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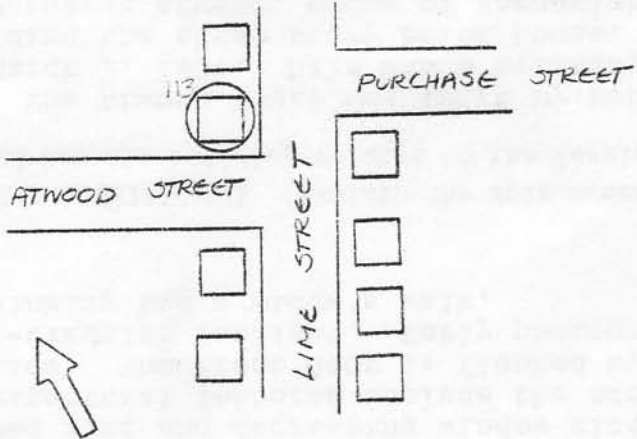
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



City Newburyport
 Address 54-56 Lime Street/21 Atwood St.
 Historic Name The Atwood House
 Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Robert Hale

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

DESCRIPTION:
 Date 1809-10
 Source Historical Survey Associates, "The Atwood House"
 Style Federal
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Brick
 Outbuildings _____
 Major alterations (with dates) _____
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage 4,900 sq. ft.
 Setting in densely built up area in which the predominant building type is that of eighteenth century single family dwellings.



Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 10-04-80

(Staple additional sheets here)

Assessor's Records 1890-1980
1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.
1851, 1871 City Directories
E. J. Harris, "The Atwood House" Historical Survey Associates, Inc. 1971.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Johnson had a clothing store at 52 State Street. In 1883 Johnson served as mayor of the City of Newburyport. Johnson owned the house at 54-56 Atwood Street until his death in 1922. His wife owned the property until 1927.
In 1833 the house was acquired by Captain Joseph P. Russell, a merchant and master mariner. Russell was part-owner of the sloop, "Satisfaction". When Russell died in 1852 he bequeathed one third of his estate to the Newburyport Marine Society. After Russell's death this house was purchased at auction by John J. Scott. One year later he sold the property to George W. Hale, a sailmaker. Hale owned the house until 1872. In that year William A. Johnson bought the house.

The Atwood house was built by Robert Hale who acquired the property on March 1, 1809. Hale was a bricklayer and he spent the next year building the three story brick house. In July 1810 Hale sold the house to Margaret Atwood, widow of Zachariah Atwood.
Mrs. Atwood was born in Newbury in 1754. In 1793 she was married to Zachariah Atwood. Atwood was a sea captain who had invested in several vessels. In 1796 Zachariah Atwood died. His wife continued to live in the house and invested heavily in real estate. By the time of her death in 1832 Mrs. Atwood owned several houses on High Street and a store and wharf, as well as the house on Lime Street. Mrs. Atwood was a strong supporter of many of Newburyport's charities. She was a co-founder of the Newburyport Female Charitable Society. Mrs. Atwood willed this property to her son, whose death preceded hers. The house was sold and her estate bequeathed to the poor of the town of Newburyport.

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

The Atwood house is a fine example of the Federal homes built by Newburyport's wealthy mercantile class around the turn of the nineteenth century. The brick house is three stories in height with hipped roof and decreasing window size in the upper floors. Exceptional architectural features include the arched doorways and the modillioned cornice. The front door is flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a semi-circular fanlight. Early photographs indicate that this house originally had a widow's walk.

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 113
Property Name: The Atwood House 54-56 Lime Street/ 21 Atwood Street	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

After the house was sold in 1927, the property began to deteriorate. In the 1950's the house was divided into six apartments. Between 1967 and 1969 the house was vacant.

The house is being restored by the present owners.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom