

FORM B - BUILDING

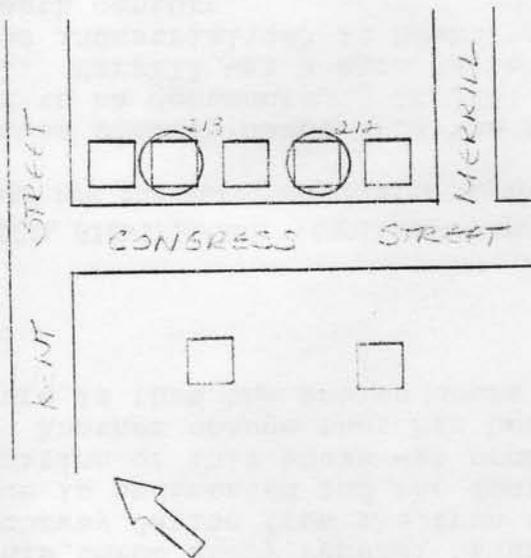
Area	Form no.
H	212

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Boston, MA 02108



City Newburyport
 Address 14-16 Congress Street
 Historic Name _____
 Use: Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Unknown

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



DESCRIPTION:
 Date c. 1800
 Source Building Fabric
 Style Federal
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Asphalt siding
 Outbuildings _____
 Major alterations (with dates) addition at rear, building resided, fenestration altered. (dates unknown)
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage 6,250 sq. ft.
 Setting in residential area of primarily eighteenth and nineteenth century domestic architecture.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwort
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 11-28-80

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

This three story Federal "square house" has a hipped roof and a fine doorway dating from the turn of the nineteenth century. The front entrance is pedimented and the door is flanked by pilasters. The fenestration of this house was probably symmetrical when this house was built. Another change that has been made altering the character of the structure is that the entire house has been covered with asphalt siding.

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

This house clearly dates from the Federal period but the original owner has yet to be documented. In 1851, this property was owned by Luther C. Merrill. Merrill was a shoe dealer. The shoe industry was a cottage industry that was industrialized in Newburyport during the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

The house at 14-16 Congress Street was owned by Merrill for several decades. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth century this property was owned by the Towle family. This family of silversmiths owned several houses on Congress Street during the nineteenth century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Assessor's Records 1890-1980
1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.
1851, 1871 City Directories