

FORM B - BUILDING

Area

Form no.

464

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Street Boston, MA 02108

Newburyport

Address 420 Merrimac Street

Historic Name

Original Residence

Present Residence

Ownership: ☒ Private individual  
Private organization

Public

Original owner Unknown

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1880

Source Building Fabric

Style Vernacular Victorian

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings

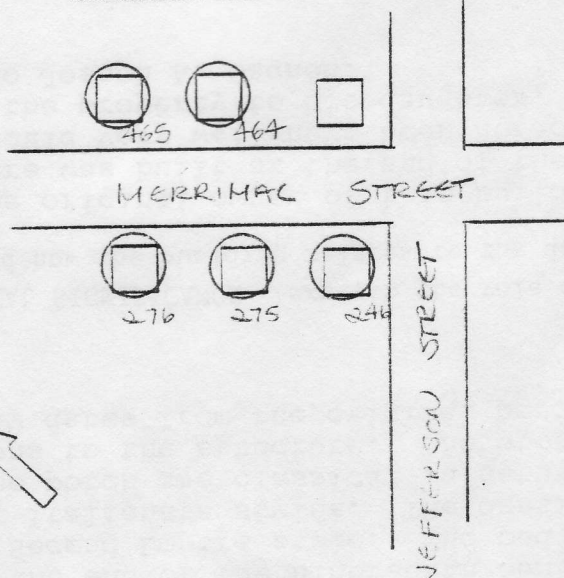
Major alterations (with dates)

Moved Date

Approx. acreage 4,648 sq. ft.

Setting in area of mixed residential  
and commercial uses on the banks of  
the Merrimack River.

Draw map showing property 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 12-15-80

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This one and a half story house with mansard roof is vernacular in style. It exhibits features of several of the Victorian styles popular toward the end of the nineteenth century. The mansard roof is characteristic of the Second Empire style. The pedimented dormers were inspired by the popular Italianate styles. The dentil cornice, bay window, and simple entrance porch are classical in nature and may be early twentieth century additions to the structure. The octagonal cupola is worthy of note and probably dates from the original period of construction.

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 building has yet to be documented. The structure was built at the end of the nineteenth century. The original owner could very well have been Horace A. Hawkes. At his death Hawkes willed the property to his daughter, Mary A. Gooch. In 1927 she sold the house to Joseph A. Gagnon.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Assessor's Records 1890-1980

1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.