

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

This house is an excellent example of the Georgian homes built in Newburyport during the second half of the nineteenth century. Notable architectural features are the gambrel roof, favored because it provided extra room in the attic story, the classically inspired window caps, and the front doorway. The front entrance is typically Georgian, flanked by Doric pilasters.

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

The original owner of this house is unknown. By 1851, it was owned by a physician, Dr. Henry C. Perkins. Perkins owned several other homes on Essex Street, including 16 Essex Street. Dr. Perkins was a prominent member of the community. He was a member of the Newburyport Lyceum and a contributor to the Newburyport Public Library. He graduated from Harvard in 1829 and was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1866, he was the president of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Dr. Perkins is credited with producing the first daquerreotype in New England.

In 1872, the house was owned by Mrs. Moses J. Brown. By 1884, it had been sold to Captain Frank W. Brown. At that time, Harris C. Nye, a bookkeeper, lived at 17 Essex. The house is presently a two family residence.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- 1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
- 1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.
- 1884 Atlas of Essex County, G. H. Walker Company
- Assessor's Records 1890-1980
- 1851, 1872, 1884 City Directories

Area D	Form no. 92
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

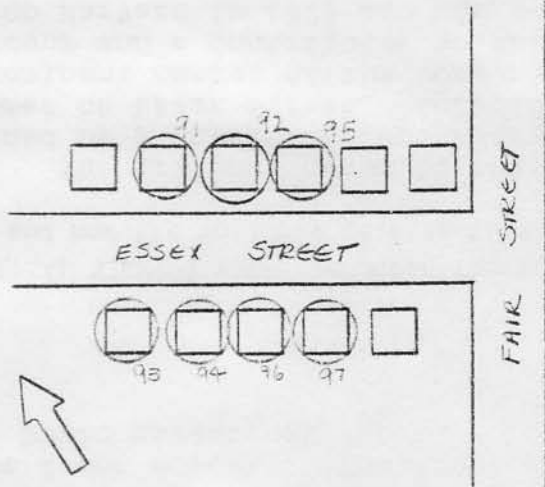


City Newburyport  
 Address 15-17 Essex Street  
 Historic Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original Residence  
 Present Residence  
 Ownership:  Private individual  
                   Private organization \_\_\_\_\_  
                   Public \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original owner Unknown

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1780-1800  
 Source \_\_\_\_\_  
 Style Georgian  
 Architect Unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards  
 Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_  
 Major alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage 4,272 sq. ft.



Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt  
 Organization Office of Community Development  
 Date 09-20-80

Setting in densely built up area in which the predominant building type is that of eighteenth century single family dwellings.