

PH 0006378

DB# 71000687
HE M-171

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Mass.	
COUNTY: Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.2.25.0002	DATE 2/25/71



1. NAME

COMMON:
U. S. Custom House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
25 Water Street (Congressional District #6)

CITY OR TOWN:
Newburyport 01950

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 25 COUNTY: Essex CODE: 009

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) vacant	to be restored (see #7)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Newburyport Redevelopment Authority

STREET AND NUMBER:
55 Pleasant Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Newburyport 01950

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 25

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
South Registry District of Essex County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Salem

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 25

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of the Historic Assets

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Secretary

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 25

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mass.
COUNTY: Essex
ENTRY NUMBER: 71.2.25.0002
DATE: 2/25/71
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The U. S. Custom House in Newburyport is located on a deep, narrow lot on the fringe of the city's central business district and in sight of the Merrimack River and the Newburyport Harbor. As is usual with most small buildings of the Neo-Classical style, the Custom House is almost without exterior embellishment. The two-story (plus basement) rectangular building has regular ashlar walls of gray granite; the corner pilasters are dressed granite blocks laid up as quoins. A simple Tuscan entablature extends around the building, surmounted by an unornamented pediment at each of the two gable ends. The low-pitched roof is broken only by four central chimneys with corbeled caps; a short span of metal roof-crestring connects the chimneys.

The main facade of the Custom House is three bays wide. To emphasize the axis, Mills has projected the middle bay slightly from the wall and has permitted this projection to run through the principal entablature. This creates a pavillion at the center of which is a one story entrance porch. Two unfluted columns, composed of elements of both the Doric and Tuscan orders, support an entablature which repeats on a smaller scale that of the main building. Unadorned rectangular panels, recessed in two stages, are centered between the first and second story windows of the flanking bays.

The interior of the Custom House is constructed of granite and brick with prominent arches and a vaulted vestibule.

Though structurally sound, the Newburyport Custom House has been allowed to deteriorate and requires extensive restoration. There are no basic facilities such as heating, plumbing or electrical fixtures. Doors and windows either are missing or are in dilapidated condition. The Newburyport Historical Commission proposes to restore the building and improve the site after which the Newburyport Maritime Society hopes to use the Custom House as a maritime museum reflecting the importance of the particular building and the significance of the city as a port in the 18-th and 19-th centuries.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1835 - construction

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The U. S. Custom House built in Newburyport in 1834-35, one of five such port facilities known to be extant in Massachusetts, is one of two buildings in the state designed by Robert Mills, the first architect of international reputation both born and trained in America. Mills supervised the construction of the building himself and, in its austere geometry, it is an excellent example of his bold and simple handling of the Neo-Classical forms. In 1836, Mills was appointed by President Andrew Jackson to a position which the architect later described as "Architect of Public Buildings." In that office he was to use a style similar to that of the Custom House, but on a more monumental scale, in his plans for the Treasury (1836), the Old Post Office (1839) and the Patent Office (1839), the three most important buildings to be constructed in Washington after the Capitol and the "President's House." Thus linked by its form to these major architectural works, the Newburyport Custom House is, at the same time, directly related in its function to the maritime history of the famous port in which it stands.

Collection of duties on merchandise imported through Newburyport had begun in 1789. Following the construction of the Custom House, receipts at the port reached a maximum in 1875 and 1876; more than \$100,000 was collected each year, largely in duties on sugar and molasses imported from the West Indies by the firm of Bayley and Sons. It is estimated that during its half century career, this firm paid the government, through the Newburyport Custom House, more than \$3,000,000 in duties. The firm of Bayley and Sons dissolved in 1877 and after that time the principal revenue of the Custom House was from soft coal from the provinces, occasionally a cargo of molasses or an invoice of tea in bond.

The volume of maritime trade handled through Newburyport declined steadily until the cost of maintaining the Custom House exceeded the annual income from duties and the office of collector of customs carried with it little compensation other than its title. In the summer of 1910, operations at the Custom House were closed. Eventually the old granite building was sold to private owners and, since that time, has been used for various purposes.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STM
E 347170
N 471430
JUN 11-75

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Currier, J.J. History of Newburyport, 1764-1905. Newburyport: 1906, Vol. I
 Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America. New York: Dover
 Publications, 1944.
 Pierson, William H. American Buildings and Their Architects, the Colonial
 and Neo-Classical Styles. New York: Doubleday and Company, Inc. 1970.
Newburyport Daily News. Newburyport, Massachusetts: February 2, 1950;
 April 3, 1956; February 29, 1968.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		42° 48 ' 44 "	70° 52 ' 08 "	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: under one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Anne R. Wardwell, Survey Director

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE: February 10, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: State House

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 02133 25

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: John F. Dowd
 Title: Secretary of the Commonwealth
 Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
 Commission

Date: Feb. 23, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

FEB 25 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST: William J. Hambley
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: FEB 25 1971



EXHIBIT B

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

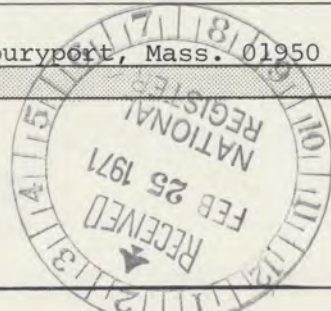
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Mass.	
COUNTY Essex FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.2.25.0002	DATE 2/25/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: U.S. Custom House		AND/OR HISTORIC:	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 25 Water Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Newburyport			
STATE: Mass.	CODE 25	COUNTY: Essex	CODE 009
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Art and Camera			
DATE OF PHOTO: 11-17-68			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Art and Camera, 37 Pleasant St., Newburyport, Mass. 01950			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. South and West Facades			



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Mass.	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

71.2.25.0002 2/25/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: U.S. Custom House
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
25 Water Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Newburyport 01950

STATE: Mass.	CODE 25	COUNTY: Essex	CODE 009
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3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U.S. Geological Survey Newburyport West Mass-N.H.
SCALE: 1:24,000
DATE: 1952

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- Property boundaries where required.
- North arrow.
- Latitude and longitude reference.



EXHIBIT E



Location of Old Custom House
 Latitude $42^{\circ} 48' 44''$
 Longitude $70^{\circ} 52' 08''$

by: H. F. McWilliams, P.E.
 Mass. Certificate #46
 150 Brussels Ave
 Newburyport, Mass.
 1.21.71

checked by: H. Hunter
 Geodetic Engineer
 Comm. of Mass.
 1.21.71

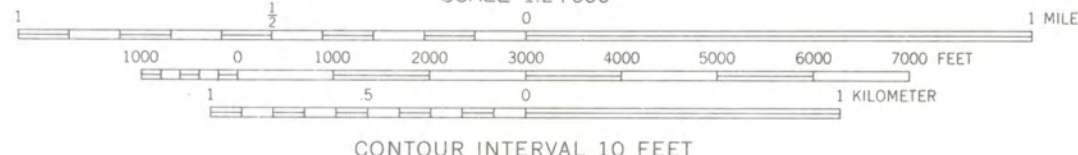
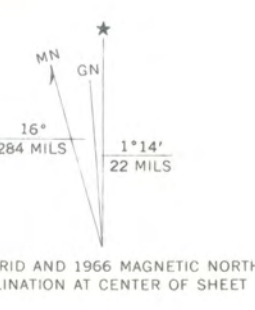
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY MAP
 Newburyport, West, Mass.-N.H.
 1952
 Scale: 1:24,000



Zone 19
E 347170
N 4741430
WM
9-11-75

Zone 19
E 347170
N 4741430

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1942. Revised 1966
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 213 (1965)
and 1206 (1966). This information is not intended for navigational
purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and New Hampshire coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area 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 AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.3 FEET



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

NEWBURYPORT EAST, MASS.—N. H.
N4245—W7045/7.5

OS Customs House
Essex, Mass

SMarusin
2/25/71

FEB 25 1971

H30-HR

Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission
Office of the Secretary
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Mr. Davoren:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Edward M. Kennedy and Edward W. Brooke and Representative Michael J. Harrington are being informed. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed for each of the property owners. Please withhold any publicity on this until you have received a carbon copy of the Congressional correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Director

Enclosures

Entered in the National Register FEB 25 1971

cc:
HR

SMarusin:mm

2/25/71

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

MASSACHUSETTS:

Market Square Historic District

Essex County, Massachusetts

U.S. Customs House

Essex County, Massachusetts

5 Marston
2/25/71

FEB 25 1971

W30-NR

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Kennedy:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Massachusetts and have been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senator Edward W. Brooke and Representative Michael J. Harrington have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Hon. John F. X. Davoren, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston, Massachusetts 02133, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Director

Enclosures

FEB 25 1971

Entered in the National Register

cc: Hon. John F. X. Davoren, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Also notified: Hon. Edward W. Brooke
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Hon. Michael J. Harrington
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

cc: Director, Northeast Region

2/25/71

HR
SMarusin:mm

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

MASSACHUSETTS

Market Square Historic District

Essex County, Massachusetts

U.S. Customs House

Essex County, Massachusetts



U.S. CUSTOM HOUSE
1834

Newburyport Maritime Society, Inc.

Box 306 - Newburyport, Mass. 01950

July 1, 1976

Dr. William Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
Interior Department
18th & C Streets
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

The Newburyport Custom House which was built in 1835 and designed by Robert Mills, was restored by the Newburyport Maritime Society in 1971-1974 as a maritime museum and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

We recently re-opened for our second season and have had nearly a thousand visitors so far. We are often asked questions about the Custom House and its architect, Robert Mills, some of which we are not able to answer.

Therefore, we would appreciate your sending us all the historical and architectural information that is available on the Newburyport Custom House and its architect, Robert Mills. If possible, we would like copies of the architect's drawings, plans, the original use of the various rooms and whatever other information that you may have.

Your assistance and help on this project will be gratefully appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

H. Patterson Hale, Jr.

H. Patterson Hale, Jr.
Restoration Fund Treasurer

P. S. Enclosed is a copy of our visitors' "Guide to the Custom House Maritime Museum of Newburyport".

HPH/m
Enc.

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D JUL 8 1976

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN

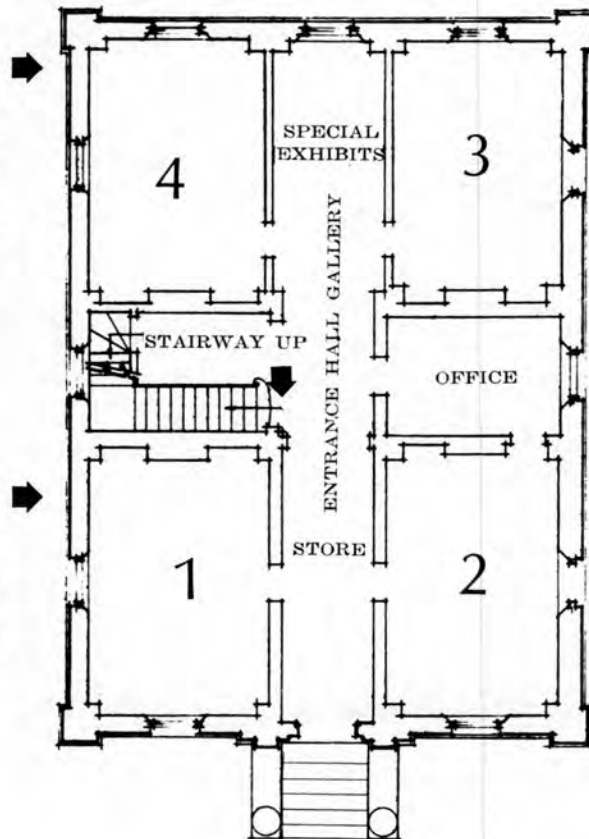
INITIALS

CUSTOM HOUSE MARITIME MUSEUM of NEWBURYPORT



Built 1835 of fireproof granite and masonry in the Classic Revival style characteristic of Robert Mills, National Architect of public buildings. Headquarters for collection of custom duties on foreign cargos and registry of newly-built vessels. As foreign trade into Newburyport declined, and shipbuilding slowed to a halt by 1900, the Custom House fell into disuse. Sold by Federal government in 1913; used for hay storage, as a shoe factory, and finally as a junk shop. Acquired in 1968 by Newburyport Redevelopment Authority as part of the downtown historic renewal district. Listed on National Register of Historic Places; restored by Newburyport Maritime Society 1971-1974 as a museum to preserve and present the maritime heritage of the Merrimack Valley; opened to public June 29, 1975.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



COAST GUARD HALL

Mural of waterfront, 1791, when first revenue cutter *Massachusetts* built, making Newburyport official birthplace of Coast Guard. Illuminated lighthouse lens; line gun and life-saving gear; ship's wheel, engine-room telegraph.

BROWN GALLERY

"Shipbuilder's Loft" with half-hull models of ships built on Merrimack River, 1690 to 1900. Shipwright's tools (broadaxe, adze, augers), sailmaker's palms, blocks, trunnel-pegged ship's timber.

OFFICE OF COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS

19th-century stove, safe, strong-box, desk, chairs; rum barrels, tea chests. Portraits of sea captain members of Newburyport Marine Society (founded 1772); Society's charter, other memorabilia.

BRUSH GALLERY

"Captains' Waiting-room" with sea-going gear: seachests and chart chests; maps, quadrants, telescopes, compasses, speaking trumpets, lanterns, spirit and medicine chests.

ENTRANCE



CUTTER "MASSACHUSETTS"
BIRTHPLACE OF U.S. COAST GUARD

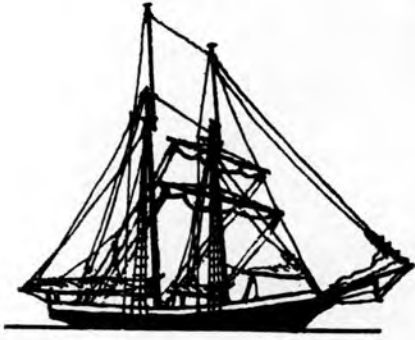
Take the granite 'hanging staircase' to the SECOND FLOOR

Restrooms downstairs.

(Guide continued on reverse side.)

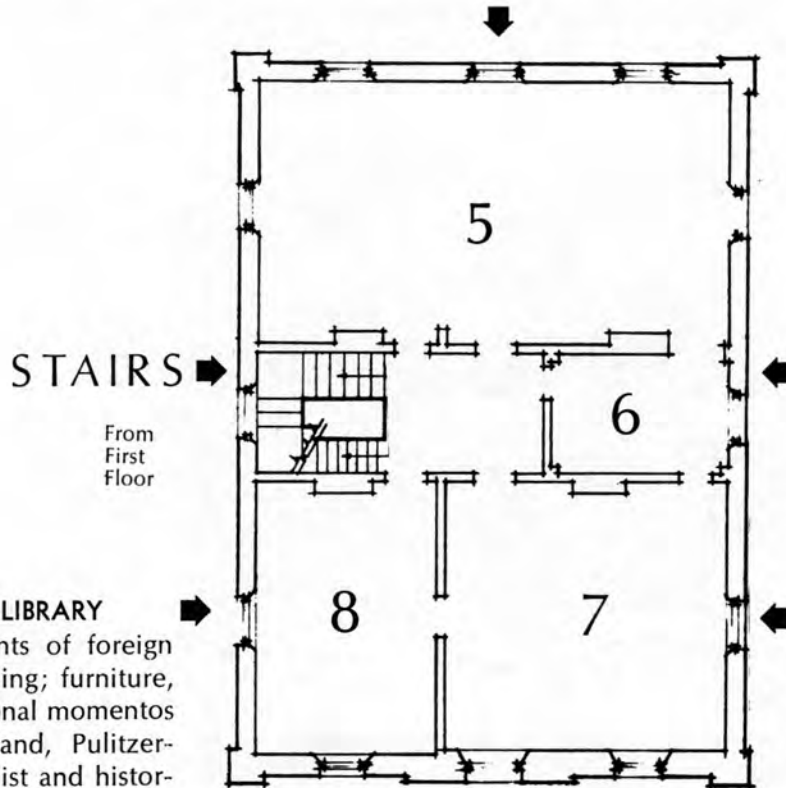


SECOND FLOOR PLAN



MOSELEY GALLERY

Our "Far East Hall" of souvenirs collected by local seafarers on worldwide voyages in the 1800s: foreign ship models, Buddhist statues, Bengali figurines, Malayan daggers, Oriental sandals and slippers, scrimshaw, giant clam shell.



STAIRS

From
First
Floor

MARQUAND LIBRARY

Logbooks, documents of foreign trade and shipbuilding; furniture, paintings, and personal mementos of John P. Marquand, Pulitzer-Prize-winning novelist and historian of local eccentric, 'Lord' Timothy Dexter.

BAKER GALLERY

Exposed brick walls reveal Architect Robert Mills' style of vaulted construction; bone model, ship-of-the-line, c. 1800.

BUSHEE GALLERY

A "Federalist Salon": Colonial portraits; imported and American furniture, locally-made 'tall clock'; swords and relics of Capt. Moses Brown, Revolutionary hero.

The *CUSTOM HOUSE MARITIME MUSEUM* at 25 Water Street, in the restored Federalist business district of downtown Newburyport, Massachusetts is open to the public seven days a week, May 29 through September 6 and on weekends during the Fall months.

HOURS: Monday through Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm; Sundays, 2 pm to 5 pm

ADMISSION: Adults, \$1.00; aged 12 to 18, 50¢; under 12, free when accompanied by an adult

For group rates and special tours when the Museum is not open to the public, call 1-617-462-8681 — or write the Newburyport Maritime Society, P. O. Box 306, Newburyport, Mass. 01950.



U.S. CUSTOM HOUSE

J. Kulczycki
2-27-76

H34-PR

AUG 2 1976

Mr. H. Patterson Hale, Jr.
Restoration Fund Treasurer
Newburyport Maritime Society, Inc.
Box 306
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950

Essay

Dear Mr. Hale:

Thank you for your letter concerning the U.S. Custom House, Newburyport, Massachusetts, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Enclosed is a copy of the nomination form for the Custom House containing a description of the property, a statement of its significance, and a brief bibliography. We have no other information on file related to this property.

The only monograph on Robert Mills is H. M. Pierce Gallagher's "Robert Mills, Architect of the Washington Monument, 1781-1855," published by the Columbia University Press, 1935. In recent years several articles on Robert Mills have been published in the "Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians," (JSAH), and other professional journals. You may wish to consult "The Art Index," a quarterly author and subject index to publications in the field of fine art and architecture published by the H. W. Wilson Company of New York, in order to locate these articles. Also, "A Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the United States" compiled by Philip M. Hayer, Yale University Press, 1961, may be able to direct you to original papers related to Robert Mills. Mrs. Catha Rambusch at the Committee for the Preservation of Architectural Records, 41 East 65th Street, New York, New York 10021, is associated with a project which has begun to gather information on the location of original architectural drawings, plans etc; she may be of help.

We hope this information will be useful to you and we appreciate your interest in historic preservation.

Sincerely yours,
Charles A. Herrington (Sgd.)
for
William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register

Enclosure

cc: Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon, Mass. SHPO w/c

bcc: Regional Director, North Atlantic
Region w/c
Director's Reading File
PR w/c
FNP:KULCZYCKI:sle:7-26-76
BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PR