

FORM B - BUILDING

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| Area | Form no. |
| H | 227 |

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 100 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport

Address 41-43 Washington Street

Historic Name Edward Bass House

Original Residence

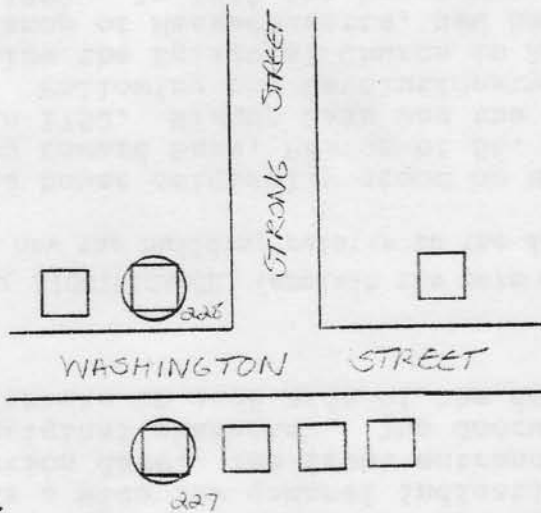
Present Residence

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization

Public

Original owner Bishop Edward Bass

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



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1752

Source Newburyport Daily News

Style Georgian

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings Garage

Major alterations (with dates) addition
at rear, front entrance altered (date
unknown)

Moved from North Date 1848

Atkinson Street
 Approx. acreage 6,060 sq. ft.

Setting in residential area of
primarily eighteenth and nineteenth
century dwellings.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt

Organization Office of Community
Development

Date 12-01-80

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This house is similar to many built in Newburyport during the eighteenth century. It is of two stories with a gambrel roof and a symmetrical five bay facade. The gambrel roof was popular into the nineteenth century because of the additional headroom it afforded. This house has a wide low gambrel indicative of its mid-eighteenth century construction date. The front entrance has been altered and retains little of its original character. The doorway was probably originally pedimented with pilasters to each side of the door.

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 originally stood on North Atkinson Street. It was built by Bishop Edward Bass, Pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal Church on High Street, in 1752. Bishop Bass was the Pastor of St. Paul's Church for decades. Following the Revolutionary War he was instrumental in helping to organize the Episcopal Church in America. He was later appointed the first bishop of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Bishop Bass died in 1803. In 1848 the house was moved to its present site on Washington Street. Prior to that time this land was part of the Quaker Burial Ground.

The owners of the house in 1851, appear to have been Captain John Couch and Captain John Raynes. Neither were in residence here. Prior to 1872, the property was sold and in that year Joseph A. Bamford and Hannah and Jane Hervey were in residence here. Bamford was a fish dealer who operated his business at the Market Landing. Today the Bass house is divided into several apartments.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- R. Hayden, article, Newburyport Daily News, November 27, 1967.
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 Directory