

FORM G - STREETScape

In area no.	Form no.
	343

1. Town Newburyport

Street name Independent Street

Addresses (inclusive) 6,8,10

Independent Street

Present use Residential

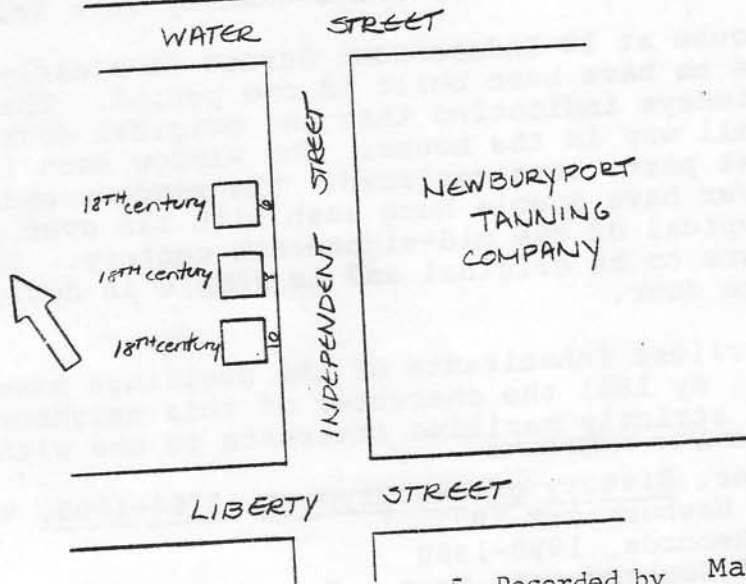
Description:  
General date or period Eighteenth Century

Predominant architectural styles Georgian

Major intrusions None



4. Map. Draw map of street, clearly showing all buildings; indicate street addresses and approximate date for all buildings; identify intrusions by use or type. Indicate north.



5. Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt

Organization Office of Community Development

Date 9-29-80

6. Themes. Check as many as applicable to streetscape

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____X_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____X_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community Development	_____X_____				

7. Significance. Explain historical and/or architectural significance of streetscape. Include explanation of themes checked.

These three houses, the only three left on Independent Street, all date from the eighteenth century. This area was the land settled by the residents of Newbury when they moved to the "water side". The fact that settlement occurred here was most logical, as it was adjacent to both the banks of the Merrimack River and the commercial district in Market Square. These three houses survive although there were houses across the street in an area of mid-nineteenth century industrial development.

These three houses were undoubtedly built during the eighteenth century, probably by men of mercantile or maritime interests. Numbers 6 and 8 Independent Street are probably earlier than 10 Independent. The roofline of both of these houses have a long deep pitch. Number 6 has a four bay facade. The bay at the northeastern side is not evenly spaced indicating that this house was originally only three bays with a later addition of the fourth. The doorways of both 6 and 8 Independent Street have been altered since the original construction. The chimneys of 8 Independent Street are also later than the house itself. There is still one large chimney in 6 Independent Street.

The house at 10 Independent Street is clearly Georgian in style and appears to have been built in one period. There are two interior endwall chimneys indicating that the original construction included a center hall way in the house. The window sash in this house have, for the most part, been replaced. The windows under the pitched roof, however have double hung sash with six over six lights which would be typical of the mid-eighteenth century. The doorway of this house appears to be original and is simple in design with Doric pilasters flanking the door.

The earliest inhabitants of the dwellings have yet to be documented. By 1851 the character of this neighborhood was changed from one of strictly maritime interests to one with industrial

8. Bibliography and/or references

- J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, Vols. I and II., reprint, Newburyport 1977.
- Assessor's Records 1890-1980
- 1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
- 1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.
- 1851, 1872 City Directories

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 343
Property Name: 6, 8, 10 Independent Street	

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

7. SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

influences. In 1845, the Globe Steam Mills were incorporated. A four story brick factory for manufacturing cotton cloth was erected the next year on the site bordered by Independent, Water and Federal Streets.

In 1851 the residents of Independent Street included Samuel Robinson, dealer of boots and shoes, living at number 8, Moses E. Wheeler of the firm Stearns and Wheeler at number 10, and William Stone, president of the Ocean Bank at number 6 Independent Street. Clearly this illustrates the fact that Newburyport's economy was changing due to the decline of coastal trade and the development of the textile and shoemaking industries.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom