

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

This is an excellent example of a nineteenth century factory in the Italianate style. The corbelled brick cornice, Italianate window lintels with keystones, and projecting brick belt courses are all notable architectural features. The building originally had a flat roof which was altered shortly after the building's original construction date. The engine house and chimney at the rear of the main factory was built in 1880. This is one of the few surviving shoe factories in Newburyport. It is certainly the finest architecturally, with more architectural detail than other factories built during the late nineteenth century.

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

Elisha P. Dodge carried on the business of shoemaking in Newburyport under several partnerships and firm names beginning in 1866. In 1873 he erected an impressive brick factory with Italianate details on Pleasant Street and in 1875, under the firm name of E. P. Dodge and Sherrill, he enlarged both his business and his factory. The building was, at that time extended, in the rear as far as Prince place. In 1880 further additions were made to the building as is evidenced by the boiler and engine house with tall chimney bearing the date 1880. It is possible that the fifth floor and mansard roof were also added at this time. As originally constructed the Puritan Building had four stories and a flat roof.

Elisha P. Dodge was a prominent Newburyport citizen. He served as mayor 1890-1891 and under his direction a system of macadamized roads was initiated. He was a benefactor of the Newburyport Public Library and an incorporator of the Anna Jaques Hospital.

For years Dodge's business was the largest in Newburyport. This was attributed to his advances in techniques such as the rapid adoption of the McKay stitching machine. He was also reputed to be the first to put the complete process of shoe manufacture under one roof. The Dodge building was occupied by the W. D. Hannah Shoe Company in the 1920's and 30's. In 1955 the building was sold to the Prince Realty Corporation and at that time was occupied by the Martin-Tickells Shoe Company. Today the building is occupied by a mixture of commercial and light industrial uses.

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