

FORM B - BUILDING

Area A	Form no. 12
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



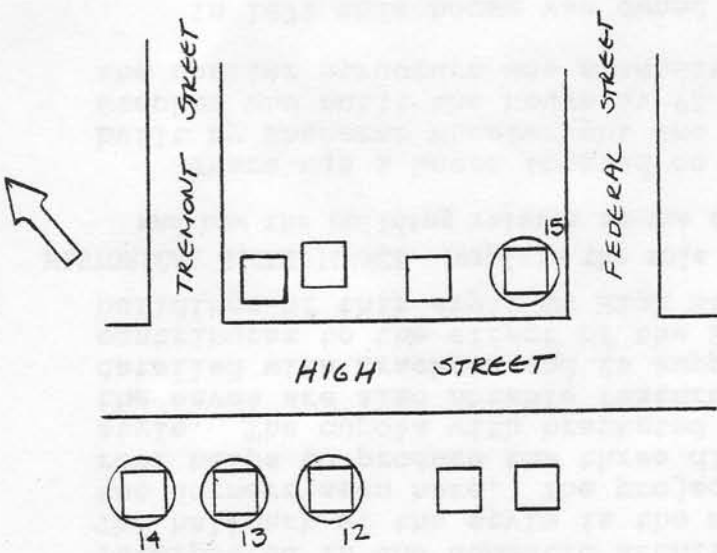
Newburyport

Address 73 High Street  
 Historic Name Ebenezer Wheelwright Hse.  
 Original Residence  
 Present Residence  
 Ownership:  Private individual  
                   Private organization \_\_\_\_\_  
                   Public \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original owner Ebenezer Wheelwright

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

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1800, c. 1860  
 Source \_\_\_\_\_  
 Style Second Empire  
 Architect Unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards  
 Outbuildings Barn  
 Major alterations (with dates) house was altered extensively ( c. 1860)



Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage 1.5 acres  
 Setting on Newburyport's main thoroughfare noted for its excellent examples of domestic architecture dating from the Colonial period through the early 20th century.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwort  
 Organization Office of Community Development  
 Date 8-4-80

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This house is an excellent example of the Second Empire style as interpreted in the domestic architecture of Newburyport's wealthy class. The hallmark of the style is the mansard roof which nearly always had the dormers seen here. The projecting central pavillion with its own roof helps to produce the three dimensional effect characteristic of the style. The cupola with bracketed cornice matching the brackets under the eaves are also notable features. The entrance portico is also detailed with brackets and is supported by pillars. Each of elements contributes to the effect of the Second Empire style. There are several buildings of this style on High Street and more modest examples (cont.)

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

There was a house located on this site in 1851. This house was built by Ebenezer Wheelwright who purchased the property from Ebenezer Stöcker who built the house at 75 High Street. It can be assumed that the earlier structure was extensively rebuilt c. 1860.

In 1872 this house was owned by John James Currier. Currier was a well known member of the community. He was a member of the Currier shipbuilding family and he himself was involved in that industry at 2 Merrimac Court. He was also the treasurer of the Bayley Hat Company.

John James Currier was part owner of several ships all of which were built by the firm of John J. Currier, Jr. These included the "Blondel" built in 1855, the "Wanpan" built in 1861, and the "Winged Hunter", built in 1864. Currier was also very active in community affairs. He signed the petition to annex a western portion of Newbury to Newburyport in 1851 and served on the Common Council in that year. He was elected alderman from Ward 6 in 1863 and 1864 and in 1879 was elected mayor of Newburyport. In 1887 he was elected state senator to serve in the General Court.

Finally, John James Currier was a contributor to the Simpson Annex of the Newburyport Public Library and was one of the incorporators of the Historical Society of Old Newbury. He is probably best-known for his four volumes of history written about Newbury and Newburyport. These were first published at the turn of the 20th century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- 1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire  
1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D.G. Beers and Co.  
1851, 1871 City Directories  
Assessor's Records 1890-1980  
R. Cheney, History of Merrimac River Shipbuilding, Newburyport, 1964.  
J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, vols. I and II, reprint, Newburyport 1977.  
J. M. Howells, The Architectural Heritage of the Merrimack, New York, 1941. 20M-2/80

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 12
Property Name: 73 High Street	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

can be seen in the neighborhoods that developed during the third quarter of the 19th century.

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