

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

This two story dwelling with pitched roof and symmetrical five bay facade was built in the early Federal period and updated during the Greek Revival period. The overall form of the house is typically Federal. The architectural elements are largely Greek in style. They include the heavy cornerboards, the window lintels and the front entrance. The door is flanked by pilasters supporting a heavy entablature above. The projecting second story bay over the front entrance was added early in this century.

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

George Burroughs, a tanner, who invested heavily in land in this area, sold this parcel of land to Jacob Whitmore in 1785. Whitmore built this house shortly thereafter. The house is located in the heart of what was then Newbury's shipbuilding district and Whitmore was probably employed in the shipyards. Whitmore sold this house to Caleb Brown in 1826. Brown was a blacksmith who invested in several nearby homes during that period.

Later this house was sold to John Currier. The Currier Shipyard was located on the banks of the Merrimack adjacent to this home. John Currier built ships in Newburyport's North End until the 1880's. Between 1831 and 1884 Currier built ninety-seven ships and barks and one schooner, one steamer, and one scow of 200 tons, total tonnage 80,869.

Prior to 1872 this house was sold to John Merrill, a shipcarpenter. The house remained in the Merrill family until 1913 when Mary S. Merrill sold the property to Mary C. Sawyer.

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.
R. Cheney, History of Merrimac River Shipbuilding, Newburyport 1964