

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
	307

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MA 02108



City Newburyport

Address 78 Federal 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 c. 1845

Source 1851 Map of Newburyport

Style Greek Revival

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

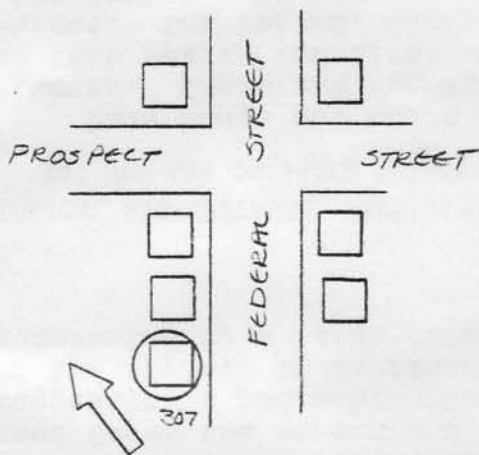
Outbuildings Shed

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

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage 7,690 sq. ft.

Setting In residential area adjacent to the South End Historic District and the High Street Historic District.



Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt

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)

This two story Greek Revival house is typical of the homes built in Newburyport during the mid-nineteenth century. The overall form of the building is characteristic of the style. The gable of the pitched roof faces the street and the cornice continues across the facade suggesting a pediment. The cornerboards and doorway are also typical of the style. It is flanked by sidelights and Doric pilasters and is surmounted by a large oblong light above.

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 was built about 1845. In 1851, it was owned by R. Plummer. There are two Richard Plumers listed in the city directory of that year. The first was a dry goods merchant living at 73 Federal Street. The second, Richard Plumer was a house carpenter living on Lime Street. It is quite likely that this house was owned by the elder Plumer, but it could have been built by the younger. In any case Mrs. Samuel S. Plumer was living in the house in 1851. Samuel Plumer had served as selectman in 1825. The Plumer family owned a number of properties in Newburyport.

Before 1872, the house was conveyed to Captain Prescott Spalding. Captain George Spalding and Rufus Spalding were listed as boarders in that year. By 1884, the property had been conveyed to George P. Spalding.

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, 1871 City Directory