

FORM G - STREETScape

In area no.	Form no.
	351



Town Newburyport

Street name Parsons Street

Addresses (inclusive) 3-17 Parsons St.,
1-14 Parsons Street

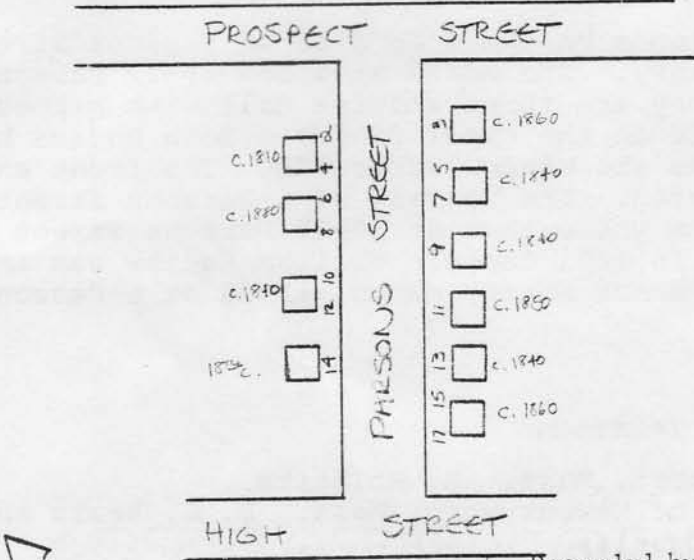
Present use residential

Description:
 General date or period mid-nineteenth
Century

Predominant architectural styles Greek
Revival

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.



5. Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt

Organization Office of Community
Development

Date 11-8-80

6. Themes. Check as many as applicable to streetscape

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u> x </u>	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.

Parsons Street was laid out early in the nineteenth century, as is evidenced by several Federal houses located on the street. For the most part, however, Parsons Street was settled during the middle years of the century. Most of the residences are Greek Revival in style. The few Federal homes were updated during that period and today have features of the Greek Revival and Victorian styles. The residents of Parsons Street included skilled craftsmen, mill agents, and store keepers.

The odd side of Parsons Street is entirely Greek Revival in style. The buildings are vernacular, two and a half stories with pitched roof. The gable end of these houses face the street creating the effect of the Greek pediment. Architectural detail is limited to bold cornerboards and entablatures and the doorways. A typical front entrance is flanked by Doric pilasters supporting a heavy entablature above. Several of the doorways were updated during the Victorian period and are ornamented by turned brackets. Residents of these homes in 1872 included Aaron B. Adams, a paymaster at the Bartlet Mills, living at 13 Parsons Street, John E. Nutter, a carpenter living at 5 Parsons, and Robert H. Knapp, a shoemaker, living at 15 Parsons Street.

Several of the homes on the even side of Parsons Street date from the early nineteenth century. The homes at 4 and 10-12 Parsons Street are Federal in style. They are three stories tall with hipped roof and decreasing window size in the upper floors. Both houses have simple Federal cornices, cornerboards and window surrounds. The front entrances of both houses have been altered. The doorway at 4 Parsons Street is presently Greek Revival in style while that at 10-12 Parsons Street is ornamented by Victorian brackets. In 1851 Captain William LeCraw was in residence at 4 Parsons Street and Enoch Smith, mason, lived at 6 Parsons Street.

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