

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no.
A	23

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport

Address 98 High Street

Historic Name Cushing House

Original Residence

Present Historical Society

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization Historical Society of Old Newbury
 Public

Original owner William Hunt

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1808

Source Currier, "History of Nbpt"

Style Federal

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Brick

Outbuildings Barn, Shed

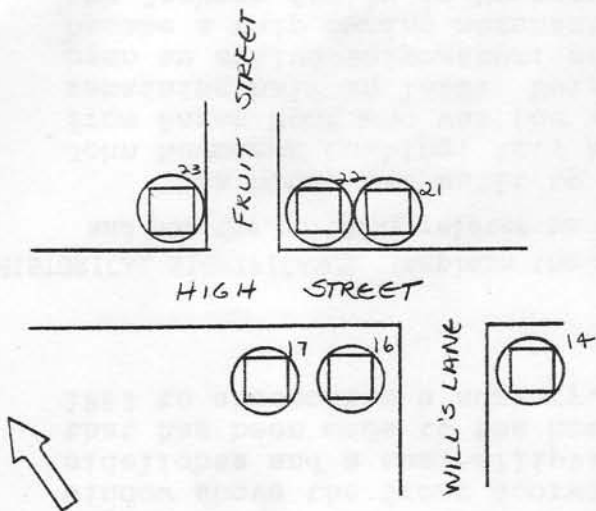
Major alterations (with dates) hip roof raised (1863)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 17,120 sq. ft.

Setting on Newburyport's main thoroughfare noted for its excellent examples of domestic architecture dating from the Colonial period through the early twentieth century.

location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



Recorded by Scott Ackerly

Organization Office of Community Development

Date 09-13-80

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

The Cushing house is one of the finest examples of the Federal style in the High Street area. The house is three stories with a hipped roof. The classical cornice is exceptional as is the arched window above the front doorway. The doorway itself is arched with sidelights and a semi-elliptical fanlight. The only major alteration that has been made to the house was the raising of the hipped roof in 1863 to accommodate a nursery.

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 Hunt around 1808. In 1818 John Newmarch Cushing, Sr., bought one half of the house and property from Sarah Hunt who was the widow of William Hunt. He purchased the remaining half in 1822. Until 1815 John Newmarch Cushing, Sr., had been an active shipmaster; after that date he no longer sailed but became a ship owning merchant. He owned thirteen brigs all built by the Jackman family in Newburyport. From 1835 to 1837 he was a Newburyport Selectman.

John Cushing had a son, Caleb Cushing, who became an important lawyer, statesman, and diplomat. Caleb was born in Salisbury, Massachusetts, in 1800 and came with his family to Newburyport in 1802. He graduated from Harvard in 1817, went to Harvard Law School and was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in 1821. Caleb was very active in local affairs. He delivered many public addresses and wrote the editorial page in "The Newburyport Herald and Commercial Gazette" for several months during 1823. In the sessions of 1833, 1834, 1847, 1858, 1859, 1862, and 1863, he was a Representative in the Massachusetts General Court.

In 1834 Caleb Cushing was elected to the United States House of Representatives and was re-elected for four terms. In 1843 he was appointed Commissioner to China by President Tyler. In this position he arranged the Treaty of Wanghia which opened five major Chinese ports to American trade and authorized the stationing of consular officers at these ports.

(cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, Vols. I and II., reprint, Newburyport 1977.
- J. J. Currier, Old Newbury: Historical and Biographical Sketches, Boston, 1896.
- R. Cheney, Maritime History of Merrimac River Shipbuilding, Newburyport, 1964.
- B. Levy, National Register Nomination Form, 1973.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 23
Property Name: Cushing House 98 High Street	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

Caleb was an advocate of Newburyport becoming a city and with Newburyport's incorporation in 1851, he was unanimously elected the first mayor. A year later he resigned and entered President Pierce's cabinet as Attorney General.

In 1868, He went to Bogota to negotiate a right of way for a ship canal across Panama with the Colombian Government. He also represented the United States in Geneva for claims against Great Britain for union merchant ships damaged or destroyed during the Civil War. Cushing was later appointed Minister to Spain and served until 1877 when he returned to Newburyport where he died in 1879.

Caleb Cushing lived in his father's house at various times until John Cushing died in 1849. At that time Caleb bought another house at 63 High Street. In 1827 Caleb met John Quincy Adams, when the Ex-President visited Newburyport, and entertained him at 98 High Street.

The Cushing House remained in the Cushing family until 1955 when it was bequested to the Historical Society of Old Newbury. The house is now maintained by the Historical Society as offices and a museum. The Cushing House has been designated a National Historic Landmark.

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