



FORM A - AREA

Form numbers in this area

Area letter

89-151

D



Newburyport

of area (if any) South End

Historic District

al date or period Eighteenth

and nineteenth centuries

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt

Organization Office of Community
Development

Date 10-16-80

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

The South End Historic District is an area bounded roughly by State Street, Bromfield Street, Liberty Street, and Prospect Street. Within this area are many of Newburyport's fine Georgian homes. They date from the early eighteenth century to the turn of the nineteenth. This domestic architecture ranges from small one story cottages to large Georgian mansions. The homes are closely spaced yet comfortable, providing a delightful illustration of what Newburyport was like at the turn of the nineteenth century.

Several building forms are common in this section of Newburyport. The first is a simple two story house with a symmetrical five bay facade and pitched roof. For the most part these homes have simple Georgian doorways, sometimes pedimented with flanking classical pilasters. Some have lean-tos in the rear. Excellent examples of this form are 12-14 and 25 Milk Street.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

This area of the City of Newburyport was settled shortly after the first colonists arrived in Newbury in 1635. The original settlement at Newbury was an agricultural one. House lots in what would become Newburyport, were granted to freeholders in 1645. The first petition to build a wharf was granted in 1655. The river lots along the banks of the Merrimack were divided and granted to individuals about 1705. In the next fifty years fishing, shipbuilding, and trade with the West Indies became the livelihood of the inhabitants of "the water side", the area between Bromfield Street and Oakland Street. In 1763, because great differences had developed between these men and those living in the agricultural district, a petition was presented to the General Court. This petition requested that "the water side", being inhabited chiefly by "Merchants, Traders, Mariners and Artificers", be set aside as a separate community where government would be in their own interest. This petition was granted in 1764.

The South End Historic District encompasses a large residential area that was settled during the eighteenth century. This area is an excellent representation of the domestic architecture resulting from the settlement of "the water side". The predominant architecture in this area remains that of eighteenth century single family dwellings. Although many buildings have been lost and some building of infill structures has occurred, the character of this area is chiefly determined

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- 1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
- 1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.
- 1851, 1871 City Directories
- 1884 Atlas of Essex County, G. H. Walker Co.
- 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: D
Property Name: South End District	

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

FORM A - AREA

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

The second form of house occurring in the South End, and by far the most common, is the two and one half story home with symmetrical, five bay facade and gambrel roof. Several examples have lean-tos. These houses date from the mid-eighteenth century and were built up to the turn of the nineteenth century. Depending upon the construction date, these houses have the above described Georgian doorway, or a Federal entrance with flanking pilasters and a fanlight. The gambrel roofed form is throughout this district. Excellent examples are 49-51 and 50 Milk Street and 20 Essex Street.

The third type of dwelling in the district is a two or three story Georgian form with symmetrical five bay facade, hipped roof and elegant entrance porch. This elegant form is exemplified in the William Bartlet House and in the Nicholas Johnson House located at 17 and 43 Federal Street.

Other significant architectural forms occur within this district. They include eighteenth century half houses and three story Federal homes. Each contributes to the character of the South End Historic District.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

by the domestic architecture of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Structures that are of particular historical significance include the First Presbyterian Church, affectionately called Old South, on Federal Street. It was here that the great evangelist came to preach in the mid-eighteenth century. It is also here that Whitefield is interred. He died in the home of Reverend Jonathan Parsons on School Street and was buried under the church pulpit. Several homes within this district are significant because of their owners. The parents of William Lloyd Garrison owned the house at 3-5 School Street and Garrison was born there in 1805. Adolphus Greeley, leader of the first polar expedition, was also from this area. His family, and later Greeley himself, owned this house at 105-107 Prospect Street. Prominent Newburyport merchants like William Bartlet, Nicholas Johnson and Anthony Knapp also lived in this area.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: D
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Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

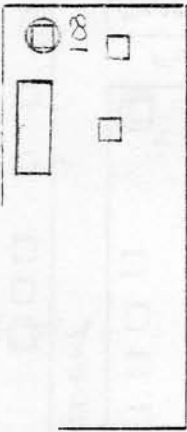
The residents of the South End Historic District were originally "merchants, traders, mariners and artificers". Their occupations were in either the adjacent Market Square commercial district or along the banks of the Merrimack River. Newburyport's wealthy mercantile class built their homes here before High Street became the preferred address. The fine homes along Essex Street or Federal Street attest to this fact. There are also modest homes in this area. They were built by the middle class working in the Middle Shipyard, in the ropewalks, and the small shops and offices in the commercial district.

The fire of 1811 which devastated Market Square extended into the South End area but was stopped before it destroyed the entire residential district. By the third quarter of the eighteenth century the occupations of the inhabitants had changed, as had Newburyport's economy. Many were no longer associated with the sea but worked in the industrial complexes that had been established, beginning in 1840. Some significant buildings date from this period. As the fortunes of Newburyport declined this part of the city saw little change. As a result the original character of this community as a maritime settlement remains, for the most part, intact.

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STATE STREET

WATER STREET



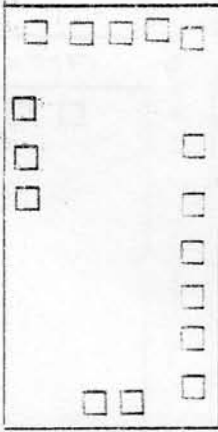
LIBERTY STREET

LIBERTY STREET

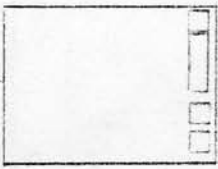
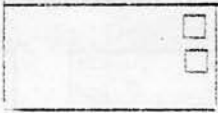
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LIBERTY STREET

LIBERTY STREET



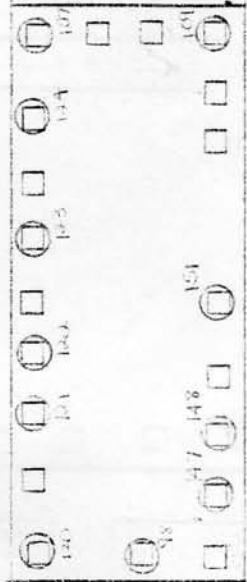
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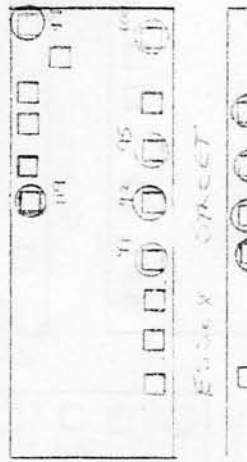
INDEPENDENCE STREET

INDEPENDENCE STREET

MIDDLE STREET

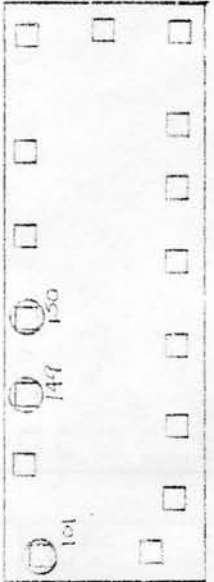


MIDDLE STREET

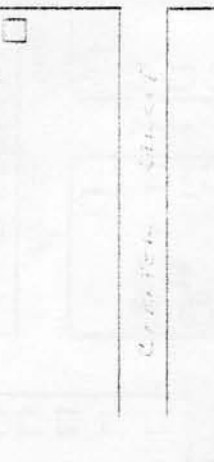


MIDDLE STREET

STRING STREET



STRING STREET



STRING STREET

CAMPBELL STREET (B)



CAMPBELL STREET (B)



CAMPBELL STREET (B)

TEMPLE STREET



TEMPLE STREET



TEMPLE STREET

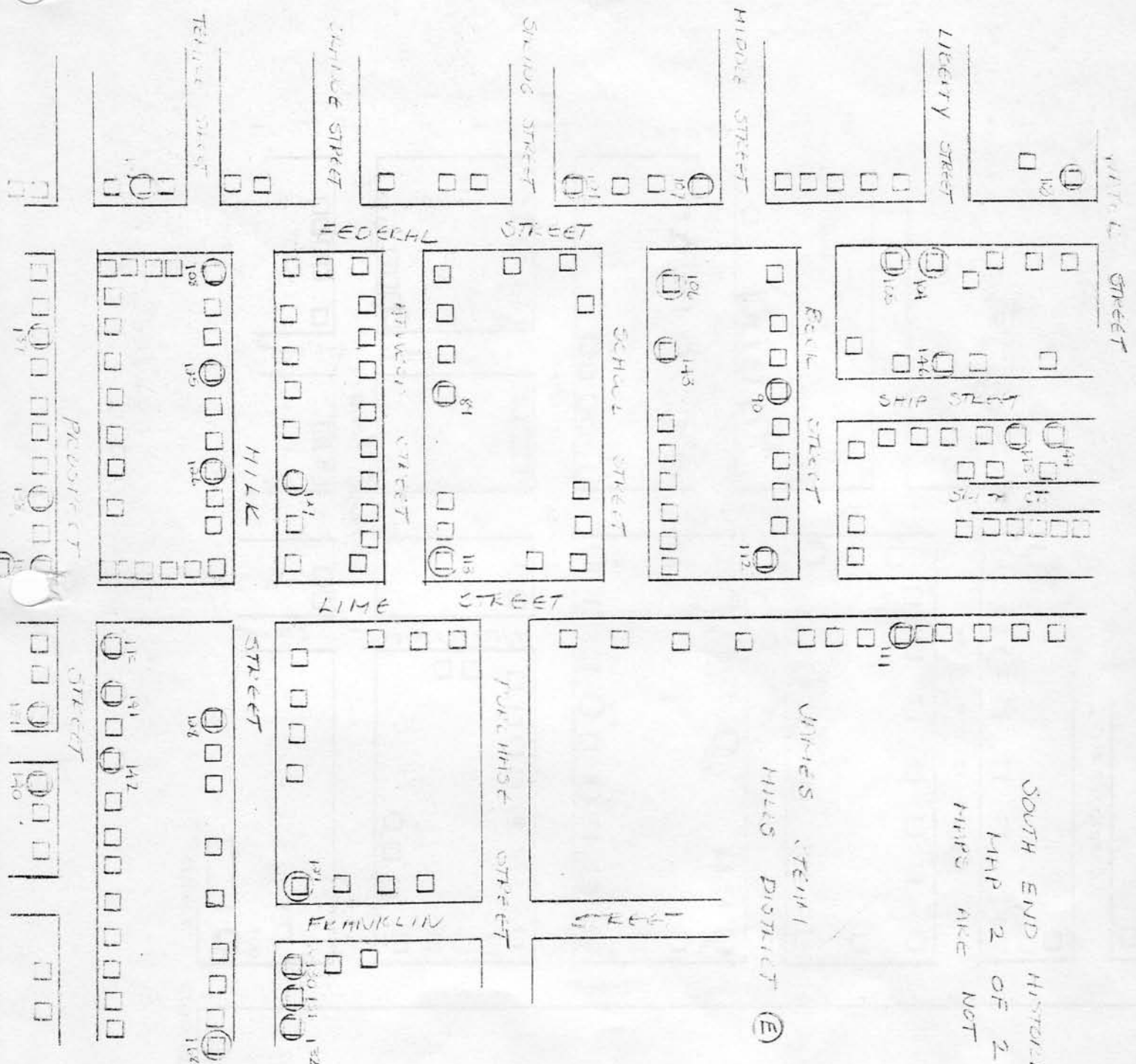
LIBERTY SOUTH DISTRICT

STATE STREET

SOUTH CLIP HISTORICAL DISTRICT (D)

MAP 1 OF 2

MAP AREA NOT TO SCALE



SOUTH END HISTORIC DISTRICT
 MAP 2 OF 2
 MAPS ARE NOT TO SCALE