

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

This house is one of the earliest on Oakland Street which was built up for housing for the shipbuilding industry in the mid-nineteenth century. The house has one center chimney which probably replaced a more massive center chimney. The shallow pitched roof is fairly common in Newburyport in vernacular houses built at the turn of the nineteenth century. The detail of the house is extremely simple. The most notable feature is the doorway which was undoubtedly of an earlier design but was updated during the Greek Revival period. Today the doorway has applied Doric pilasters and wide fascia in the entablature over the doorway. This is a typical Greek Revival doorway seen throughout Newburyport.

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 built by Timothy Osgood at the turn of the nineteenth century. He lived in the house until 1815 when he sold it to Samuel Osgood. It is quite possible that the family was involved in the shipping so important to Newburyport's economy at the turn of the nineteenth century.

Samuel Osgood eventually sold the property to John Pearson. Pearson held shares in several of the vessels built in Newburyport.

In 1837, the house was sold to True Choate, a ship's carpenter. Choate was just one of the many men associated with shipbuilding that made their homes on Oakland Street in the mid-nineteenth century. The Choate family had an excellent reputation for ship joinery. The firm of Ezekiel and True Choate also owned an interest in several vessels built in the shipyard of John J. Currier, Jr.

The house remained in the Choate family until 1893, when the estate was sold to Mr. Albert C. Cheney.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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