

FORM B - BUILDING

Area A	Form no. 47
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

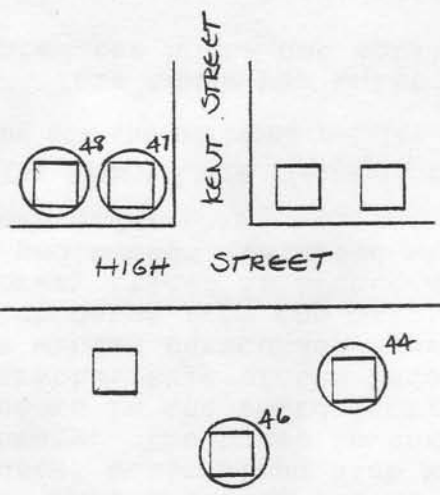


Newburyport
Address 236 High Street
Historic Name Toppan-Whitney House
Original Residence
Present Residence
Ownership: Private individual
Private organization
Public
Original owner Enoch Toppan

LOCATION: _____
 cross streets and other buildings
 or geographical features.
Indicate north.

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1807
Source Merrill, "North End Papers"
Style Federal
Architect Unknown
Exterior wall fabric Brick
Outbuildings



Major alterations (with dates)
Corinthian portico added on Eastern side (probably mid-19th century)

Moved _____ Date _____
Approx. acreage 4,442 sq. ft.

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

Setting on Newburyport's main thoroughfare noted for its excellent examples of domestic architecture dating from the Colonial period through the early 20th century.

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

This house is a fine example of the Federal period "Square houses" built along High Street during the early years of the nineteenth century. The house is three stories in height with smaller square windows in the third story and a hipped roof. Each of these features is characteristic of the Federal period. The cornice is simple as are the window surrounds. One exceptional feature is the entrance portico which dates from the original construction date of the house. The doorway itself is arched and has a semi-circular fanlight. The portico is pedimented, detailed with modillions and is supported by the Doric Roman 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 Enoch Toppan between 1804 and 1807. Toppan rented the house out until 1837 when it was purchased by William Ashby.

Ashby's profession is not registered in the city directories of the time but it is reasonable to assume that he was in business and quite prosperous. He is registered as a contributor to several charitable societies including the Newburyport Howard Benevolent Society. Ashby also contributed to the fund to purchase the Tracy house on State Street to house the Newburyport Public Library.

William Ashby lived in this house until his death in 1881. His estate held the property for several years after his death. In 1905 James Whitney purchased the property and owned it for several decades.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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S. Emery, Reminiscences of a Newburyport Nonagenarian,
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