

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

This is a vernacular example of the Second Empire style. The mansard roof and dormers are hallmarks of the style. These and the the projecting central pavillion help to create the bold three dimensional effect of the Second Empire style. The doorway has been altered. The door itself is flanked by sidelights and surmounted by an elliptical fanlight in the Federal style. This is a recent alteration to the building.

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

In 1869 Alfred Hale purchased 460 rods of land at the corner of High and Bromfield Streets from William Graves for \$2,700.00. Graves was a merchant with a business on Ferry Wharf. Hale was a farmer then living at 47 Marlboro Street. Hale moved into his newly built house, now 40 High Street, in 1872. He also built a small barn on the corner of the property.

In 1871 Hale is registered in the city directory as an expressman or wagon driver. By 1880 Hale was a merchant and had opened a shop at 9 Market Square. In 1881 Hale sold the house, closed his business and moved to Colorado Springs.

The next owner of the house was Charles W. Darse, an internal revenue collector and justice of the peace. In 1892 he went into business with Stephen P. Berry. Their coal and lumber business was located at 75 Water Street. In 1904 the house was sold to Elbridge G. Woodwell who worked as a clerk and cashier at the Ocean National Bank. Elbridge became a director of the bank in 1907. In that year he sold the house to Nathaniel Dole.

In 1950 the house was sold to Mrs. Clara Dewint. She was slightly eccentric and a lover of birds. Mrs. Dewint purchased the property on High Street across from her house. She later gave this piece of land, now known as March's Hill, to the City of Newburyport as a park so that her view would be preserved.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Assessor's Records 1890-1980
- Essex County Registry of Deeds, Salem, Mass.
- Claudia Burgess, "Old Homes Research Project, 40 High Street", typescript, Newburyport High School.
- 1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
- 1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D.G. Beers and Co.
- 1851, 1871 City Directories