

JAN 24 1990 FORM NO.

12

267

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

## Photos

- 16:10 exterior  
16:13 summer beam, right-hand room  
16:14 rear chimney post and chimney  
girt (possibly repositioned)  
16:15 restored fireplace, left-hand  
room  
16:17 staircase  
16:21 detail, stair balusters

Sketch Map:



Town Wenham 009  
Address 162 Cherry Street  
Historic Name Newman-Fiske-Dodge  
House  
Use: Present Residence  
Original Residence

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1658  
Source Wenham Survey form  
Style 1st Period core/2nd Period  
vernacular exterior  
Architect Unknown  
Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboards  
Outbuildings Barn, possibly first  
half of 18th century  
Major Alterations (with dates) Left-hand  
rooms added, 1695/6; lean-to, date  
unknown; rear wings, date unknown  
Condition Good

Moved No Date N/A  
Acreage 2.1 acres  
Setting Rural, with meadow and thin  
woodlands to the rear, surrounding  
properties with mid 20th c. construction

Z E N  
M REFERENCE 19 / 342-910 / 4718-350  
GS QUADRANGLE Salem  
SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Anne Grady  
Organization Boston University  
Date July 1985

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: WENHAM	Form No: 12
Property Name: Newman-Fiske- Dodge House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Newman-Fiske-Dodge house retains integrity of location, design, materials and workmanship in its First Period features which embody distinctive characteristics of form and construction eligible under Criterion C. The growth of the house from single to double cell plan within the First Period is typical of a larger number of First Period buildings, while the evidence of the raising of the chimney girt when the second cell was added provides insight into carpentry practices attendant to those enlargements. The quarter-round chamfer and lamb's tongue stop without collar on the summer beam in the c. 1658 portion of the house is a good example of that relatively rare type. (See Kyprianos stop typology, type C. 2.)

The rare survival of First Period finish in place in this house behind a later wall covering provides an exceptional opportunity to study 17th century decorative finish as originally installed, untainted by 20th century restoration.

The staircase is a noteworthy early example of the use of Renaissance-inspired form in an otherwise First Period building. The balustrade is similar to that of the Parson Capen house in Topsfield of a decade earlier, but balusters in the Wenham house are even more squat profile. Nevertheless, the staircase exhibits a slightly greater degree of sophistication in the framing of the hand rail into the newel post rather than its knob, and in the application of a half baluster at the end of the balustrade.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Newman-Fiske-Dodge House is a 5 bay wide, 2 1/2 story house, with relatively steep roof pitch, raised lean-to and wings to either side. The right hand portion is the original single cell structure built possibly as early as 1658. The left-hand cell was added in 1695/6. The lean-to probably dates from the 18th century while the wings were constructed in the 19th or early 20th centuries. The clapboarded structure has a simple Greek Revival frontispiece, and symmetrical fenestration of sash windows. The central chimney stack has been rebuilt above the roofline.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

First Period features are seen in the left and right hand rooms, the lobby and the right-hand chamber.

In the right-hand room, the longitudinal summer beam, 13 inches wide, has quarter round chamfers and lamb's tongue stops. Joists are spaced 18 inches on centers. The original First Period trim of the fireplace may be

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seen through a closet behind Second Period paneling. A horizontal board, boldly shadow-molded, covers the lower part of the original fireplace lintel. From the top of the board, vertical shadow-molded boards angle out toward the chimney girt. Both horizontal and vertical boards have a heavy coating of whitewash and soot.

In the right-hand chamber, there is a summer beam with 1 1/2 inch flat chamfers and lamb's tongue stops. The chimney girt also has a flat chamfer and lamb's tongue stop. The fireplace in this room is 45 inches high and 47" wide. The fireplace is rather deep and has straight sides suggesting it may be an original fireplace opening.

The left-hand room, considerably wider than the right-hand room, must have become the hall when it was added in 1695/6. The bottom two inches of the longitudinal summer beam in this room has been cut off, so that it is impossible to ell how the beam might have been decorated originally. Joists are spaced 25 inches on centers. The fireplace in this room was restored in the early 20th century. While the firebox itself is original, the mouths of the two rear ovens appear to have been altered by the introduction of a projecting arched brick course, and the jambs were built out to support a new lintel displaying the pronounced adz marks characteristic of early 20th century restorations. The new lintel is framed into the chimney post. The front and rear chimney posts exhibit an extra buttment cheek below the one which now supports the chimney girt. It seems probable that, as in the Geddy house in Salem, the original chimney girt was set lower in the endwall where head room was not needed. When the second cell was added, the girt was raised up and set into a higher buttment cheek.

The staircase trim probably dates from the time of the addition of the left-hand rooms. Joist mortise evidence in the lobby side of the right-hand side of the chimney girt suggests that the staircase may have run up toward the right originally instead of toward the left as it does now (making more logical access to the right-hand room). The staircase is sheathed part way up with vertical boarding. A row of very short, perhaps eight inch long, turned balusters spans the interval between sheathing and a molded hand rail. The hand rail is housed in a square newel post. A half baluster is applied at the upper end of the balustrade. The turnings of the balusters are similar to those found on furniture of the period.

In the attic, there is evidence of a principal rafter/common purlin roof with slightly differing characteristics in the older and newer portions. There were 3 purlins per slope and at least one set of rafters had a lapped collar beam.

There is a cellar just under the older side of the house and a stone chimney foundation.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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**LATER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES**

The house retains in the right-hand room fireplace wall fine early Second Period raised-field paneling and a crosseted fireplace surround.

Door and window frames in the left-hand chamber are Greek Revival in style, indicating a partial updating of the interior at the time that the Greek Revival doorway was added.

The house was restored in the early 20th century, at which time the alterations described above were made to the fireplace in the left-hand room. At the same time, the lean-to was thrown open to that room to create a larger living room, a typical solution in early 20th century restorations.

A barn adjacent to the house contributes to the historical nature of the property. Possessing 18th century framing characteristics, it may be the barn mentioned in a deed of 1744. [1]

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

The building's setting of open fields and woodlands has been maintained. The dwelling is associated with the Rev. Antipas Newman, the Second Minister of Wenham, a man of wealth. He married Elizabeth, the daughter of John Winthrop II, the founder of Ipswich. He owned the property between 1658 and 1672 and may well have been the builder of the house.

By 1695/6 William Fiske, Jr. was the owner of the property. He applied to get trees from the common land of Wenham "for board and shingle, and for plank." [2] William Fiske was a member of the jury in the Salem Witchcraft trials in 1692. He later publicly apologized for his participation in the proceedings.

**REFERENCES**

1. Essex County Registry of Deeds:  
Book 88, page 40, Nov. 23, 1744  
Book 13, page 184 Nov. 17, p. 130  
Book 26, page 259, Dec. 12, 1712  
Book 37, page 255, Feb. 5, 1720
2. Wenham Town Records, vol. 1, Wenham: Wenham Historical Society, 1930.  
p. 130.

1/24/90

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR  
State \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 5161. ~~Newman--Fiske--Dodge House~~ **Substantive Review** *Sr* Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 62. ~~Woyes, James, House~~ Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper Melrose Byrum 3/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 5163. Old Farm **Substantive Review** *Sr* Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 64. Old Garrison House **Substantive Review** Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ 7  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 65. Osborne, Prince, House Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper Melrose Byrum 3/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 66. Osgood, Col. John, House **Substantive Review** *Sr* Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 5167. Paine--Dodge House **Substantive Review** *Sr* Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 68. Patch, Emeline, House Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper Melrose Byrum 3/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 69. Perkins, John, House Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper Melrose Byrum 3/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 70. Proctor, John, House Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper Melrose Byrum 3/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000267      Date Listed: 03/09/90

Newman--Fiske--Dodge House      Essex      MA  
Property Name      County      State

First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR  
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for Betty L. Savage*  
Signature of the Keeper

03/09/90  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

#### Contributing and Noncontributing Counts:

The barn is a contributing building: the cover summary count sheet incorrectly lists it as noncontributing.

This information has been confirmed with Ann Tait, MASHPO, by telephone.

#### DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Newman--Fiske--Dodge House

MULTIPLE NAME: First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Essex

DATE RECEIVED: 1/24/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/07/90  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/23/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/10/90  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000267

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 3/9/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C  
REVIEWER Savage  
DISCIPLINE Architectural History  
DATE 3/9/90

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

DESCRIPTION

ant resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
materials
descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
completeness
clarity
applicable criteria
justification of areas checked
relating significance to the resource
context
relationship of integrity to significance
justification of exception
other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
UTMs boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone

Signed

Date



16:10

162 Cherry St  
Wenham, MA

Newman-Fiske-Dodge House  
Extension  
1985

1st Period Buildings of E. Ma, TR



Wenham, MA

Newman-Fiske-Dodge #6:13

162 Cherry St

Summer beam

1985

1st Floor Buildings of E. Main, TR



Leahurst, TN  
Newman - Fiske - Dodge 16:14

House  
162 Cherry Street  
near chimney post + sign  
1985

1st period Buildings of E. Me, TN



Wenham, MA

Newman-Fiske-Dodge No. 16:15

162 Cherry Street  
restored fireplace

1985

1st. Period Buildings of E. Ma, TR



16:17

Worham, T/A

Newman-Fiske-Dodge Hb

162 Cherry Street  
Staircase

1985

1st Period Buildings of E. Ma, TR

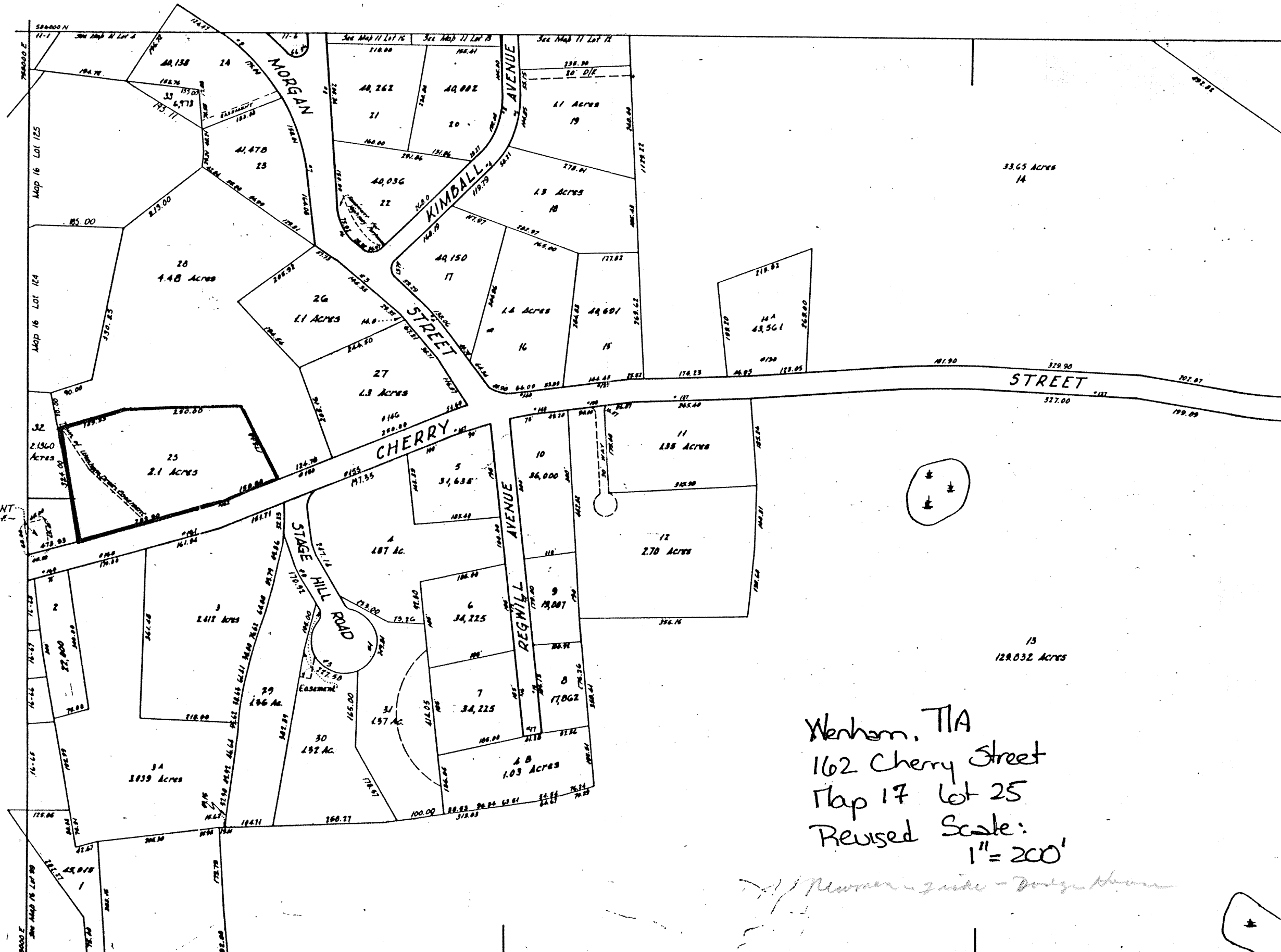


Cresham, TN  
Newman-Fisko. Dodge House  
162 Cherry Street

detail: stair balusters  
1985

1st Period Buildings of E. Mo, TN

12:01



EASEMENT  
- 2000 S.F. -

Wenham, MA  
162 Cherry Street  
Map 17 Lot 25  
Revised Scale:  
1" = 200'

Newman - guide - Dodge

JUNE 1987  
ADDED LOTS 32  
AND 33

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281