

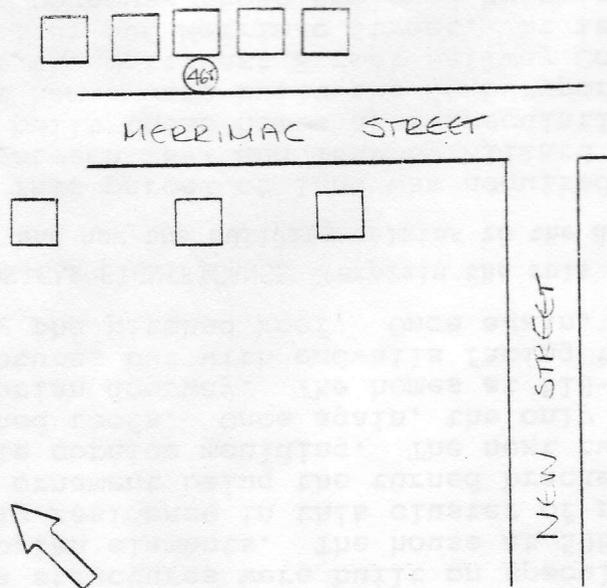
Area	Form no. 468
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



City Newburyport
 Address 508, 510-512, 514-516, 518, 520, 522-524 Merrimac Street
 Historic Name _____
 Use: Original Residential
 Present Residential
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Willard Hatch

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



Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 12-15-80

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1898
 Source Assessor's Records
 Style Vernacular Victorian
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards, siding
 Outbuildings _____
 Major alterations (with dates) _____
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage 93,153 sq. ft.
 Setting in residential cluster on the banks of the Merrimack River in which all of the buildings were built on speculation at the turn of the twentieth century.

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

These structures are one or two stories in height with pitched roofs. These structures were built on speculation and all have similar vernacular Victorian elements. The house at 508 Merrimac Street is the only single family residence in this cluster of residences. It is simple in style, the only ornament being the turned brackets that embellish the doorway and a simple cornice moulding. The next two houses are two family homes with pitched roofs. Once again, the only architectural detail is a simple Victorian doorway. The homes at 518-522 Merrimac Street are similar structures but with endwalls facing the street and they have only one story below the pitched roof. Once again, the buildings are vernacular with (cont.)

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 acquired and consolidated into one large lot between 1897 and 1899 by Willard S. Hatch. It appears that Hatch then built these homes as a speculative venture. During the period that these homes were built the Newburyport and Amesbury Horse Railroad Company, later the Northeast Street Railway Company, was located on the adjacent parcel at 506 Merrimac Street. It is quite possible that these homes were built to house those employed by this company.

Hatch owned these buildings until the late 1920's. At that time he began selling the buildings to various individuals.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Assessor's Records 1890-1980