

FORM A - AREA

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

R13, R14 Newbury-
port A See Data
Sheet
LHD 4/5/1976

Town/City: West Newbury

Place (*neighborhood or village*):

Name of Area: Training Field Area

Present Use: Residential; Civic; Library

Construction Dates or Period: ca. 1700-1939

Overall Condition: Fair to Excellent

Major Intrusions and Alterations: Replacement windows
(late 20th C).

Acreage: 9.16 acres

Recorded by: Stacy Spies

Organization: West Newbury Historical Commission

Date (*month/year*): June 2018

Photograph



Photo 1. View of Training Field from intersection of Main Street and Bailey's Lane. View looking northeast.

Locus Map



see continuation sheet

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

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

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

The Training Field Area centers on the Training Field located at the northeast corner of Bailey's Lane and Main Street (Route 113) in the northern part of West Newbury. A semi-rural neighborhood of mostly residential properties, the survey area encompasses houses facing the training field on the northwest side of the field, houses facing Main Street and the training field along the south side of Main Street, and the G.A.R. library at the area's west boundary. Small scale, 20th century suburban development borders the area to the south along Stewart Street and to the north on Bailey's Lane.

Main Street in this neighborhood is a well-travelled thoroughfare between the city of Newburyport on the east and the Groveland to the west. Visually and architecturally cohesive, the survey area is characterized by a variety of well-preserved, mainly residential, wood-frame houses constructed from the early 18th through mid-19th centuries, a 19th century brick blacksmith shop converted to a dwelling, an 1841 wood-frame town hall, and a 1939 public library constructed of brick. The buildings are all located on small lots fronting on Main Street and Training Field Road. The survey area is unified by common setbacks (typically relatively close to the street) and rhythmic spacing. The majority of buildings in the survey area are 2-story, wood frame, residential buildings with clapboard siding and side-gabled roof. Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival styles predominate; the Town House was constructed in a Greek Revival design and altered circa 1880 with Victorian Eclectic details. The library was constructed in the Colonial Revival style.

All buildings in the Training Field survey area retain integrity of form, setting, and architectural design. Building conditions are typically good to excellent. The most notable alterations are side and rear additions, which are typically harmonious in scale, form, and articulation.

See survey forms for detailed descriptions of individual properties in the survey area.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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

In the 18th century, the Training Field Area emerged as one of three defined public areas in West Newbury, alongside the First Parish and Second Parish churches. In 1731, Joshua Bailey exchanged land with the Town of Newbury, giving the front of his farm for a training field of 150 square rods (0.94 acre) and a section two rods wide and 133 rods long (33' x 2,194') in exchange for a part of Bailey's Lane.

The Training Field, located near the geographical mid-point of Main Street, became the civic town commons. In 1841, the Town House (old Town Hall) was constructed at the southwest corner of the common. As early as the Revolutionary War, militia used the common for assembly; today, the Training Field contains memorials to West Newbury residents who served in conflicts through the 20th century. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, a carriage shop and a blacksmith shop were located at the north perimeter of the green. In the mid-20th century, some residents operated small shops and stores from their properties. For example, in 1947, teachers Dorothy and Ronald Gibbons made and sold candy from a shop

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located in the rear ell of 10 Training Field Road.¹ The G.A.R. Library was constructed in 1939 and forms the western boundary for the area. The remainder of the buildings are, at present, all residences.

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¹ Follansbee and Wild, p. 105.

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Sheet**AREA DATA SHEET**

Assessor's #	MHC #		Street Address	Construction Date	Style	Acreage
R13-640	WNB.186	G.A.R. Library	490 Main St.	1939	Colonial Revival	.79
R14-400	WNB.185	West Newbury Town House	491 Main St.	1842	Greek Revival/Italianate	.5
R14-390	WNB.176	John and Elizabeth Carr House	495 Main St.	Pre-1729	Colonial	3.25
R14-380	WNB.181	David and Sarah Chase House	503 Main St.	Pre-1841	Greek Revival	.37
R14-370	WNB.183	John Chase House	505 Main St.	Ca. 1700	Colonial	.25
R14-810	WNB.184	Samuel and Sarah Sawyer House	510 Main St.	Ca. 1803	Federal	.25
R14-36A	WNB.97	Joseph Z. and Vienna Gordon House	511 Main St.	Ca. 1852	Italianate	1.03
R13-750	WNB.177	Moses Bailey House	2 Training Field Rd.	Ca. 1750	Colonial	.5
R13-760	WNB.178	John N. and Mary Bailey House	4 Training Field Rd.	Ca. 1841	Federal	.5
R13-770	WNB.179	Daniel Bailey Blacksmith Shop	6 Training Field Rd.	Ca. 1803	Federal/Greek Revival	.32
R13-780	WNB.180	Daniel Bailey Jr. House	8 Training Field Rd.	Ca. 1752	Georgian	.5
R13-790	WNB.182	Sally and Alfred Pillsbury House	10 Training Field Rd.	Post-1830	Federal/Colonial Revival	.9
R13-800	WNB.920	World War I Memorial	Training Field	1919	--	1.6
R13-800	WNB.921	World War II and Korean War Memorial	Training Field	1953	--	
R13-800	WNB.922	Town Pump	Training Field	1882	--	

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



490 Main St. G.A.R. Library (WNB.186)



491 Main St. West Newbury Town House (WNB.185)



495 Main St. (WNB.176)



503 Main St. (WNB.181)

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505 Main St. (WNB.183)



510 Main St. (WNB.184)



511 Main St. (WNB.97)



2 Training Field Rd. (WNB.177)



4 Training Field Rd. (WNB.178)



6 Training Field Rd. (WNB.179)

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8 Training Field Rd. (WNB.180) and, at left, barn for 6 Training Field Rd. (WNB.256)



10 Training Field Rd. (WNB.182)



Barn, 10 Training Field Rd. (WNB.257)



Water Pump, Training Field. (WNB.922)

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

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

Criteria: **A** **B** **C** **D**

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

Statement of Significance by Stacy Spies

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Training Field Historic District is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the civic development of West Newbury Center from the mid-18th century through 1939. In the 18th century, the Training Field area emerged as one of three defined public areas in West Newbury, alongside the First Parish and Second Parish church areas. In 1731, Joshua Bailey exchanged land with the Town of Newbury, giving the whole front of his farm for a training field of 150 square rods (0.94 acre) and a section two rods wide and 133 rods long (33' x 2,194') in exchange for a part of Bailey's Lane.

The Training Field, located near the geographical mid-point of Main Street, became the civic town commons. As early as the Revolutionary War, militia used the common for assembly; today, the Training Field contains memorials to West Newbury residents who served in conflicts through the 20th century. In 1842, the Town House (old Town Hall) was constructed at the southwest corner of the common. The G.A.R. Library was constructed in 1939 and forms the western boundary for the district. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, a carriage shop and a blacksmith shop were located at the north perimeter of the green alongside their artisans' dwellings. At various times through the 19th and 20th centuries, residents operated grocery or candy shops from their homes.

The remainder of the buildings in the district are residential and date from ca. 1700 through 1852. Nine of the houses were constructed between ca. 1700 and ca. 1803; four houses were constructed during the 1830s through the 1850s. There are no non-contributing buildings in the eligible historic district.

All of the buildings in the district retain integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, setting, association, and workmanship.