



September 1, 2022

To Glenn Richards, Chair, Newburyport Historical Commission

The Custom House Maritime Museum has recently accepted the gift of a plaque from the Newburyport Preservation Trust.

This plaque replicates the signage of other historic houses in Newburyport, and extends that to what we believe is (arguably) the most iconic and identifiable image of Newburyport - the 1835 Custom House building designed by federal architect Robert Mills.

We believe that the clarity of the sign highlights not only the historical use of the building, but the preeminent federal building architect of that time.

Currently, there is only one other significant sign on the building (in addition to the historical sign over the portico) - that commemorating the restoration from 1972-1975, along with the people and agencies that enabled that restoration, including: The City of Newburyport, the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority, and the Newburyport Maritime Society.

The building is subject to a preservation restriction agreement. That agreement was reached in 2002 between the City of Newburyport and the Newburyport Maritime Society (D/B/A Newburyport Custom House Maritime Museum) and is administered, managed, and enforced by The Newburyport Historical Commission.

Section 5 of the agreement explicitly calls for Historical Commission review of any alteration to the building, including permanent signs.

Attached are photographs of the plaque, and its proposed location.

We respectfully submit these for your review.

Jack J. Santos

Chairperson, Board of Directors of the Newburyport Maritime Society

Chris Silva

Executive Director of the Custom House Maritime Museum

Cc: Linda Miller, Co-president of the Newburyport Preservation Trust

The Custom House building



The Plaque. Material: Bronze. Dimensions: 16x 24 inches, ¼" thick



Proposed Location: Custom House Way



Simulated Installation

