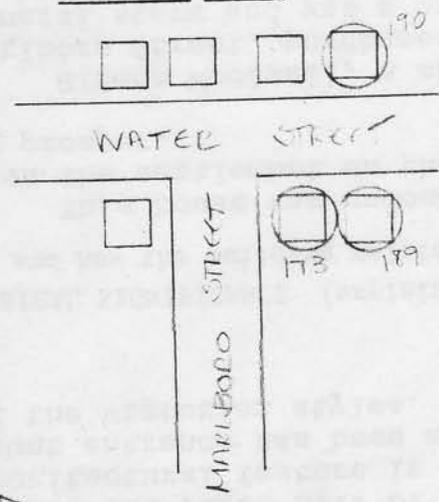


MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



City Newburyport
 Address 241-243 Water Street
 Historic Name Gideon Woodwell 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 Eighteenth
 Source Woodwell, "Joppa"
 Style Georgian
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards, shingles
 Outbuildings _____
 Major alterations (with dates) lean-to added at rear, building extended, front entrance altered (dates unknown)
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage 8,500 sq. ft.
 Setting in residential area of predominantly eighteenth century single family dwellings adjacent to the banks of the Merrimack River.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwort
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 10-28-80

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

This house is very interesting in that it appears to have been constructed in several phases. The house is presently seven bays wide. The eastern three bays are probably the earliest portion of the house. The massive chimney indicates that this house was probably built during the first half of the eighteenth century. Another notable architectural feature is the lean-to at the rear of the building. The front entrance has been altered and presently has brackets characteristic of the Victorian styles.

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 during the mid-eighteenth century when the settlement on the banks of the Merrimack River was beginning to prosper.

Gideon Woodwell, a shipbuilder, with a shipyard at the foot of Marlboro Street, purchased this house in 1762. Woodwell also had a general store and was a prominent member of the community. He was a member of Engine No. 3 in 1764. He served in the Revolutionary War. He died in 1790 and is buried in the Old Hill Burying Ground. The Woodwell family continued to build ships in the Woodwell yard until after the annexation of this portion of Newbury to Newburyport in 1851.

This house was owned by the Woodwell family for over a hundred years. In 1872 it was owned by John A. Woodwell. Woodwell served on the Common Council in 1851. The house was sold between 1872 and 1884 to H. Plummer.

The Woodwell shipyard was adjacent to this house, extending to Goodwin's Rock.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Assessor's Records 1890-1980

J. J. Currier, *History of Newburyport 1764-1905*, vols. I and II., reprint, Newburyport 1977.

1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.

1884 Atlas of Essex County, G. H. Walker Co.

1872 City Directory

R. Cheney, History of Merrimac River Shipbuilding, Newburyport, 1964.

R. Woodwell, "An Introduction to Joppa" typescript Newburyport Historical Commission. 20M-2/80 (cont.)