brown (d. 1882).

## INVENTORY FORM E CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

QUAKER CEMETERY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB.801

## 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   ☐ GStatement of Significance by Stacy E. Spies and Wendy Frontiero*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The Quaker Cemetery is significant for its association with the Quaker Meetinghouse that was established in Newburyport in 1743 and moved to West Newbury in 1825. The meeting was active into the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and had a meetinghouse located nearby at the corner of Rogers Street and Turkey Hill Road from 1825 until 1917. The burials contain members of the Rogers, Brown, and Sawyer families who established the West Newbury Meeting.

The Quaker Cemetery retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship. The cemetery is recommended for listing on the National Register of Historic Places with significance at the local level under Criterion A. The property meets Criteria Consideration D because of its association with the history of Quakers in West Newbury.



# FORM B – BUILDING

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

## Photograph



West and façade (south) elevations: Main block, ells, and free-standing barn.

## 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

61

0190 0000  
00050

Newburyport

WNB.D

WNB.188  
WNB.442

**Town/City:** West Newbury

**Place:**

**Address:** 135 Turkey Hill Road

**Historic Name:** Stephen and Eunice Brown House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residence

Original: Single Family Residence

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1757

**Source:** Marriage date; Visual Assessment

**Style/Form:** Colonial

**Architect/Builder:** Not Known

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite and brick

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboards and trim

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

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

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): N/A

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 4.70 acres

**Setting:** Rural location close to the Newburyport town line, along an important north-south roadway that extends from Newbury on the south to Newburyport on the north. Heavily forested location above the Upper Artichoke Reservoir, in an area of dispersed, heterogeneous development. Opposite Quaker Cemetery.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

135 TURKEY HILL RD

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB.  
DWNB.188  
WNB.442☒ 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:**

135 Turkey Hill Road stands on the east side of the street, facing south in the traditional manner. The house is set well back from the street, overlooking an open field. A contemporary cul de sac borders the north part of the parcel, behind the house. A dry-laid stone wall lines the south property line.

The property contains a main house with a sequence of side ells/additions (possibly built for agricultural uses), and a freestanding barn near the east end of the house. Walls are typically sheathed in clapboards and trimmed with corner boards. Windows typically have 6/6 sash and band molding.

The five by three bay main house measures 36 feet long by 41 feet deep and rises 2½ stories to a side gable roof with twin interior chimneys and brief but emphatic gable returns. Walls are trimmed with sill boards, corner boards, and a fascia with a bed molding. The five bay façade has a center entrance with a single-leaf door, slender pilasters, and an elaborate entablature. The west elevation is asymmetrically composed, with windows loosely grouped 1 and 2 on the first two floors; two windows are set in the half-story. The rear (north) elevation was originally a symmetrical five-bay composition, with a center entrance displaying a single-leaf door, band molding, and cornice molding. Two windows to the left of the entrance have been replaced with a band of three smaller, conjoined windows. A circular fieldstone well is located near the rear entrance.

A two-story, side-gabled ell projects from the east elevation of the main block. Three bays wide, it features a recessed porch (now screened) on the first floor of the façade (south elevation) and a center chimney at the ridge. (The façade is not visible from the public way.) Its rear (north) elevation is continuous with the back wall of the main block and has an offset entrance similar to the main block. The end appendage in this assemblage is one story high, with a side-gabled roof. Its façade is also not visible from the public way; the 1967 survey form shows two barn doors of different sizes (the larger one slides), separated by a large 6/6 window. The rear (north) elevation is continuous with the adjacent ell and has one 6/6 window.

To the east of this three-part assemblage is a relatively large, free-standing barn (WNB.442) with a brick foundation, side-gable roof, clapboards on the façade (south) and west elevations, and wood shingles on its rear elevation. Walls are trimmed with corner boards, flat fascia with bed molding, and gable returns. Centered on the ridge is a tall cupola with a low hipped roof and arched window openings with louvered infill. The eclectic façade (south elevation) has two 6/6 windows and three doorways of various sizes (two with segmentally arched openings and deep cornice shelves) on the first floor. The second story of the façade has two 4-light windows and a segmentally arched hayloft door. The west elevation of this barn has two widely spaced windows at the first and half-stories and an oculus window or louver in the gable peak. The barn's rear (north) elevation is shingled and contains three asymmetrically placed 6/6 windows. Further investigation of this barn is recommended to document its interior and ascertain its age and possible historic functions.

A small outbuilding is positioned at the east end of the field in front of the house and barn, approximately in the center of the parcel. This small structure is one story high with a side-gabled roof and shiplap siding. Its façade (west elevation) has a center entrance with double-leaf, vertical board doors, flanked on each side by a small 4-light window. The north elevation appears to be blank. In addition to the stone well structure behind the main block, another, simple wooden well structure of indeterminate age is located to the west of the house. Near this well is a zigzagging arrangement of dry-laid fieldstone walls, which may represent foundations of a former dwelling or outbuilding; further research is recommended.

Well preserved and well maintained, 135 Turkey Hill Road is an outstanding example of farmhouse architecture in West Newbury. Notable features include the intact rural setting, the distance between the house and the street, the uncommonly large proportions of the dwelling, its five-bay façade and finely detailed but relatively small-scale entrances, historic fenestration and window sash, and intact side ells (which may both have had agricultural functions). Also remarkable is a range of intact historic

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

135 TURKEY HILL RD

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB. D	WNB.188 WNB.442
-----------	--------------------

outbuildings and structures: the elaborate and eclectic free-standing barn, early outbuilding (perhaps a workshop), two wells, and the remains of a building foundation.

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

The house was likely constructed circa 1757 for Stephen Brown. In that year, Stephen Brown (1732-1811)<sup>1</sup> married his first wife, Eunice Danforth (- 1763). The couple had at least three children. In 1765, Stephen Brown married his second wife, Merriam Huntington Brown (1741-1835); the couple had ten children. Upon Stephen Brown's death, his sons, Benaiah, John and Robert, inherited the property. Benaiah and John sold their share of the estate to Robert, who made this his residence.<sup>2</sup> In 1830, farmer Robert Brown (1780-1862)<sup>3</sup> married Susan Lewis Merrill (1793-1880)<sup>4</sup>. Robert Brown was an elder in the West Newbury Quaker Meeting,<sup>5</sup> which had been established in 1825 across the street at the southwest corner of Rogers Street and Turkey Hill Road.<sup>6</sup> By 1851, Robert Brown owned three houses: likely his own house and those of his sons, Robert L. Brown and Charles E. Brown.<sup>7</sup>

In his will, Robert Brown left to his son, Robert L. Brown, the dwelling house in which Robert was living at the time. Robert Brown left his own house (135 Turkey Hill Road) to his son, Charles E. Brown, with the provision that Susan Brown would live there until her death.<sup>8</sup> Charles Edward Brown (1827-1921)<sup>9</sup> had married Amanda M. Pillsbury (1830-1917)<sup>10</sup> in 1855. Like his father, Charles E. Brown farmed the property.

In 1910, Charles E. Brown sold a portion of the property to his son, Robert S. Brown; Robert S. Brown inherited the remainder of the property upon his father's death.<sup>11</sup> In 1921, Robert S. Brown (1869-1954) moved into the house and lived here with his wife, Grace G. Brown, and their daughter, Helen W. Brown. Robert S. Brown also farmed the property, which included cattle pastures and an orchard.<sup>12</sup> The property was owned by the Brown family until 1955, when Helen W. Brown sold the house to W. Martin and Pamela P. Philips.<sup>13</sup>

The property is part of the Common Pasture (WNB.D), a largely-intact "remnant landscape with a history that dates back to 1635. It is one of the few surviving areas in Eastern Massachusetts to retain evidence of common lands that were the foundation of 17<sup>th</sup> century Massachusetts land use patterns. The grasslands that characterize portions of the surviving area of the Common Pasture are rare as a historic landscape type in Massachusetts...The Common Pasture is noteworthy for its size, unique landscape character and for the retention of large-scale agricultural use."<sup>14</sup>

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

- Anderson, Philander for Moses Pettingell. "Map of the Original Town of Newbury, now divided in Newbury, Newburyport, and West Newbury." 1830.
- Beers, D. G., J. H. Goodhue, and H. B. Parsell. *Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: Beers, D. G. & Co., 1872.
- Berg, Shary Page, Gretchen Schuler, and Mary Harbaugh. "Common Pasture." MHC A Form WNB.D. December 2005.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58565943/stephen-brown>. Accessed May 4, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 196, p. 212, 213, and 214.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/127496830/robert-brown>. Accessed May 4, 2023.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/127496929/susan-l-brown>. Accessed May 4, 2023.

<sup>5</sup> Tract Association of Friends, *The American Annual Monitor for 1863*, p. 17.

<sup>6</sup> Currier, *History of Newbury*, 1902: 392.

<sup>7</sup> Town of West Newbury, "An Invoice and valuation...", 1851.

<sup>8</sup> Massachusetts, U. S., Wills and Probate Records, 1635-1991. Ancestry.com. Accessed May 4, 2023.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/204351540/charles-e-brown>. Accessed May 4, 2023.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/194633666/amanda-m-brown>. Accessed Dec. 20, 2022.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/204351597/robert-s-brown>. Accessed May 4, 2023.

<sup>12</sup> Affidavit filed with Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 4177, p. 74.

<sup>13</sup> Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 4177, p. 74.

<sup>14</sup> Berg, Schuler, and Harbaugh, "Common Pasture," MHC A Form WNB.D, December 2005.



## INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY

135 TURKEY HILL RD

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB. D	WNB.188 WNB.442
-----------	--------------------

Brown, John. "Plan of the West Parish of Newbury New Town." 1729. Boston Public Library Norman B. Leventhal Map Center Collection. <https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:x059c938c>

City Directories.

Currier, John J. *History of Newbury, Mass. 1635-1902*. Boston: Damrell & Upham, 1902.

<https://archive.org/details/historyofnewbury1902currEssex> County Registry of Deeds.

Findagrave.com.

Follansbee, Susan Poore and Jane Wallace Wild. *Images of America: West Newbury*. Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2011.

Ladd, Audrey, compiler and editor. "Contentious Citizens: A Compilation of Stories Telling the History of West Newbury, Massachusetts." G.A.R. Library, West Newbury.

Massachusetts Census. Ancestry.com.

Massachusetts Probate Records. Ancestry.com.

Massachusetts Vital Records. Ancestry.com.

Tract Association of Friends. *The American Annual Monitor for 1863 or Obituary of the Members of the Society of Friends in America for the Year 1862*. New York: William Wood & Co., 1863.

Town of West Newbury. "An Invoice and valuation of the rateable polls and estates, within the town of West Newbury, taken... 1851...and 1852." West Newbury: Indian Hill Press, 1852.

Town of West Newbury. Tax Assessor records.

United States Census. Ancestry.com.

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

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



West and façade (south) elevations of main block.



Detail of main entrance.



INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY 135 TURKEY HILL RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

WNB. D	WNB.188 WNB.442
-----------	--------------------



North and west elevations of main block.



Rear elevations of ell and main block.



Rear entrance on main block and circular stone well.



Façade (south) elevations of main block, end ell, and free-standing barn.



INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WEST NEWBURY      135 TURKEY HILL RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)      Form No.

WNB. D	WNB.188 WNB.442
-----------	--------------------



Free-standing barn: Rear (north) and west elevations.



Outbuilding: Façade (west elevation).



Remnants of foundation in front setback.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

WEST NEWBURY

**135 TURKEY HILL RD**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

WNB. D	WNB.188 WNB.442
-----------	--------------------

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

The Stephen and Eunice Brown House at 135 Turkey Hill Road is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level. The property is a representative example of West Newbury's agricultural history and appears to have been farmed for 200 years, from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Well-preserved and well-maintained, 135 Turkey Hill Road is an outstanding example of farmhouse architecture in West Newbury. Notable features include the intact rural setting, the distance between the house and the street, the uncommonly large proportions of the dwelling, its five-bay façade and finely-detailed but relatively small-scale entrances, historic fenestration and window sash, and intact side ells (which may both have had agricultural functions). Also remarkable is a range of intact historic outbuildings and structures: the elaborate and eclectic free-standing barn, early outbuilding (perhaps a workshop), two wells, and the remains of a building foundation.

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.