

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
I	280

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport

Address 5-7 Oakland Street

Historic Name Josiah Sawyer House

Type: Original Residence

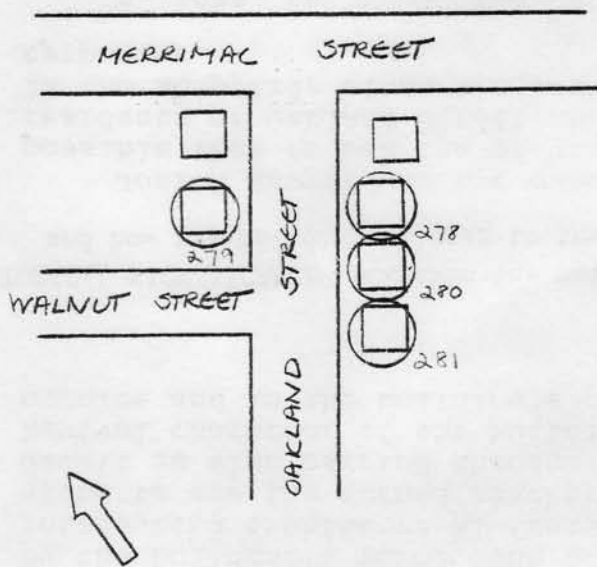
Present Residence

Ownership: Private individual
Private organization

Public

Original owner Unknown

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



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1843

Source Merrill, "North End Papers"

Style Greek Revival

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards, shingles

Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates) Addition at rear doorway and cornice Victorianized (late 19th century), bay window added (date unknown)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 5,420 sq. ft.

Setting in residential area of 19th century vernacular single family dwellings.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt

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 was built in the Greek Revival style, as is evidenced by the building's form. The building has been Victorianized and the interesting architectural features date from this period. Notable elements are the turned brackets at the doorways and cornice line. This detail is also carried through in the window lintels. The original Greek Revival character of the building is evident in the wide fascia in the cornice and in the building's cornerboards.

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

Josiah Sawyer was the owner of this house in 1831. It is quite possible that he was the original owner and builder. Like so many residents of Oakland Street in the mid-nineteenth century, Sawyer worked in the shipyards along the banks of the Merrimack River. He was a ship's carpenter.

By 1872, the house had been sold to Samuel W. French. French was a caulker in the shipyards. In 1874, he is listed as having done the caulking on the Ship "Exporter", the first vessel built by George W. Jackman in 1867. Jackman's yard was at the foot of Forrester Street.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- R. Cheney, History of Merrimack River Shipbuilding, Newburyport, 1964.
- 1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
- 1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.
- 1851, 1871 City Directories
- O. Merrill, "North End Papers", Newburyport Daily Herald, Sept. 1, 1906.