

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
	359

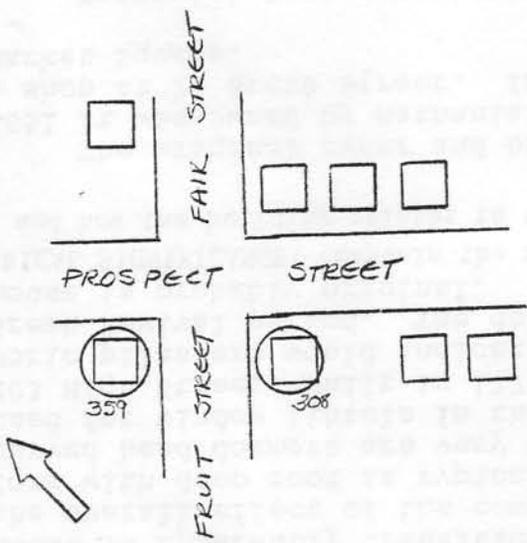
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport

Address 24 Prospect Street  
 Historic Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original Residence  
 Present Residence  
 Ownership:  Private individual  
                    Private organization \_\_\_\_\_  
                    Public Unknown  
 Original owner \_\_\_\_\_

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



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1791  
 Source Assessor's Records  
 Style Transitional  
 Architect Unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards  
 Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_  
 Major alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage 4,780 sq. ft.  
 Setting in residential area of predominantly nineteenth century vernacular domestic architecture.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwort  
 Organization Office of Community Development  
 Date 8-11-80

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

This house is quite unusual both in its form and detail. The house is apparently transitional with several Federal features but the overall effect of the composition is Georgian. The two story form with deep roof is typical of the earlier Georgian style. The curved head dormers are very unusual although a similar form is used for window lintels in the Lowell Tracy Johnson House at 203 High Street, built in 1774. The doorway flanked by Roman Doric pilasters would indicate that the house was built before the Greek Revival period. The delicate fence that runs in front of the house is probably original. (cont.)

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

The original owner and builder of this house is unknown. By 1851 it was owned by Nathaniel Foster. Foster was a jeweler and had a shop at 26 State Street. In 1818 he had opened a clock store in Market Square.

Nathaniel Foster participated in many community affairs. He was in charge of the town clocks between 1818 and 1828. He was registered as a member of the Brutus Fire Society in 1824. He served as a tithingman in 1837. He also helped to plan ceremonies on the death of William Henry Harrison and for the celebration of the bicentennial of the settlement of Newbury in 1835. In 1843 Nathaniel Foster was elected as a representative to the Massachusetts legislature.

The house at 24 Prospect Street stayed in the Foster family until 1919 when Nathaniel's daughter sold it to George T. Morrill, a painter.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- J.M. Howells, The Architectural Heritage of the Merrimack, New York 1941.
- 1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
- 1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D.G. Beers and Co.
- 1851, 1871 City Directories
- 1884 Atlas
- Assessor's Records
- J.J. Currier, History of Newburyport, 1764-1905, vols. I and II, reprint, Newburyport 1977. 20M-2/80

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 359
Property Name: 24 Prospect Street	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

Howell's dates this house 1835 but the overall characters of the house indicate an earlier construction date.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom