

FORM B - BUILDING

Area
D

Form no.
142

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
115 North Street Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport

Address 105-107 Prospect Street

Historic Name Adolphus W. Greely House

Original Residence

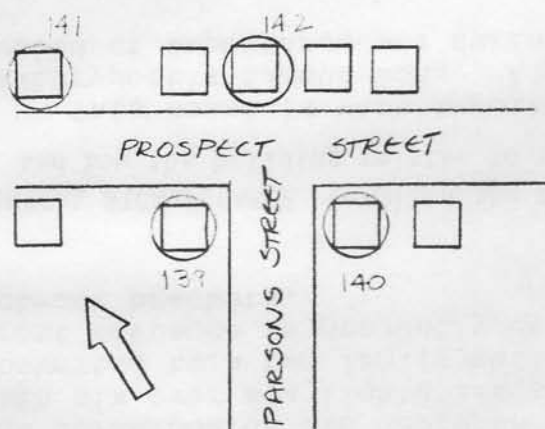
Present Residence

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

Style Georgian

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates) addition on Northwest side, building converted

duplex and doorway altered, (dates unknown)

Moved Date

Approx. acreage 4,780 sq. ft.

Setting in densely built up area in which the predominant building type that of eighteenth century single family dwellings.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwalt

Organization Office of Community Development

Date 10-04-80

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This house is typical of the type of vernacular houses built in Newburyport during the eighteenth and early nineteenth century. The architectural details are very simple. The cornice, window surrounds, and cornerboards are Georgian elements. The double hung window sash with six over six lights are also typically Georgian. This house was converted to a two family residence, probably about 1900. Today the front entrance is presently detailed by nineteenth century, simple, cut-out brackets.

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 is very important historically as the home of one of Newburyport's famous sons. Although the building was built earlier, its period of importance was during the nineteenth century.

Adolphus Washington Greeley, son of John Balch, shoemaker, and Frances Cobb Greeley, was born in this house on March 27, 1844. Greeley served in the Civil War. He remained in the service and in 1876 served in the United States signal corps. After his marriage in 1878, Greeley was the commander in charge of the Lady Franklin Bay expedition, the first to the North Polar Sea. He and six of his men were rescued in a nearly starved condition at the end of the trip.

Freeley returned to Newburyport on August 14, 1884, to an enthusiastic reception. Greeley remained in the army. In 1885 he was the chief signal officer of the United States Army. He retired in 1907 with a rank of Major-General.

This house was owned by Greeley and his heirs until 1943 when Antoinette Greeley of Washington, D. C. sold the house to Harold Hudson.

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
J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, Vols I and II., reprint, Newburyport 1977.