

FORM B - BUILDING

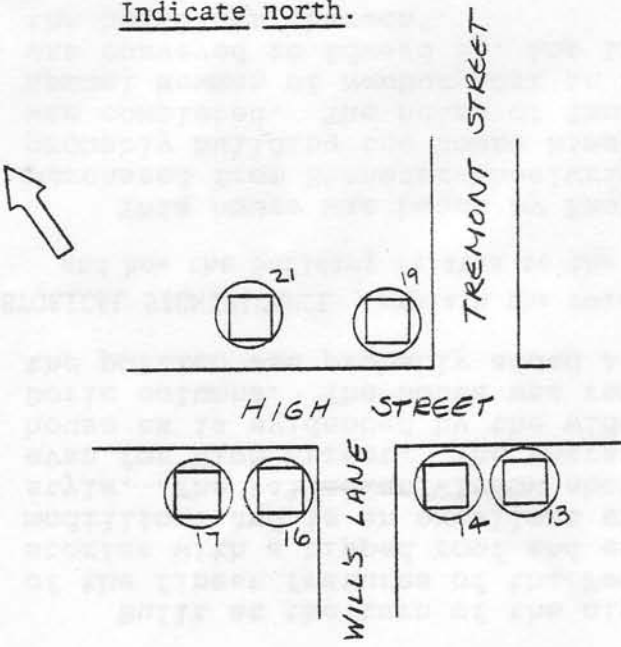
Area A	Form no. 16
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport
 Address 79 High Street
 Historic Name Livermore-Lunt-Barron House
 Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Enoch Thurston and Edward St. Loe Livermore

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



DESCRIPTION:
 Date 1805
 Source Hale, "Old Newburyport Houses"
 Style Federal
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
 Outbuildings _____
 Major alterations (with dates) doorway altered and house remodeled (1838).
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage .50 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 Stirgwolt
 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)

Built at the turn of the nineteenth century this house has some of the finest features of the Federal style. The building is three stories with a hipped roof and end chimneys. The cornice is made up of modillions and is an excellent example of a cornice in the Federal style. The Palladian window above the building's entrance is exceptional, even for High Street. The entrance portico is a later addition to the house as is evidenced by the wide fascia in the entablature and the Greek Doric columns. The house was remodeled when it changed hands in 1838 and the portico was probably added at that time.

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 begun by Enock Thurston in 1803 on a parcel of land purchased from Ebenezer Wheelwright. Thurston was a joiner and was probably building the house himself. Thurston died before the dwelling was completed. The heirs of Thurston's estate sold the property to Samuel Newman of Newburyport in September 1805. In December the property was conveyed to Edward St. Loe Livermore "with materials for finishing the buildings thereon".

Mr. Livermore was a prominent lawyer in Newburyport at that date, and was afterwards a member of congress from the Fourth Middle district. He was also a director of the Newburyport Academy. He employed carpenters to complete the house, which he owned and occupied until he removed to Boston, in April, 1811, when he conveyed the property to Robert Foster. June 21, 1813, John Dean purchased the house and land, "being the premises purchased by the said Foster of Edward St. Loe Livermore, including one-half of the well and pump and pump house covering the same". Mr. Dean sold the property to George F. Pearson October 6, 1834, and July 18, 1838, it came into the possession of Micajah Lunt.

Capt. Micajah Lunt was a prominent merchant in Newburyport. In the 1830's he was involved in a venture to fit out vessels for whale fishing on the West Coast and was a member of a voluntary organization of seamen and merchants called the "Sea Fencibles" for the defense of the coast. Most of the members were merchants then out of work by the Embargo of 1807 and the War of 1812. They were willing to defend the coast but were opposed to an extension or prolongation of the War of 1812.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- J.J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, vols. I and II, reprint, Newburyport 1977.
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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 16
Property Name: Livermore-Lunt- Barron House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below. ^{79 High Street}

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

Lunt was also a director of the Newburyport, Boston and Haverhill Steamboat Company, the Merrimack Insurance Company. At a young age Lunt had a counting room and warehouses on Terry Wharf and was the managing owner of many vessels. He was vice-president of the Newburyport Marine Society. He was president of the Bartlet Steam Mills for twenty years.

He was also president of the Institution for Savings from 1846 to 1870. He was a director of the Eastern Railway Company and a member of the state senate in 1853.

This house stayed in the Lunt family until 1912. The house was then conveyed to the Shepard family and was subsequently owned by Mary L. Barron and her heirs between 1924 and 1965.

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