



FORM G - STREETScape

In area no.	Form no.
	358

1. Town Newburyport

street name Prospect Street

addresses (inclusive) 5-53 Prospect St.
14-50 Prospect St.

present use Residential

2. Photos (black & white, 3x3 or 3x5)
Indicate on back of each photo street addresses for buildings shown. Staple to left side of form.

6-12
6-8
6-12
6-16

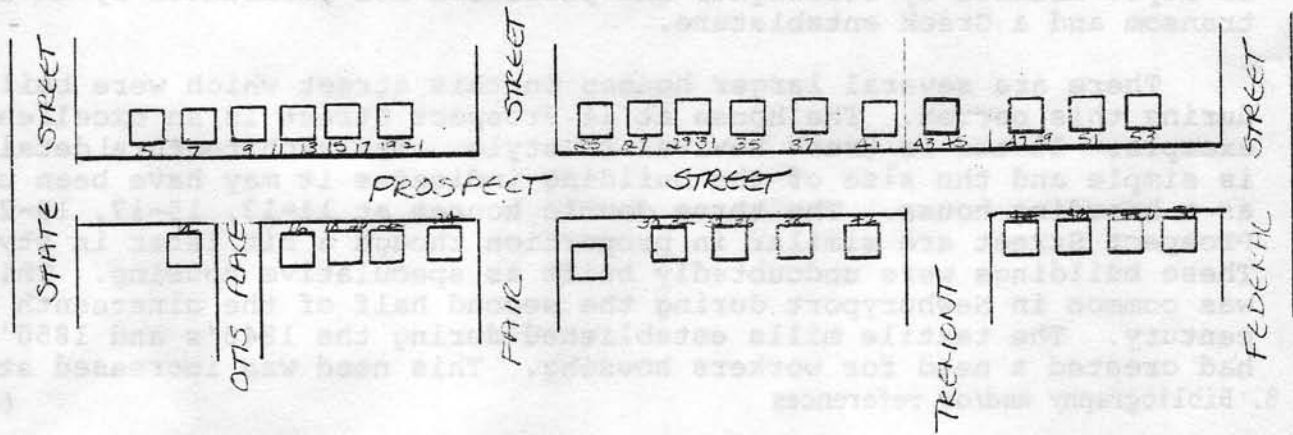
3. Description:
general date or period 19th Century

predominant architectural styles Greek

Revival, vernacular Victorian.

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 8-17-80

6. Themes. Check as many as applicable to streetscape

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

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

This section of Prospect Street is a wonderful streetscape consisting of domestic architecture built primarily during the mid-nineteenth century. There are several homes on the street that are earlier. The street exists in total, however, as it appeared in the nineteenth century.

Prospect Street between State Street, formerly Fish Street, and Federal Street, formerly King Street, is adjacent to Market Square, Newburyport's central business district. As one might expect the homes in this area relate to the business, trades, and services essential to the center of Newburyport.

In 1851 Prospect Street was occupied by a variety of skilled craftsmen and shopowners. There were also several house carpenters and an occasional seaman. In 1851 Hezekiah Ripley, a house carpenter, lived at 7 Prospect Street. This house is like several others on the street. It is Greek Revival in form with pitched roof and gable facing the street. The cornice is continuous across the building's facade creating the image of a Greek pediment which is supported by the classically inspired cornerboards. The doorway is also Greek Revival in style flanked by sidelights and pilasters and surmounted by an oblong transom and a Greek entablature.

There are several larger houses on this street which were built during this period. The house at 14 Prospect Street is an excellent example. It too is Greek Revival in style. The architectural detail is simple and the size of the building indicates it may have been used as a boarding house. The three double houses at 11-13, 15-17, 19-21 Prospect Street are similar in proportion though a bit later in style. These buildings were undoubtedly built as speculative housing. This was common in Newburyport during the second half of the nineteenth century. The textile mills established during the 1840's and 1850's had created a need for workers housing. This need was increased still

8. Bibliography and/or references

(cont.)

Assessor's Records

J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, vols. I and II, reprint, Newburyport 1977.

1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire

1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.

1851, 1871 City Directories

R. Cheney, History of Merrimac River Shipbuilding, Newburyport, 1964.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 358
Property Name: 5-53 Prospect St. 14-50 Prospect St.	

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

FORM G - STREETSCAPE (CONTINUED)

further with the growth of the shoe industry during the 1860's and 1870's. The larger dwellings on Prospect Street undoubtedly housed workers from the nearby industrial area on the other side of State Street.

There are several earlier homes on this section of Prospect Street. They include 9, 18-20, 22, and 37 Prospect Street. The houses at 9 and 18-20 appear to date from the late 18th century. They are both simple two story dwellings with pitched roofs. The doorway at 9 Prospect is original consisting of the door itself flanked by Doric pilasters supporting a classical entablature. The original door of 18-20 Prospect was altered when the building was made into a two-family house. In 1851 the owner of 7 Prospect was a ship's cooper, George Fitz. Mrs. Annister Hale owned and occupied 18-20 Prospect Street. Mrs. Hale had a fancy goods store at 27 State Street. Her husband Nathaniel was a seaman.

Two other homes are worthy of note. The first is a simple two story home at 22 Prospect Street. This house has a doorway quite similar to that at 7 Prospect and both may have been built by Hezekiah Ripley, the house carpenter. The second noteworthy home is the most pretentious home included in the streetscape.

The house at 37 Prospect Street is Federal in style. It is three stories in height with hipped roof, exceptional entrance portico and simple classically inspired cornice and window lintels. The original owner of this home is not known. It was owned by the heirs of Enoch Osgood in 1851. Osgood had a shipping company and owned several vessels including the Schooner "George", built by the Woodwells in 1832.

An individual inventory sheet has been filled out on 24 Prospect Street.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom