

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NWB.3011
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Carter, George F. House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	36 North Atkinson St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Newburyport
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	42-34-A
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	C 1890
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	NWB.L: Newburyport Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (8/2/1984); Preservation Restriction (11/14/2013)



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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)

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**FORM B – BUILDING**

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

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

42/34/A		L	3011
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PR 11/14/2013

**Town/City:** Newburyport

**Place:** Bresnahan School Area

**Address:** 36 North Atkinson Street

**Historic Name:** unknown

**Uses: Present:** Residential

**Original:** Residential

**Date of Construction:** Approx. 1890

**Source:** Registry of Deeds, Historical Details

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**

**Foundation:** Brick

**Wall/Trim:** Wood Clapboard with wood rake boards and bed moulding

**Roof:** Asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** Two car detached garage (not original to house)

**Major Alterations (with dates):** In the 1970s the house was converted to a two family dwelling with added dormers on third floor, a back deck and stair access for secondary egress. A detached two story barn was added behind the house. 2008, the detached barn was removed, and a total rehabilitation of the structure was

**Condition:** Poor prior to 2008 renovation

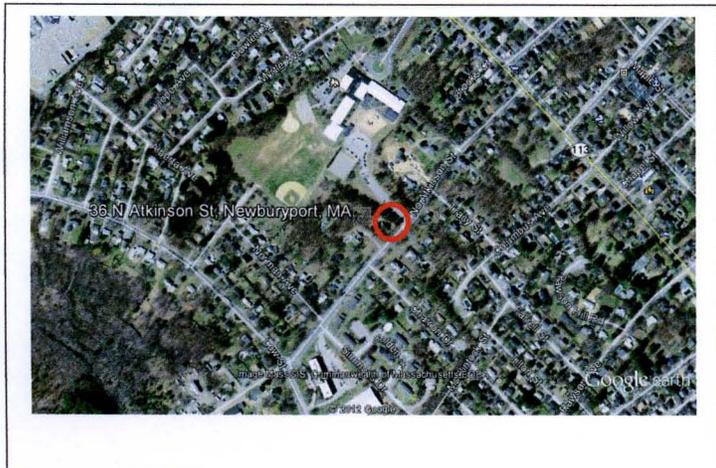
**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** 36,408 square feet

**Setting:** Residential street consisting of homes on larger lots built in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Photograph**

36A N. Atkinson St, Newburyport MA

**Locus Map**

**Recorded by:** Janet Morris

**Organization:** Newburyport Historical

**Date:** April 2013

RECEIVED  
 NOV 18 2013

MASS. HIST. COMM.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

NEWBURYPORT

36 NORTH ATKINSON ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

L

NWB.3011

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

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

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:**

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

This house is a vernacular example of the Greek Revival style. The house is quite simple but has the gable of the roof facing the street so as to suggest the Greek pediment. The doorway is set on the side and decorative boards flank the door itself. These are all characteristics of the Greek Revival, as is the wide fascia below the overhang with decorative brackets above the doorway. The cornerboards, rake boards with bed moulding and eave returns are in keeping with the style. Numerous examples of this type of single family residence were built in Newburyport during the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century. These houses were typical 1 ½ to 2 ½ stories and provided housing for workers of the manufacturing industries which flourished in Newburyport in the nineteenth century.

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

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

The land upon which the house is built was deeded as a separate parcel with other land by Albert G. Maxwell to Nathaniel L. Ordway in 1868. Nathaniel Ordway was approximately 66 when he owned the property and lived upon the larger lot with his wife, Mary, age 70 and his son Charles, who was one of six children. Nathaniel Ordway was born in New Hampshire and was a farmer. The son, Charles, was a keepin in a livery stable. Charles continued to own the property after his father's death.

In 1888, the one parcel was deeded to George F. Carter, who built the house on the land sometime between 1889 and 1906. George F. Carter was approximately 33 years old when he purchased the land. He was born in Massachusetts, the son of George W. Carter and Sophia C. Carter. The home built by Carter remained in the Carter family until 1956.

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George W. Carter, the father of George F. Carter, was born April 25, 1830 at Gut of Canso, Nova Scotia. He served in the Civil War in the 35<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Massachusetts Infantry, then later in the 9<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Army of the Potomac. He was wounded in the left foot at Antietam, September 17, 1862, but remained in the service of the country until his discharge in June, 1865. He returned home to Newburyport where he was a ship builder. He died December 16, 1887, buried in the Belleville Cemetery.

George F. Carter worked in a shoe factory as a stock fitter. After the house was built upon the property, he lived there with his wife, Louisa A. Carter. Louisa was a homemaker and cared for their four children, Fred, Adeline, Alice and Lena. As the children grew, the adult daughters remained at home with their parents. Adeline was a case maker at the silver factor; Alice was a bookkeeper at a grocery store, and Lena was a stenographer at a spice manufacturing company. After George F. Carter's death on January 31, 1915, his wife Louisa and daughter Adeline continued to live at the home. Louisa became a dress maker and Adeline lived with her mother and continued to work at the silver factory. Louisa A. Carter died on April 29, 1940 and the property was left to the children in equal shares. Adeline continued to live at the property until her death on Jun 12, 1956.

Following the death of the final Carter family member to live at the North Atkinson property, the house was conveyed to Robert and Joan Franz in 1956. In 1957 Robert and his wife deeded a parcel of the property containing 0.35 acres to the City of Newburyport for the North End Grade School (now the Bresnahan School). The land was deeded several times following the Franz ownership, the owners occupying the property. In 1976 the property was deeded to Walter B. Preble and Marjorie G. Preble. It was sometime during this period that it was converted to a two family dwelling with the addition of the dormers and the back deck stairways. From approximately 1981 to 2006 the property was a rental property. In 2007, the property was conveyed to Janet L. Moreland, who converted the building to a single family residence and restored many of the historic features of the home. In 2010, the property was conveyed to Richard C. Batten Jr. and his wife Patricia A.M. Batten.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

HeritageQuest Online – Census records – City of Newburyport  
Essex South District Registry of Deeds records  
*History of Newburyport 1764 – 1905*, John J. Currier  
*The City of Newburyport in the Civil War 1861 – 1865*, George W. Creasey  
*Newburyport MIMAP*

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*Photo 1: Front Facade, Southeast Elevation*



*Photo 2: West Elevation*

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*Photo 3: Northwest Elevation*



*Photo 4: East Elevation*

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*Photo 5: Original front door*



*Photo 6: Preserved cornice detail, front entrance*



*Photo 7: Preserved rake and bed moulding*



*Photo 8: Preserved rake and bed moulding*