

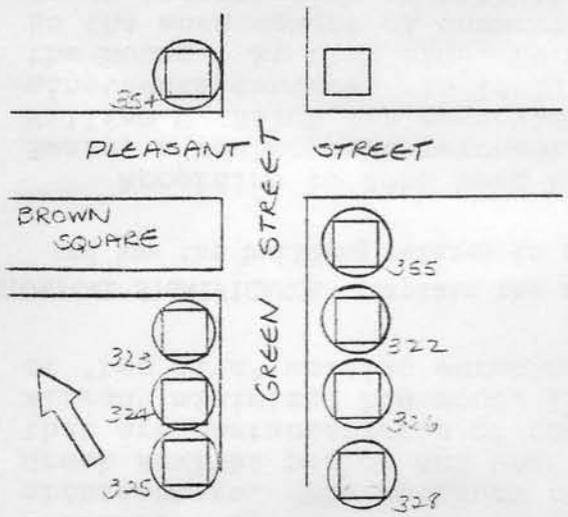
Area	Form no.
	325

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



City Newburyport
 Address 30 Green Street
 Historic Name Swain-Doyle House
 Original Residence
 Present Residence/Commercial
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Levi Swain

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



DESCRIPTION:
 Date c. 1808
 Source Howells, "Architectural Heritage of the Merrimack"
 Style Federal
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
 Outbuildings Barn
 Major alterations (with dates) Ionic porch added (date unknown)

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwort
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 6-30-80

Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage 13,870 sq. ft.
 Setting Building is set back approximately 20 feet from Green Street in an area of excellent Georgian and Federal domestic architecture presently housing both residential and commercial uses.

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

The Swain-Doyle House was built shortly after the turn of the nineteenth century. It is one of the finer examples of the Federal style in Newburyport. It is located on upper Green Street and is surrounded by other fine examples of Georgian and Federal domestic architecture. The entrance to the house was altered during the Greek Revival period and bears the side lights and transom lights that are characteristic of that style. The balustrade, hiding the already minimized hip roof, is exceptional as is the elaborate cornice of "bee hive" molding surmounted by a row of mutules. The form of the
(cont.)

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

According to John Mead Howells, this house was built by Levi Swain, a Newburyport merchant. The house was inhabited by William C. Balch for approximately 25 years in the middle of the nineteenth century. In 1851, Balch was registered as the owner of the house. At that time, he was a merchant. He contributed greatly to the advancement of commerce in Newburyport through his involvement as an incorporator of both the Ocean Steam Mills and the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank. At this time, with a decline in trade, Newburyport's economy relied heavily on the development of new industries such as the manufacture of cloth.

Balch made contributions on the civic sphere as well. He served on the Common Council under the first Mayor , when the town of Newburyport became a city in 1851. He also served as alderman in Newburyport in 1865 and 1866.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- 1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
- 1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.
- 1851, 1872 City Directories
- J. M. Howells, The Architectural Heritage of the Merrimack, New York, 1941.
- J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, Vols. I and II, reprint, Newburyport 1977.