

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
A	7

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport

Address 59 High Street

Historic Name Jacob Gerrish House

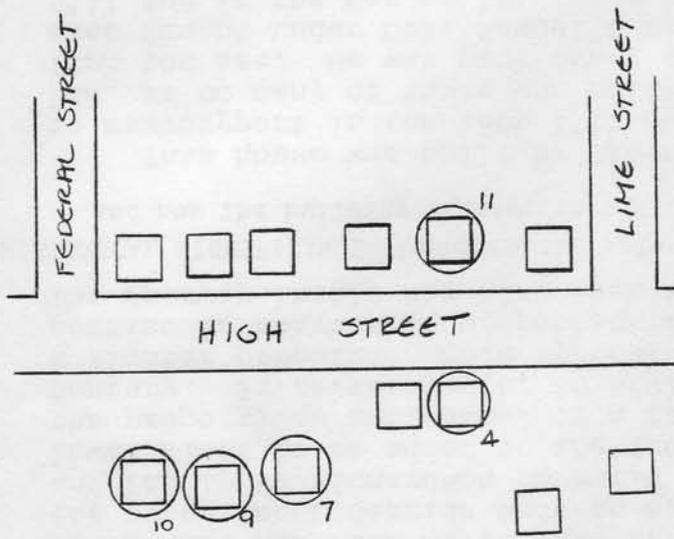
Original Residence

Present Residence

Ownership:  Private individual  
 Private organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Public \_\_\_\_\_

Original owner Jacob Gerrish

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



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1839

Source Essex Co. Registry of Deeds

Style Greek Revival

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings Coach House

Major alterations (with dates) doorway altered and entrance porch added, additions at rear (dates unknown)

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage 1.03 acres

Setting on Newburyport's main thoroughfare noted for its excellent examples of domestic architecture dating from the Colonial period through the early 20th century.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt

Organization Office of Community Development

Date 8-4-80

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

It appears that this house was built around part of an earlier house that had been moved onto the site prior to 1839. In that year the owner Jacob Gerrish made an agreement with house joiners Joel Adams and Philip K. Richardson to build two rooms and an entry way on the lower floor to be added to the front of the old house. The house has the proportions and detail of a farmhouse built at mid-nineteenth century. It is vernacular in style with cornice and cornerboards of a lighter proportion more typical of the earlier Federal period. The portico is heavier in proportion and could be a later 19th century addition. The doorway itself has also been altered.

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 by Jacob Gerrish. The Gerrish family came to Newburyport in the late 17th century. Jacob Gerrish was a mariner and, as so many of those who built their homes on High he made his living from the sea. He was part owner of Schooner Crocodile. Jacob Gerrish also fought under Col. Samuel Gerrish of Newbury in the Battle of Bunker Hill and in the War of 1812. In 1843 Jacob Gerrish died leaving this house to his son Joseph G. Gerrish. Joseph was a lawyer and was very active in the City of Newburyport. In 1861 and 1862 he was an alderman from Ward II. He was also an alderman in 1867 and 1868.

Joseph Gerrish lived in this house until the end of the 19th century. At his death he left the house to his daughter Jane S. Gerrish. In 1910 she willed the property to the Newburyport Society for the Relief of Aged Women. This organization owned the property for twelve years as was stipulated by the Gerrish will. It was sold into private lands in 1922.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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J. Maloney, "Old Homes Research Project" Newburyport High School.  
J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, vols. I and II, reprint  
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