

FORM B - BUILDING

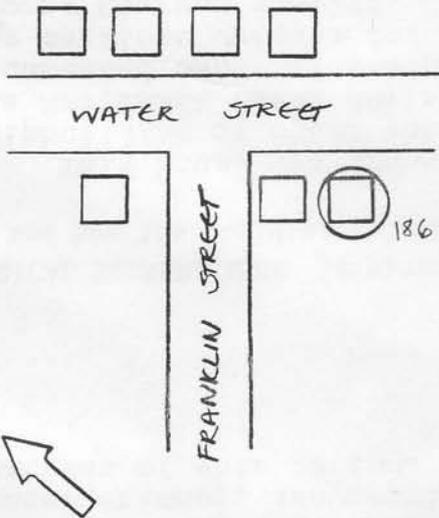
Area F	Form no. 186
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 100 State Street, Boston, MA 02108



Location Newburyport
 Address 156 Water Street
 Historic Name Poor House
 Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Unknown

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



DESCRIPTION:
 Date Early eighteenth century
 Source Essex County Registry of Deeds
 Style Colonial
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
 Outbuildings _____
 Major alterations (with dates) addition of shed on Southern side (date unknown)
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage 3,170 sq. ft.
 Setting in area of mixed residential and commercial uses along the banks of the Merrimack River.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwort
 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 two and one half story house with pitched roof and assymetrical fenestration was probably built in several phases. The original house could date from the first quarter of the eighteenth century. The massive center chimney, assymetrical facade and fieldstone foundation are features of this period.

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 was undoubtedly built by someone associated with the shipbuilding or other waterfront trades that prospered on the banks of the Merrimack River during the eighteenth century. The earliest documented owner of the property is Edmund Cottle. Cottle was one of the earliest wardens for St. Paul's Church. Cottle sold this house to Thomas Pearson in 1748. Six years later the property was conveyed to John Weed. Weed served in a regiment from Newbury that fought in the French and Indian War. Weed lived at 53 High Street.

In 1756 this house was purchased by John Poor. The house remained in the Poor family until 1905. In 1851, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Poor occupied the house. The city directory of that year lists David Poor, seaman and Thomas Poor, clerk, as boarding at the same address. then 110 Water Street. In 1872 David S. Poor is listed as the owner of the house.

In 1905 this house was sold by Frances Poor to Edjar Noyes ending over a century of ownership by the Poor family.

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.
- 1884 Atlas of Essex County, G. H. Walker, Co.
- K. Marsh "Old Homes Research Project:156 Water Street" typescript, Newburyport High School.
- 1851, 1871 City Directories
- J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, Vols. I and II. 20M-2/80 reprint, Newburyport 1977.