

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
D	98

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

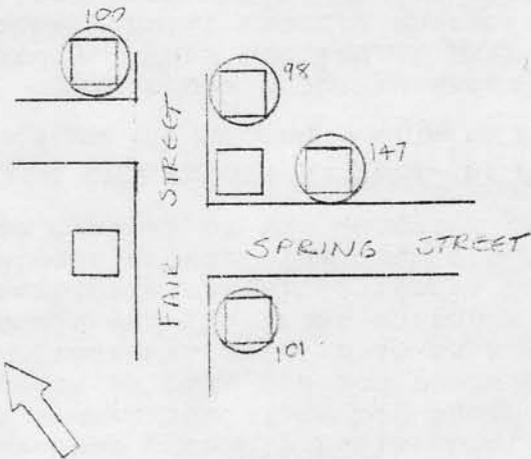


Town Newburyport
 Address 27 Fair Street
 Historic Name Spofford House
 Use: Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Unknown

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

DESCRIPTION:

Date Late eighteenth century
 Source _____
 Style Georgian
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
 Outbuildings Garage, shed
 Major alterations (with dates) _____
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage 6,250 sq. ft.



Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 10-14-80

Setting in densely built up area in which the predominant building type is that of eighteenth century single family dwellings.

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

This two story Georgian home is typical of the dwellings built in Newburyport during the second half of the eighteenth century. This house was probably built about 1785. The Georgian features include the symmetrical five bay facade and the wide low gambrel roof, favored because it provided additional head room in the attic story. The architectural details in this house are simple, yet both the window lintels and the front entrance are classically inspired. The doorway resembles a classical temple in miniature with flanking pilasters and a pediment above. The double hung window sash with six over six lights are also typical of the Georgian 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 probably dates from the second half of the eighteenth century. This section of Fair Street was laid out in 1782 and it was probably built shortly thereafter. The earliest owners and the builder have yet to be documented.

Before 1851 Dr. Richard S. Spofford purchased this house. Dr. Spofford owned the house for over thirty five years. Dr. Spofford was a prominent physician in the City of Newburyport. His son Richard Spofford, Jr. was equally important. The younger Spofford was born in 1833 and was later educated as a lawyer. He read law with Caleb Cushing one of Newburyport's most important citizens. Richard Spofford, Jr. served as a representative to the General Court in the years 1858, 1859, and 1866.

Dr. Spofford lived in this house until his death about 1880.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- J. M. Howells, Architectural Heritage of the Merrimack, New York, 1941
- 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, 1872 City Directories
- 1884 Atlas of Essex County, G. H. Walker Co. 1884.