

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
I	267

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 204 Washington Street Boston, MA 02108



City Newburyport

Address 319-321 Merrimac Street

Historic Name _____

Use: Original Residence

Present Residence

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____

Public _____

Original owner Nathan Somerby

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

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1800

Source Building Fabric

Style Federal

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Asbestos siding

Outbuildings _____

Major alterations (with dates) addition at rear, building covered with siding (dates unknown)

Moved _____ Date _____

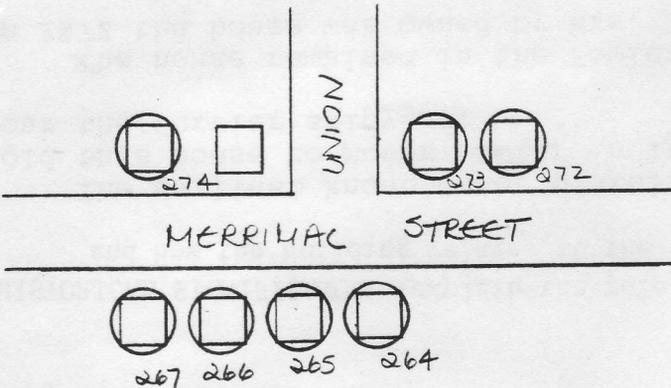
Approx. acreage 8,300 sq. ft.

Setting in residential area of eighteenth and nineteenth century dwellings on the banks of the Merrimack River.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwort

Organization Office of Community Development

Date 12-26-80



(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This house is a fine example of the Federal style as built throughout Newburyport's neighborhoods at the turn of the nineteenth century. The house has the typical Federal form. It is three stories in height with hipped roof and smaller windows in the third story. The most important architectural feature of this house is the front entrance. The door is arched and flanked by pilasters supporting a Doric entablature above. Unfortunately this building has been covered with siding which obscures its original design.

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

The earliest known owner of this house is Nathan Somerby. Somerby sold this house to Moses Fowler in 1812. Moses Fowler had a grocery store near the Currier shipyard.

The house remained in the Fowler family until the early twentieth century. In 1872 the house was owned by Mrs. Mary Ann Fowler.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Assessor's Records 1890-1980
1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.
1871 City Directory
Deed Research compiled by Mrs. Nancy Flynn and Mrs. Kathy Horden
R. Cheney, History of Merrimac River Shipbuilding,
Newburyport, 1964.