

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

This two story house with pitched roof and symmetrical five bay facade is typical of the vernacular Georgian homes built in Newburyport during the eighteenth century. The architectural details of this house are simple yet characteristic of the style. The doorways have been altered and presently exhibit the features of the Greek Revival style popular during the mid-nineteenth century.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

The earliest documented owner of this house is that noted on the 1851 Map of Newburyport. At that time Benjamin Choate was the proprietor. Choate was a ship carpenter who worked in the shipyards of the North End.

Prior to 1872 this house was sold to William H. Morss. Morss was also involved in Newburyport's shipbuilding trade. He was a shipjoiner.

This house served as a dwelling until 1940 when Fred H. Morse sold it to the Towle Manufacturing Company. Today it houses the company's showroom and gift shop.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Assessor's Records 1890-1980
1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.
1851, 1872 City Directories
R. Hale, Along the Coast of Essex County