

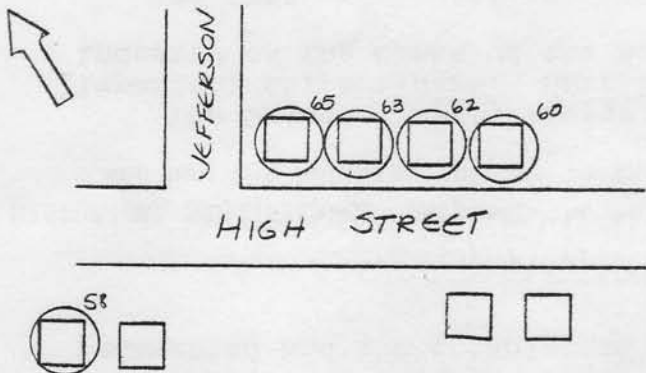
FORM B - BUILDING

Area A	Form no. 63
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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 Stirgwort
Organization Office of Community Development
Date 8-17-80

Newburyport

Address 354 High Street
Historic Name Orlando Merrill House
Original Residence
Present Residence
Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization
 Public
Original owner Orlando Merrill

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1791
Source Howells, "Architectural Heritage of the Merrimack"
Style Georgian
Architect Unknown
Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
Outbuildings Garage

Major alterations (with dates) additions at rear (dates unknown)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 21,000 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)

The Orlando Merrill house is typically Georgian in its style and form. The architectural features of the house are simple. The influence of the classically inspired style can be seen in the cornice moulding, the window lintels, the cornerboards, and in the overall symmetry of the facade. The doorway is the most noteworthy feature of the house. The entrance is an enclosed portico. The portico itself is pedimented and the entablature supported by Roman Doric pilasters.

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

The Orlando Merrill house was built in 1791 by one of Newburyport's important shipbuilders. Merrill was very active in the shipbuilding industry on the banks of the Merrimack River.

In 1798 when American shipping was threatened by foreign privateers during the war between France and Britain, Merrill and his brothers Jonathan and Nathan were contracted to build a naval vessel. Ninety days from the contract date the U. S. Brig "Pickering" was completed and launched from Merrill's yard in what was then a part of Newbury, now Newburyport.

In 1813 Orlando Merrill, with Ralph Cross, built the fourteen gun U. S. Sloop of War "Wasp" in the Merrill yard near Moggaridge's Point. The vessel was launched on September 18, 1813.

Merrill is also credited with the invention of the water-line model in 1794. This is the model from which working plans were and still are taken in order to build ships. In 1853 Merrill presented his original ship model to the New York Historical Society.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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