

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
A	43

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport

Address 212 High Street

Historic Name Nathaniel Horton House

Original Residence

Present Residence

Ownership:  Private individual  
 Private organization

Public \_\_\_\_\_

Original owner Nathaniel Horton

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

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1870

Source 1851, 1872 Maps of Nbpt.

Style Second Empire

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric flush horizontal boards

Outbuildings Garage

Major alterations (with dates) addition at rear, fenestration altered (dates unknown)

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

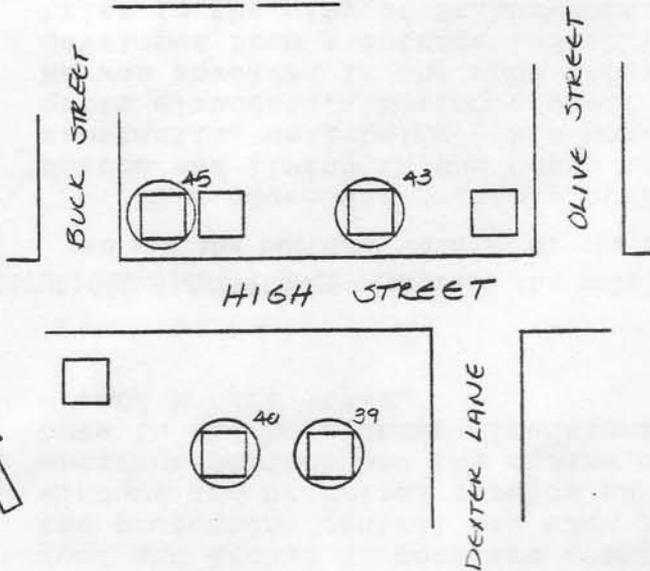
Approx. acreage 22,600 sq. ft.

Setting on Newburyport's main thoroughfare noted for its excellent examples of domestic architecture dating from the Colonial period through the early 20th century.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt

Organization Office of Community Development

Date 8-11-80



(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This house is Second Empire in style and has all of the richness of detail and complexity of plan characteristic of the style. The mansard roof and arched dormers are common features in the Second Empire, as is the projecting central bay with its own distinct roofline. The arched windows and bracketed cornice as well as the elaborately detailed entrance portico and the quoins creating the rusticated effect all contribute to the bold three dimensional effect that is characteristic of the Second Empire style.

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 probably built by Nathaniel M. Horton about 1870. Horton was living in the house in 1872. Clearly, he was a man of substantial well-being. His home was in the style of the period and was quite elaborate. Horton himself was a prominent member of the community. He was involved in the shoe industry and made his wealth when shoemaking developed from a cottage industry to one of the most prosperous industries in the city of Newburyport. This development occurred just about the time that this house was built.

Horton served community interests as well as business and industry. He was a selectman in 1831 and 1832 and between 1846 and 1851. In 1851 when Newburyport became a city, he was the first alderman from Ward 4. In 1840 Horton was also on a committee to determine the best method to transport water from the Frog Pond to the North and South ends of the city for fire fighting purposes.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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