



Mead, Talerman & Costa, LLC
Attorneys at Law

30 Green Street
Newburyport, MA 01950
Phone 978.463.7700
Fax 978.463.7747

www.mtclawyers.com

RECEIVED

OCT 18 2017

Newburyport Planning Dept.

October 17, 2017

In Hand

Sarah White, Chair
Historic Commission
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport MA 01950

RE: Towle Project / Samuel Morse House, 262 Merrimac Street (the "Property")

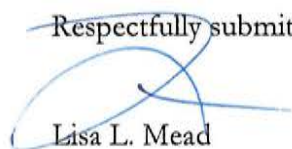
Dear Chair and Members of the Commission;

Reference is made to the above captioned matter. In that connection, attached hereto are proposed drafts of the historic signs to be placed at the Property. As you are aware, the Applicant has agreed to provide these signs. They are of the same specifications as the interpretive signage in the Brown Square park recently installed.

Should you have any questions, please let me know.

I thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa L. Mead

cc: Client
Andrew Port, Planning Director
Bonnie Sontag, Planning Board

Millis Office

730 Main Street, Suite 1F
Millis, MA 02054
Phone 508.376.8400

THE SAMUEL MORSE HOUSE IS LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES AS A CONTRIBUTING BUILDING TO THE NEWBURYPORT HISTORIC DISTRICT.

THE SAMUEL MORSE HOUSE

Over the years, the building known as the Samuel Morse House, the Benjamin Choate House and William H. Morse House is cited as having been built between 1738 and 1763. The house consists of a main block, ell and two-story addition. The Georgian style building also has Greek Revival style features added in the 19th century.

Both owners Benjamin Choate and William Morse worked as ship joiners in Newburyport's bustling 19th century ship building industry. In the early 20th century, William Morse's son Fred owned the home and worked next door at the Towle Manufacturing Company as a silversmith as did his son Fred Jr. as a cabinetmaker. After 1940, Fred Sr. sold the home to the Towle Manufacturing Company for use as a showroom and company store.

The Samuel Morse House has also been referred to as the "1690 House" since the Moulton Family (from whom Anthony Francis Towle purchased the business) is credited with making silverware since 1690.



West elevation of the 1690 House, 1980.



South elevation of the 1690 House, 1970.



Mid 18th Century Georgian wall of raised paneling, 2007.

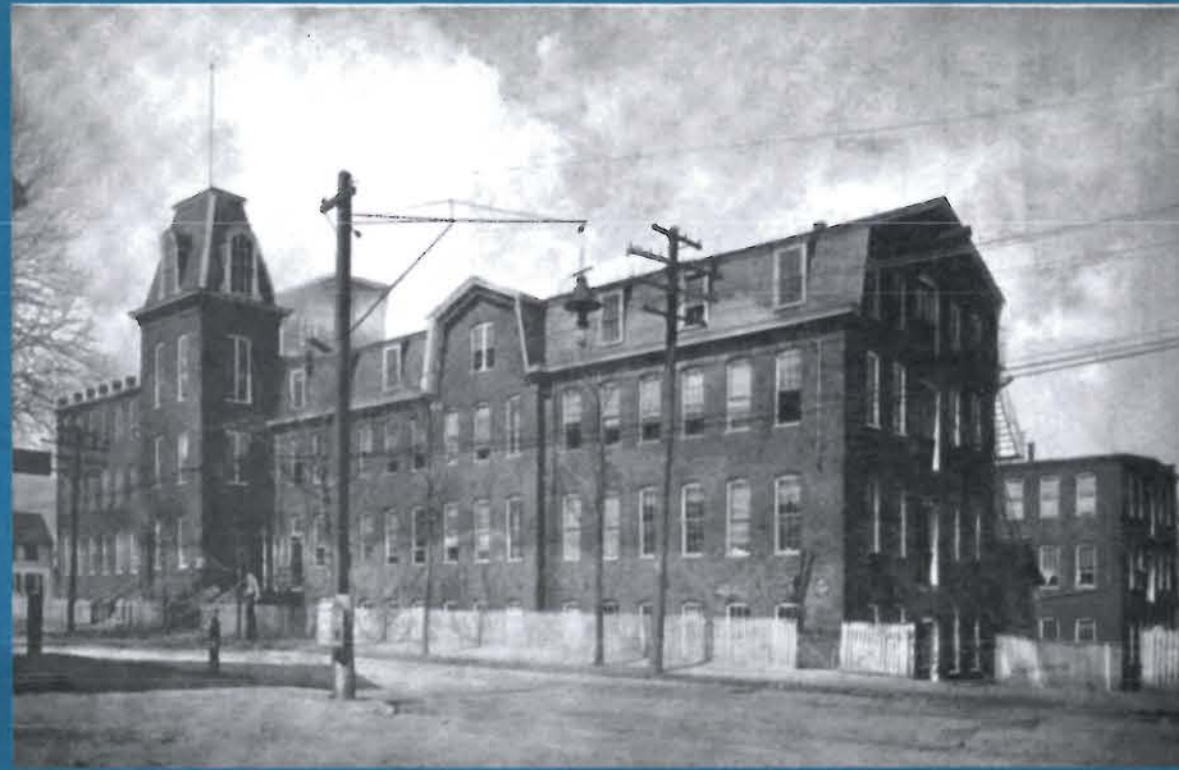


Georgian staircase of raised paneling and hand turned balusters, 2007.

The Towle Manufacturing Company originated in 1857 as Towle and Jones, when founders Anthony Francis Towle and William P. Jones purchased the silversmith business of William Moulton IV, to whom they had originally been apprenticed. Moulton was a sixth generation silversmith whose family began its business in 1690 in Newburyport. By 1883 operating as the Towle Manufacturing Company, the business moved to the Second Empire style brick factory at 260 Merrimac Street. Previously, the company was located on Merrimac Street near the foot of Carter Street in a brick building that is no longer in existence. Built in 1866 by the Merrimack Arms and Manufacturing Company, 260 Merrimac Street is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Newburyport Historic District.

Originally the factory building had a mansard roof, which was removed and replaced with a flat roof while keeping the center tower. Other additions and alterations occurred circa 1920, 1926, and 1940 as the company grew. Towle created numerous sterling, stainless and silver plated flatware patterns in the United States, including one that became the official sterling silver design for United States embassies worldwide. By the 1970s, Towle was the nation's second largest manufacturer of sterling silver with a sales volume of over thirty million dollars and more than 300 employees at its peak.

The plant closed in 1994 and the building today is known as the Towle Office Building, which accommodates a variety of office and medical tenants.



Towle Building with original mansard roof, circa 1905.



Advertisement in the City Directory of 1849.



Towle Building with flat roof, circa 1940.

THE TOWLE MANUFACTURING COMPANY