FORM B - BUILDING NRDIS 8/2/84

Assessor's number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
47-15	Newburyport	L	2960

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building





Town Newburyport

Place *(neighborhood or village)*

Address 59 Merrimac Street

Historic Name (formerly 5-7 Titcomb Street)

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction c.1880

Source visual inspection, maps

Style/Form Vernacular Italianate

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Concrete

Wall/Trim Wood Clapboard

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations *(with dates)* 1984 - moved to present site, new concrete foundation and first floor

Condition good

Moved ☐ no ☒ yes **Date** 1984

Acreage 3110 SF

Setting mixed use area at corner of Merrimac and Titcomb Streets, opposite waterfront

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date *(month/year)* June 1999

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

BUILDING FORM (59 Merrimac Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION
Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of the building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Located at the southeast corner of Merrimac and Titcomb Streets, this 2 1/2-story, wood-clapboarded double house was moved to its present location and turned ninety degrees in 1984. The 3 x 2-bay dwelling is now oriented with its broad gablefront facing Merrimac Street. A new first floor, sheathed in clapboards, has been inserted under the building, leaving the original entrance suspended in mid-air and no longer functioning. The former entrance displays a recessed entrance consisting of two individual entrances. The combined entrance is flanked by pilasters and capped by an entablature lintel supported by end brackets with a paneled frieze. The windows contain 1/1 sash and are protected by exterior storm windows. The building is outlined by simple cornerboards which give rise to eaves which project slightly and end in returns beneath the asphalt-shingled roof.

Extending behind the main house is a 2 1/2-story, gabled wing which lacks any overhang at the eaves. The rear gabled porch is set above stairs. Fenestration on the new sections of the building consist primarily of casement windows. A single-story, gabled entrance has been added on the Titcomb Street elevation.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Historically, this building was known as 5-7 Titcomb Street. It was turned and moved to the adjacent lot, fronting Merrimac Street, in 1984. It appears to date to the mid-to-late 19th century and was definitely in place by 1888.

Directories indicate that Sam E. Sargent was living here in 1884-5. Sargent operated a machine shop at 43-47 Merrimac Street with his father, C.R. Sargent who died in 1883. On the 1888 Sanborn Insurance Map the building is labeled as "Sal." (saloon). All subsequent maps show the building (with the same plan) as a double house dwelling. James Smith, an engineer, lived at #7 in the 1920s and 1930s. In the late 1930s Arthur Smith, a porter, was living at 5 Titcomb Street. Louis Festo began living in the house about 1950 and in 1961 #5 Titcomb Street was occupied by Louis T. Festo while Louis J. Festo was at #7.

In 1984 the building was moved to its present location by its owner, Nick DeRosa, for use as a delicatessen/apartments. The building was gutted. It was moved by E.W. Janrvin & Sons of Salisbury. Jonathan Woodman served as architect. The building presently serves as apartments.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES
Cotlin, Bill. "House takes a turn after a century", Daily News, July 15, 1984.
Currier, John J. *History of Newburyport, Massachusetts, 1764-1906,* vols. 1 & 2. Newburyport: 1906 & 1909.
Irving, Ron. Unpublished research on Merrimac Street.
Massachusetts Historical Commission. Historic Resources Inventory: Newburyport.
Newburyport City Directories, various dates.

Maps
Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts. Philadelphia: D.B. Beers & Co., 1872.
Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts. Boston: George H. Walker, 1884.
Beck & Paul. *City of Newburyport.* Framingham, Mass.: Bigelow and Hazen, 1880.
Plan of Newburyport. Philadelphia: H. McIntyre, 1851.
Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1888, 1894, 1906, 1914, 1924, 1946. Massachusetts State Library, Boston, Massachusetts.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attached a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*