

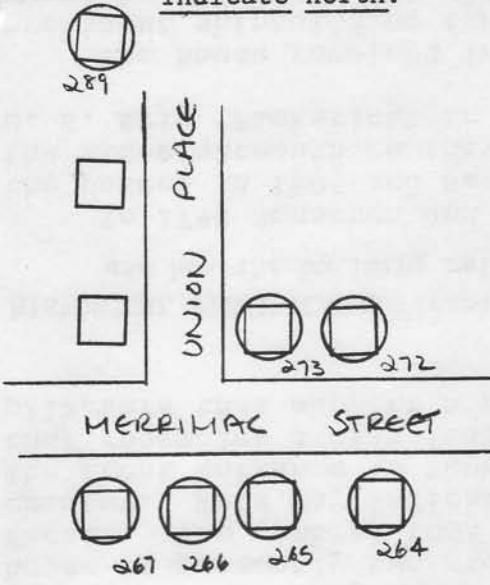
Area	Form no.
I	289

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 100 State Street Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport
 Address 11 Union Place
 Historic Name Nathan Merrill House
 Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Unknown

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



DESCRIPTION:
 Date Mid-Eighteenth Century
 Source Building Fabric
 Style Georgian
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboard
 Outbuildings _____
 Major alterations (with dates) porch added (date unknown)
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage 14,280 sq. ft.
 Setting in residential area of eighteenth and nineteenth century dwellings on the banks of the Merrimack River.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwort
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 12-30-80

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

This house is quite unusual in form. It is Georgian in style and may be a very early house with later alterations and additions. The house is presently two stories in height with a symmetrical five bay facade. The gambrel roof has a very unusual pitch and a massive central chimney. This may indicate that there is an earlier structure underneath. The front entrance is Georgian in style. It is in a projecting central bay that resembles a classical temple in miniature. The door is flanked by pilasters that support a pediment above.

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

In 1798 Jonathan and Nathan Merrill purchased this land. They divided the parcel in 1805 and Nathan kept the existing house, probably built during the mid-eighteenth century. Jonathan, Nathan, and Orlando Merrill built the U. S. Brig "Pickering" in 1798 in the Merrill Yard at Moggridge's Point.

The house remained in the Merrill family. The Merrills were a prominent shipbuilding family. Between 1851 and 1872 the property was owned by James Merrill shipbuilder. James Merrill, nephew of Orlando, inventor of the water line model, was building ships in the Merrill yard between 1856 and 1866. He built four barks and one ship in the next nine years. The "Champion", one of his barks made some of the fastest barks on record.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- R. Cheney, History of Merrimac River Shipbuilding, Newburyport, 1964.
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
Deed Research compiled by Mrs. Nancy Flynn and Mrs. Kathy Horden.