

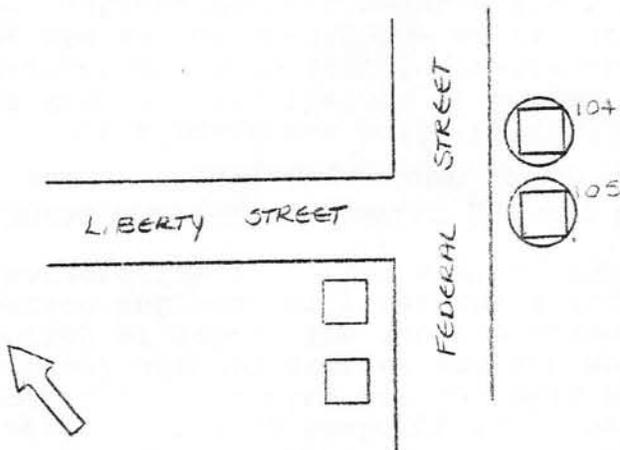
Area D	Form no. 105
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Boston, MA 02108



City Newburyport  
 Address 15-17 Federal Street  
 Historic Name William Bartlet House  
 Original Residence  
 Present Convent  
 Ownership:  Private individual  
 Private organization Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston  
 Public  
 Original owner William Bartlet

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



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1798  
 Source Currier, "History of Newburyport"  
 Style Georgian  
 Architect Unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric Brick  
 Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_  
 Major alterations (with dates) front entrance altered (mid-nineteenth century), addition at rear, (date unknown)  
 Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage 2,320 sq. ft.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwort  
 Organization Office of Community Development  
 Date October 12, 1980

Setting in densely built up area in which the predominant building type is that of eighteenth century single family dwellings. The Newburyport Tanning Company occupies an industrial complex across the street.

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This house is a fine Georgian mansion, regardless of its late construction date. By 1798 the Federal style was becoming predominant in Newburyport. This house has numerous significant features. The double hip roof is rare in other New England cities, although it is fairly common in Newburyport. The symmetrical five-bay facade and fine modillioned cornice are Georgian features. The projecting brick belt courses between stories and the splayed brick window lintels are also worthy of note. The front entrance was altered during the Greek Revival period and presently has the sidelights and large oblong light above, characteristic of that style. The entrance porch itself is supported

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 by William Bartlet in 1798. Bartlet was born in Newburyport, the son of Edmund and Hannah Bartlet on January 20, 1746. Bartlet attended school briefly and then learned the trades of shoemaker. By the age of twenty one he was actively engaged in trade. After the Revolution, Bartlet owned a fleet of vessels involved in trade with the Indies and the continent.

In 1787 William Bartlet purchased land at the foot of Federal Street from Stephen Cross, shipbuilder. Bartlet then built a wharf and erected large warehouses for the storage of sugar, molasses, coffee and hemp.

Bartlet served as a representative to the General Court between 1800 and 1802. Bartlet contributed twenty thousand dollars to the Andover Theological Seminary when it was founded in 1808. He was the largest stockholder in the Wessacumcon Mill built in 1837. When a second building was added to the mill's complex in 1840 Bartlet subscribed for five hundred additional shares and the corporation was renamed the Bartlet Steam Mills.

William Bartlet died in 1841 leaving this house to his daughter Hannah. She was the wife of John Porter. Porter was the treasurer of the Globe Steam Mills. Porter owned the property until 1874. In that year Sewall B. Noyes purchased the property and owned it until 1906. It was then purchased by Archbishop John J. Williams of Boston. It has been used as rectory or convent for the Church of St. Louis de Gonzaga ever since.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, Vols. I and II., reprint, Newburyport 1977.  
J. M. Howells, The Architectural Heritage of the Merrimack, New York, 1941.  
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, 1872 City Directories  
A. Hale, Old Newburyport Houses, Boston, 1912

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 105
Property Name: William Bartlet Hse.	

15-17 Federal Street

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

by Roman Doric columns and may be original. The Bartlet house has fine interior features that were influenced by the designs of Thomas Chippendale. These include fireplace mantels, the central stairway and wall panelling.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom