

FORM B - BUILDING

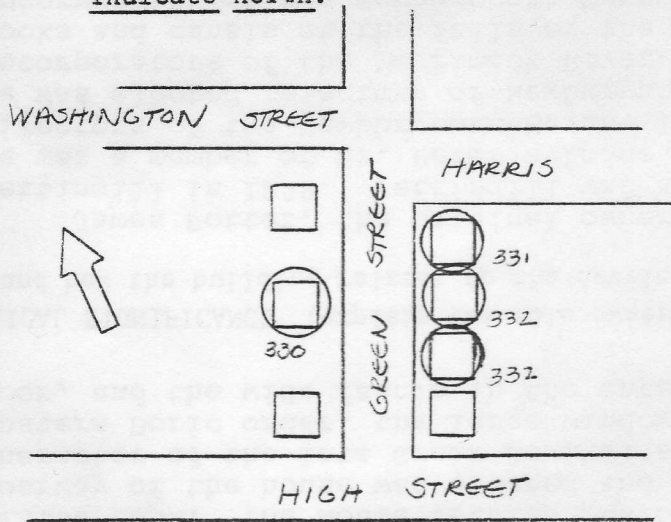
Area	Form no.
	333

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



City Newburyport  
 Address 49 Green Street  
 Historic Name Potter-Pettingill House  
 Original Residence  
 Present Residence  
 Ownership:  Private individual  
                   Private organization \_\_\_\_\_  
                   Public \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original owner James Potter

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



DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1806  
 Source Hale, "Old Newburyport Homes"  
 Style Federal  
 Architect Unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards  
 Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_  
 Major alterations (with dates) Doorway altered (1850) and bay windows added, addition at rear (date unknown)  
 Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage 10,350 sq. ft.  
 Setting House is set about twenty feet off Green Street, adjacent to High Street. The Immaculate Conception Church and school is located across the street.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt  
 Organization Office of Community Development  
 Date 6-30-80

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This house is an excellent example of the three story Federal domestic architecture built by Newburyport's upper class during the early years of the nineteenth century. The cornice, made up of mutules, is elegant, as is the delicate entablature that graces the building's window caps. The house retains its overall symmetrical form. The doorway of the house was altered and now has the proportions and character of the late Greek Revival style. The Greek elements are the austere Doric order, the large window lights to the side and above the door, and the wide fascia in the entablature above.

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

James Potter, the original owner of the house, sold it to John Pettingill in 1809. Pettingill was a prominent Newburyport merchant. He was a member of St. Peter's Lodge and in 1799, was chosen one of the directors of the Newburyport Marine Insurance Company. In 1795 and 1796 he was elected selectman of Newburyport. Pettingill was one of the incorporators of the Merrimack River Association, authorized to build locks and canals at the falls of the Merrimack. In 1803 he was an incorporator of the Newburyport Turnpike Corporation, "to lay and build a turnpike road four rods wide, from the head of State Street in Newburyport, in as nearly a straight line as possible to Chelsea Bridge" with liberty to erect turnpike gates and establish tolls for the use of the same. Pettingill was part owner of the Brig "Hazard", commissioned a "letter of marque" in 1781, and part owner of the Brig "George", captured by French privateers during the war between France and England.

Later, in the nineteenth century, the house was owned by Joseph S. Pike and in 1872, Frederick J. Coffin was the proprietor. Coffin was an architect in Newburyport and was the designer of the First Baptist Church at 26 Green Street as well as several of the schools in Newburyport. He was also on the building committee for the construction of the new Town Hall in 1851. This building became the City Hall in 1851, when Newburyport was granted a city charter, Coffin served as postmaster 1850-1853 and as a representative to the General Court in 1841 and 1845 and on the Board of Aldermen in 1865 and 1867.

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, 1872 City Directories  
A. Hale, Old Newburyport Houses, Boston, 1912.