

FORM B - BUILDING

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| Area | Form no. |
| A | 45 |

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport
 Address 218 High Street
 Historic Name Buck-Withington-Connolly House
 Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Capt. John Buck

DESCRIPTION:

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

Date c. 1797

Source Howells, "Architectural Heritage of the Merrimack"

Style Federal

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Brick

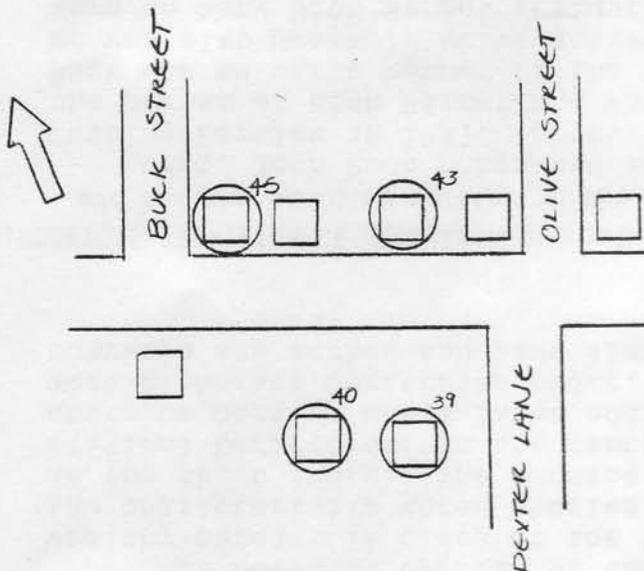
Outbuildings Garage

Major alterations (with dates) entrance porch added (early 20th century).

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 8,950 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 Stirgwort

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 typical of the Federal homes built by Newburyport's wealthy mercantile class at the turn of the nineteenth century. It has the characteristic three stories with hipped roof and smaller windows in the third story. The cornice is mutilated and might have reflected the original Doric order in the central entrance. The present doorway and entrance portico are a later addition. The portico is supported by the more elaborate Corinthian order. The side doors are original. These doorways are arched and have simple semi-circular fanlights over the door.

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

Capt. John Buck purchased this parcel of land from the heirs of Cutting Bartlet in 1797. Shortly thereafter he built this house at the corner of High Street and what would be named Buck Street. John Buck was an early member of the Phenix Fire Society established in 1794. He was also probably quite active in Newburyport's ocean going trade as were so many High Street residents of the period.

About 1820 this house was purchased by Capt. John Wells. Wells was born in Newburyport in 1784. He was active in commercial affairs and was captured by the British in 1812 while in command of the Brig Leader. Later he was the owner of several ocean going vessels. Wells was a member of the Newburyport Marine Society. He was also elected president of the Merchants Bank when it was incorporated in 1831. In 1833 he was elected president of the Ocean Bank. Wells lived in the house at 218 High Street until his death in 1875.

This house was used as a double house for a brief period. Today the house is in the Connally family as it has been for several decades.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- J. M. Howells, The Architectural Heritage of the Merrimack, N.Y. 1941
Assessor's Records
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1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D.G. Beers and Co.
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J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, vols. I and II,
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