

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MA 02108



Newburyport

Address 6 Toppan's Lane

Historic Name Stephen Toppan House

Original Residence

Present Residence

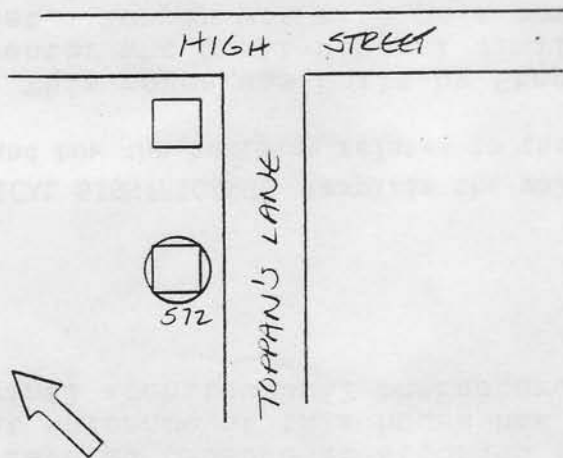
Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization

Public

Original owner Stephen 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. 1790

Source Newburyport Daily News

Style Georgian

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric

Outbuildings Garage

Major alterations (with dates) front entrance altered (mid-nineteenth century)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 32,000 sq. ft.

Setting in residential area adjacent to historic High Street Newburyport's main thoroughfare.

Recorded by Mary Jane Sturgwolt

Organization Office of Community Development

Date 01-12-81

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

This two story house with gambrel roof is similar to many built in Newburyport during the late eighteenth century. The gambrel roof was favored because it afforded extra headroom in the attic story. The front entrance of this house has been altered and retains little of its original architectural character.

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 Stephen Toppan. Toppan was a house carpenter who built several similar gambrel-roofed homes on High Street. Toppan was also on a committee to build a new courthouse in 1807. In 1800 Toppan was hired to erect a new church by the Proprietors of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The church stood on its High Street site until it burned in 1922.

In 1851 this house was owned by three women, Mrs. Burrill, Mrs. Green and Mrs. Kimball. Prior to 1907 Robert Dodge acquired the house. In that year he sold it to Susie T. Little.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Newburyport Daily News, February 29, 1952.
- Assessor's Records 1890-1980
- J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, vols. I and II., reprint, Newburyport 1977.