

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984

Assessor's number
4-30A

USGS Quad
Newburyport

Area(s)
L,U

Form Number
2204

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

Town Newburyport
Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 28-34 State Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Commerical/Offices

Original Commercial

Date of Construction c.1815

Source visual inspection

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Brick/Granite & Sandstone

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) c.1970 - rehabilitation
of building and construction of new storefronts

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 2923 SF

Setting central business district, adjacent to Threadneedle
Alley, flanked by similar brick Federal-era blocks

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 1999

BUILDING FORM (28-34 State Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

Located adjacent to Threadneedle Alley, 28-34 State Street is a three-story brick building which is nearly square in plan and displays a distinctive curved corner bay. The brick is laid in a Flemish bond and the eaves are decorated by a simple brick modillion cornice. As evidenced by the patching of the first floor brick, the first floor storefronts were constructed c.1970. Facing State Street there is a series of eight arched openings, of which three are doorways. All of the arches are capped by header brick lintels above the fanlights. Lighting the upper stories of the State Street facade are eight bays of wooden replacement 6/6 sash with splayed sandstone lintels and simple stone sills. On the corner bay the wall surface is founded above the second story window which has a wide granite lintel (also curved). The second story opening has a 6/6 window and granite sill. The window above has a splayed sandstone lintel and sill. The alley elevation displays a less regular window pattern approximately three bays deep with 6/6 windows framed by granite sills and lintels.

An early 20th century photograph of this block (see continuation sheet) shows a building which is quite different from that seen today. At that time all of the original windows had been removed and contained 2/2 sash. The second floor windows at 28-30 State Street were capped by Italianate-style entablature lintels resting on small blocks and iron grillwork topped two of the storefronts. All of the storefronts consisted of large display windows flanking center entrances rather than the arched openings visible today.

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.

This building was probably built shortly after the 1811 fire and is located on the site of the Old Davenport Tavern which was destroyed in the fire. A "Reminiscences" article appearing in the Daily News in 1886 recalls that sixty or seventy years earlier the three stores were occupied by Prescott Spaulding (#34?), Edmund Swett (#30?) and Francis B. Somerby (#28?). Somerby's store was a gathering place for the customs officers, the leaders of the Democratic party and old sea captains. When there were customers in the front store, the rear served for conversation.

In the 1850s Simon Jordan's boot shop and J.E. & W.H. Piper's hat store shared space at 28 State Street, space that was later taken over by Charles Daniel's boots store. The storefront was later occupied by a dry goods store, followed by a restaurant and grocery store.

The first iron front installed in the city was reportedly at Samson Levy & Co., dry goods merchants, at 30 State Street in the early 1880s. Levy operated a dry goods store here from about 1860 until about 1910. He was a native of Germany, held various political offices and was active in the Democratic party. He died on February 4, 1917. A sketch of the facade of Levy's store appears in the October 10, 1890 issue of the Daily News. The storefront at 30 State Street was later taken over by Wilson's Hardware and later by Cashman hardware.

In the mid 19th century, the corner storefront was occupied by various millinery shops, including those operated by S.A. Currier and later by Mary Wilkinson. By the early 20th century Fred Peabody had a music and musical instruments store here which was followed by P.J. Simon's musical instrument store. This block was redeveloped in the early 1970s by the Restoration Design Group of Portsmouth, as part of the rehabilitation of what was known as Parcel 10 in Urban Renewal.

A bronze plaque mounted on the alley wall indicates that on this site in 1774, the Independent Marine Company was formed by members of the Newburyport Marine Society under Captain James Hudson. This was the first militia company of seamen mustered to defend American rights. The plaque was dedicated in 1974 by the Newburyport Marine Militia.

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

Town
NewburyportProperty Address
28-34 State Street
Area(s) Form No.

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

L,U	2204
-----	------

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Currier, John J. *History of Newburyport, Massachusetts, 1764-1906*, vols. 1 & 2. Newburyport: 1906 & 1909.
Irving, Ron. Unpublished research on State Street.
Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic Resources Inventory: Newburyport*.
Newburyport City Directories, various dates.
Newburyport Daily News, 12/27/1886; 10/11/1890.
Newburyport Public Library, photographic collection.

Maps

Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts. Philadelphia: D.B. Beers & Co., 1872.
Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts. Boston: George H. Walker, 1884.
Beck & Paul. *City of Newburyport*. Framingham, Mass.: Bigelow and Hazen, 1880.
Plan of Newburyport. Philadelphia: H. McIntyre, 1851.
Sanborn Insurance Maps, Newburyport, 1888, 1894, 1906, 1914, 1924, 1946. Massachusetts State Library, Boston, Massachusetts.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
Newburyport

Property Address
28-34 State Street
Area(s) Form No.

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

L,U	2204
-----	------



Source: Newburyport Daily News, October 11, 1890.