

FORM B - BUILDING

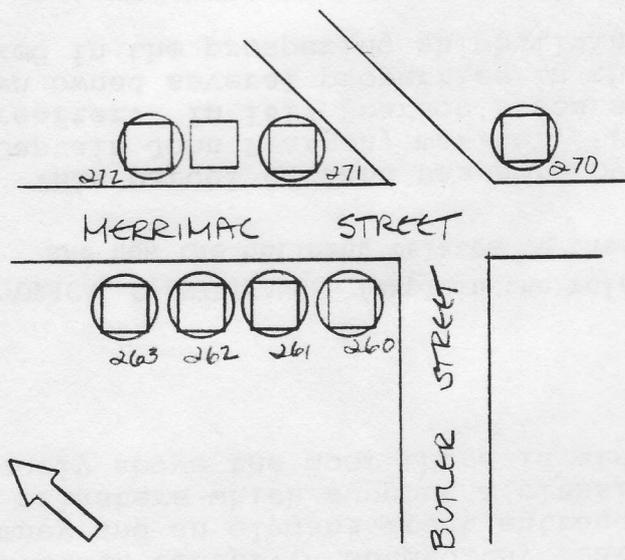
Area	Form no.
I	271

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 Street Boston, MA 02108



City Newburyport  
 Address 338 Merrimac Street  
 Historic Name Captain John Pearson House  
 Original Residence  
 Present Residence  
 Ownership:  Private individual  
                   Private organization \_\_\_\_\_  
                   Public \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original owner John Pearson

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



DESCRIPTION:  
 Date c. 1785  
 Source Essex County Registry of Deeds  
 Style Federal  
 Architect Unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards  
 Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_  
 Major alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage 10,480 sq. ft.  
 Setting in residential area of primarily eighteenth and nineteenth century dwellings on the banks of the Merrimack River.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt  
 Organization Office of Community Development  
 Date 01-02-80

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This two story house with pitched roof and symmetrical, five bay facade is a fine example of vernacular architecture built during the late eighteenth century. Noteworthy features of the house include a central chimney and an elegant front entrance. The door is flanked by sidelights and pilasters which support a classically-inspired entablature above. Directly above the door there is also a louvred semi-elliptical fanlight.

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

This parcel of land was sold by George Burroughs in 1782. It was purchase by Captain John Pearson, mariner. Pearson probably built this house shortly thereafter. In 1817 Pearson's son sold the house to Caleb Brown, a blacksmith. Brown owned several properties in this neighborhood at the time. He probably worked in the prospering shipbuilding industry on the banks of the Merrimack.

Between 1825 and 1829 this house was owned by John Longfellow who sold the property to Philip Bagley, gentleman. In 1830 the house was sold to John Merrill, shipwright. Merrill and his heirs owned the house for over fifty years.

In 1918 Isabel P. Kelly sold the house to Sadie B. Rand.

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
- 1884 Atlas of Essex County, G. H. Walker Co.
- Deed Research compiled by Mrs. Nancy Flynn and Mrs. Kathy Horden.