

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
F	185

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

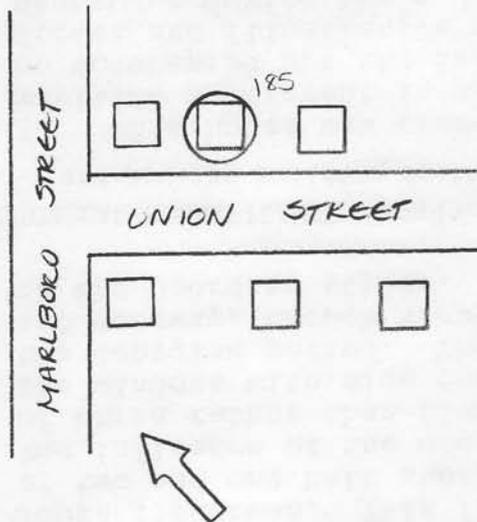


City Newburyport
 Address 5 Union Street
 Historic Name _____
 Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Unknown

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

DESCRIPTION:

Date Eighteenth Century
 Source building fabric
 Style Georgian vernacular
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
 Outbuildings Shed



Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage 2,013 sq. ft.
 Setting in residential area of predominantly eighteenth century single family dwellings adjacent to the banks of the Merrimack River.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 10-27-80

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

This house is an excellent example of the modest homes built by Joppa fisherman. This form occurs throughout this district. It is of two and one half stories with pitched roof and a three bay facade. The influence of the Georgian style is evident although the house is of three rather than five bays which would make the facade symmetrical. The windows with nine over six or six over six lights are common during the Georgian period. The architectural detail in the window surrounds and doorway, though simple, appear to be influenced by the formalization of the Georgian styles.

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 probably built by a fisherman in this, the earliest maritime settlement in Newburyport. It's earliest owners have yet to be documented but the later owners of the house, and the others on Union Street, are illustrative of the changes that Newburyport's economy underwent during the mid to late nineteenth century.

In 1871, this house was owned by Samuel Kilborn. Kilborn is listed in the city directory of that year as a shoemaker. Shoemaking was, by the 1860's and 70's, developing from a cottage industry into a factory based trade. It is quite interesting that, at this time, the Joppa district was the home of shoemakers. It is even more interesting to note that of all of the occupants on Union Street during the 1870's only one or two remained in the maritime trades. Most of the residents of this street were listed as shoemakers in 1871. At this time Newburyport was shifting from its river and ocean oriented economy to one based on the textile and shoemaking industries.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Assessor's Records
1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.
1851, 1871 City Directories