

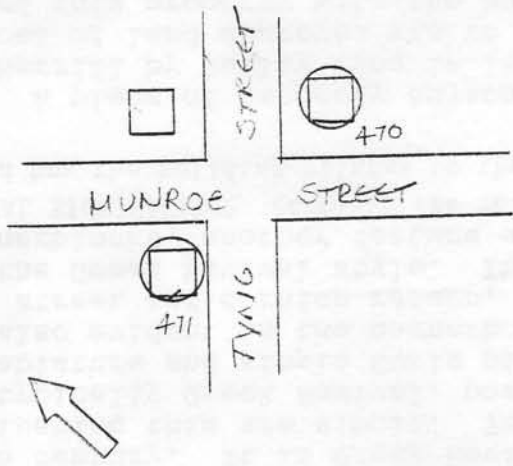
FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
	470

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 Street Boston, MA 02108



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



City Newburyport  
 Address 38 Munroe Street  
 Historic Name Robert Merrill House  
 Original Residence  
 Present Residence  
 Ownership:  Private individual  
 Private organization  
 Public  
 Original owner Robert M. Merrill

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1845  
 Source Currier, "History of Nbpt."  
 Style Greek Revival  
 Architect Unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards  
 Outbuildings Shed  
 Major alterations (with dates) Addition at rear (20th century)  
 Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage 9,800 sq. ft.  
 Setting in area of 19th century domestic architecture adjacent to the Ocean Mills Industrial District.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirqwolt  
 Organization Office of Community Development  
 Date 7-23-80

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

This house is an excellent example of the type of single family residence built in Newburyport's North End during the middle of the 19th century. It is Greek Revival in style, although the elements indicating this are simple. The doorway is flanked by sidelights and is typically Greek Revival, post and lintel, with wide fascia in the entablature and simple Doric pilasters to each side. The Greek influence is also evident in the cornerboards and heavy cornice. The gable facing the street and cornice return, suggest a pediment, one of the hallmarks of the Greek Revival style. The door itself has a moulding set off by cornerblocks, another feature characteristic of the Greek Revival period.

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

A piece of property adjacent to Tyng Street was sold to Robert M. Merrill by Dudley Tyng in 1841. It is quite possible that the parcel of land conveyed was to be the site of a new home. Merrill owned this property with the house on it in 1851. It might safely be assumed that Merrill built this house between 1841 and 1851.

Merrill was a ship carpenter who probably worked in the shipyards along the Merrimack River. Many of the homes along the street extending from High to Merrimac Street were built by those in the shipbuilding business or allied trades.

In 1872, Mrs. Robert M. Merrill owned the house. Shortly thereafter, the house passed into the hands of Oliver B. Merrill. Oliver Merrill was a teacher and wrote several historical articles on Newburyport that were published in the Newburyport newspaper. Merrill was elected as a representative to the General Court from the Eighth Essex District in 1893 and 1894.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport, 1764-1905, vols. I and II, reprint, Newburyport 1977.  
1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire  
1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.  
1851, 1871 City Directories  
Assessor's Records 1890-1980

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 470
Property Name: Robert Merrill House, 38 MunroeSt	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

This type of house was built extensively in the North end between 1840 and 1870. These houses provided simple, yet substantial homes for laborers and craftsmen.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom