

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/84

Assessor's number
4-11

USGS Quad
Newburyport

Area(s)
L,U

Form Number
2207

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



Town Newburyport
Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 42-44 State Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Commercial
Original Commercial

Date of Construction c.1811

Source visual inspection

Style/Form Federal (w/ Colonial Revival alterations)

Architect/Builder original - unknown;
1955 alterations - Russell M. Peirce

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Brick

Roof Asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) 1955-6 - facade remodeled
in Colonial Revival style

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 972 SF

Setting central business district

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 1999

BUILDING FORM (42-44 State Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

The present appearance of this three-story brick block is almost entirely the result of Colonial Revival alterations made in 1955-6. At that time the fenestration pattern on the upper two floors was changed from the original four bays to the present three bays across and the entire facade was faced with new brick laid in a pattern alternating five courses of stretcher brick to a single course of stretchers and headers. The second floor windows consist of a wooden 8/12 sash while those on the third floor are a modern sash with applied muntins. All of the windows are flanked by shutters and have brick sills and flat arch brick lintels. The wooden cornice is embellished by triglyphs, guttae and dentils. The brick building is capped by a low gable roof with brick parapets marking the fire walls separating this from the adjacent buildings.

The first floor storefront retains little of its original features other than the granite base. Fluted pilasters outline a multi-paned display window with a paneled surround. The recessed entrance is capped by a semi-elliptical fanlight and dentil course.

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.

This building was originally constructed in the early 19th century, sometime after the 1811 fire. The building was owned for many years in the mid 19th century by the Horton family and is labeled as such on the 1851 map. A "Reminiscences" article appearing in the Daily News in 1886 indicates that Nathaniel Horton was operating a shoe shop here as early as 1816 to 1826. In 1852 44 State Street was occupied jointly by Nathaniel Horton, selling shoes, and Edward Horton, selling dry goods. In the late 1860s and 1870s the Daily Herald printed by William Huse was located at 42 State Street while William Horton's boots and shoes store was located at #44. The post office was located here about 1880, during the term of postmaster Isaac Noyes (running from 1877 until 1886). In 1888 the Sanborn map indicates that the first floor was occupied by a bookstore but by 1894 contained a stationery store. Directories indicate that the general store selling stationery, books and wallpaper was operated by Moses H. Sargent. At the turn-of-the-century a series of photographers including Walter R. Fenley's Whittier Gallery, Whitman & Dunn, and Henry Couture utilized the third floor while the second floor contained offices.

In the 20th century #42 was occupied by a beauty salon while #44 housed a men's store and later Gene's Market. In 1955 the building was purchased by the Newburyport Cooperative Bank and extensively altered with banking on the first floor and the directors' rooms on the second floor. In addition to a new first floor storefront, the fenestration pattern on the upper two floors was changed from four windows on each floor to three. The architect of the renovations was Russell M. Peirce (d.1966) of Newburyport and the bank was credited as being one of the first downtown buildings to remodel in an "old" look. The Newburyport Cooperative Bank was previously located in second floor offices in the Essex Hall building at the lower corner of Essex and State Streets (39 State Street, MHC#2176) for more than 60 years.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Bowlen, Arthur. "Cooperative Bank Buys State Street Building for its Use", Daily News, July 2, 1955.
Newburyport Daily News, 12/27/1886.
Newburyport Directories, various dates.
Newburyport Public Library, photographic collection.
Through the Lens: Early Newburyport Photographers & Photographs. Newburyport: Hist. Soc. of Old Newbury, 1990.
Webster, Dan. "More Than 500 at Open House of 'New Co-operative Bank'", Daily News, June 22, 1956.

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