

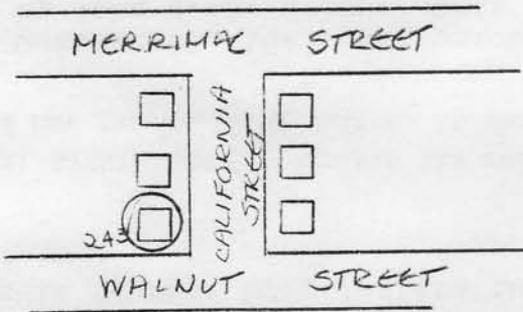
FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
I	243

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 Street Boston MA 02108



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



Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 12-28-80

Town Newburyport
 Address 12 California Street
 Historic Name John Colby House
 Use: Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Unknown

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1847
 Source Building Fabric
 Style Greek Revival
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
 Outbuildings Garage
 Major alterations (with dates) porch added (date unknown)
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage 8,320 sq. ft.
 Setting in residential area of eighteenth and nineteenth century dwellings on the banks of the Merrimack River.

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This two story dwelling with pitched roof and three bay facade is typical of the Greek Revival vernacular architecture built in Newburyport during the mid-nineteenth century. The influence of the Greek style is seen in the building's orientation with the gable of the pitched roof facing the street, reminiscent of a Greek pediment. The cornerboards and bold cornice fascia are also Greek in inspiration as is the front entrance. The door is flanked by pilasters that support a bold entablature.

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

On October 15, 1847 this parcel of land was purchased from Alfred Pearson by John W. S. Colby. This house was probably built shortly thereafter.

John W. S. Colby was a shipbuilder in partnership with Enoch P. Lunt under the firm name of Colby and Lunt. They worked in a shipyard at the foot of Ashland Street. They were in business between 1865 and 1880. Between 1865 and 1868 they launched nine schooners. Later they built scows for the Haverhill Tow Boat Company. When the business closed they had built a total tonnage of 3,707.

Prior to 1912 Henry P. and Annie M. Brown acquired this house. In that year they sold the property to Mary A. Pillsbury.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 242
Property Name: Benjamin Cross House 15 Broad Street	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

elements of that style. These include the sidelights and applied pilasters which flank the door and the wide fascia in the entablature above the doorway. This house retains a certain chimney and shingled roof, elements that have been lost in many of Newburyport's earlier homes.