

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
A	9

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport
Address 61 High Street
Historic Name Gerrish-Hill House
Original Residence
Present Residence
Ownership: Private individual
Private organization
Public
Original owner John O'Brien

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

DESCRIPTION:
Date 1799

Source Hale, "Old Newburyport Houses"

Style Federal

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

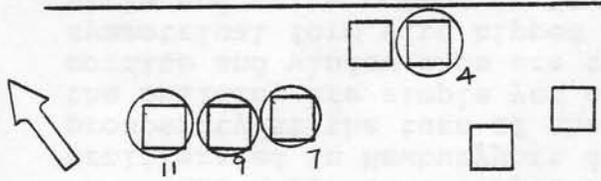
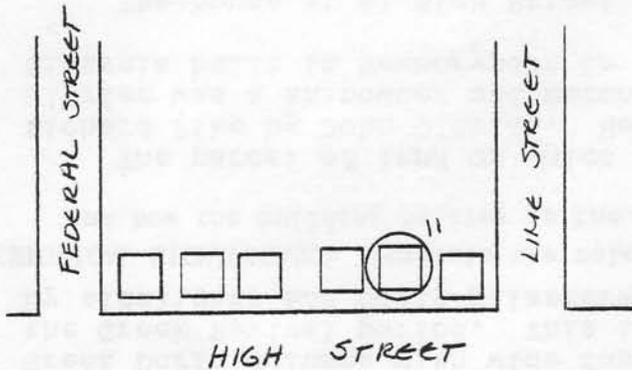
Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates) doorway
altered (c. 1850), additions at
rear, (dates unknown)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 1.30 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)

This house is a simple example of the Federal style which proliferated in Newburyport during the period of the city's greatest prosperity at the turn of the nineteenth century. The few details of the building are simple yet characteristic of the Federal style. The cornice and window caps are two such features. The three story symmetrical form with hipped roof is also characteristic of the Federal style and quite common in Newburyport. The entrance porch, supported by Greek Doric columns with wide fascia in the entablature above, dates from the Greek Revival period. This is also true of the doorway itself, flanked by sidelights and Doric pilasters with large oblong light above the door.

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

The parcel of land on which this house is built was purchased from Richard Pike by John O'Brien. He built the house shortly thereafter. O'Brien was a shipowner and merchant. He was the owner of the vessel Hibernia built in Newburyport in 1783.

The house at 61 High Street was owned briefly by Jacob Gerrish, mariner. O'Brien bought the house back, however, and it was again sold to Gerrish in 1820. Gerrish owned the property until 1846 when he sold it to Nathaniel Hill, a lawyer and president of the Merchant's National Bank. The property was owned by John Hills, son of Nathaniel, in 1884.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- A. Hale, Old Newburyport Houses, Boston, 1912.
- 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.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 10
Property Name: 63 High Street	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

entablature and balustrade seen in the house's facade. The house is surrounded by a wooden fence of unusual and original design.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

In 1872 William Cushing, a merchant, was the owner of this house. He was involved European and East India trade. He was also mayor of the city in 1856, 1857, and 1858. He was president of the First and Ocean Bank and representative to the General Court in 1872. He lived in this home between 1866 and 1875. After Cushing's death the property was conveyed to Solomon Bachman of New York City.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom