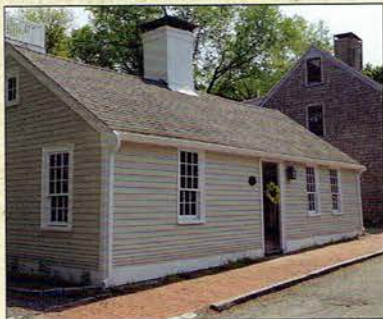


ROOFTOPS OF OLD NEWBURYPORT

By John Cole



The early Cape is a prominent house form in New England, yet not so much in Newburyport. The roof shape is dominant in a one story house. The mildly rectangular chimney shape denotes a pre-1750 date (square would be later). Notice how this interesting dwelling appears to “grow right up” out of the ground.



This is a small Gothic vernacular cottage, which is virtually unique in Newburyport. Its sharply pointed front dormer windows (also called goblets) emphasize the Gothic style, and it gently repeats in the arches of the front porch. The same arch detail appears on the visible gable end. The front wall has

flush horizontal boarding typical of the mid-19th century.



This iconic saltbox faces southeasterly not far from the Merrimack River. The long rear roof line is especially appealing. It is called an “integral lead-to,” which means the back is likely original to the house. It has been particularly “well-kept up” during recent years



This charming mansard roof cottage is unusual for the North End of Newburyport. Its mansard roof form was re-instituted in France in the mid-19th century. Two over two windows are appropriate to this period. The small tower to the rear also carries a mansard roof form and completes the eclectic charm of this period house.



This ca. 1750 heavy gambrel roofed dwelling is more common than realized in Newburyport, sometimes over shadowed by Federal period houses prominently displayed on High St. and elsewhere. This roof has three horizontal ridge poles which create a much enlarged attic area compared to pitched roofs with a single



This circa 1930s bungalow is sometimes called an “airplane bungalow,” as the wide raised dormer along the front roofline resembles a plane cockpit. Exposed rafter ends and square wooden posts further delineate this style, which swept across America in the early 20th century.

ridge pole. America is full of early gambrel barns which allowed the storage of more hay, often with a pulley hoist at the gable end to “lift the hay up”.

John Cole, also known as the “Old House Whisperer”, was Property Manager for the SPNEA (now Historic New England). He worked extensively with Abbott Cummings, foremost American architectural historian. John has overseen countless preservation projects in New England as well as Arkansas. He founded Shaker Workshops, Inc. and taught Historical Preservation at the Harvard School of Design and at the University of Arkansas, Graduate School of Architecture. Today, he shares his expertise through lectures and consulting and by writing books and dating documents for private homeowners.

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The roof on this handsome federal “disappears” behind the balustrade as seen from the ground. Its windows gradually decrease in size up to the third-floor. Often the top floor of Federals have a half window. This house also shows evidence of Greek Revival improvements in the front doorway and side porch columns.

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