

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984

Assessor's number
17-7

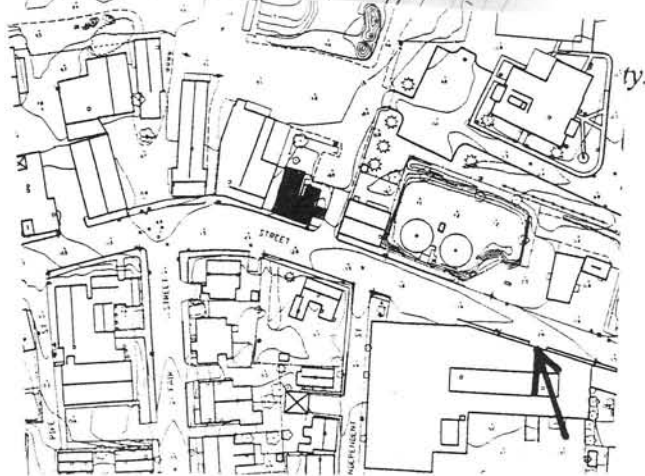
USGS Quad
Newburyport

Area(s)
L,W

Form Number
397

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building

220
Bo



Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 61 Water Street

Historic Name Anthony Davenport House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction c.1790

Source visual inspection

Style/Form Georgian

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation (not visible)

Wall/Trim Wood Clapboard

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) 19th c. - rear ells

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 3724 SF

Setting area of mixed residential and commercial uses
near waterfront

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) March 1999

BUILDING FORM (61 Water Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of the building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Anthony Davenport House is a well-preserved, late 18th century house displaying the influence of both the Georgian and Federal styles. The three-story, clapboarded building has a five-bay facade with a narrow side gable displaying close eaves. Two tall brick chimneys, one of which is stuccoed, rise from the edges of the front roof slope. The horizontal placement of the facade windows is somewhat unbalanced and the off-center entrance has wide pilasters supporting a full entablature. The wooden door dates to the early 20th century and consists of 3 x 3 glass panes over two vertical, recessed panels.

The first and second floor openings contain 6/6 sash with molded surrounds and exterior storm windows. They are capped by entablature lintels. The attenuated third floor openings are without lintels; the tops of the windows extend to the eaves.

Attached to the east side of the house is one of two Newburyport Range Lights, built in 1873 to assist ships in navigating the mouth of the Merrimack River (individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places 6/15/87). Extending behind the main block are two two-story ells, aligned with the ends of the main house and resting on brick foundations. Both of the ells, like the rear elevation of the house, are sheathed in wood shingles. Of the two ells, that to the north is slightly taller, longer and more narrow in its proportions, with a lower gable roof. Fenestration on the north ell consists of 8/8 and paired 6/6 windows while the southern ell is punctuated by 6/6 sash. A wooden fire escape between the two ells leads to a second story door.

The house is set directly on the sidewalk. The small lot encompasses 3724 square feet and there is a parking lot behind the building. Historic maps indicate that originally extensive connected outbuildings led out to the lumber yard and Bayley's Wharf behind the building. Sanborn insurance maps indicate that the buildings eventually fell in and had been completely removed by 1946.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

It is believed that this house (known as 55 Water Street until about 1920) was constructed c.1790 by Anthony Davenport, the owner of the adjacent wharf and brick store. Anthony Davenport was the son of William Davenport, the owner of the Wolfe Tavern. After his father's death in 1773, Anthony operated the inn with his brother Moses. Having greatly increased his fortune as a privateer, Davenport was one of the ten wealthiest men in Newburyport in 1793. Davenport resided in a large Federal-style house on High Street. The Davenport family is still shown as the owner of the property on the 1851 map although shortly thereafter the property appears to have been sold to Robert Bayley, the proprietor of the grocery store next door at what is now 65 Water Street. Directories indicate that Bayley never lived in this building. The 1884 map indicates that it was then owned by the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank. The property was owned by Cornelius and Ellen Reagan and their descendants from 1886 until 1954. The 1888 Sanborn map and subsequent maps label the building as tenements. Cornelius Reagan was a laborer and a large, extended family also lived here. Ellen Reagan, Cornelius' widow, was still living here in 1915. The present owners, Gordon Hall and Michael Moskow, purchased the building in 1971.

The building serves a multi-family function today with a small beauty shop located on the first floor.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attached a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
NewburyportProperty Address
61 Water Street
Area(s) Form No.Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

L,W	397
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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Currier, John J. *History of Newburyport, Massachusetts, 1764-1906*, vols. 1 & 2. Newburyport: 1906 & 1909.
- Erickson, Candace Chapman. "Dooryard and Shipyard: Four Walking Tours of Newburyport".
- Essex County, Register of Deeds.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission. Historic Resources Inventory: Newburyport.
- Newburyport City Directories, various dates.
- Stirgwolt, Mary Jane. "Historical Buildings Survey and Inventory, Newburyport, Massachusetts: Narrative History",
Prepared for the Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1980.

Maps

- Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: D.B. Beers & Co., 1872.
- Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Boston: George H. Walker, 1884.
- Beck & Paul. *City of Newburyport*. Framingham, Mass.: Bigelow and Hazen, 1880.
- Plan of Newburyport*. Philadelphia: H. McIntyre, 1851.
- Sanborn Insurance Maps. Massachusetts State Library, Boston, Massachusetts.