

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



City Newburyport

Address 8 Kent Street

Historic Name _____

Original Residence

Present Residence

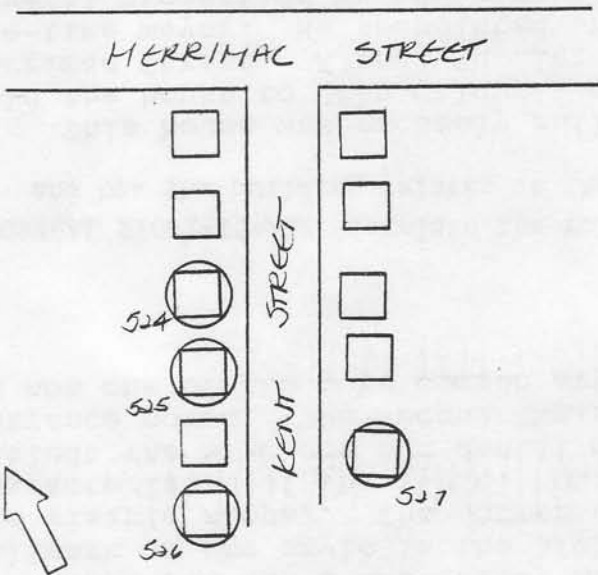
Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____

Public _____

Original owner John Caldwell

SKETCH MAP

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



DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1872

Source Building Fabric

Style Second Empire Style

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings Garage

Major alterations (with dates) _____

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 6,520 sq. ft.

Setting in residential area of eighteenth and nineteenth century dwellings near the banks of the Merrimack River.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwort

Organization Office of Community Development

Date 01-06-81

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This two and a half story house is Second Empire in style. The hallmark of the style is the high mansard roof with a curb around the visible slopes. The dormer windows seen in this building are also characteristic of the style. Other noteworthy features of this building include the brackets and dentil moulding in the cornice and the bracketed entrance porch. The Second Empire style, while it does occur in Newburyport is not one of the more common styles.

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 probably built by Albert Currier about 1872. Currier sold the house to John Caldwell of the Caldwell rum distillery on Merrimac Street. Albert Currier was a prominent mason in the city and a one-time mayor. He speculated in real estate in the North End and owned several properties as investments.

The Caldwell family was also prominent in Newburyport. Their distillery was one of the city's major industries for decades. This house remained in the Caldwell family until 1921 when it was sold to B. Chorebanian.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Assessor's Records 1890-1980

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

1871 City Directory