

FORM B - BUILDING

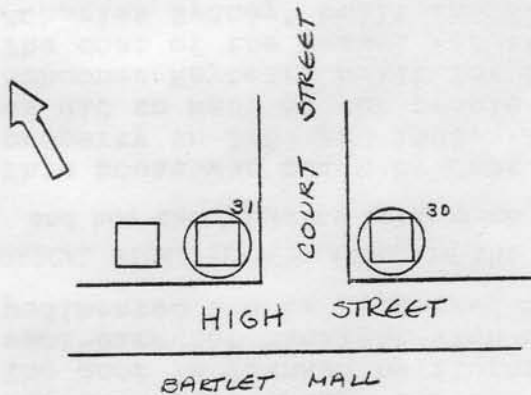
Area	Form no.
A	31

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport  
Address 148-150 High Street  
Historic Name Adams-Toppan House  
Original Residence  
Present Residence  
Ownership:  Private individual  
Private organization  
Public  
Original owner Capt. Isaac Adams

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



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1808  
Source Hale, "Old Newburyport Houses"  
Style Federal  
Architect Unknown  
Exterior wall fabric Clapboards  
Outbuildings  
Major alterations (with dates) additions  
at rear (dates unknown)  
converted to double house (1832)  
Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Approx. acreage 8,880 sq. ft.  
Setting across from the Bartlet Mall  
and the Court House designed by Charles  
Bulfinch, on Newburyport's main  
residential thoroughfare.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt  
Organization Office of Community  
Development  
Date 8-11-80

(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 the "Square houses" built along High Street by Newburyport's wealthy mercantile class in the early years of the nineteenth century. The form of the house is typically Federal, of three stories with hipped roof and small square windows in the third floor. The cornice and window lintels are simple yet in keeping with the style. The doorway and entrance portico are exceptional and are unchanged except for the fact that the portico has been enclosed. The door is flanked by fluted Doric pilasters and is surmounted by a semi-circular fanlight with delicate tracery. The portico itself is pedimented and is supported by the Doric order.

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

This house was built by Capt. Isaac Adams shortly after he acquired the property in 1807 and 1808. Adams had extensive mercantile interests as did so many of the people on High Street. In 1821 Adams had the Schooner "Hayteir" built for him in the yards of the Woodwell family. The cost of the vessel was \$456.00. He also owned the Schooner "Charles Sydney" built in 1818, and was part owner of the Schooner "Dennis" built in 1821 and the Brig "Dove," built in 1800. Adams served both as a selectman in the town of Newburyport and as a representative to the Massachusetts legislature.

Capt. Adams owned this house until 1828 when it was purchased by Richard W. Drown. Drown was a clock maker who later built the house at 146 High Street.

In 1832 the house at 146-148 High Street was converted from a single family residence to a double house.

Between 1929 and 1968 the house was owned by Dr. Roland Toppan and later his widow Gertrude. After Mrs. Toppan died the house was divided into several apartments.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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- 1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D.G. Beers and Co.
- 1851, 1871 City Directories
- Assessor's Records
- J.M. Howells, The Architectural Heritage of the Merrimack, New York, 1941.
- R. Cheney, History of Merrimac River Shipbuilding, Newburyport, 1964.