

Address: 8-12 Montreal Street
Approximate/Documented Date of Building: 1855
Surveyed: 10/11/2019
Historical Name: James B. Newell House
Contributing or Noncontributing: Individually-Designated Landmark



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Introduction

8-12 Montreal Street is a good example of a mid-nineteenth-century side-gable cape on Munjoy Hill. The one-and-a-half-story dwelling is five-by-two bays wide and has vinyl siding and 6/1 sash windows. The dwelling has a pedimented gable dormer window over the southern elevation, and a main entry porch with pedimented gable roof in the center bay of the façade (northern elevation). There is a single-story shed-roof addition on the eastern elevation, which is connected to a covered deck. The main entrance and porch are accessed by a set of wooden stairs. The replacement entry door features a fanlight over panels. The majority of the dwelling's visible windows have shutters. The asphalt roof features a skylight over the façade and two brick chimneys on the interior southern slope.

1924 survey notes describe the side-gable structure to the east of the house as a partially finished workshop set on posts with paper roofing, no floor, and no exterior finish. The current owner notes that the occupant at the time, Harry E. Libby, constructed a boathouse on the property.

James B. Newell built and was the first occupant of the residence. Newell was likely a joiner and resided in the house with his wife, Almira, and their two sons, James N. and Lendell R.

Additions and Alterations Since 1924

8-12 Montreal Street was built in a vernacular style with very little ornamentation. However, the 1924 record shows the main entry boasted a flat hood supported by Italianate brackets. The house has suffered some common losses including wood clapboard siding, wide corner boards, and friezes. The skylight over the northern elevation is a more recent addition, along with the shutters on most of the windows. Despite alterations, the form and style of the house have remained relatively unchanged, and the house retains its historical integrity. It remains one of the longest-standing dwellings on Munjoy Hill, and contributes to the historical-architectural fabric of the neighborhood.