

FORM B - BUILDING

Area H	Form no. 213
-----------	-----------------

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MA 02108



City Newburyport

Address 24 Congress Street

Historic Name George Towle House

Original Residence

Present Residence

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization

Public _____

Original owner Unknown

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

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1810

Source Building Fabric

Style Federal

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

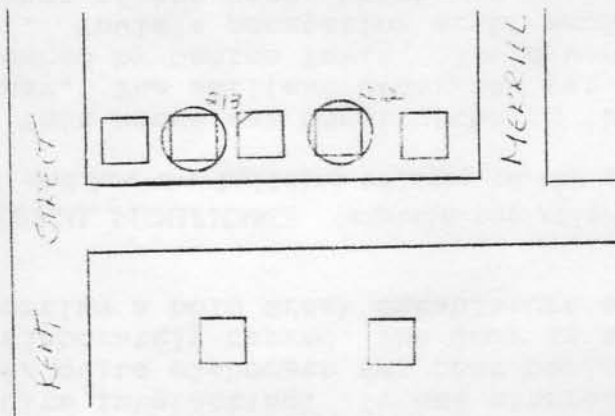
Outbuildings Garage

Major alterations (with dates) front entrance altered (mid-nineteenth century)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 6,100 sq. ft.

Setting in residential area of primarily eighteenth and nineteenth century domestic architecture.



Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgolt

Organization Office of Community Development

Date 11-28-80

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

This three story Federal house with hipped roof and symmetrical five bay facade has many features seen in Federal homes built in Newburyport. The form of the house is typically Federal as are the simple window lintels and cornice moulding. The front entrance of this house is quite interesting. It was altered during the Greek Revival period and is quite elaborate for that period. The door and the panels around it are elaborately carved. The door is also flanked by fluted Greek pilasters supporting a bold Greek entablature above.

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 constructed in the early years of the nineteenth century. The earliest owner has yet to be documented. In 1851, the house was owned by George Towle. Towle was a house carpenter employed on Brown's Wharf. Towle's occupation might explain the elaborate nature of the front entrance of the house which was probably altered during this period.

In 1872 the house was owned by Mrs. George Towle. She was listed in the 1871 City Directory as a dressmaker and tailoress. The house at 26 Congress Street, built between 1851 and 1872, was also owned by Mrs. George Towle.

Members of the Towle family have been making silver in the City of Newburyport since 1857.

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, 1871 City Directories