

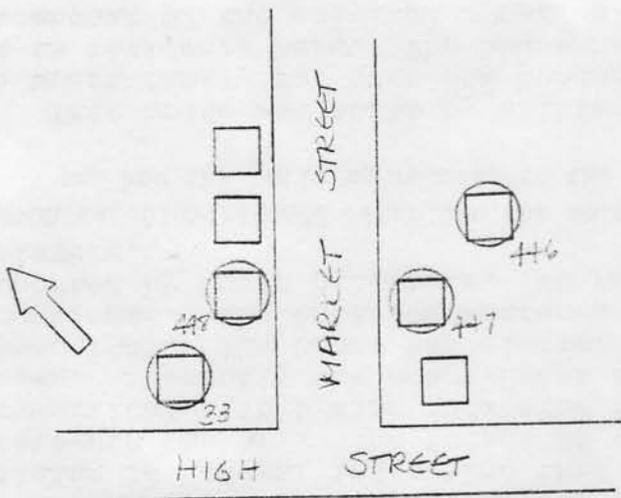
Area	Form no.
	446

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



City Newburyport  
 Address 43 Market Street  
 Historic Name Wourt-Knapp House  
 Original Residence  
 Present Residence  
 Ownership:  Private individual  
 Private organization  
 Public  
 Original owner Unknown

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



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1753  
 Source Howell, "Architectural Heritage"  
 Style Georgian  
 Architect Unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards  
 Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_  
 Major alterations (with dates) building enlarged (Nineteenth-century)  
 Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage 9,610 sq. ft.  
 Setting in residential area of eighteenth and early nineteenth century dwellings adjacent to the High Street historic district.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt  
 Organization Office of Community Development  
 Date 11-25-80

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

According to John Mead Howells this house was built by William Wourt in 1753. The house is very interesting in form. The character of the building is Federal indicating that it was updated around the turn of the nineteenth century. The facade of the house is seven bays in width and is asymmetrical. This also indicates that the house was built in several phases. Presently the Wourt-Knapp house is three stories in height with hipped roof. The house has elegant window lintels. The doorway is also exceptional. The enclosed entrance porch is surmounted by a pediment supported by Doric pilasters. It resembles a classical temple in miniature.

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 William Wourt in 1753. The house remained in the Wourt family for over one hundred years. In 1851, Mrs. William Wourt was in residence here. The house had probably been conveyed to a descendent of the original owner, also named William Wourt.

William Wourt was very prominent in Newburyport in the early nineteenth century. He was one of the founders of the Newburyport Academy in 1807. In 1810, he was a trustee of the Newburyport Athenaeum. He helped to found the Merrimack Humane Society and the Merrimack Bible Society. He served as a selectman in 1810.

Prior to 1872, this property, was sold by the Wourt family. Twentieth century owners include William Creaser, and Abigail Knapp, hence the name the Wourt-Knapp house.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- J. M. Howells, The Architectural Heritage of the Merrimack, New York, 1941.  
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1851, Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire  
1872, Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.  
1851, 1871 City Directories