

Area	Form no. 491
------	-----------------

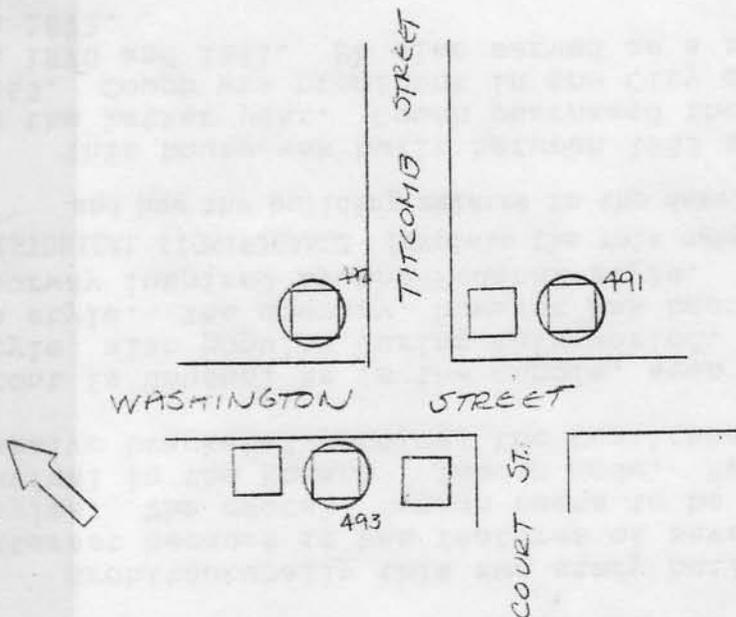
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



City Newburyport  
 Address 6 Washington Street  
 Historic Name Robert Couch House  
 Original Residence  
 Present Residence  
 Ownership:  Private individual  
 Private organization  
 Public  
 Original owner Robert Couch

SKETCH MAP

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



DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1860  
 Source 1872 Plan of Newburyport  
 Style Renaissance Revival  
 Architect Unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric rusticated boards  
 Outbuildings Garage  
 Major alterations (with dates) front doorway has been altered (twentieth century)  
 Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage 9,950 sq. ft.  
 Setting in residential area of primarily eighteenth and nineteenth century houses.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt  
 Organization Office of Community Development  
 Date 12-01-80

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

Architecturally this two story building with hipped roof is of interest because it has features of several nineteenth century Italianate styles. The overall design seems to be derived from the Renaissance Revival in the Romano Tuscan Mode. Features of this style include the massive bracketed cornice, the rusticated quoins and wall surface, and the trabeated windows. The bowed front is unusual as is the cupola, seen more frequently in the Italian Villa style, also popular during this period. The entrance porch is Italianate in style. The doorway, however has been replaced by a twentieth century doorway inspired by the Federal style.

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 between 1853 and 1871 by Robert Couch, the owner in the latter year. Couch purchased the land from Albert Currier in 1863. Couch was prominent in the City of Newburyport. He served as mayor in 1870 and 1881. He also served as a representative to the General Court in 1872.

Couch owned other property in Newburyport including the house at Market Str-et. He contributed to the fund for the rehabilitation of the Public Library and to many other local charities.

The house remained in the Couch family until it was sold to Anne McDonald in 1912.

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.  
1851, 1871 City Directories