

Area D	Form no. 128
-----------	-----------------

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Newburyport

Address 48-50 Milk Street

Historic Name _____

Original Residence

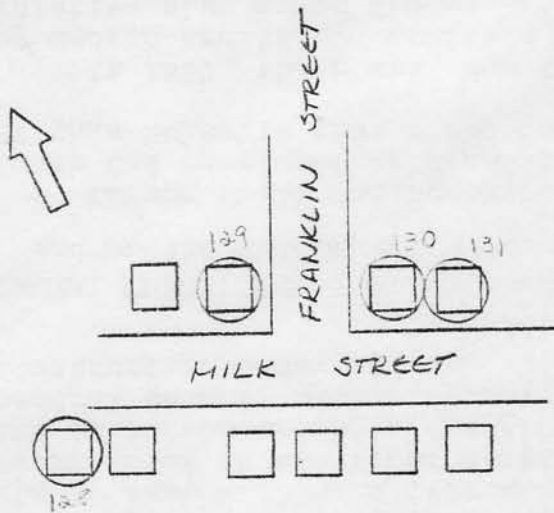
Present Residence

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____

Public _____

Original owner Unknown

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



DESCRIPTION:

Date Eighteenth Century

Source _____

Style Georgian

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings _____

Major alterations (with dates) addition at rear (dates unknown)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 4,410 sq. ft.

Setting in densely built up area in which the predominant building type is that of eighteenth century single family dwellings.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt

Organization Office of Community Development

Date 09-28-80

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

This house is an excellent example of the two and a half story gambrel roofed dwelling built in Newburyport's South End during the second half of the eighteenth century. The house has the symmetrical five bay facade characteristic of the Georgian period. The double hung window sash with nine over six or six over six lights are typically Georgian as is the front entrance. The door is flanked by Doric pilasters and is surmounted by a classically inspired entablature. The large central chimney might indicate a mid rather than late eighteenth century construction date.

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

Though built during the eighteenth century when Newburyport's South End developed as a maritime community, the earliest documented owner of this house is that noted on the 1851 Plan of Newburyport.

In 1851, the house now 48-50 Milk Street was owned and occupied by George Armitage. Armitage was a shoe dealer at 147 Water Street. A relative also named George Armitage was also in residence. He was a seaman. This combination is very interesting, as it was during this period that Newburyport's economy was changing. The most important factor in the economy was until this time, maritime and mercantile interests. Between 1850 and 1880 the textile industry and that of the manufacture of shoes became very important. Occupations of those living in the South End switched in part from those associated with fishing and trading to those in industry.

In 1872 George Armitage was still the owner of this house. At that time he was listed as a shoemaker working at 24 Charter Street.

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, 1872 City Directories