

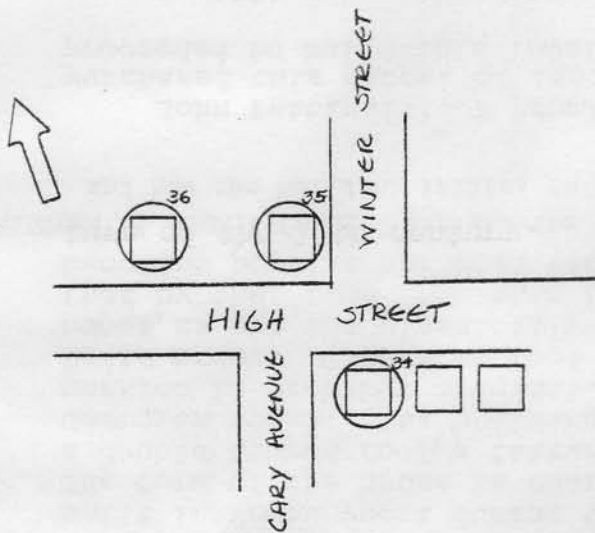
FORM B - BUILDING

Area A	Form no. 35
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



LOCATION IN RELATION TO  
cross streets and other buildings  
or geographical features.  
Indicate north.



Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt  
Organization Office of Community Development  
Date 8-11-80

Newburyport  
Address 180 High Street  
Historic Name Pettingill-Fowler House  
Original Residence  
Present Odd Fellows Home  
Ownership:  Private individual  
 Private organization Independent  
 Order of Odd Fellows #39  
 Public  
Original owner \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1792  
Source Proceedings, Historical Society  
Style Georgian of Old Newbury  
Architect Unknown  
Exterior wall fabric Clapboards  
Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_  
Major alterations (with dates) addition  
at rear (early), porch added  
(20th century)  
Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Approx. acreage 11,750 sq. ft.  
Setting on Newburyport's main  
thoroughfare noted for its excellent  
examples of domestic architecture  
dating from the Colonial period through  
the early 20th Century.

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

This building is an excellent example of the Georgian mansions built in Newburyport during the latter half of the nineteenth century. The form of the house is characteristically Georgian, of two stories with a double hipped roof, a feature which occurs frequently in Newburyport's Georgian homes. The building's facade is symmetrical and the entrance portico is probably original. It is pedimented and is supported by the Doric order. The three roof dormers are another feature of Georgian homes, as are the classically inspired window lintels. It should be noted that by the time this house was built the Federal style was already becoming popular but most Federal homes in Newburyport were built after the turn of the 19th century.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

John Pettingill, a prominent Newburyport merchant and shipowner purchased this parcel of land from Tristram Dalton in 1792. He then proceeded to build this lovely Georgian home.

In 1775 John Pettingill was one of the signers of a petition circulated by Patrick Tracy calling for a public meeting to discuss appointments to the Continental Congress. Pettingill had numerous mercantile interests. In 1780 he was part owner of several privateers, he was a stockholder in the Essex-Merrimack Bridge and the Newburyport Turnpike. He also served as a selectman in the town of Newburyport.

John Pettingill died in 1828 and the house was then occupied by Sarah Smith Pettingill. In 1863 the house was sold to Jacob A. Balch who later passed it on to his daughter Helen Balch Fowler. In 1909 she left the house to the Historical Society of Old Newbury. The Society occupied the house until it moved to its present residence in the Cushing house at 98 High Street.

Today the Pettingill-Fowler house is owned by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- J.J. Currier, Editor, "Proceedings of the Historical Society of Old Newbury", 1912.  
1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire  
1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D.G. Beers and Co.  
1851, 1871 City Directories  
J.J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, vols. I and II, reprint, Newburyport 1977.