

FORM B - BUILDING

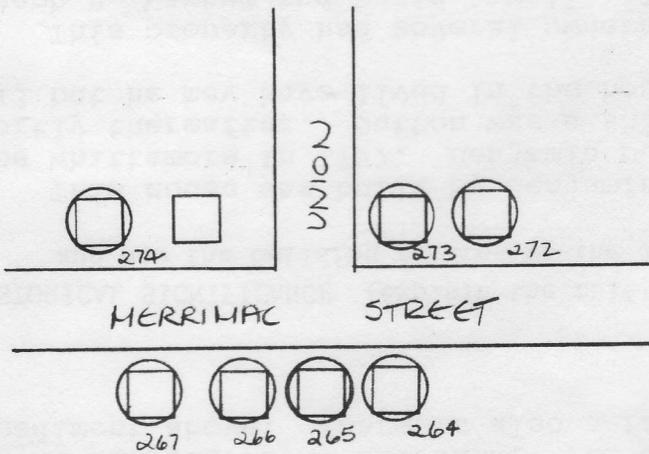
Area	Form no.
I	264

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Location Newburyport
 Address 313 Merrimac Street
 Historic Name Dutton-Kenniston House
 Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization
 Public
 Original owner Benjamin Dutton

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



DESCRIPTION:
 Date 1797-1998
 Source Essex County Registry of Deeds
 Style Georgian/Federal
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
 Outbuildings Garage

Major alterations (with dates) addition at rear (early twentieth century)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 9,360 sq. ft.

Setting in residential area along the banks of the Merrimack River.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwort
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 12-20-80

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

This two story home with gambrel roof and symmetrical, five bay facade is a fine example of the transition between the Georgian and Federal styles at the turn of the nineteenth century. The gambrel roof is a feature of the Georgian style. This roof style was popular because of the extra room it afforded in the attic story. This house has a fine Federal front entrance. The door is flanked by pilasters supporting a pediment above. There is also a fanlight within the pediment.

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 built by Benjamin Dutton who acquired the land from Amos Whittemore in 1797. Benjamin Dutton probably built this house shortly thereafter. Dutton was a shipwright. He owned this property until 1813 but he may have lived in the house after he sold it.

This property had several owners between 1813 and 1832. They were Joseph B. Varnum and David Lowell. In 1832 the house was sold to Abner Kenniston. Kenniston was a blacksmith involved in the shipbuilding industry in what was then part of Newbury. Abner Kenniston had a blacksmith shop on the other side of Merrimac Street. Kenniston was quite prominent. He signed the petition to annex Belleville to Newburyport.

Kenniston and his heirs owned this house until 1938 when it was sold to Charles Baumgartner. The Baumgartners owned the house for the next thirty years.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- 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, 1871 City Directories
- Deed research compiled by Mrs. Nancy Flynn