

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
I	258

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 100 State Street Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport

Address 274-276 Merrimac Street

Historic Name

Original Residence

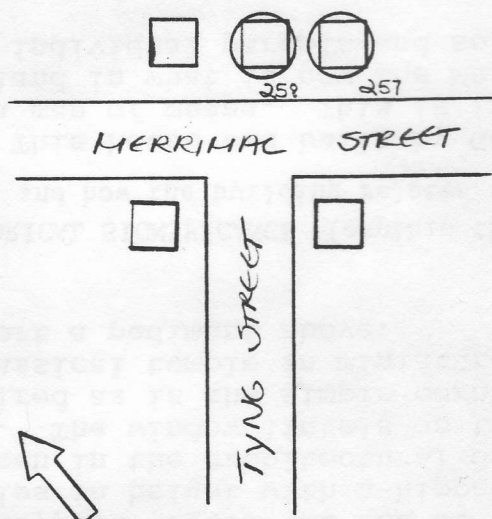
Present Residence

Ownership: ☒ Private individual
☐ Private organization

Public

Original owner George Burroughs

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



DESCRIPTION:

Date Late Eighteenth Century

Source

Style Georgian

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings

Major alterations (with dates) entrance on eastern side has been altered (date unknown)

Moved Date

Approx. acreage 6,058 sq. ft.

Setting in residential area of eighteenth and nineteenth century dwellings on the banks of the Merrimack River.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwalt
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 12-12-80

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This building is a good example of the Georgian dwellings built in Newburyport toward the end of the eighteenth century. The house is two stories in height with a hipped roof. The influence of Georgian design is seen in the architectural detail of the house as well as in its overall form. The window lintels on the facade of the building are classically inspired as is the simple cornice moulding. The front entrance resembles a classical temple in miniature. The door is flanked by pilasters that support a pediment above.

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 George Burroughs. Burroughs was a tanner and a man of means. This is indicated by the fact that he owned all of the land in what is now the Merrimac Court area. Burroughs divided the land into individual parcels and sold it to others in the late eighteenth century.

In 1851 the owner of this house is noted as J. Pickett. Pickett is not listed in the City Directory as living at this address. There was a Joseph Pickett listed in the directory. He was a member of the firm Pickett and Ladd boatbuilders, located at 40 Water Street. His residence was on Federal Street. It is quite possible that he owned this house as an investment.

Prior to 1872 this property was acquired by Edward Cogswell, carpenter. The house remained in the Cogswell family until 1905 when Mary E. Cogswell sold it to John Elliot.

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
Deed Research by Mrs. Nancy Flynn and Mrs. Kathy Horden, Essex County Registry of Deeds.