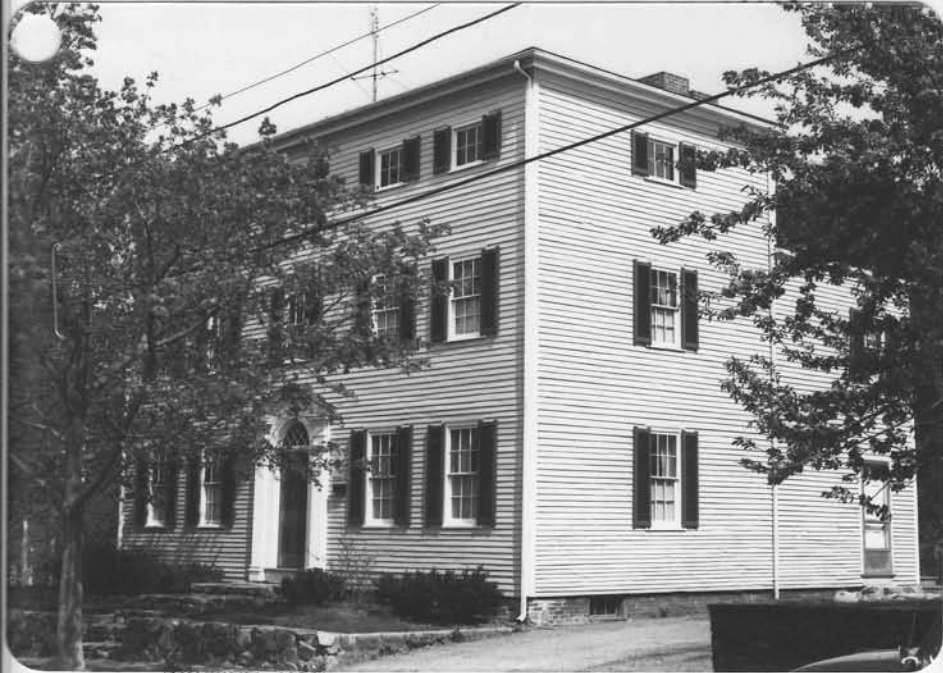


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| Area | Form no. |
| | 485 |

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



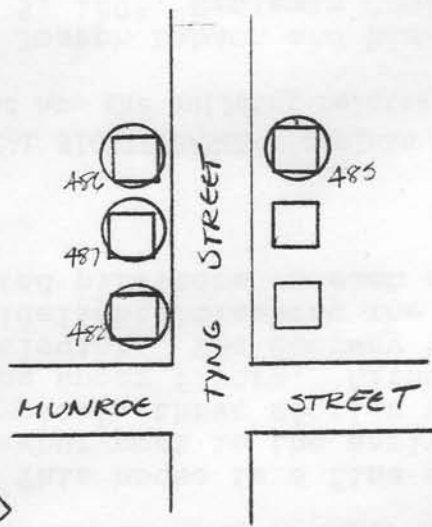
City Newburyport
 Address 25-27 Tyng Street
 Historic Name Joseph Babson House
 Use: Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization
 Public
 Original owner Unknown

SKETCH MAP

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

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1805
 Source Assessor's Records
 Style Federal
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
 Outbuildings Garage



Major alterations (with dates) addition at rear (19th century), converted to guest house (1977)

Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage 9,250 sq. ft.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirqwolt
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 7-28-80

Setting In residential neighborhood of buildings dating, for the most part from the second half of the 19th century. The Bass-Whitney House across the street is also Federal.

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

This house is a fine example of the Federal style that proliferated in Newburyport in the early nineteenth century. The form of the house is typical, three stories with hipped roof and decreasing window size in the upper floors. Although the details of the house are simple they are elegant. The doorway has a lovely semi-circular fanlight. There are no sidelights flanking the door but the doorway itself is pedimented with applied pilasters to each side.

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

Joseph Babson and his wife Sarah owned this house in 1830. On July 5, 1805, Benjamin Choate sold a lot of land on Tyng Street, then called New Street, to Joseph Babson, Jr. It is quite possible that this was the site of the house and that it was built shortly thereafter. Joseph Babson, Jr. was a member of the "Dernier Resort Fire Society", and his place of residence was Tyng Street, when the by-laws of that society were revised and printed in 1816.

On May 27, 1830, Joseph Edward Babson was born in this house. Babson attended the grammar school on Kent Street and at the age of about fourteen took a job as clerk in a grocery store kept by Parker Roberts in Market Square. In December 1849 Babson opened a bookstore at No. 6 Pleasant Street, near the corner of State Street. His shop was damaged by fire in 1853 and he moved to Boston at that time. Babson wrote essays for the Atlantic Monthly and the Boston Transcript. In 1865, he published a volume "Eliava: Being the hitherto uncollected writings of Charles Lamb."

This house remained in the Babson family until the 1870's. The house was converted to a guest house in 1977.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Assessor's Records 1890-1980
- 1851, Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
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- 1851, 1871 City Directories
- J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, Vols. I and II reprint Newburyport 1977.