

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



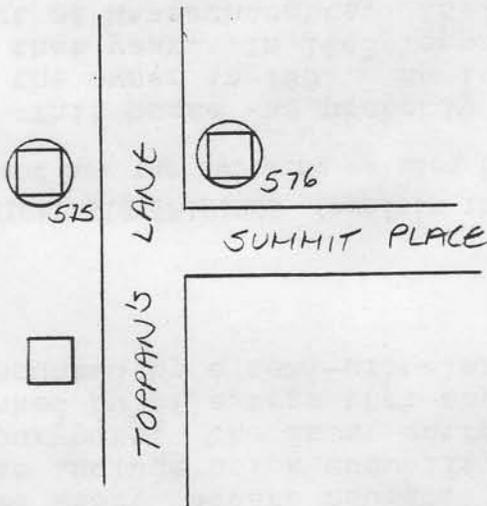
Newburyport
 Address 31 Toppan's Lane
 Historic Name Edward Toppan
 Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Edward Toppan

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1819
 Source Hale, "Old Newburyport Houses"
 Style Unknown
 Architect Clapboards, bricks
 Exterior wall fabric carriage house
 Outbuildings _____
 Major alterations (with dates) _____
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage 19,500 sq. ft.
 Setting in residential area of
primarily nineteenth century dwelling
between High and Low Streets.



Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt
 Organization Office of Community Development.
 Date 01-14-81

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This two story house with pitched roof is an excellent example of the Federal style as interpreted in a two story rather than the more common three story "square house". The house has several noteworthy features. These include brick endwalls, seen in only one other early home in Newburyport. The front entrance is also worthy of note. The door is flanked by pilasters that support a pediment above. The door is also surmounted by a semi-circular fanlight with simple tracery.

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

This house was probably built by Edward Toppan. Edward Toppan, Jr. was the owner in 1851. He is listed as a farmer in the City Directory for that year. In 1843 Toppan served as representative to the General Court of Massachusetts. In 1872 Mrs. Edward Toppan was the proprietor of the building.

Prior to 1927 Roland L. Toppan inherited this house from Margaret Toppan. In that year the house was conveyed to Gertrude Toppan, wife of Roland. In 1939 Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Burke, the present owners of the house acquired the property.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Assessor's Records 1890-1980

A. Hale, Old Newburyport Houses, Boston, 1912.

J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, vols. I and II., reprint, Newburyport 1977.