

FORM B - BUILDING

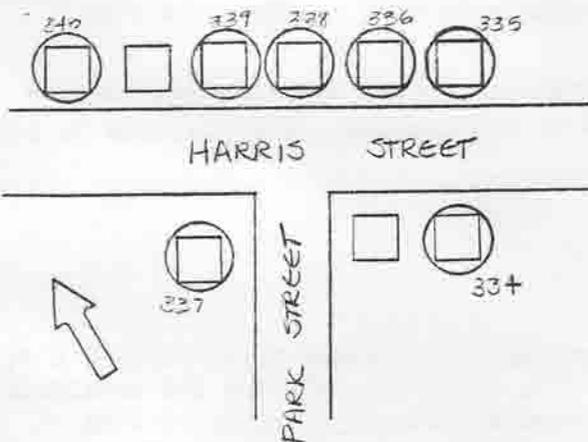
Area	Form no.
	334

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 224 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport  
 Address 1-3 Harris Street  
 Historic Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Status: Original \_\_\_\_\_  
 Present Office  
 Ownership:  Private individual  
                   Private organization \_\_\_\_\_  
                   Public \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original owner Unknown

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



DESCRIPTION:  
 Date c. 1900  
 Source \_\_\_\_\_  
 Style Commercial  
 Architect Unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric Brick & Clapboard  
 Outbuildings This building is adjacent to a larger garage on the same lot.  
 Major alterations (with dates) Upgraded to house new offices in 1975.  
 Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage 11,150 sq. ft.  
 Setting This building fronts directly on Harris St., between the State St. business district and residential structures on Park Harris and Green Streets.

Recorded by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This building is an example of a small early 20th century utilitarian structure and exhibits brickwork typical of that period. The adjacent garage is a 2-story brick commercial structure with flat roof.

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

This building was part of a storage facility used by Newburyport's historic Wolfe Tavern. The Wolfe Tavern was located on the land at the corner of State and Harris Streets as early as 1759 when William Davenport returned from the battle in the Plains of Abraham where General Wolfe was killed. Davenport returned to his home, purchased from Samuel Greenleaf on what was then called Fish Street, now State Street in 1741. He converted his dwelling house into a tavern and hung a sign with the bust of General Wolfe. This tavern was the site of numerous political and social gatherings after the town of Newburyport was incorporated in 1764. The Newburyport Marine Society met here as well as the members of St. Peter's Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. The original Wolfe Tavern was destroyed by fire in 1811. In 1813, Benjamin Hale, one of the owners of Portsmouth, Newburyport and Boston Stage company purchased a three story brick Federal house built by Joseph Peabody in 1807, on the corner of State and Harris Streets. It was called the Merrimack Hotel, at the sign of James Wolfe, Esq. The hotel operated well into this century. In 1924, it was operated by the Wolfe Tavern Company which used the adjacent brick garage complex for storage. The Wolfe Tavern was demolished c. 1950.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Assessor's Records, Newburyport City Hall

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

1924 Assessor's Maps.