

FORM B - BUILDING

Area D	Form no. 89
-----------	----------------

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 100 State Street, Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport

Address 13-15 Atwood Street

Historic Name Knight-Toppan House

Use: Original Residence

Present Residence

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization

Public

Original owner Jonathan Knight

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

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1765

Source Essex County Registry of Deeds

Style Georgian

Architect Unknown

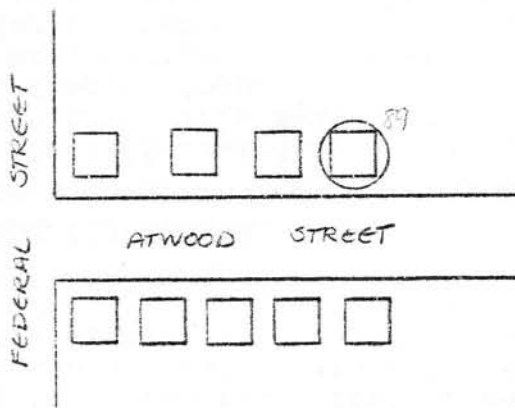
Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings _____

Major alterations (with dates) addition at rear (nineteenth century), front entrance altered and dormers added, (dates unknown)
 Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 6,330 sq. ft.

Setting in densely built up area in which the predominant building type is that of eighteenth century single family dwellings.



Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwort

Organization Office of Community Development

Date 10-14-80

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

Architecturally, this house is typical of the Georgian period. The five bay symmetrical facade with center entrance is typical of this period when the form and fenestration of domestic architecture became formalized. Other features that are characteristic of the Georgian style are the chimneys inside the endwalls, allowing for a hall to extend from front to rear at the center of the house, and the double hung window sash with twelve over eight or twelve over twelve window lights.

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

In 1865 Edward Presby sold this house lot to Jonathan Knight, cordwainer. This house was probably built shortly thereafter. In 1790 Timothy Toppan Ford purchased the property. Ford's daughter was Mrs. Margaret Atwood who later built the brick house at the corner of Atwood and Lime Street. Timothy Ford served in the Revolutionary War, marching with Captain Moses Nowell from Newburyport on April 19, 1775. Ford's rank was listed as Sergeant.

This house was in the Toppan family for most of the nineteenth century. In 1851 it was owned by Mrs. Joseph Toppan, merchant. Toppan had auction rooms at 7 Liberty Street. In 1872 the property was owned by Joseph Toppan, probably the son of the earlier owner. The younger Toppan was in partnership with Samuel B. Toppan under the firm name of Joseph Toppan and Company. The business sold boots and shoes at 20 and 21 Market Square.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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, 1872 City Directories
Deed Research compiled by Mrs. Elizabeth A. Godfrey