

FORM B - BUILDING

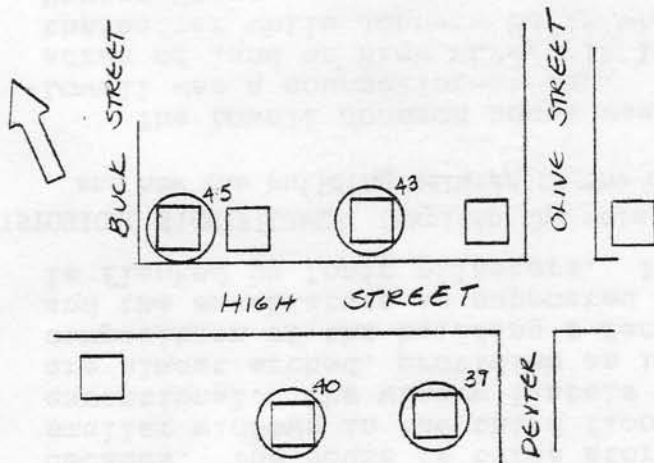
Area A	Form no. 40
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
201 Washington Street Boston, MA 02109



City Newburyport
 Address 203 High Street
 Historic Name Lowell-Tracy-Johnson Hse
 Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner John Lowell

location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1774
 Source Currier, "Ould Newbury"
 Style Georgian
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
 Outbuildings Barn
 Major alterations (with dates) entrance portico enclosed (1970's)
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage 3.50 acres

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 8-17-80

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 is one of the finest homes on High Street. Although built during the Georgian period the house has features of the Federal style that was to become so popular in Newburyport during the following decades. The house is three stories in height with hipped roof and smaller windows in the third floor. The modillioned cornice is exceptional. The window lintels are unlike others on High Street. They are almost arched, providing an interesting element in the overall composition of the building's facade. The entrance portico is pedimented and the entablature is supported by fluted Ionic columns. The door itself is flanked by Ionic pilasters. It also has a simple semi-circular fanlight.

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

The Lowell Johnson house was built about 1774 by John Lowell. Lowell was a counsellor-at-law. He and Jonathan Jackson purchased five acres of land on High Street in 1771. Lowell built this house shortly thereafter, while Johnson built what would later be known as the Timothy Dexter House.

John Lowell was the only son of Reverend John Lowell, minister of the First Religious Society in Newburyport. He graduated from Harvard in 1760. He passed the bar two years later at which time there were only twenty-five barristers in Massachusetts. Lowell was elected as a representative to the General Court. He moved to Boston in 1777 and in 1778 he represented that city in the legislature. When Lowell moved to Boston, the parcel of land was partitioned between Lowell and Jackson. Lowell sold his part of the land with dwelling house to Patrick Tracy.

John Lowell served his county well. He had represented Newburyport in the provincial assembly in 1776. He attended the convention that framed the constitution of the state in 1780. He was a member of the Continental Congress in 1782-83 and in 1789 was appointed judge of the U. S. Circuit Court for the district of Massachusetts. Judge Lowell died in Roxbury, Mass. in 1802.

Patrick Tracy was the owner of this house for many years. Tracy was one of Newburyport's most prominent citizens. The house was occupied by his son John, a prominent citizen in his own right. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the colonial government during the Revolution and he served as aide-de-camp to General Glover in Rhode

(cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- J. J. Currier, "Ould Newbury: Historical and Biographical Sketches," Boston, 1896.
- A. Hale, Old Newburyport Houses, Boston, 1912.
- J. M. Howells, The Architectural Heritage of the Merrimack, New York, 1941.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 40
Property Name: Lowell-Tracy- Johnson House 203 High Street	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

Island under General Sullivan. He served as vestryman and general warden of St. Paul's Church between 1777 and 1815. Tracy entertained the Marquis de Chastellux in this house in 1782. After the war Tracy's business was less prosperous and he and his children, having inherited the house from Patrick Tracy, sold the house to Eleazer Johnson in several parcels about 1810.

Eleazer Johnson was born in 1773. He was engaged in commercial pursuits and at one time was the president of the Mechanick's Bank in Newburyport. He died in 1847 leaving the house to his only son, Richard. The house belonged to Richard and his heirs until just recently.

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