

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
	315

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport

Address 10-12 Fruit Street

Historic Name _____

Original Residence _____

Present Residence _____

Ownership: Private individual
Private organization _____

Public _____

Original owner Unknown

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1805

Source _____

Style Federal

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings _____

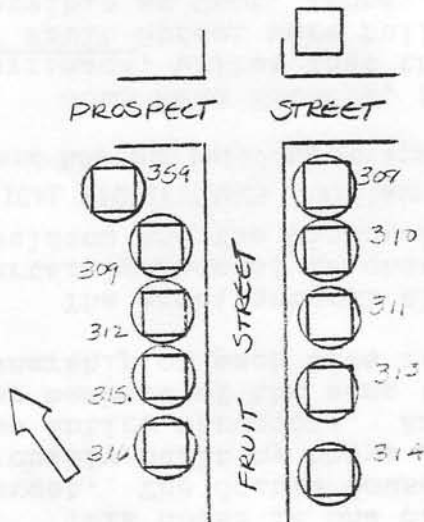
Major alterations (with dates) doorways
and windows altered (dates unknown)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 5,960 sq. ft.
in a residential area of single

Setting or double houses built, for the
most part, during the first decade of
the nineteenth century. The homes are
closely spaced and have little land on
the street side. Many are fine
examples of the Federal style.

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



Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt
Organization Office of Community
Development
Date 8-25-80

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This house is one of three double houses on this side of Fruit Street. The double house is very common in Newburyport. They were probably built by those who wanted a Federal home but could not afford the entire structure. Another excellent use of this type of house was for members of the same family who desired separate living quarters. The ownership of each side is passed down separately.

The architectural elements of this house are simple but are certainly Federal in character. This includes both the cornice moulding and the window lintels. The form of the house is also typically

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

John Mead Howells, in his book The Architectural Heritage of the Merrimack, writes that this house and most of the others on this side of Fruit Street were built by Capt. Samuel Tenney. This is quite possible as Capt. Tenney, who lived at 20 Fruit Street, had many children and in 1851 this house, as well as the one at 6-8 Fruit Street, was owned by Perley Tenney.

All of the early homes on Fruit Street were built shortly after Benjamin Wyatt and Richard Pike acquired the land between Prospect and High Streets, laid out Fruit Street, and began selling lots to individuals. This occurred between 1798 and 1801.

In 1851 Perley Tenney is listed as the owner of 10 Fruit Street. Thomas W. Burnham, the deputy customs collector owned and occupied the other half of the house, 12 Fruit Street.

By 1872 the Tenney half of the house was owned by Sarah and Ellen Tenney who continued in residence into the 1880's.

In 1872 Samuel Currier owned and occupied 12 Fruit Street. Currier was on the committee organized in 1850 for the purpose of building a new town hall. Currier served a brief term as a selectman in Newburyport in 1842.

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
- Assessor's Records 1890-1980
- J. M. Howells, The Architectural Heritage of the Merrimack, New York, 1941.
- Vital Records, City Hall, Newburyport, Mass.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 315
Property Name: 10-12 Fruit Street	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

Federal, of three stories with hipped roof and decreasing window size in the upper stories. The doorways have been altered but the Doric pilasters on either side of the door are still in place.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom