

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
D	110

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Boston MA 02108



Newburyport

Address 68-70 Federal Street

Historic Name Old Newbury Jail

Original Jail

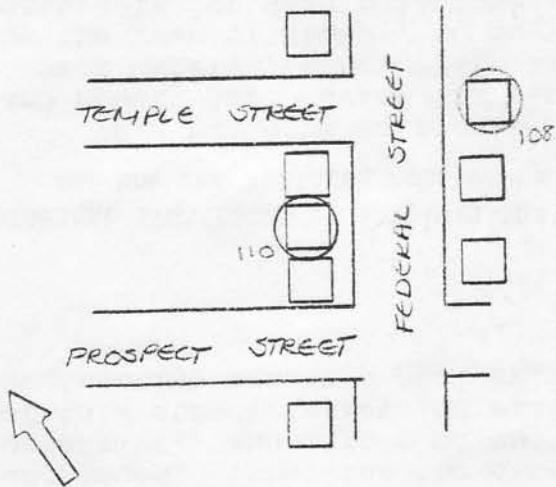
Present Residence

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization

Public

Original owner Town of Newbury

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



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1744

Source Currier, "History of Newburyport"

Style Georgian

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric asbestos shingle
wooden shingles

Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates) building

resided, doorways altered, bay window

added, converted to residential use

(dates unknown)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 6,449 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 Stirgwalt

Organization Office of Community
Development

Date 10-12-80

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

Architecturally this house retains little of its original exterior detail. The overall form of two stories with gambrel roof remains unchanged. Otherwise the exterior features have been altered extensively and little of the original fabric remains. The interior of this structure retains early framing timbers, thick boards delineating original jail cells and other interesting features.

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

This building is significant in that it served as both the town and county jail during the eighteenth century. On December 13, 1743, Joseph Gerrish, Henry Rolfe and John Greenleaf were instructed, by the Town of Newbury to buy land for a goal and work house and provide materials for said buildings. On the following February 4 the town purchased of Anthony Somerby a lot of land four rods wide on King, now Federal Street, upon which to build the prison. On May 15, 1750, the selectmen were ordered to view the workhouse and see that it had been properly finished.

This property was conveyed to the county of Essex in 1758. The building served as the jail until 1825 when a new stone jail was constructed adjacent to the Bartlet Mall. At that time Stephen W. Marston was appointed by the county to sell the old jail and to pay the proceeds to the county.

Apparently the building was converted to residential use shortly after it was sold into private hands. Subsequent owners included Joseph Moulton, a jeweler living on High Street and Lemuel D. Wheeler. Wheeler was a blacksmith. His shop was located at 17 Liberty Street. He owned and occupied this house in 1871.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.
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J. J. Currier, Ould Newbury: Historical and Biographical Sketches, 20M-2/80 Boston, 1896.
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Essex County Prisons, Box No. 1, MS. Essex Institute, Salem, Ma