

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984

Assessor's number  
6-12

USGS Quad  
Newburyport

Area(s)  
L,U

Form Number  
2173

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 25-27 State Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Commercial

Original Commercial

Date of Construction c.1820

Source visual inspection

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Brick/Granite

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) c.1890 - storefronts;

c.1980 - new windows

Condition good

Moved  no  yes Date

Acreage 1520 SF

Setting central business district, flanked by other early  
19th century brick blocks

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) April 1999

## BUILDING FORM (25-27 State Street)

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of the building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

Displaying a form which is quite similar to its neighbor at 17-21 State Street (MHC#2170), 25-27 State Street is a three-story building constructed of brick laid in a common bond. The building is capped by an asphalt-shingled gable roof with a denticulated brick cornice. The upper two stories of the facade are five bays wide; the bays are arranged with a cluster of three bays at the center and one opening on each end of the building. The third story windows are slightly smaller than those on the second floor. All of the windows contain modern replacement 6/6 sash with exterior storm windows. There are splayed granite lintels and plain granite sills.

The first floor is divided into two storefronts which are capped by a continuous projecting wooden cornice with corbel-like detailing and decorative end brackets. Both are sheltered by individual canvas awnings. At the center of the first floor granite piers flank the entrance leading to the upper stories. The entrance contains a modern multi-glass door with a lower panel. The doorway is topped by a three-light transom.

Both of the storefronts retain many late 19th century details. That to the viewer's left is fronted by a granite step. The recessed center entrance is fitted with a large glass door with a lower recessed panel. The transom above the door now accommodates an air conditioner. The ceiling above the storefront is sheathed in beadboard. On either side of the entrance there is an angled display window with large glass panes set between wooden verticals and above a paneled wooden bulkhead.

The other storefront also has a recessed center entrance set between two angled display windows framed by wooden posts. The bulkhead is embellished by raised panels. The beadboard on the ceiling above is set in a four-sided pattern with a raised pyramid at the center.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

Like the other buildings in this part of State Street, this building was constructed after the fire of 1811 wiped out much of the downtown. In the mid 19th century this building was known as the Diamond Block, due to the fact that the facade was painted in a pattern of black and white diamonds. The earliest known occupant of the building is Moses Hale who was the proprietor of a store selling fancy goods and perfumes at 27 State Street in 1852. In 1869 the first floor storefronts were occupied by Binney & Morse at 25 State Street and L.D. Hale's fancy goods store at 27 State. Yet another member of the Hale family, Willard Hale, sold fancy goods here in 1898.

Helen and Gertrude Pray opened H.W. Pray & Co., dry goods, here in 1899. The store remained here until about 1940 when it moved to 71-77 State Street (no longer extant). In 1940 Nathan Abram's men's furnishings store was located at 25 State Street while Henry Plouff's grocery store occupied #27 briefly. Abram's remained here until about 1970 while Garson's photo supplies was located at #27 from about 1945 until at least 1975.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attached a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
Newburyport

Property Address  
25-27 State Street  
Area(s) Form No.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

L,U	2173
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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Currier, John J. *History of Newburyport, Massachusetts, 1764-1906*, vols. 1 & 2. Newburyport: 1906 & 1909.  
Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic Resources Inventory: Newburyport*.  
Newburyport City Directories, various dates.

Maps

*Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: D.B. Beers & Co., 1872.  
*Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Boston: George H. Walker, 1884.  
Beck & Paul. *City of Newburyport*. Framingham, Mass.: Bigelow and Hazen, 1880.  
*Plan of Newburyport*. Philadelphia: H. McIntyre, 1851.  
Sanborn Insurance Maps, Newburyport, 1888, 1894, 1906, 1914, 1924, 1946. Massachusetts State Library, Boston, Massachusetts.