

FORM B - BUILDING

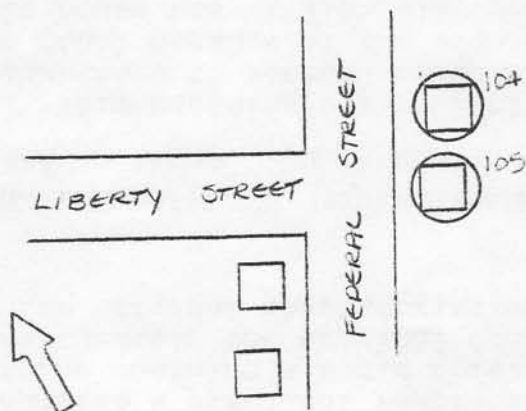
Area D	Form no. 104
-----------	-----------------

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



City Newburyport
 Address 13 Federal Street
 Historic Name William Pierce Johnson
 Original Residence
 Present School
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization
 St. Aloysius Education Assoc
 Public
 Original owner William Pierce Johnson

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



DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1780
 Source Cheney, "Maritime History of the Merrimack"
 Style Georgian
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Brick
 Outbuildings _____
 Major alterations (with dates) addition at rear (date unknown)
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage 5,960 sq. ft.
 Setting in densely built up area in which the predominant building type is that of eighteenth century single family dwellings. The Newburyport Tanning Company occupies an industrial complex across the street.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwalt
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 10-12-80

(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 Georgian domestic architecture. Important architectural details include the deep hipped roof, the modillioned cornice, the projecting brick belt course between the first and second stories and the elegant entrance porch. The porch resembles a classical temple in miniature. It is pedimented. The cornice contains a Doric frieze and is supported by Doric pillars. Unfortunately the original doorway has been altered and retains little of its original characteristics or detail.

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

This building was probably built about 1780. It bears quite a resemblance to several other Georgian homes built in Newburyport during the final decades of the eighteenth century. The original owner of this house was William Pierce Johnson. The Johnson family was prominent among Newburyport's shipbuilders. They built ships in the Lower Shipyard at the foot of Chandler's Lane, now Federal Street. William Pierce Johnson was a successful shipmaster. After the Revolutionary War he was involved in the West India trade in his own right. By 1790 he was one of Newburyport's ten wealthiest men. He died in 1802.

In 1851, Eleazer Johnson was the owner of this house. He was born on November 12, 1790, the son of William Pierce Johnson. Eleazer Johnson was elected town clerk in 1831 and he served in that position for twenty years. After the incorporation of Newburyport as a city, he held that position until his death in 1870.

Since early in this century this house has been owned by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston. It has been used as a school by the Church of St. Louis de Gonzague.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Assessor's Records 1890-1980
J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, Vols. I and II., reprint, Newburyport 1977.
R. Cheney, History of Merrimac River Shipbuilding, Newburyport, 1964.
B. Labaree, Patriots and Partisans: The Merchants of Newburyport 1764-1815, Cambridge, 1962.
1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co. 20M-2/80
1851, 1872 City Directories