

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 28 1975

DATE ENTERED MAR 7 1975

ORG # 75000284

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Brown Square House

AND/OR COMMON

Garrison Inn

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

11 Brown Square

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Newburyport

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Essex

CODE

009

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Garrison Inn Trust

STREET &amp; NUMBER

5 State Street

CITY, TOWN

Newburyport

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

South Registry District

STREET &amp; NUMBER

32 Federal Street

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE  
Massachusetts**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1973

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE  
Massachusetts

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR  
 DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The buildings comprising the Garrison Inn in Newburyport, Massachusetts, were originally constructed in 1801-1810 as two mirror-image attached town houses for Moses Brown and his brother. The initial intention was for an entire terrace of these houses facing what became Brown Square, a long rectangular green just off State Street. The scheme was apparently far too grand and urban even for one of the major eastern ports and only these two dwellings, which would have tied down one end of the row, were completed. The appearance, today, is of one large and imposing brick structure.

The townhouses, conceived on the grand scale of the early Republic, were four-story brick structures on a granite foundation completely below ground. The brick was laid in flemish bond. The two "L" structures combine to form a "T" in plan, the top of which represents the principal facade and faces due north. It has eight windows across it on each floor, four for each of the two houses. The fan-lit main entries, with double doors and side lights, replace the two innermost windows on the first floor. All windows are 6/6 with brown sandstone sills and skew-back lintels, with the exception of the fourth floor where the windows are 6/3. A string course of brown sandstone runs the perimeter of the entire building at the second floor.

The west elevation of the main block, facing Pitcomb Street, is three bays wide; the two northern windows flank a chimney flush with the wall. A single fan-lit door, now closed, replaces the southern-most window on the first floor. The east elevation of this block, which would have become a party wall with the proposed continuation of the row, has the two first floor windows flanking a flush chimney and one window on the northern end on both the second and third floor. Each of the two portions of the southern elevation of the main block that are exposed have two windows across on each floor, with a single fan-lit door replacing one of the first floor windows in the pattern. The rear wings, of brick and the same height as the main block, have three windows per floor along their east and west fronts respectively. The southern elevation of the combined wings has four windows across on all floors; the two innermost windows of the first floor are replaced by two single fan-lit doors. These were the original kitchen entries, split by a party wall that has no expression on the exterior below the dentiled cornice. A low-pitched hip roof rises above the cornice, with the party wall splitting it. Two chimneys rise out of the center of the two halves of the service wing to complete the external appearance of the building, which has never been altered since it was built. One exception is that one of the third floor windows in the south elevation of the main block in the eastern half was enlarged to make a door to a since-demolished fire escape.

The principal alterations were internal, and even these preserved the details of the major rooms. The principal stairs were removed, the party wall punctured with large arches on each floor and some partitions, especially on the first floor, were removed, but all mantels, cornices, chairrails and bases were retained, as well as sliding doors between the paired drawing rooms on the second floor front of each residence.

What exists is a pair of early Federal town houses almost perfectly preserved from without and retaining a great deal of the original detail and layout within, a monument to the scale of living the merchants of Newburyport expected to realize for themselves, their port city, and the early Republic. That this extreme scale was never achieved again in that location or style is no denigration of the idea that generated it.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1809-1810

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Moses Brown, builder

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brown Square House is a four story brick Federal building looking out over Brown Square and built in 1809-1810 by Moses Brown. It was designed to be part of a row of elegant town houses, facing a square given to the town by Moses Brown for the "public enjoyment." For various reasons, including the illness of the contractor and Brown's financial setbacks caused by the fire of 1811 and the War of 1812, the block was not finished, and alternating protruding bricks in the northeast wall were left exposed, waiting for a connecting building. Even so, these two interconnected residences constitute the largest remaining brick building in Newburyport. Moses Brown was a leading Newburyport merchant and philanthropist and the houses remain as a symbol of his industry and maritime success. Although the structure was built to contain private residences, its long use as a boarding house, hotel and inn has enriched its historical value.

Moses Brown's reasons for building the town houses are not certain; possibly they were built as an investment. At the time the houses on Brown Square were built, Brown was already living in a fine house on Dalton Street, one he had coveted from his earliest days as a chaisemaker. In 1813 Brown's newly married daughter and her husband, William B. Bannister, were listed in a town directory as residing in one of the houses. William Bannister, who was a member of the General Court, first as a Representative, then a Senator, necessarily spent a good deal of his time in Boston, and by 1813 part of the Brown Square House had been converted into shops.

After Moses Brown's death in 1827, the Brown Square House passed to his granddaughter, Sarah White Bannister, who owned the property until her death in 1880. By 1849 the house was in use as a boarding house, then a hotel, remaining so until the inn was closed in 1948. Mrs. C.C.P. Betten was the first proprietress, being succeeded by W.H. Thompson, innkeeper, who was in turn succeeded by E.P. Pride in the 1870's. After Sarah Bannister Hale's death in 1880, Pride named his establishment the Brown Square Hotel. By 1907 the hotel had steam heat, baths, electric lights, and was open year-round. In 1922 Robert W. Weltshe, owner of the now-demolished historic Wolfe Tavern, bought the property, and on July 2, 1923 opened the Garrison Inn. He named it in honor of William Lloyd Garrison, whose statue, executed by Daniel C. French, has stood in Brown Square since 1893.

After the construction of the Route 1 by-pass, business declined for the Garrison Inn, and in December of 1948 Weltshe closed the Inn. The building remained empty but intact up to the present, and the current owner, the Garrison Inn Trust, is trying to obtain funding to restore the building and is seeking a zoning variance to re-establish the Inn and to recapture the activity it once knew.



Property Brown Square House

Essex

State Mass.

Working Number 2.28.75.311

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 1  
Maps 1

**CONTROL**

OK <sup>pl</sup> 3.3.75

**HISTORIAN**

Restoration firm appears to be **ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN** Anderson Nottel -

Accept  
Shorman  
3-3-75

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

ACCEPT  
LEBOVICU  
3-3-75

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Accept  
Cole  
3-4-75

**BRANCH CHIEF**

accept  
Shorman  
3.7.75

**KEEPER**

Wm  
3/7/75

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered MAR 7 1975

Federal Register Entry 5-6-75

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74



Form No. 10-301a  
(7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

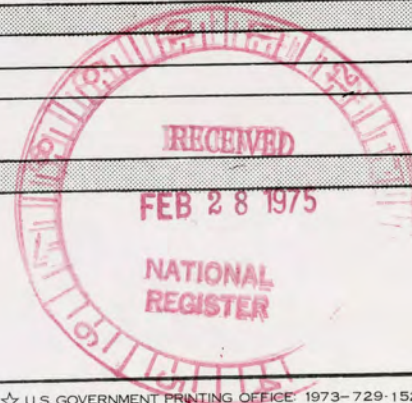
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 7 1975	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Garrison Inn			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Brown Square House			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: 11 Brown Square			
CITY OR TOWN: Newburyport			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Essex	CODE 009
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Martin Staab			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1974			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: 5 State Street, Newburyport, MA			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. north facade and west elevation			
# 1081			



☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-152/1446 III-1

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

# 1081

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 28 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAR 7 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Brown Square House

AND/OR COMMON  
Garrison Inn

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN Newburyport

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Essex

STATE MA

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

SCALE 1:24,000

DATE 1952

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

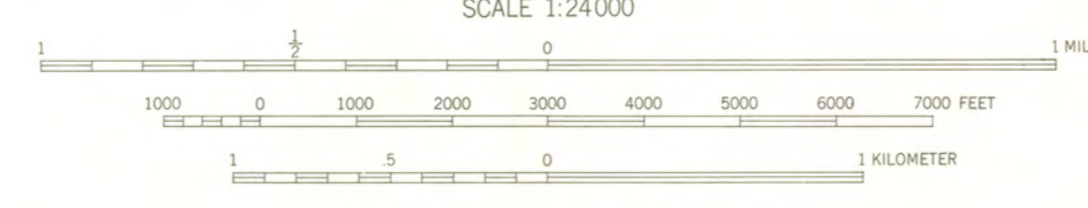
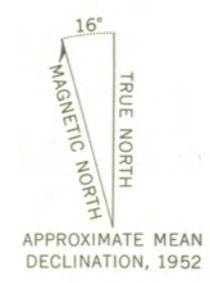


Brown Square House  
Newburyport, MA  
UTM references:  
19/346760/4741320

UTM  
OK  
HM



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1942. Revised 1952  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts (Mainland) and  
New Hampshire coordinate systems  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only  
landmark buildings are shown  
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information furnished  
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL  
DEPTH CURVES IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOWER LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 8 FEET



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

NEWBURYPORT EAST, MASS.—N. H.  
N 4245—W 7045/7.5  
1952

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered MAR 7 1975

Name

Location

Brown Square House

Newburyport  
Essex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
Hon. Edward W. Brooke  
Hon. Michael J. Harrington  
Regional Director, North Atlantic  
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon, Executive  
Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
40 Beacon Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

PR

MMott/cha

3-10-75

# NR Data Sheet

DATE: 3/17/97  
 Reviewer INITIALS: geoff  
 NR DOE March 7, 1975

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Brown Square House

OTHER NAMES: Garrison Inn, Mt (sec)

## LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER 11 Brown Square

CITY/TOWN Newburyport

STATE Massachusetts

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6th

COUNTY Essex code 009

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

## FEATURES:

<u>INTERIOR</u>	<u>EXTERIOR</u>	<u>ENVIRONS</u>
- Substantially intact-1	- Substantially intact-2	- Substantially intact-3
- unknown - 4	- unknown - 5	- unknown - 6
- not applicable - 7	- not applicable - 8	- Not applicable - 9

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -	- EXCELLENT	- DETERIORATED	- UNALTERED	- ORIGINAL SITE
	- GOOD	- RUINS	- ALTERED	- MOVED
	- FAIR	- UNEXPOSED	- Reconstructed	- Unknown
		- Unexcavated	- Excavated	

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO  
 IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO  
 IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- private residence, commercial

now- commercial

## SIGNIFICANCE:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW/Gov't/politics	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> health
<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement
<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	<input type="checkbox"/> socio/cultural
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY		<input type="checkbox"/> urban & commun
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT		<input type="checkbox"/> planning

## Claims

"first" YES NO

"oldest" YES NO

"only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: FEDERAL

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role & appropriate date)

personal

Moses Brown, leading Newburyport merchant and philanthropist

events

institutional

✓ DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1809-1810

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1811, 12

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

Less than 1

✓ COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

BRICK, GRANITE FOUNDATION; 4

STORIES, T-SHAPE, LOW HIPPED ROOF, INTERIOR CHIMNEYS; TWIN FRONT CENTER ENTRANCES, EACH WITH SIDE LIGHTS AND FANLIGHT; SIDE ENTRANCE WITH FANLIGHT; STONE BELT COURSE AND WINDOW

SILLS AND LINTELS; DENTICULATED MODILLION CORNICE; MUCH INTERIOR DETAIL INTACT. FEDERAL. <sup>Two</sup> ~~THE~~ MIRROR-IMAGE <sup>Row</sup> ~~TOWN~~ HOUSES <sup>part of</sup> ENVISIONED AS THE <sup>planned</sup> END OF AN <sup>the square</sup> ENTIRE TERRACE OF HOUSES FACING BROWN

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

<sup>part</sup> ~~ED~~ AS THE <sup>series</sup> END OF AN ENTIRE TERRACE OF HOUSES FACING BROWN <sup>and</sup> SQUARE; BUILT FOR MOSES BROWN, LEADING NEWBURYPORT MERCHANT

PHILANTHROPIST.