

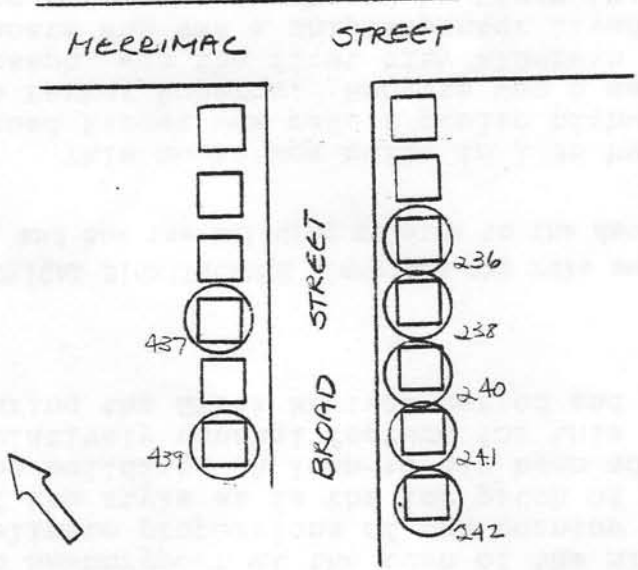
Area I	Form no. 242
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



City Newburyport  
 Address 15 Broad Street  
 Historic Name Benjamin Cross House  
 Type: Original Residence  
 Present Residence  
 Ownership:  Private individual  
 Private organization  
 Public  
 Original owner Benjamin Cross

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



DESCRIPTION:  
 Date 1796  
 Source Merrill, "North End Papers"  
 Style Federal  
 Architect Unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards  
 Outbuildings Garage  
 Major alterations (with dates) remodeled (1866) lean to added and doorway altered (19th century)  
 Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage 8,178 sq. ft.  
 Setting Residential area of late 18th, 19th, and 20th century houses.

Recorded by Scott Ackerly  
 Organization Office of Community Development  
 Date 7/28/80

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

This is a vernacular example of a Federal style as it was built in Newburyport at the turn of the nineteenth century. The simple and delicate proportions of the cornice and cornerboards are indicative of the style as is the low pitch of the roof and the overall form of the building. A lean-to has been added to the rear of the house, a relatively unusual feature for this period. The doorway was altered during the Greek Revival period and therefore has the characteristic

(cont.)

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 in 1796 by Benjamin Cross, the same year Broad Street was made a public highway. In 1803 the house was sold to Parker Roberts. Roberts was a merchant on State Street. His son, Joseph, was the first city alderman from ward six in 1851. William Choate who was a shipcarpenter lived in this house in 1851. In 1866 the house was purchased by Hiram Leach, a ship carpenter, who worked in the shipyards along the banks of the Merrimack River. John T. Stockman owned the house in 1872. He was the proprietor of the Bay State House at 19 Merrimac Street.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Newburyport City Directories, 1851, 1871, and 1884.
- 1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
- 1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.
- O. B. Merrill, "North End Papers", Newburyport Daily News, July 28, 1906.