

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
	317

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
201 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

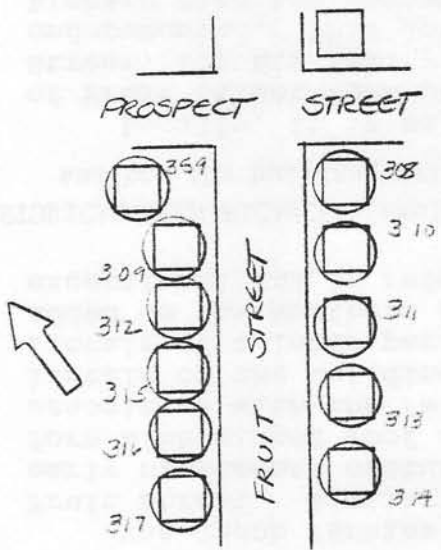


Newburyport
16-18 Fruit Street
 Historic Name Jacob Perkins House
 Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization
 Public
 Original owner Unknown

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

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1805
 Source _____
 Style Federal
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
 Outbuildings Brick printing plant
 Major alterations (with dates) doorway altered and entrance porch added (mid-19th century)
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage 7,910 sq. ft.



Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwalt
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 8-25-80

in a residential area of single and double houses built, for the most part, during the first decade of the nineteenth century. The homes are closely spaced and have little land on the street side. Many are fine examples of the Federal style.

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

The Jacob Perkins house is one of the fine Federal homes that line Fruit Street. Similar homes were built throughout Newburyport during the early nineteenth century. The house is a good example of the three story form with hipped roof and small square windows in the third story that are associated with the Federal style. The classically inspired window lintels on the building's facade are also typically Federal. Window lintels of a later period to match those of 14 Fruit Street, have been added on the Northern side of the house. The cornice moulding is exceptional and is referred to as a "bee hive" moulding in Newburyport.

(cont.)

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

Locally, it is believed that all of the homes on the Western side of Fruit Street were built by Capt. Samuel Tenney, owner of 20 Fruit Street, for his family. This may very well be true but it is as yet undocumented. This lot of land was part of a large tract acquired by Richard Pike and Benjamin Wyatt in 1798. The parcels were sold to individual owners in the following years and most of the homes on Fruit Street were built within the next decade. This house was built prior to 1808 when its owner Jacob Perkins gave a mortgage deed on his house and land to Charlotte Hamilton of Exter, New Hampshire.

Jacob Perkins was a prominent citizen of Newburyport. He was apprenticed to a goldsmith in 1778 at the age of twelve. Prior to the adoption of the Federal Constitution, Perkins was employed to make the dies for the copper coin issued by the State of Massachusetts. Perkins invented many of the innovations in his trade. In 1795 he invented a machine for cutting and heading nails in one operation. He was granted a patent on this invention. In 1796 he manufactured nails and brads in Amesbury. In 1810 Perkins invented a furnace for heating houses and large buildings with hot air. In 1816 Perkins moved to Philadelphia and later to London.

In the meantime Charlotte Hamilton conveyed 16-18 Fruit Street to William B. Swett of Boston. In 1832 Abraham Perkins, brother of Jacob, purchased the house.

Abraham Perkins like his brother was in the business of printing bank notes. He carried on his printing in the brick building behind the house that now serves as a garage.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport, 1764-1905, vols. I and II, reprint, Newburyport 1977.
1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.
1851, 1871 City Directories
Assessor's Records 1890-1980

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 317
Property Name: Jacob Perkins Hse. 16-18 Fruit St.	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

The name was chosen because the spaces between the individual elements of the moulding resembles the shape of a bee hive.

The doorway at 16-18 Fruit Street was altered during the mid-nineteenth century. The present doorway has sidelights and a transom light seen in the Greek Revival style. The enclosed entrance porch has a flat roof and its cornice is bracketed. This is reminiscent of the Italianate styles popular in the last century.

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