

FORM B - BUILDING

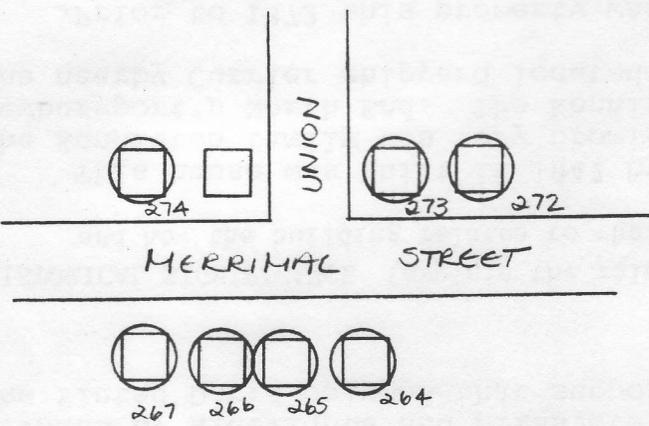
Area	Form no.
I	265

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport
 Address 315 Merrimac Street
 Historic Name James Kenniston House
 Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner James Kenniston

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



DESCRIPTION:
 Date 1847
 Source Essex County Registry of Deeds
 Style Greek Revival
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
 Outbuildings _____
 Major alterations (with dates) _____
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage 8,460 sq. ft.
 Setting in residential area of eighteenth and nineteenth century dwellings along the banks of the Merrimack River.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 01-04-80

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This two and a half story house with pitched roof is Greek Revival in style. It is similar to many of the homes built in Newburyport during the mid-nineteenth century. The Greek influence is evident in the buildings orientation with the gable end of the roof facing the street, suggestive of a Greek pediment. The front entrance of the house is typically Greek Revival, as are the heavy cornerboards and cornice fascia. The door is flanked by sidelights and pilasters supporting a bold entablature above. The fluted Doric columns that support the side porch are worthy of note.

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 in 1847 by Abner Kenniston for his son James. The Kenniston family was very prominent in the shipbuilding industry in Newburyport's North End. The Kennistons were blacksmiths that worked in the nearby Currier shipyard located on the banks of the Merrimack River.

Prior to 1872 this property was sold to Robert C. McConnell. McConnell was a shipcarpenter, probably also employed in the Currier yard. At his death McConnell willed the house to his heirs who sold it to Ella E. Kingsbury in 1911.

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 and Mrs. Kathy Horden