

74 HIGH ST – The Abbie L Foster House

Since divided into condominiums.



Location

74 HIGH ST UNITS 1-6

MBLU

18/ 1/A / /

Owner

TABER BRUCE D & NANCY G TRS

Assessment

\$324,400

PID

680

Building Count

1

Current Value

Assessment

Valuation Year	Improvements	Land	Total
2026	\$324,400	\$0	\$324,400

Owner of Record

Owner TABER BRUCE D & NANCY G TRS
Co-Owner TABER FAMILY TRUST
Address 74 HIGH ST UNIT 1
NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950
Sale Price \$0
Certificate
Book & Page 40529/0210

Sale Date 11/30/2021
Instrument 1F

Ownership History

Ownership History

Owner	Sale Price	Certificate	Book & Page	Instrument	Sale Date
TABER BRUCE D & NANCY G TRS	\$0		40529/0210	1F	11/30/2021
TABER BRUCE D	\$200,000		23655/0212	1A	11/22/2004
TABER WESSON G	\$165,900		18117/0423	00	12/28/2001
PERRIN KATHERIN T	\$121,500		16236/0364	00	03/13/2000
JOHNSON DEBORAH A	\$0		14943/0111	1F	07/10/1998

Building Information

Building 1 : Section 1

Year Built: 1896
Living Area: 710

Building Attributes

Field	Description
Style:	Condominium
Model	Res Condo
Stories:	1 Story
Grade	Average +20
Occupancy	1
Interior Wall1	Plastered
Interior Wall	
Interior Floor	Pine/Soft Wood
Interior Floor2	
Heat Fuel:	Oil
Heat Type:	Hot Water
AC Type:	None
Ttl Bedrms:	1 Bedroom
Ttl Bathrms:	1 Full
Ttl Half Bths:	0
Xtra Fixtres	
Total Rooms:	2 Rooms
Primary Bldg Use	
Atypical	
Fireplaces	
Num Part Bedrm	
Base Flr Pm	
Pct Low Ceiling	
Unit Loen	
Exterior Wall 1:	Clapboard
Exterior Wall 2:	

Roof Structure	Gable/Hip
Roof Cover	Slate
Foundation	
Security:	
Cmplx Cnd	
Xtra Field 1:	
Remodel Ext:	
Super	
Grade	

Building Sub-Areas (sq ft)Legend

Code	Description	Gross Area	Living Area
BAS	First Floor	710	710
UBM	Basement, Unfinished	210	0
		920	710

Extra Features

Land Use

Use Code 1021
Description CONDO

Land Line Valuation

Size (Acres) 0
Depth 0
Assessed Value \$0

Outbuildings

OutbuildingsLegend

No Data for Outbuildings

Valuation History

Assessment

Valuation Year	Improvements	Land	Total
2025	\$307,800	\$0	\$307,800
2024	\$288,600	\$0	\$288,600
2023	\$266,700	\$0	\$266,700

History of the House

Architecture: Queen Anne

Abbie Foster was born in Newburyport to David Currier, a shoemaker and his wife Mary Currier in 1846. Abbie had one brother and two sisters. Her sister Helen Currier never married, and they lived together all of their lives, either with their parents, and then boarding with their mother on Spring Street and stayed there after their mother's death until they moved to 74 High Street.

Abbie had her own business on the corner of Pleasant and State Streets (which is now 52 State Street) called "Miss A. L. Currier" where she sold lace trimmings and jewelry,

Abbie was single until she was 44, and in 1891 she married Daniel Foster who was 60. This was Daniel's second marriage; there were no children from his first marriage. He came back to Newburyport in 1887 and seems to have boarded in different places, including where Abbie's family lived, which was 14 Spring Street (now 12 Spring Street). Daniel died in 1893 only 2+ years after they were married. Abbie was a widow for 20 more years.

AFTER Daniel died, in 1894 the heirs of Solomon Haskell and Mark Haskell gave Abbie the land that she built her house on on High Street for \$1. Abbie gave the right of way to the City of Newburyport in 1898, and Foster Court is named after her.

In his will, Daniel Foster left Helen, Abbie's sister, \$6,000, which was a whole lot of money back then. Daniel left Abbie the rest of his estate and made her the executor of his will. He left various family members very small amounts of money.

Daniel's money came from his father Thomas Foster, who was a Revolutionary War hero, and owned N & T Foster with his brother Nathaniel Foster. Thomas was one of the "old time" silversmiths, before Towle Silver existed, and many people apprenticed with him.

Daniel's family, according to the newspapers, contested the will. They lost. Daniel clearly loved Abbie and her family a whole lot better than his own.

That is how Abbie Foster came to be able to build the gorgeous Queen Anne Victorian at 74 High Street. Abbie lived there for 17 years with her sister and one servant until her death in October 1913.