

Area	Form no.
	413

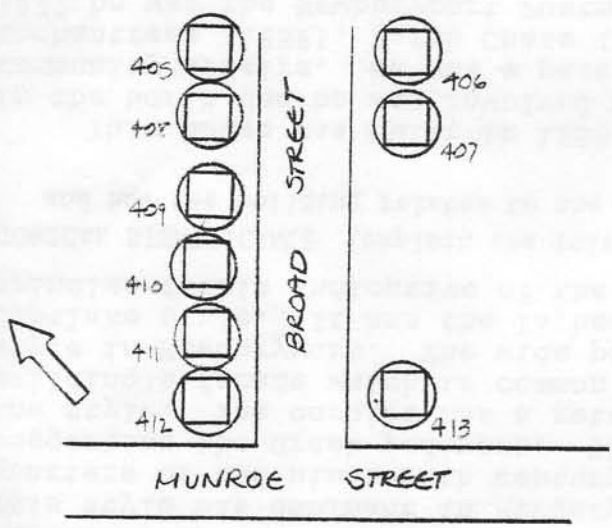
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Town Newburyport  
 Address 31 Broad Street  
 Historic Name Richard Plummer House  
 Use: Original Residence  
 Present Residence  
 Ownership:  Private individual  
 Private organization  
 Public  
 Original owner Richard Plummer

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

DESCRIPTION:  
 Date 1856  
 Source Merrill, "North End Papers"  
 Style Greek Revival  
 Architect Unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards  
 Outbuildings Garage  
 Major alterations (with dates)  
 Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage 5,260 sq. ft.  
 Setting Residential neighborhood with house from the late 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.



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)

Except for the front portico, which is probably a later addition, this house is a vernacular example of the Greek Revival style. This style was dominant in Newburyport during the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century. The roof gable faces the street suggesting the Greek pediment. The corner boards are also typical of the style. The cornice has a return but does not continue across the building's facade which is common in many houses of the Greek Revival style in Newburyport. The wide portico has characteristics of the Eastlake style. It has the lathed table leg posts, curved brackets and spindled fascia indicative of the style.

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 1856 by Richard Plummer. Like many people in the North End he was involved with shipbuilding and active in community affairs. He was a part owner of the vessels Masconomo (1848), Enchantress (1858), Sarah Chase (1860), and Isis (1866). From 1869 to 1877 he was the Newburyport Postmaster. He was among the founders of the 5¢ Bank and a member of the Massachusetts Senate in 1868.

In 1872 the house was owned by John A. L. Oddie, a shipcarpenter. Mr. Oddie was a city alderman from ward five in 1872. Francis E. Coffin owned the house in 1924.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- R. Cheney, History of Merrimac River Shipbuilding, Newburyport, 1964  
J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, vols. I and II, reprint Newburyport 1977  
O. B. Merrill, "North End Papers, Newburyport Daily News, June 30, 1906. City Directory 1872  
1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.