

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
I	277

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport

Address 441 Merrimac Street

Historic Name _____

Original Residence

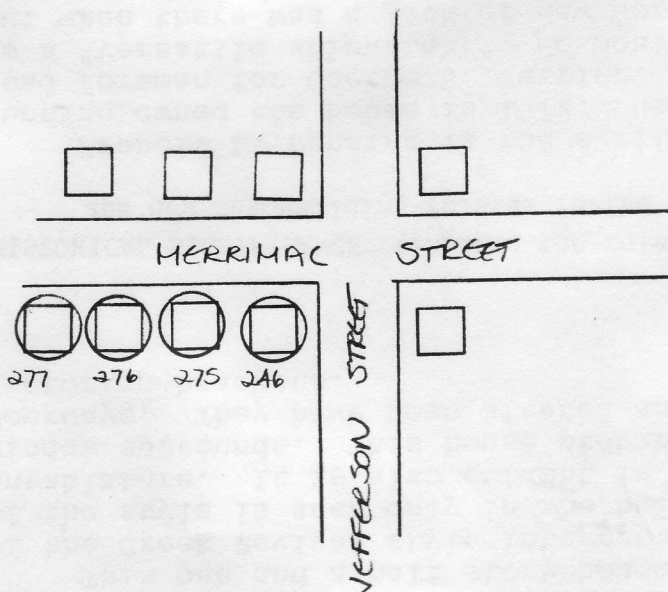
Present Residence

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 Mid-Nineteenth Century

Source Building Fabric

Style Greek Revival

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings _____

Major alterations (with dates) doorways
have been altered (date nineteenth
century)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 14,600 sq. ft.

Setting in residential area along the
banks of the Merrimack River.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwort

Organization Office of Community
Development

Date 12-27-80

(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 pitched roof is a good example of the Greek Revival style interpreted in the vernacular. The influence of the style is seen only in the building's cornerboards and bold cornice entablature. It is also evident in the corner blocks that ornament the window surrounds. This house probably originally had typical Greek Revival doorways. They have been altered and are presently ornamented by turned Victorian brackets.

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

Francis L. Dunning is the earliest known owner of this building. Dunning owned the house in 1872. He was a shipcarpenter. He served as head foreman for George E. Currier. He is described by Robert Cheney as a "versatile shipwright". He moulded frames and superintended construction, but when there was a lack of new work he put a new top and deck on a Gloucester granite sloop.

In 1889 he helped to put a keelson in the J. R. Teel, a schooner built by George E. Currier. He also superintended the construction of this vessel.

In 1908 Sarah C. Dunning and John L. Lance sold this house to George J. Merrill. In 1919 it was again sold this time to Philip H. Walker.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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