

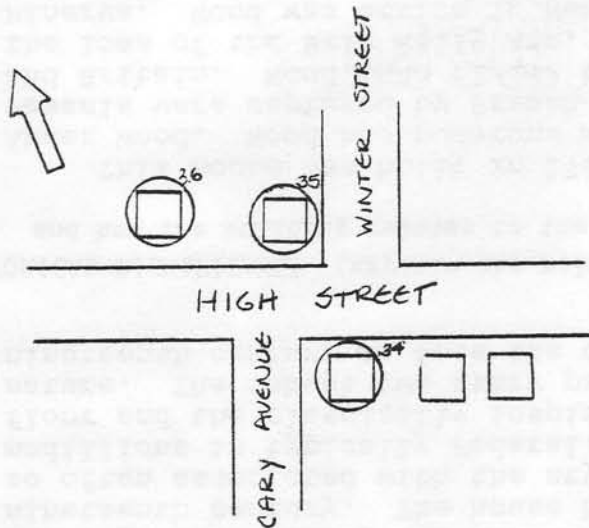
FORM B - BUILDING

Area A	Form no. 36
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Location in relation to nearest 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 182 High Street
Historic Name Wood-Moseley-Nason House
Original Residence
Present Residence
Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization
 Public
Original owner Abner Wood

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1792
Source Hale, "Old Newburyport Houses"
Style Federal
Architect Unknown
Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
Outbuildings Barn
Major alterations (with dates) projecting two story entrance bay added (mid-19th century)
Moved _____ Date _____
Approx. acreage 26,060 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.

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

This house retains the form and some detail of the Federal period although the doorway was altered extensively during the middle of the nineteenth century. The house has the three stories with hipped roof so often associated with the style. The delicate cornice made up of modillions is typically Federal. The small square windows on the third floor and the classically inspired window lintels are also Federal in nature. The robust two story projecting central bay dates from the mid-nineteenth century as does the cast iron fence in front of the house.

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

This house was built in 1792 after the land was purchased by Abner Wood. Wood had numerous mercantile interests. Three of Wood's vessels were captured by French privateers during the war between France and Britain. Wood made claims to the government for compensation for the loss of the Brig Sally Ann, the Schooner Speedwell, and the Brig Minerva. Wood was active in Newburyport and served as a selectman in 1803. In 1812 he was one of the directors under the second charter of the Newburyport Bank. In 1819, 1821, and 1822, Wood served as a representative to the Massachusetts legislature.

In 1819 Ebenezer Moseley purchased this house. Moseley was a lawyer. Moseley was born in Connecticut in 1781 and graduated from Yale in 1802. In 1805 he established a practice in Newburyport. In 1813 Moseley was elected colonel of the sixth regiment of the Massachusetts militia. Moseley was an able public speaker, a prominent citizen and a representative to the General Court from 1813 to 1819 and 1834 and 1835. He was also elected to the state senate in 1821 and made a welcoming address on the occasion of General LaFayette's visit to Newburyport in August 1824.

Ebenezer Moseley died in 1854 and by 1872 this house had been passed on to his son Edward S. Moseley, president of the Mechanics' Bank. Later the house was owned by another descendent, Mrs. Arthur Nason.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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J.J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, vols. I and II, reprint, Newburyport 1977.
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1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.
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