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



Recorded by

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Organization

Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) July 1999

Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 8-10 Pleasant Street

Historic Name Brown Jewelry Store

Uses: Present Commercial

Original Commercial

Date of Construction c.1934

directories, maps, deeds Source

Style/Form (altered beyond recognition)

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Undetermined

Wood Clapboard Wall/Trim

Roof Tar

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) c.1990 - remodeled

Condition good

Moved N no

Date

Acreage

7524 SF

central business district, off State Street Setting

yes

BUILDING FORM (8 Pleasant Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

This early 20th century block has been heavily renovated in recent years, rendering its original form virtually indistinguishable. The single-story, clapboarded building has its entrance recessed from the southeast corner of the building which is supported by a steel post. Underneath a cornice band of vertical boards, the bands of single-pane vertical windows are set above a clapboarded base.

The east elevation is clapboarded with a profile which slopes down toward the rear of the lot. There is a single door on the alley.

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.

Between 1924 and 1935 the previous two-story building on this site was replaced by a single-story building. As Frank Brown purchased the property in 1934, it is probable that the new construction was initiated by him. Brown's jewelry store was previously located at 3 Pleasant Street in the 1920s and at 16 Pleasant Street in the early 1930s. The building at 8 Pleasant Street was occupied by the Brown Jewelry Company from the 1930s until the early 1960s. After Frank Brown's death in 1963, the property was sold by Paul Brown to Ralph and Tess Marcus in 1965 who sold it the following year to Harold and Barbara Harnch who owned it until 1988 and operated Mr. Harold's Beauty Shop here. The present owner purchased the property in 1995 and it presently contains a pizza shop.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Essex County Register of Deeds, Salem, Massachusetts.
Irving, Ron. Unpublished research on Pleasant Street.
Newburyport City Directories, various dates.
Sanborn Insurance Maps, Newburyport, 1888, 1894, 1906, 1914, 1924, 1946, 1961.

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