

FORM B - BUILDING

Area A	Form no. 13
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

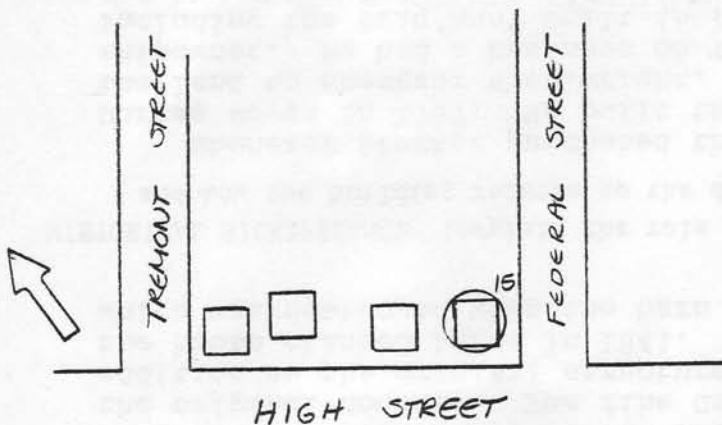


Newburyport
Address 75 High Street
Historic Name Ebenezer Stocker-
William Wheelwright Hse.
Original Residence
Present Home for Aged Women
Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization Newburyport
Society for the Relief of Aged
Women
 Public
Original owner Ebenezer Stocker

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

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1797
Source Historic American Bldg. Survey
Style Federal
Architect _____
Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
Outbuildings Barn, pump house, garden
house
Major alterations (with dates) doorway
altered and front porch added (c.1850)
addition at rear (c.1886).
Moved _____ Date _____
Approx. acreage 1.09 acres
Setting on Newburyport's main
thoroughfare noted for its excellent
examples of domestic architecture
dating from the Colonial period through
the early 20th century.



Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt
Organization Office of Community
Development
Date 8-4-80

(Staple additional sheets here)

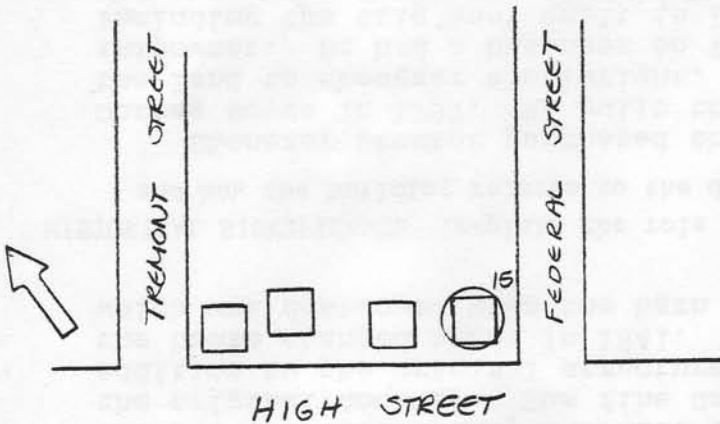
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Architect _____
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Outbuildings Barn, pump house, garden house
Major alterations (with dates) doorway altered and front porch added (c.1850) addition at rear (c.1886).
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Approx. acreage 1.09 acres
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(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This house is an exquisite example of the "Square houses" which were built along High Street in the early years of the 19th century. The house is Federal in style, of three stories with hipped roof and small square windows in the third story. Notable architectural features include the beautifully detailed cornice and the Palladian window over the original doorway. The fine Greek Revival porch and doorway are an addition to the original structure. These changes were probably made when the house changed hands in 1841. The house originally had a greenhouse which was destroyed when the barn was moved further from the house. The

(cont.)

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

Ebenezer Stocker purchased this parcel of land from the widow Dorcas Noyes in 1797. He built this house and sold the other half of the land to Ebenezer Wheelwright. Stocker was a prominent merchant and shipowner. He had a business on Ferry Wharf and owned several vessels including the Brig "Ann", built in 1800, the Brig "Mary", built in 1787, and the Ships "Columbus" and "Peace" built in 1800 and 1789 respectively. He was one of several Newburyport citizens that provided for the building of the ship "Merrimack" of 350 tons in 1798. This ship was given to the U. S. Government.

Stocker was a member or director of the Marine Fire Society, the Merrimack Human Society, the Newburyport Marine Insurance Company, and the Merrimack Bank. Between 1789 and 1800 he was a partner with William Farris, under the firm name of Farris and Stocker, involved in mercantile pursuits. Stocker served as a selectman in 1795.

The house was sold to Isaac Adams in 1808 and had several other owners before it was sold to William Wheelwright in 1841. William Wheelwright is one of Newburyport's most famous citizens. Wheelwright was born in Newburyport and attended public schools there. He took to the sea as a cabin boy on a vessel headed to the West Indies at the age of sixteen. In 1823 he was captain of the vessel "Rising Empire" when it was wrecked off South America. In 1825, he was appointed United States consul at Guayaquil, then the most important port on the Pacific coast.

Wheelwright later founded a business there. He then moved to (cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- A. Hale, Old Newburyport Houses, Boston, 1912.
- Assessor's Records 1890-1980
- Historic American Building Survey
- J.M. Howells, The Architectural Heritage of the Merrimack, New York, 1941.
- J.J. Currier, History of Newburyport, 1764-1905, vols. I and II, reprint, Newburyport 1977.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 13
Property Name: Ebenezer Stocker- William Wheelwright Hse. 75 High Street	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

new wing built after that time obscured part of the original formal garden. The garden was designed by Henry V. Ward and planted by a gardener named Armstrong. The gardens were exceptional and were documented by HABS in 1936. The garden house and pump house dating from the early 19th century still exist in their original locations.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

Chile and devoted his time and energy to the development of local industries, including the organization of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company and the establishment of a line of steamers to and from the Isthmus of Panama connecting Valparaiso with Europe. Years of his work led to the organization of the Grand Central Argentine Railway Company and the construction of a road between Rosario to Cordova, Central Argentina, a distance of over two hundred and forty miles. He later organized the Ensenada Railway Company. Because of his work in South America, Wheelwright is considered a national hero in Chile. His statue stands in Valparaiso, Chile's third largest city.

At the time of his death, in 1873, part of his estate was placed in the hands of trustees for use by "Protestant young men in the city of Newburyport ...in obtaining a scientific education" Since that time over fifteen hundred young men have benefited from this endowment.

The house at 75 High Street stayed in the Wheelwright family until 1886 when it was left by Martha Gerrish Wheelwright to the Society for the Relief of Aged Women. This organization continues to own and occupy the building.

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