

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

40-71

Newburyport
West

Town/City: Amesbury

Place: (neighborhood or village):

Photograph



Address: 19 Prospect Street

Historic Name: Albert W. Todd House

Uses: Present: Multiple Family Dwelling

Original: Multiple Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: c. 1870

Source: Assessor's database

Style/Form: Italianate

Architect/Builder: Not determined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard, asphalt shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Shed

Major Alterations (with dates):

Left side wing addition (between 1880 & 1901) OR
AFTER 1909 per Sanborn.
Replacement sash & doors (early 21st c.)

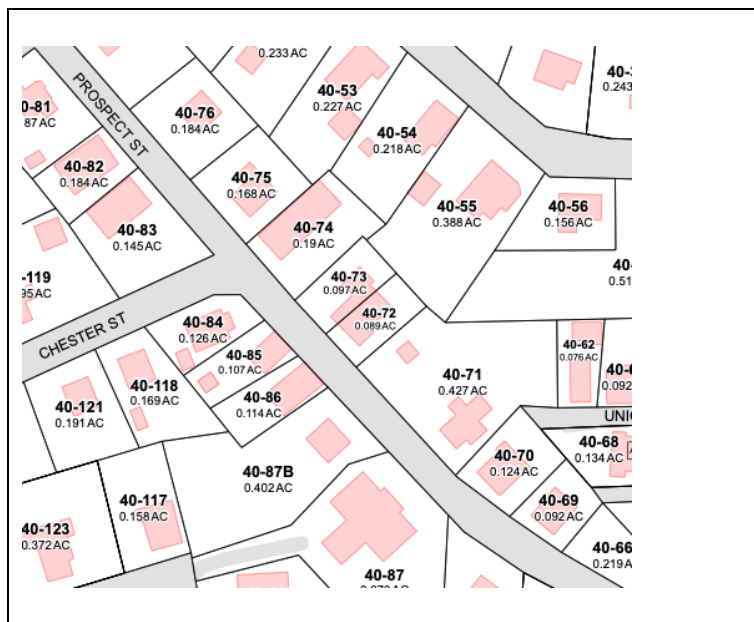
Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ Date:

Acres: .43

Setting: Mid-19th c. residential neighborhood

Locus Map



Recorded by: Aileen Graf

Organization: Graf Architects

Date (month / year): 1/2026

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMESBURY

19 PROSPECT STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

--	--

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The building at 19 Prospect Street is a c. 1870 modest interpretation of the Italianate style, located in a predominantly late-19th and early-20th century neighborhood. The neighborhood is dominated by the Prospect Street School (AME.379) constructed directly across the street, sometime between 1872 and 1885.

The building is a two-family dwelling located on the northeast side of the road, just setback from the sidewalk, at the southeast corner of a large, irregular shaped lot. A paved driveway is located along the right (southeast) elevation; another paved driveway is located to the left (northwest) which is integral to a large, paved parking area that extends along the road, roughly to the northwest property line. The remainder of the property is lawn which slopes down to the rear.

The two-and-a-half story, cross-gable building is comprised of a prominent, gabled elevation facing the street (southwest), a side gabled wing to the right (southeast), and a gabled rear span (northeast) which is shorter in height and narrower in width than the front. Sometime after 1909, a gabled wing was added to the left (northwest) side of the house which is also slightly shorter and narrower than the front span.¹ A single-story porch occupies the full depth and width between the primary elevation and the right wing.

The overhanging roof gables feature a heavy cornice with returns and a plain wood frieze. A narrow red brick chimney punctuates the asphalt shingle roof and the foundation is red brick. Throughout, cladding is beige asphalt shingle over painted wood clapboard. Windows are replacement vinyl, one-over-one, double hung with flat, wood surrounds and shallow hoods. Entrance doors are replacement metal doors except for the side porch door in the southeast elevation which is likely original and features tall, narrow glazed arches in the upper portion and wood panels below.

By 1885 a two-story, wood framed stable had been constructed just off the northeast corner of the dwelling. By 1909, it appears that the stable was replaced with, or adapted for use as, a two-story, wood framed dwelling which was linked to the main house by a small addition to the rear. The dwelling had an address of 9 Prospect at this time, while the new dwelling to the northeast was identified as 9 ½ and a one-and-a-half story wood frame shed in the rear yard was identified as 9 ¼. At least by 1971, the dwelling to the northeast was removed. The small addition at the rear of 19 Prospect is also no longer extant.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to deed research, Albert W. Todd purchased three pieces of land, two on the northeast side of what is now Prospect Street and one behind, at the end of Union Court, in 1868 and 1869. Soon after, he constructed the dwelling, one of the first on the street. At that time, this neighborhood was part of Salisbury; it was annexed to Amesbury in 1886.

Albert W. Todd (b. 1842 – d. 1925) was married to Emily Bradbury from 1868 until her death in 1875. They had three children - William, Albert, and Emily. Todd was a carpenter and floor manufacturer who presumably constructed this, and other Amesbury dwellings. He operated the A.W. Planing Mill from the steam powered Colchester Mill, located at 85 Elm Street, now demolished. Todd's mill was one of several that supported Amesbury's carriage, and later auto body, businesses.

¹ The wing to the northwest does not appear on the 1909 Sanborn map. It is evident in a 1956 historic aerial view.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMESBURY

19 PROSPECT STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

--	--

By at least 1894, Albert and his brother, Charles V., were both living at 19 Prospect (then 9 Prospect) with their families. It is likely that one of the families occupied the wood framed dwelling to the rear. During the early 20th century, both dwellings functioned as boarding houses. The 1912 directory, for example, listed Francis (stenographer), John (clerk), and Peter J. Moran (painter) as boarders at 9 Prospect. That same year, Alfred (civil engineer), Florence (shoe packer), and Robert Bradshaw (carpenter) were boarders at 9 ½ Prospect. By then, Alfred W. Todd had relocated to 31 Cedar Street, where he lived until his death in 1925. He had been an Amesbury resident for over 60 years. Albert's son, William M. Todd, ultimately acquired the dwelling at 19 Prospect and the three original parcels from his father and siblings, and in 1947 sold it out of the family.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Amesbury Carriage Museum, Digital Library, www.amesburycarriagemuseum.org
Amesbury Daily News, May 11, 1925
Amesbury Public Library, Digital Archives, www.amesbury.advantage-preservation.com
Ancestry.com (U.S. Marriage Records, Census, Directories, etc.)
Bird's Eye View, 1880, E.H. Bigelow, Framingham, MA
Essex County Atlas, 1884
MHC MACRIS database
Newburyport, Amesbury, and Salisbury Directory, 1874
Sanborn Maps, 1885, 1909, 1918

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMESBURY

19 PROSPECT STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)	Form No.



View from Prospect Street, looking east.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

AMESBURY

19 PROSPECT STREET

Area(s) Form No.

--	--



Detail of 1872 D.G. Beers Atlas showing 19 Prospect Street labeled “A.W. Todd” (top arrow) and “Colchester Woolen Mill,” (bottom arrow) where Todd operated the A.W. Planning Mill.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

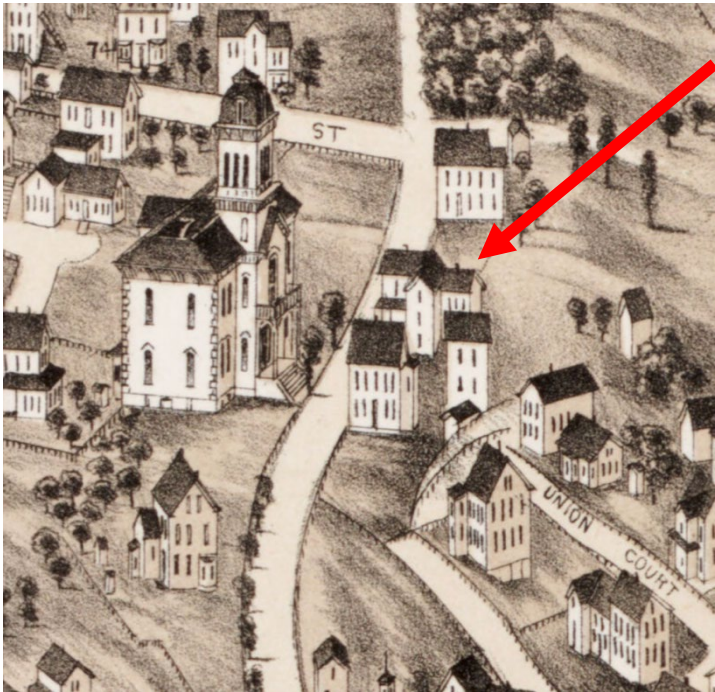
AMESBURY

19 PROSPECT STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

--	--



Detail of 1880 Bird's Eye View.



Detail of 1885 Sanborn Map showing 19 Prospect with an address of 917 and a stable to rear with an address of 917 1/2.



Detail of 1909 Sanborn Map showing 19 Prospect with an address of 9 and the addition of a dwelling to rear with an address of 9 1/2. Note the small, two-story addition to the rear of 19 Prospect.