



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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DOD DRAFT Advisory/Historical Report

Meeting Date 27 October, 2022
Property Address 100 State Street
Applicant Walter Thompson
Project description Construct new roof or canopy at the unit entrance, on the side of the historic structure.
Plan(s) of Record: Application and documents posted under **PBSP-22-10** on the City of Newburyport web site.

Significance of the historic building/structure and the locale

This structure is believed to have been constructed about 1800 and is a fine example of a brick Federal style residential structure, with a later brick addition in the rear. It is referred to on Form B as the Carter-Tilton House, and is described there as *“a fine example of the domestic architecture of Newburyport’s mercantile class. The house exhibits many details of the Federal style including the dentil cornice and the arched window over the front entrance. The overall form of the house is also typical of the style.. The Flemish bond of the building’s facade was used for the higher style buildings during the Federal period. This house is one of many fine Federal homes still in existence in Newburyport today.”*

The first resident was Joshua Carter, a prominent merchant and owner of the ships seized by British and French privateers during the war between those nations. He held several civic positions including town selectman between 1786 and 1800. In 1799 he was one an incorporator of the Newburyport Marine Insurance Company, and later helped establish the Newburyport Bank, and in 1820 helped organize the Institution for Savings. 1817, Carter was on the committee to welcome President Monroe to Newburyport.

In 1823, the house was sold to Travis Todd, who was also involved in shipping and had a business on State Street. Interestingly, in 1829 William Lloyd Garrison was imprisoned for publishing libelous statements relating to the transporting of slaves in a ship owned by Todd. In 1850, the house was sold to Enoch Tilton, the proprietor of the Merrimac House - formerly known as the Wolfe Tavern.

Review of the proposed alteration

Mr Thompson is proposing a small (about 4.5’ wide and 3.5’ deep) roof to protect the entrance to his residential unit, which is on the side, North-facing façade). During our deliberations, the board felt that the bracketed style of the example that Mr. Thompson showed us was definitely inappropriate for a Federal period structure. However, we understand the practical problem caused by the lack of any protection from rain, and

especially runoff from the roof. Also, we observed that the location, which is on the side and somewhat back from the street, suggests that a modest addition here would not necessarily have a serious adverse impact on the historical value of the structure.

One option would be an overhang similar to the one Mr. Thompson presented, but with simple, straight brackets, as shown in this example:



Figure 1: Simple overhang on a Federal Period house

In the days following the meeting, Mr. Thompson continued discussions with the planning office and other possibilities were raised, such as an awning that would offer weather protection but allow a visual interpretation as an obviously contemporary and relatively unobtrusive alteration, which would be consistent with the Secretary's standards.

Conclusion

There was general agreement among the commissioners that the an 'overhang' similar the one shown above would not have a significant adverse impact on the historic character and value of the structure.

Glenn Richards, Chair, Newburyport Historical Commission

