

FORM B - BUILDING

Area A	Form no. 15
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport
78 High Street
 Historic Name Davenport-Greeley Hse.
 Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization
 Public
 Original owner Anthony Davenport

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

DESCRIPTION:
 Date c. 1808

Source Hale, "Old Newburyport Houses"

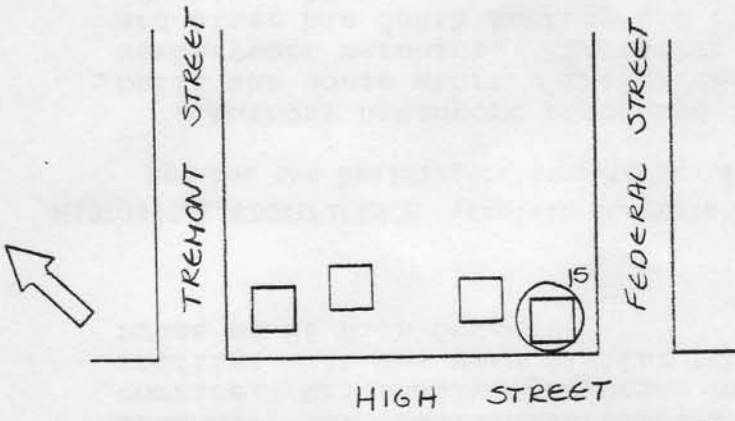
Style Federal
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
 Outbuildings Garage

Major alterations (with dates) removal of roof balustrade (mid 20th century)
addition on Western side (date unknown)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 17,990 sq. ft.

Setting on Newburyport's main thoroughfare noted for its excellent examples of domestic architecture dating from the Colonial period through the early 20th century.



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

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This house is a fine example of the domestic architecture built by Newburyport's wealthy merchant class during the Federal period. The house has the typical three story form with hipped roof. The doorway is flanked by pilasters and the portico is supported by columns. The modillioned cornice of the portico matches the building's cornice. Originally this house had an elegant balustrade gracing the roofline. It was very similar to the one on the Nelson-Wheelwright house at 96 High Street.

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

Anthony Davenport purchased the land for this home in 1807 and built the house shortly thereafter. Davenport was a prominent Newburyport merchant. His father had owned the famous Wolfe Tavern and after his death Anthony and his brother Moses were the proprietors of this well-known inn. The Marquis de Chastellux stayed there during a visit to Newburyport.

Anthony Davenport lived on Water Street in 1791 and had a business and wharf on the Merrimack. He owned an interest in many vessels including the Brig Hazard commissioned a "letter of marque" during the Revolutionary War. Several of his ships, specifically the Schooner Unity and the Brig Catherine were captured by the French during the war between France and England in 1798. Davenport served as a selectman in 1792.

Anthony Davenport lived here until 1838 when the property was conveyed to his daughter Mrs. Samuel DeFord. She and her heirs owned the house until 1871 when it was sold into the family of John B. Greeley. He and his heirs lived in the house until 1974 when it was purchased by Mr. Paul Nelson.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- A. Hale, Old Newburyport Houses, Boston, 1912.
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.
1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
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1851, 1871 City Directories