

FORM G - STREETScape

In area no. B	Form no. 71
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Newburyport

Street name Kent Street

Addresses (inclusive) 50-58 Kent Street

5-59 Kent Street

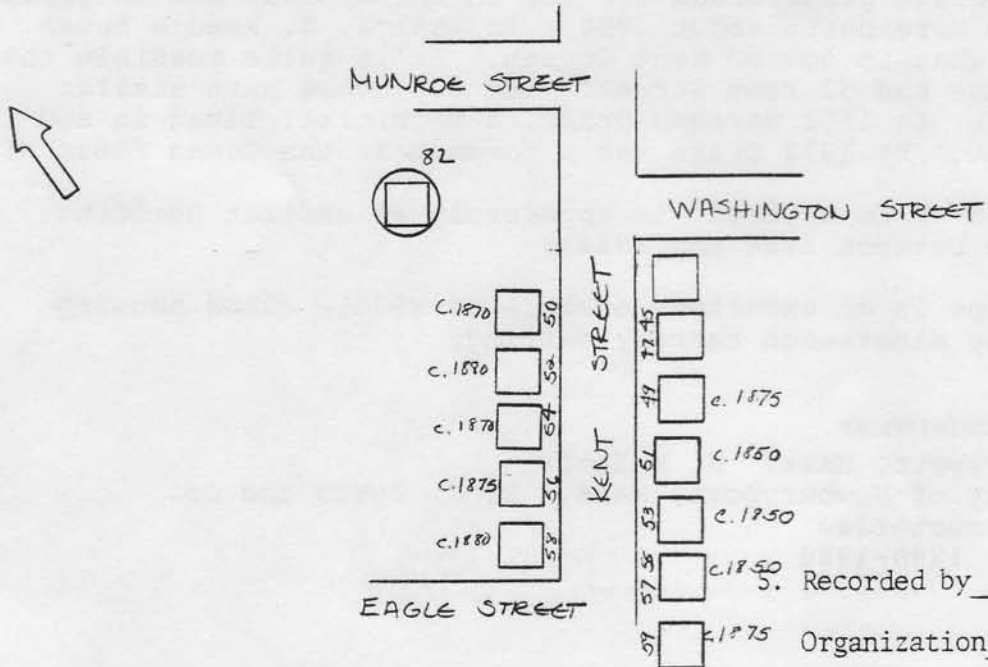
Present use Residential

Description:  
General date or period 1850-1880

Dominant architectural styles vernacular  
Victorian

major intrusions none

4. Map. Draw map of street, clearly showing all buildings; indicate street addresses and approximate date for all buildings; identify intrusions by use or type. Indicate north.



Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwalt

Organization Office Of Community Development

Date 7/28/80

6. Themes. Check as many as applicable to streetscape

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	<u>  x  </u>	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	<u>  x  </u>	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community Development	<u>  x  </u>				

7. Significance. Explain historical and/or architectural significance of streetscape. Include explanation of themes checked.

These homes on upper Kent Street between Munroe Street and High Street were built to house skilled craftsmen and people in the management level at the Ocean Steam Mills complex. The homes are all single family residences and were built between 1850 and 1880. The homes vary in style but all are vernacular Victorian. Several have elements of the Queen Anne style. One example is 56 Kent Street. This house has an irregularity of plan and complexity of roof levels and surface texture that is common to the Queen Anne style. Several of the homes are simply rectangular in plan with gable roofs facing the street, the only ornament of the farside is the tracteted doorway.

The house at 54 Kent is exceptional in that it is the only brick residence in the area. This is explained by the fact that its owner and builder was William Tappan. Tappan was a mason and his home, built about 1860 is a vernacular example of the Second Empire style. The elaborate brickwork in the cornice and window lintels were undoubtedly an attempt by Tappan to ply his trade.

Several of the homes on the other side of Kent Street, Specifically 51 and 53 have elaborate gingerbread carving in the doorway and bargeboards. Both of these homes were built about 1850. In 1851 J. B. Reed, a house carpenter, lived at what is now 53 Kent Street. It is quite possible that Reed built this house and 51 Kent Street. The two homes have similar gingerbread carving. In 1851 Wareham Drake, a machinist, lived in and owned 51 Kent Street. By 1872 Drake was a foreman at the Ocean Steam Mills.

The house at 45-47 Kent Street is apparently an earlier building moved onto the site between 1884 and 1924.

This streetscape is an excellent example of middle class housing in its original late nineteenth century setting.

8. 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