

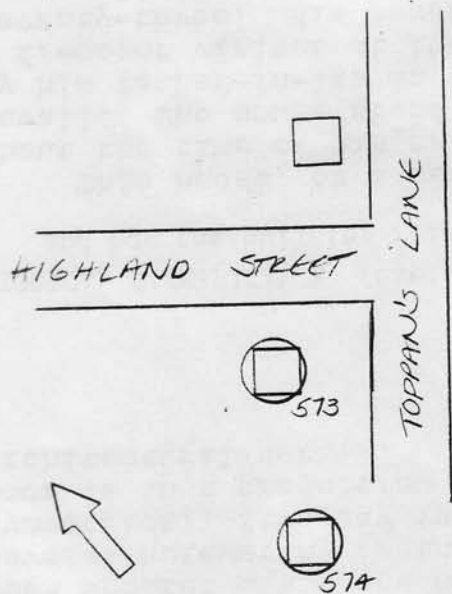
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Newburyport  
Address 20 Toppan's Lane  
Historic Name Toppan House  
Original Residence  
Present Residence  
 Ownership:  Private individual  
                   Private organization \_\_\_\_\_  
                   Public \_\_\_\_\_  
Original owner Jacob 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 pre 1678  
 Source Currier, "Ould Newbury"  
 Style Georgian  
 Architect Unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards  
 Outbuildings Shed  
 Major alterations (with dates) porch added (date unknown)  
 Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage 2.90 acres  
 Setting in area of primarily nineteenth century residences between High Street and Low Street.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt  
 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 was probably built in several phases and has been updated since the original construction date. Today the house has several noteworthy features of the Georgian style. These include the symmetrical, five bay facade and the massive central chimney. The front door is in a projecting central bay. It is pedimented with little architectural detail.

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, or a portion thereof, was built by Jacob Toppan at or about the time of his marriage to Hannah Sewall, daughter of Henry Sewall. The house stood on this site when the land was left to Toppan by his father-in-law in 1678. Judge Samuel Sewall was a relation and a frequent visitor at the house. Jacob Toppan died in 1717 at the age of seventy-three. His second wife died in 1723. The house remained in the Toppan family until 1939. In 1851 Moses C. Toppan was the proprietor.

In 1939 Milton Dodge acquired the property from Eliza, Frederick and Roland Toppan.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

J. J. Currier, Ould Newbury: Historical and Biographical Sketches (Boston, 1896)