

# 9 Parsons Street – The Benny Richard House

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**Location**

9 PARSONS ST

**MBLU**

21/ 50/ / /

**Owner**

STAPLETON DAVID S

**Assessment**

\$1,586,100

**PID**

975

**Building Count**

1

**Current Value**

Assessment

Valuation Year	Improvements	Land	Total
2026	\$1,111,200	\$474,900	\$1,586,100

**Owner of Record**

**Owner** STAPLETON DAVID S  
**Co-Owner** AMANDA D RUSCIO J/T  
**Address** 9 PARSONS ST  
 NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950  
**Sale Price** \$983,000  
**Certificate**  
**Book & Page** 37517/0464

**Sale Date** 05/17/2019  
**Instrument** 00

**Ownership History**

Ownership History

Owner	Sale Price	Certificate	Book & Page	Instrument	Sale Date
STAPLETON DAVID S	\$983,000		37517/0464	00	05/17/2019
KEOHANE KERRY ANN	\$0		36581/0327	1A	03/12/2018
KEOHANE KERRY ANN	\$0		30187/0356	1H	01/26/2011
WHALEN JOHN P	\$675,000		21541/0488	00	08/15/2003
BERGER STEVEN D.	\$230,000		13727/0579	00	08/28/1996
RICHARD BENOIT W- JOSEPH B J/T	\$0		13281/0163		11/14/1995
RICHARD BENOIT W - JOSEPH B.	\$0		11327/0019		6/4/1992

**Building Information**

**Building 1 : Section 1**

**Year Built:** Ca 1845 (Appraisal lists 1870)

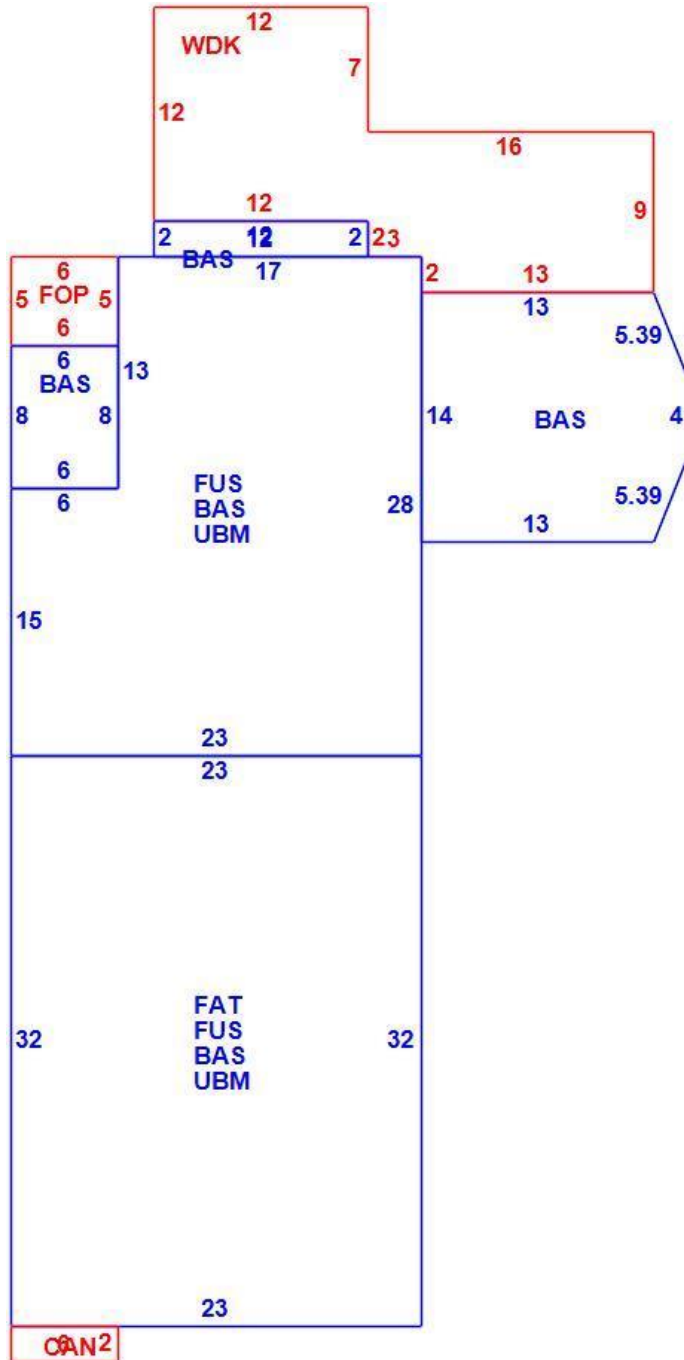
**Living Area:** 3,023

Building Attributes

Field	Description
Style:	Conventional
Model	Residential
Grade:	Average +20
Stories:	2 Stories
Occupancy	1
Exterior Wall 1	Clapboard
Exterior Wall	
Roof Structure:	Gable/Hip
Roof Cover	Asph/F GlS/Cmp
Interior Wall1	Plastered
Interior Wall	
Interior Flr	Pine/Soft Wood
Interior Flr 2	
Heat Fuel	Gas
Heat Type:	Hot Water
AC Type:	None
Total Bedrooms:	5 Bedrooms
Total Bthrms:	3
Total Half Baths:	1
Total Xtra Fixtrs:	
Total Rooms:	9 Rooms
Cndtn	
Num Park	

Fireplaces	
Fndtn Cndtn	
Basement	

**Building Layout**



Building Sub-Areas (sq ft) Legend

Code	Description	Gross Area	Living Area
BAS	First Floor	1,574	1,574

FUS	Upper Story, Finished	1,302	1,302
FAT	Attic	736	147
CAN	Canopy	12	0
FOP	Porch, Open	30	0
UBM	Basement, Unfinished	1,302	0
WDK	Deck, Wood	282	0
		5,238	3,023

### Extra Features

#### Extra Features Legend

Code	Description	Size	Value	Bldg #
FPL3	FIREPLACE 2 ST	1.00 UNITS	\$4,100	1

### Land

#### Land Use

**Use Code** 1010  
**Description** SINGLE FAM

#### Land Line Valuation

**Size (Acres)** 0.18  
**Depth** 0  
**Assessed Value** \$474,900

### Outbuildings

#### Outbuildings Legend

Code	Description	Sub Code	Sub Description	Size	Value	Bldg #
FGR1	GARAGE-AVE			240.00 S.F.	\$3,800	1

#### Valuation History

### Assessment

Valuation Year	Improvements	Land	Total
2025	\$990,400	\$443,800	\$1,434,200
2024	\$904,200	\$403,500	\$1,307,700
2023	\$904,200	\$350,800	\$1,255,000

## History of the House

Architecture: Greek Revival, Side hall

### History

Unknown builder of the House in 1845. There were several owners until the most excellent Newburyport character came along, who owned in for many years, Benoit W. Richard. Born October 12<sup>th</sup>, 1916, he went on to serve in World War II; then married Gertrude Fowler, who died in 1976. They had one child, Michelle L Richard in 1965, who died just two years later in 1967.

He operated Richard's Brake & Alignment Shop right next to the Gillis Bridge behind Bossy Gillis's gas station.

The now empty building still stands behind Michael's Harborside Restaurant.

He was very active as a Lieutenant in the Newburyport Fire Department and was considered one of the Best Ladder men the Department had ever seen.

He loved to parade his antique Model T at the Yankee Homecoming Parade which for most of the year was carefully stored at his garage. He chaired the antique car exhibit and parade for Yankee Homecoming for twenty-five years solid.

He loved his city and carefully preserved the historic Greek Revival architectural features of 9 Parsons Street and preserved the historic folly's that had been installed in the garden in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Alas, on the fateful day of December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1995 while in the middle of making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich in the kitchen, he suddenly died with a massive heart attack. He was 79 years old.

He is buried with his wife and child at St. Mary's Cemetery, by Storey Avenue, in Newburyport.

Sadly, major modifications have removed the historic garden though most architectural external features remain. The folly still stands in the side yard.

## References:

Find A Grave Memorial# 84369061, Created by: Fred Elwell

Record added: Feb 02, 2012

"9 Parsons Street", Newburyport Historic District, National Register of Historical Places, 1984

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Archives, "Benny's Garage", 1971, 1977

