

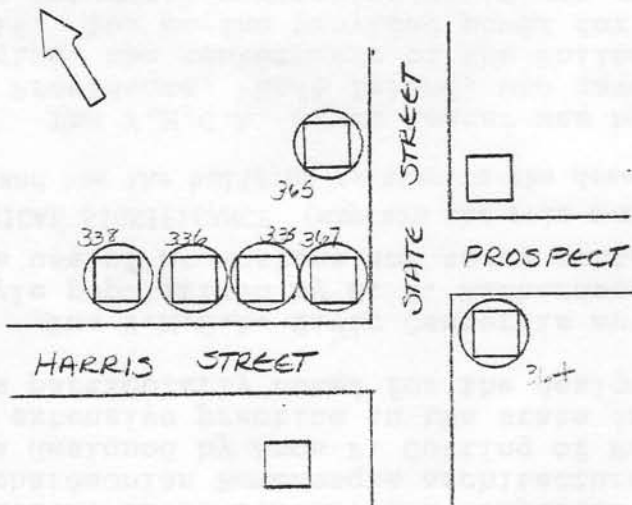
Area	Form no.
	367

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Town Newburyport
 Address 96 State Street
 City Newburyport Y.M.C.A.
 Historic Name Corliss Memorial Building
 Name: Original Y.M.C.A. Civic Center
 Present Y.M.C.A. Civic Center
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization Newburyport Young Men's Christian Ass'n.
 Public _____
 Original owner Newburyport Y.M.C.A.

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1891
 Source Currier, "History of Newburyport"
 Style Richardsonian Romanesque
 Architect Amos P. Cutting
 Exterior wall fabric Brick and Brownstone
 Outbuildings None
 Major alterations (with dates) 1914, Dormer added and fenestration over main entrance altered.
 Moved _____ Date _____
 Approx. acreage 6,240 sq. ft.
 Setting Adjacent to central business district with mixed residential and commercial use in the surrounding neighborhood.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwort
 Organization Office of Community Development
 Date 6-10-80

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The Corliss Memorial Building, known today as the Newburyport Y.M.C.A. Civic Center, was completed in 1891. It is the only example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture in Newburyport today. The building was designed by Amos P. Cutting of Worcester, Massachusetts. Cutting had an extensive practice in the state in the latter nineteenth century and was particularly noted for the design of over fifty churches.

The Y.M.C.A. Civic Center is an excellent example of the robust style popularized by H. H. Richardson in the late nineteenth century. The use of brownstone and terra cotta to trim the brick building (cont.)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

The Y.M.C.A. Civic Center was built as a memorial to George H. Corliss of Providence, Rhode Island, who gave his name to the Corliss Steam Engine, the centerpiece of the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1816. The engine provided power for the entire exposition, and culminated the inaugural ceremonies as it was started jointly by President Grant and Emperor Don Pedro of Brazil. Some time after the close of the Exposition, the Engine was purchased by the Pullman Company and was used to power the car works until 1911. Mr. Corliss himself served as the Commissioner for Rhode Island to the Philadelphia Exposition.

Mr. Corliss' wife came from a prominent Newburyport family and they lived in the Timothy Dexter house on High Street for several years. George Corliss had planned to assist the Y.M.C.A. in erecting a building, but died before the plans could be prepared. His widow and children decided to donate the building in his memory.

The Y.M.C.A. was organized in 1876. At that time it occupied rooms in a building on State Street. In 1880 the organization leased the second and third floors of a building at the corner of Pleasant Street and Hale's Court. The Newburyport Young Men's Christian Association was incorporated on September 1, 1884, and in 1888, the association purchased a lot of land at the corner of State and Harris Streets.

The cornerstone of the building was laid on June 21, 1890. The address was delivered by Right Reverend Thomas March Clark, Bishop of Rhode Island and a native of Newburyport. The building was dedicated on April 17, 1891. Since that date, the association has operated the building as a civic center contributing to the moral growth and development (cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, Vols. I and II., reprint, Newburyport 1977.

Inland Architecture and News Record, February 1896.

American Architecture and Building News, Vol. 51, February 1896.

Newburyport Y.M.C.A. Scrapbook #1, Newburyport, Mass.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
Newburyport	367
Property Name: Newburyport YMCA Corliss Memorial Building 96 State Street	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

contributes to the richness of Cutting's design. Few changes have been made to the exterior of the building, although the interior has been altered to accomodate the varying uses of the Y.M.C.A.

The building retains an exquisite series of stained glass windows which date from the original construction period.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

of the young people of Newburyport.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom