

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
D	93

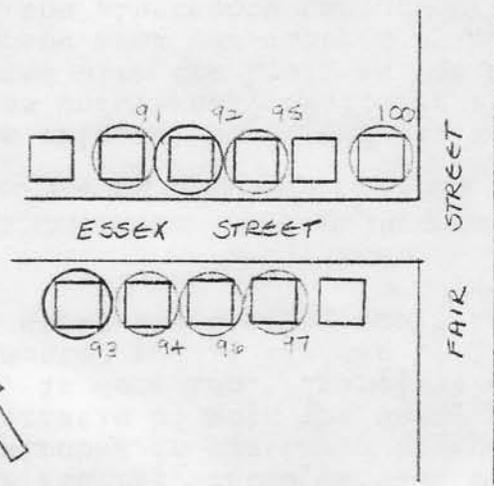
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 Street Boston MA 02108



City Newburyport
 Address 16 Essex Street
 Historic Name _____
 Use: Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Unknown

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

DESCRIPTION:
 Date c. 1800
 Source _____



Style Federal
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
 Outbuildings Barn

Major alterations (with dates) addition of ell at rear (date unknown)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 6,208 sq. ft.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 9-20-80

Setting in densely built up area adjacent to the commercial district which the predominant building type that of eighteenth century single family residences.

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This house is an excellent example of a house illustrating the transition between the Georgian and Federal styles. The form of the house is Federal, three stories with hipped roof and small, nearly square windows in the third story. The five bay, symmetrical facade is characteristic of both the Georgian and Federal styles. The doorway, however, is Georgian. It resembles a classical temple in miniature. It is pedimented and is flanked by Doric pilasters. In the fully developed Federal style the doorway would have a fanlight and sidelights.

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 are unknown. The house was undoubtedly built for a man of means, probably some one associated with the trade on the banks of the Merrimack River. The surrounding area was settled by merchants and mariners before the turn of the nineteenth century when those same people preferred houses on High Street.

In 1851, William Wells was the owner of 16 Essex Street. Wells came to Newburyport from Andover in 1847. He was the first principal of the Putman Free School. In 1850 Wells was on the committee to establish a public library in Newburyport.

By 1872, the house was owned by Dr. Henry C. Perkins. Perkins also owned three or four other houses on Essex Street. The house remained in the Perkins family well into the present century. The house remains, as it was originally, a single family residence.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Assessor's Records 1890-1980
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- 1884 City Atlas of Essex County, G. H. Walker Company
- 1851, 1872, 1884 City Directories
- J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, Vols. I and II
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