

FORM B - BUILDING

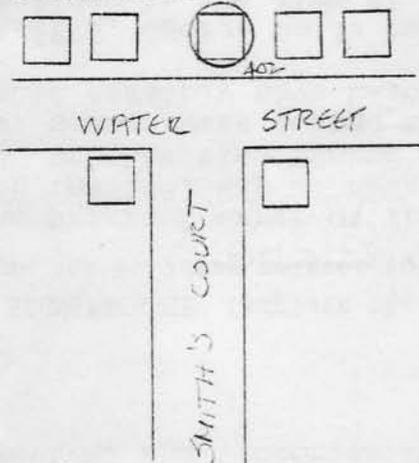
Area	Form no. 402
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
251 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



City Newburyport
 Address 105 Water Street
 Historic Name Bartlet-Rolfe House
 Use: Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Unknown

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



DESCRIPTION:

Date Eighteenth Century
 Source _____
 Style Georgian
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
 Outbuildings _____
 Major alterations (with dates) addition at rear, front entrance altered, window sash replaced (dates unknown)
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage 7,240 sq. ft.
 Setting in area of mixed residential and commercial use along the banks of the Merrimack River.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 10-20-80

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

This house is a fine example of the homes built by Newburyport's mercantile class during the mid-eighteenth century. The two and a half story form with gambrel roof is typically Georgian. The rear of the roof is pitched, making this roof quite unusual. Unfortunately, the original entrance and window sash have been altered and retain little of the original character. Today the front entrance has features of the Greek Revival and Victorian styles.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

The original owner of this house has yet to be documented. It is noted on the 1851 Map of Newburyport as the property of William Bartlet's estate. At that time Edmund Bartlet, Jr., merchant and Nathaniel S. Bartlet, seaman, were listed as in residence at 81 and 83 Water Street. This could possibly have been the address of 105 Water Street in 1851.

In 1872, George Rolfe owned and occupied this house. Rolfe was a boatbuilder in the firm of Orne and Rolfe, located at 71 Water Street. His residence was 89 Water Street. The number had probably been changed by this time. Orne and Rolfe built the small boats for some of the ships built by James L. Townsend and the Jackman family. Today this house contains four apartments.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Assessor's Records
1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.
1851, 1871 City Directories