

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
293-230	H



Newburyport

of area (if any) Washington Street
Historical District

of date or period Eighteenth and
nineteenth centuries.

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt

Organization Office of Community
Development

Date 12-30-80

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

The architecture within the Washington Street Residential District ranges from modest vernacular eighteenth century architecture to fully developed examples of the Federal style. One need only walk up Strong Street to see the diversity of eighteenth and early nineteenth styles. The house at 5 Strong Street is a two story vernacular with a three bay facade, a typical example of the small, working class housing built in the area at the turn of the nineteenth century. The Joseph Atkins House at 9 Strong Street is a two story Georgian home with hipped roof. Built on a hill overlooking the Merrimack, this house is an excellent example of a more pretentious Georgian dwelling. At 12 Strong Street the Joseph Wilson house is an excellent example of the Federal style. It is three stories in height with a hipped roof. Its elegant doorway is presently being restored.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

The Washington Street residential district grew gradually from the banks of the Merrimack River to High Street. The interests on the waterfront included mercantile wharves and warehouses as well as shipbuilding which was undertaken by members of the Cross and Merrill families. The location of this area, near the Market Square commercial district and the waterfront made it an ideal location for merchants and shipbuilders, as well as skilled craftsmen, to take up residence.

The elegant Georgian gambrel roofed home at 48 Boardman Street was once owned by Captain James Clarkson, a mariner. Later his son, a machinist, lived here. This illustrates the fact that, although this area was oriented toward the river trades in its origin, the residents of the area changed as did the economy of the city. Important members of the community lived in this area as well as seamen and merchants. The Towle family of silversmiths owned several homes on Congress Street and William Huse, publisher of the Newburyport Herald lived on Merrill Street during the late nineteenth century.

This residential district prospered during the eighteenth and nineteenth century. The original character of the area remains for the most part intact.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Assessor's Records 1890-1980
- 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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: H
Property Name: Washington Street Residential Dist.	

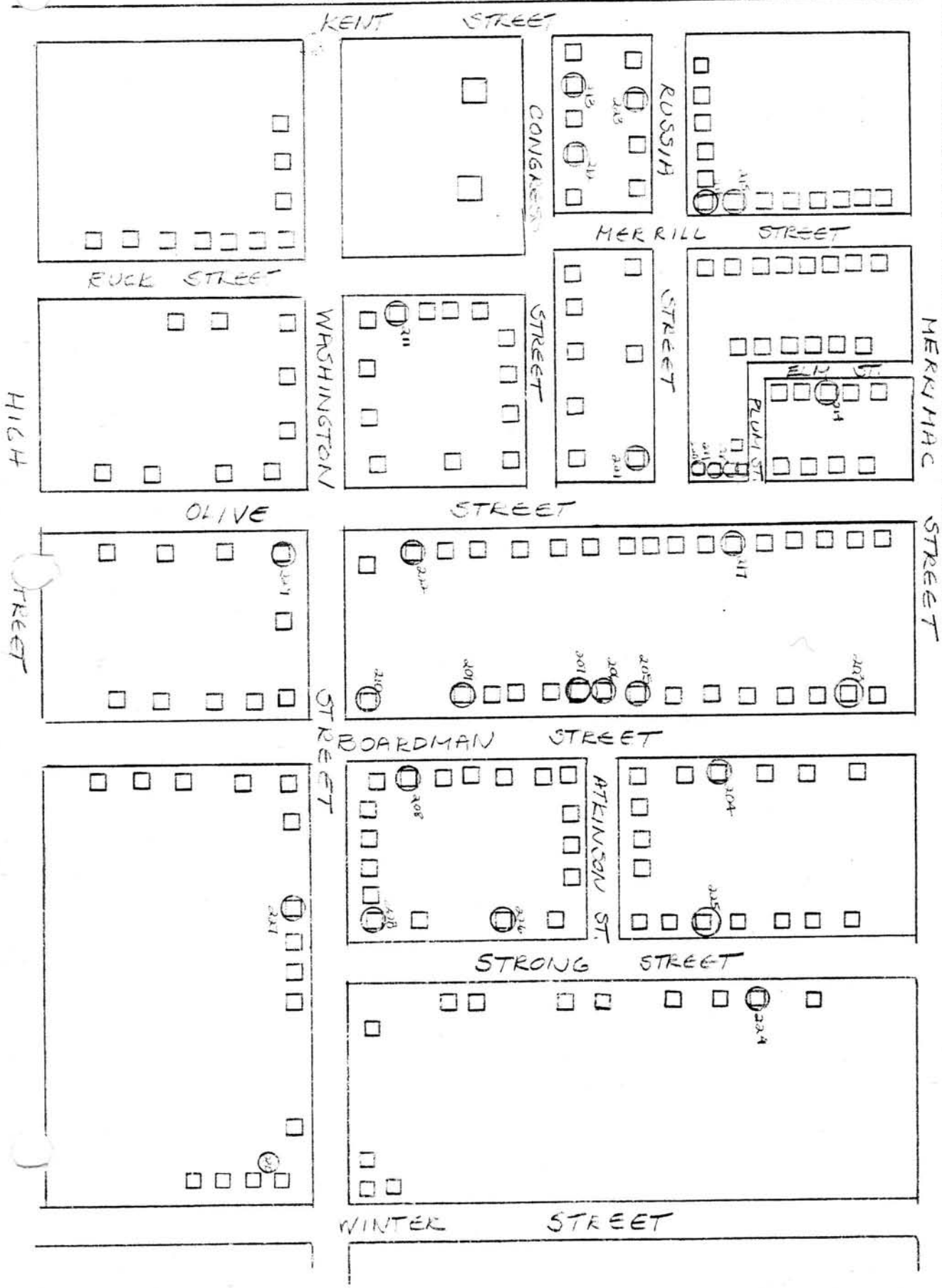
Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

FORM A - AREA (CONTINUED)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

These homes are typical of the houses found throughout the Washington Street district. This area provides an excellent illustration of the development of a residential area which had its beginnings in the early eighteenth century. Architectural styles dating from the mid and late nineteenth century are also found in this area but do not extensively alter the character of the district.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom



WASHINGTON STREET
 DISTRICT (H) RESIDENTIAL