

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984

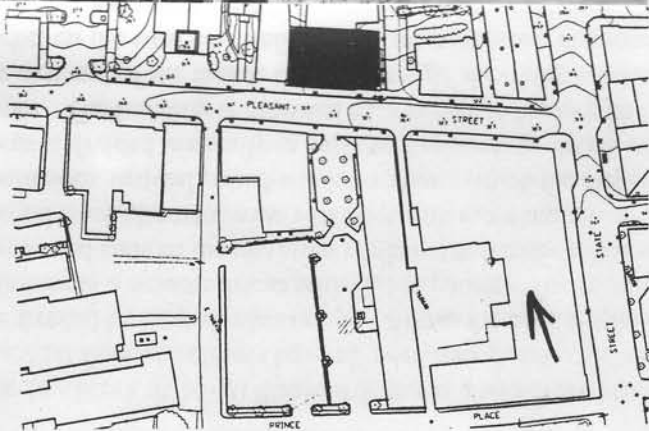
Assessor's number
4-1

USGS Quad
Newburyport

Area(s)
L

Form Number
2009

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



Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 16-20 Pleasant Street

Historic Name Joy's Block

Uses: Present Commercial

Original Commercial

Date of Construction 1882

Source Irving, photographs

Style/Form Altered

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Undetermined

Wall/Trim Brick/Wood/Stone

Roof Tar

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) c.1890 - upper story added; 1946- building remodeled; c.1980 - storefronts remodeled

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 7524 SF

Setting central business district, corner of Inn Street

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 1999

BUILDING FORM (16-20 Pleasant Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

The Joy Block at 16-20 Pleasant Street is a two-story brick block constructed in 1882 and greatly altered in the 20th century. The first floor storefronts have all been remodeled with large display windows set into anodized metal frames. The entrances are fronted by sloped, tiled ramps. Above the awnings there is a wide signboard area sheathed in matte stone facing. Above this area is a wooden frieze with raised panels. The second floor of the facade is ordered by three brick piers located at the center and ends of the elevation while more slender metal vertical separate the remaining windows. The six windows on the second floor alternate wide windows with more narrow vertical windows. The lower area of each window now contains continuous vertical paned-windows above which the original rectangular transoms survive. Each of the rectangular transom areas is divided vertically in half and horizontally by six mullions separating the wide horizontal panes and narrow vertical panes. The building is crowned by a two-part frieze with the upper section recessed under the projecting cornice molding. At the east end of the facade there is a single surviving brick corbel at the level of the second floor window sill. A corresponding corbel on the west end wall retains two decorative diamond-shaped, terra cotta tiles.

The east elevation of the building at 20 Pleasant Street is without openings although faded painted advertising for the Bon Marche department store. To the east is a single-story section (16 Pleasant Street) which appears to predate the construction of the adjacent building. This appears to be part of the block which was constructed on this site in 1881 after fire destroyed the previous building. The storefronts echo the treatment of the main building with large display windows on a stone base, outlined by anodized aluminum frames. Metal support columns are visible inside the windows. Above the storefronts is a wooden area with raised panels and a projecting cornice. The east elevation facing Inn Street Mall is brick. Still visible on this wall are five arched openings which were later filled with brick. Additional original features including arched openings and a bracketed cornice can be seen on the rear wall as well.

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.

The Joy Block was built in 1882-3 after the Bartlet Steam Mill, previously on the site, was destroyed by fire in 1881. The section of the building adjacent to the newly extended Inn Street was occupied by the Post Office (this section is presently occupied by the General Store). The building was originally one-story in height, the second floor of the building was erected after a fire in the late 1890s. From the 1930s until the 1960s the eastern portion of the Joy's Block was occupied by Kennedy & Co., tea and coffee merchants (16 Pleasant) and Traister Shoe Company (#16A).

The western portion of the building was home to the Bon Marche, Newburyport's first department store, beginning in 1890. This space was later occupied by Howarth's and then the Lincoln Department Store. According to the records of the Massachusetts Division of Inspection, the building saw alterations and additions in 1925 and 1928, according to designs by R.G. Adams. The 1925 the entrances were changed to two center entrances. In 1928 the former storefronts were replaced with new storefronts featuring aluminum, polished granite and a tiled threshold. The building was completely remodeled in 1946 and a crowd of 3,000 attended the opening of the new store. The Emmons-Lincoln Department Store closed its doors in October 1963.

In 1963 the building was sold by the trustees of the Joy Estate to James F. Patten Jr. of the H.W. Pray Company. The store moved into space formerly occupied by the Lincoln store.

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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Daily News, October 10, 1963.
"H.W. Pray Gets Lincoln Store", Daily Herald, Dec. 9, 1963.
Irving, Ron. Unpublished research on Pleasant Street
Massachusetts Division of Inspection. Building Inspection Plans. Card File. [Massachusetts State Archives, Boston].
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Photographic collection, Newburyport Public Library.
Photographic collection, Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.
Sanborn Insurance Company maps, Newburyport, 1888, 1894, 1906, 1914, 1924; 1946.

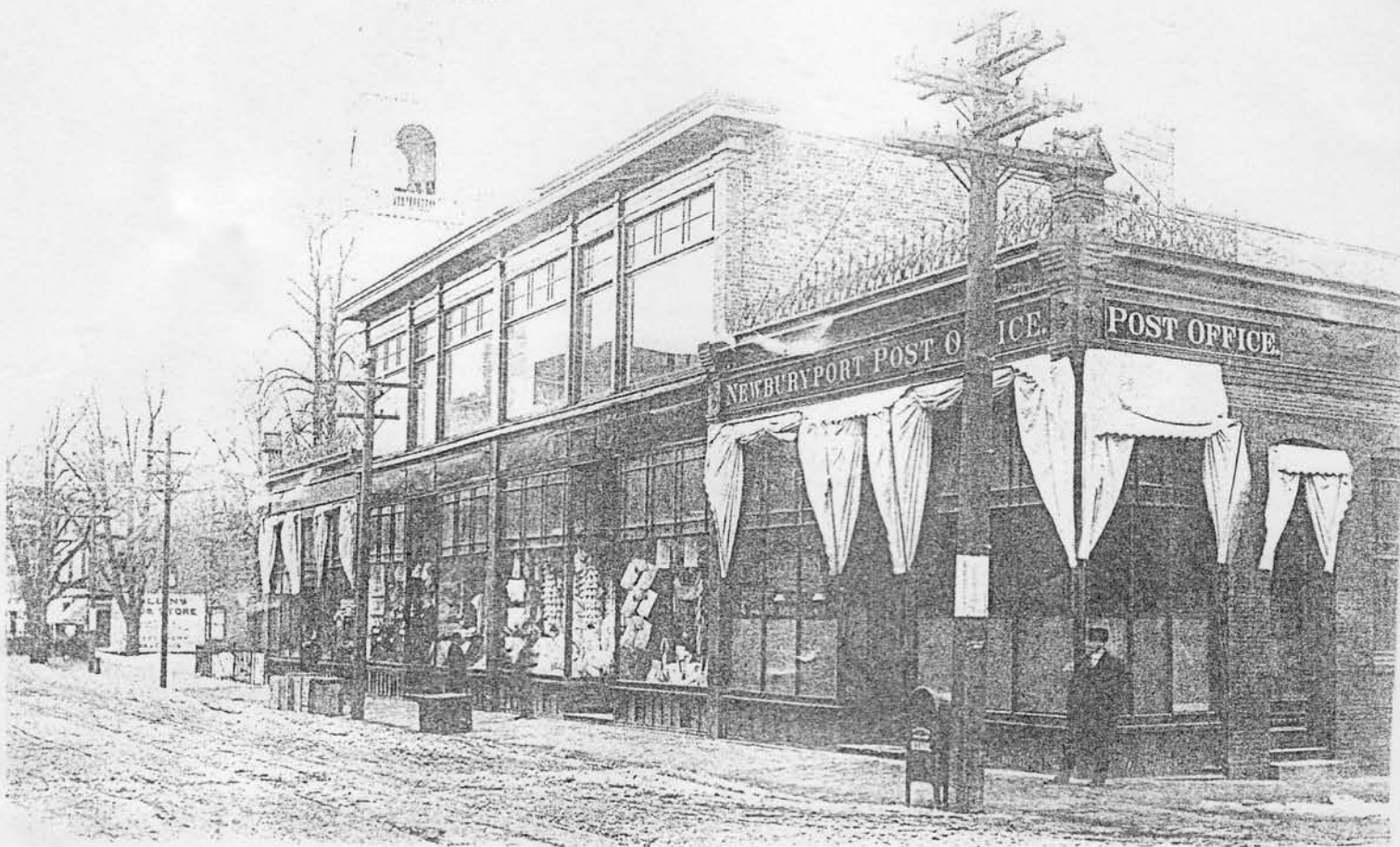
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Photograph taken in 1909.

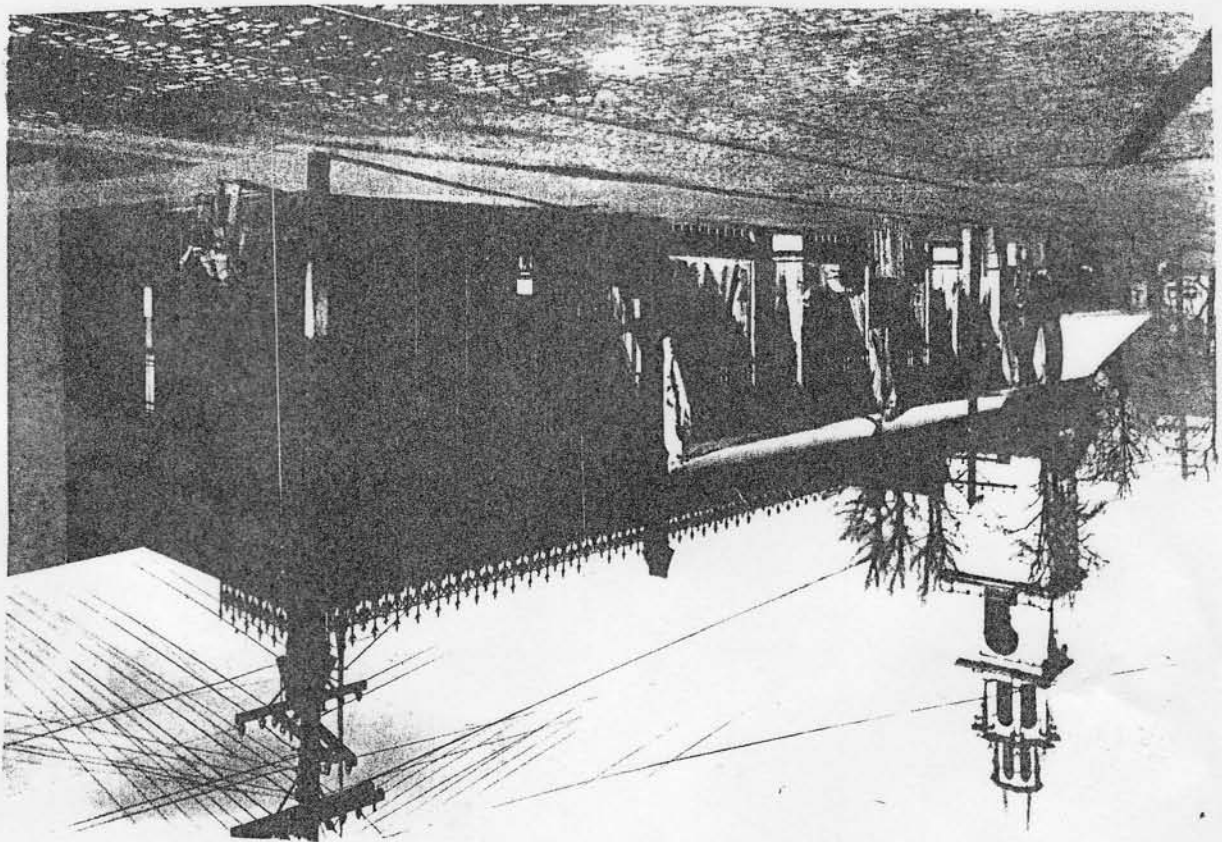
Source: Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, negative #11,587.

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Photograph dated between 1882 and c.1890.

Source: Photographic collection, Newburyport Public Library. (S425)