

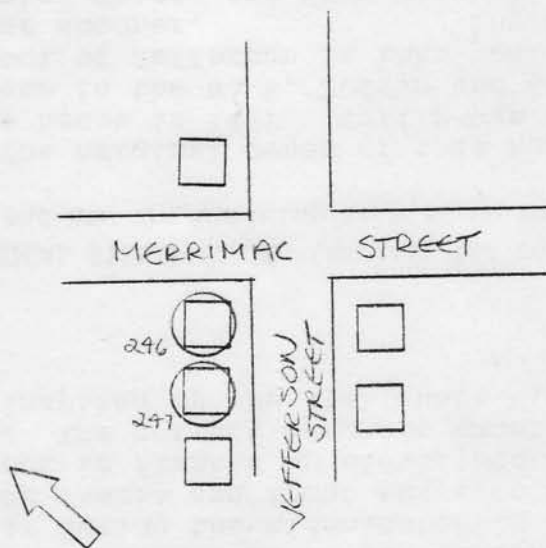
FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area	Form no.
I	247



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



Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwalt
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 01-04-81

City Newburyport
 Address 26 Jefferson Street
 Historic Name William B. Coffin House
 Original Residence
 Present Residence
 Ownership: ☒ Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner William B. Coffin

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1860
 Source Building Fabric
 Style Transitional
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
 Outbuildings _____
 Major alterations (with dates) addition
on northern side (date unknown)
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage _____
 Setting in residential area of
eighteenth and nineteenth century
dwelling on the banks of the
Merrimack River.

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This two story house with pitched roof and symmetrical five bay facade is vernacular in style with features of several of the styles popular during the mid-nineteenth century. The heavy cornerboards, cornice fascia and front entrance were inspired by the Greek Revival style. The door is flanked by sidelights and pilasters supporting a bold entablature above. The cut-out brackets under the eaves and in the doorway's entablature were inspired by the Italianate Victorian style.

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 of this house was probably William B. Coffin, owner of the house in 1872. Coffin was a shipbuilder. In 1858 he was one of the partners in the W. B. Coffin and Company which started to build ships at the foot of Jefferson in that year. In that year the yard launched a clipper schooner, The firm name was changed to W. B. Coffin, Nathaniel Chase, and Ezra Trumbull. In 1864 this partnership built the bark "Wartematia", a vessel built to freight goods between New Zealand and Australia. The ship had a beautiful figurehead carved by Woodbury Gerrish of Portsmouth.

In 1864 the yard closed and the partnership was dissolved. Coffin then built several vessels on his own. Later he became a florist with a greenhouse on Chapel Street.

Coffin sold this house in 1874 to Margaret A. Kirkwood, the owner of the house until 1919.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Assessor's Records 1890-1980
1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.
1871 City Directory
R. Cheney, History of Merrimac River Shipbuilding, Newburyport, 1964.