

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

## Photograph



## Locus Map (north at top)



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Preservation Consultant

**Date (month / year):** September 2025

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

52-202

Newburyport  
West

A

AME.25

**Town/City:** Amesbury

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Central Business District

**Address:** 5 School Street

**Historic Name:** Orlando & Mary Baley House

**Uses:** Present: vacant

Original: single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1848

**Source:** deeds

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: vinyl/vinyl

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

ca. 2001 – vinyl siding, new windows, alt. to entrance,  
porch on south side of wing, rear chimney, removal of rear  
ell

**Condition:** fair-poor

**Moved:** no ☒ yes **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.07 acre

**Setting:** town building complex near central business  
district

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

AMESBURY

5 SCHOOL ST.

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

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

Now heavily altered, the house at 5 School Street was once one of the better examples of Greek Revival domestic architecture in Amesbury's downtown. The 2 ½-story dwelling is oriented with its three-bay façade to School Street. Typical of the Greek Revival style it displays a sidehall plan and broad corner pilasters that support a roof entablature that returns to form a pediment on the façade. The exterior including trim is now covered in vinyl siding; the capitals at the tops of the cornerboards were removed. There were also alterations made to the sidehall entry. A 1981 photo shows a four-panel door flanked by full sidelights. The entablature door surround was later altered and there are now modern sidelights on only one side of the modern six-panel door which has panes of glass filling the two upper panels. Window openings contain modern 6/6 units. Sanborn maps indicate that the south elevation of the main block was fronted by a single-story porch beginning about 1905. It was still there in 1945 but had been removed by 1981.

Extending behind the main house block is a two-story wing aligned with the north wall. A single-story porch dating to the late 20<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century spans the south elevation of the wing. The porch's shed roof is supported by plain square wooden posts and the south wall is sheathed in T1-11 siding. A modern exterior chimney sheathed in siding is located on the rear gable end. The foundation on the gable end is concrete block. An additional 1 ½-story ell to the rear was removed in the late 20<sup>th</sup> or early 21<sup>st</sup> century. It was set at right angles to the wing and extended to the north.

## 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.*

In July 1848 Samuel Ordway, yeoman, sold Orlando S. Baley this parcel of land at the Mills measuring 21 rods for \$300.<sup>1</sup> Orlando Sargent Baley (1818-1894) was the son of William Bayley and Elizabeth Ordway. William Bayley was one of the prosperous merchants of his day and his house stood on the site of St. Joseph's Church.

Orlando Baley married Mary Gove on May 5, 1839. The house at 5 School Street was likely built soon after Baley purchased the land in 1848. At the time the deed describes Orlando as a wool stapler - someone who bought raw wool from a producer, graded it and sold it to a manufacturer. He later became overseer of the wool-sorting department at the Salisbury Mills. He was later employed as an accountant and in 1862 was elected to the legislature to fill the unexpired term made vacant by the death of E.G. Colby. He was subsequently appointed Trial Justice. About 1880 Baley was appointed by President Rutheford Hayes to a clerkship in the appraiser's department of the Boston custom house. He was a member of the Board of Selectmen at the time of the separation of Merrimac from Amesbury, served on the School Board and served as a probation officer. Orlando Baley was also a close associate of John Greenleaf Whittier in the antislavery movement.<sup>2</sup>

Orlando Baley lived at 5 School Street until his death in 1894. In 1870 he and his wife occupied the house with their son Charles (b.1844) who was employed as a carriage manufacturer while younger son Ralph (b.1849) worked as a carriage trimmer. It appears that the family also took in boarders – 23 year old Mary Bancroft, a teacher, was living here in 1860; Thomas Hardy, a 40 year old shipwright was living here in 1870 and Amanda Gove was a boarder (relative?) in 1880.

<sup>1</sup> Essex County Registry of Deeds Book 423, Page 129. Orlando spelled his name Baley although his father spelled his name Bayley and son Ralph used Bailey.

<sup>2</sup> *Biographical Review*, 1898, pp. 245-6. *Boston Globe*, Dec. 24, 1894, p. 6.

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After his father's death, the house was occupied by his son Ralph Origen Bailey (1849-1924). Ralph Bailey was a successful businessman, selling furniture and carpets at 8 Water Street and 24 Elm Street. In 1897 he married Mrs. Harriet Matilda Hill Trussell in a home wedding at 5 School Street.<sup>3</sup> At the time of the 1900 Census Ralph and Matilda were living here with her daughter Carrie Hill and sister Caroline Trussell. By 1920 Ralph was a widower, living here with his brother Charles Bailey, wife Annie and their daughter Elizabeth. After Ralph's death, the house was inherited by his niece Elizabeth Bailey (1874-1948) who sold it to John Melia in 1929.<sup>4</sup>

John and Helen Melia were living here in 1930 with two lodgers. It appears that the house was later rented. Leo Dupuis had a real estate office here in the mid 1940s. In 1947 the house was purchased by Minnie Doeg with Frederick and Dawn Samuel.<sup>5</sup> At the time of the 1950 Census the Samuels lived downstairs and Mrs. Doeg lived upstairs; she was Dawn Samuel's mother. She died in 1955. Frederick Samuel (1883-1961) was a veteran of the Spanish American War. He had been manager of the First National store in Amesbury and worked for many years at Cargocaire Engineering Corp. After Mrs. Samuel's death, the house was owned by her sister, Laura Stevens, wife of Everett Stevens. In 1981 the house was sold by her children, Everett Stevens III and Mildred Slauter, to William and Mary Ann Daley.<sup>6</sup> The property was acquired by the Town of Amesbury from the Daleys in 2001.<sup>7</sup> The city operated some offices in the building for about twelve years. About 2023 the house was condemned by the Building Department due to a collapsed floor within the building. It is currently vacant.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

*Amesbury Daily News*, various dates.

Ancestry.com (U.S. Census, directories, etc.)

*Biographical Review, containing life sketches of leading citizens of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Boston: Biographical Review Publishing Company, 1898.

*Boston Globe*, various dates.

Essex County Registry of Deeds, Beverly, MA

Massachusetts Historical Commission. Inventory form for 5 School Street, 1981.

Norris, George E, and Burleigh Litho. *Amesbury, Mass.* Brockton, Mass, 1890. Map. <https://www.loc.gov/item/75694542/>.

Sanborn Insurance Maps, Amesbury, 1889, 1894, 1899, 1904, 1909, 1918, 1930, 1945.

<sup>3</sup> *Boston Globe*, June 26, 1897.

<sup>4</sup> Essex County Registry Book 2808, Page 19.

<sup>5</sup> ECRD Book 3511, Page 88.

<sup>6</sup> ECRD Book 6829, Page 26.

<sup>7</sup> ECRD Book 17615, Page 527.



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1981 photo  
Source: MHC Inventory form

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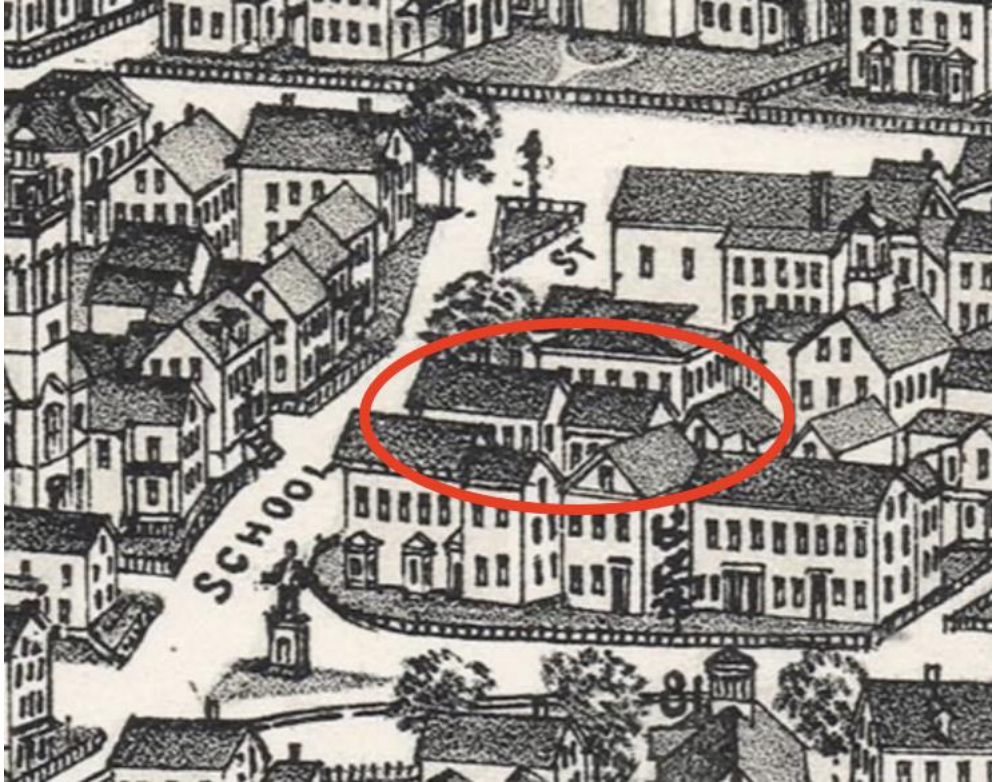
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House at 5 School Street (circled)  
Note rear ell that has since been removed  
Source: Birds eye view map of Amesbury, 1890

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**R. O. BAILEY,**  
(Successor to B. L. Fifield & Co.)  
**Furniture, Carpetings,**  
**ROOM PAPERS.**  
**PICTURE \* FRAMING.**  
Wringers and Carpet Sweepers Repaired.  
**8 WATER ST. and 24 ELM ST.**  
**AMESBURY, MASS.**

1896 Newburyport directory