

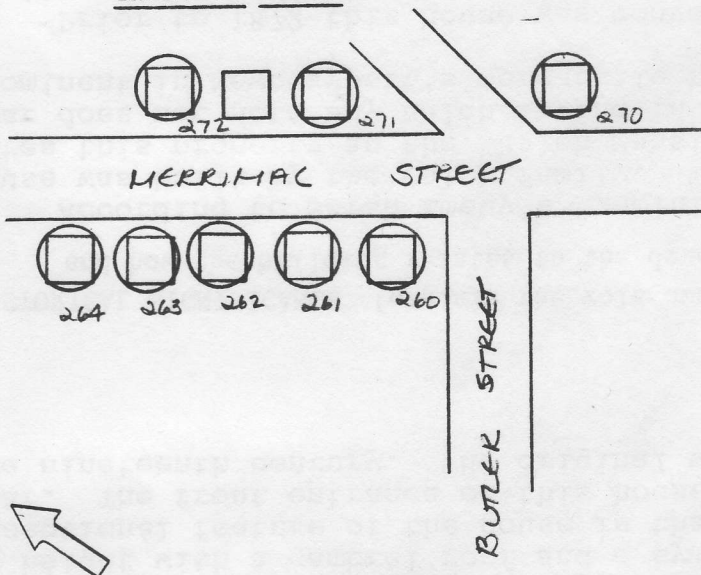
FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area	Form no.
I	262



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 12-12-80

Newburyport  
 Address 310 Merrimac Street  
 Historic Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original Residence  
 Present Residence  
 Ownership: ☒ Private individual  
 Private organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Public \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original owner Unknown

DESCRIPTION:

Date Eighteenth Century  
 Source Building Fabric, Emery, "Reminiscences"  
 Style Georgian  
 Architect Unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric Garage  
 Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_  
 Major alterations (with dates) front entrance has been altered (date unknown)  
 Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage 13,265 sq. ft.  
 Setting in residential area of primarily eighteenth and nineteenth century dwellings along 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 house is a good example of the Georgian homes built in Newburyport during the eighteenth century. The house is two stories in height with a gambrel roof and a symmetrical five bay facade. One exceptional feature of the house is that the gambrel has a lean-to at the rear. The front entrance of this house has been altered and dates from the nineteenth century. The original window sash have also been replaced.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

According to Sarah Emery's "Reminiscences of a Nonagenarian" this house was built by the Balch family. The 1851 "Map of Newburyport" also notes this property as the "Balch Mansion". The City Directory for that year does not note any Balch living in this area. The Balch name is prominent in Newburyport's mercantile history.

Prior to 1872 this house was conveyed to a member of the Choate family. The Choate's were shipjoiners and carpenters in the North End. On the 1872 Plan of the City of Newburyport the owner of this property is noted as the Choate estate.

Later owners of this house included Reginald Morton who sold the house to Mary V. Healy in 1894.

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.