

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984

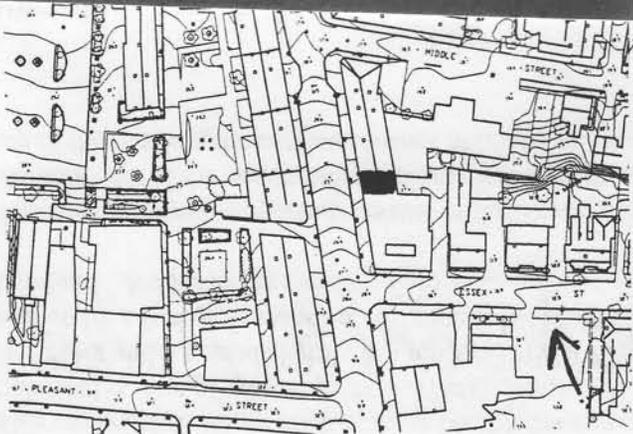
Assessor's number
6-13

USGS Quad
Newburyport

Area(s)
L,U

Form Number
2174

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



Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 29-31 State Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Commercial

Original Commercial

Date of Construction c.1830

Source visual inspection

Style/Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Undetermined

Wall/Trim Brick/Granite

Roof Asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 1400 SF

Setting central business district

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) April 1999

BUILDING FORM (29-31 State Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

This narrow three-story brick block is notable for retaining its early 19th century storefront. The storefront displays a trabeated system of granite posts and lintels which was popular during the Greek Revival period. At the center of the storefront and recessed slightly is a modern c.1970 "Colonial" door with 3 x 3 upper lights over an "x" panel. The door is capped by a four-light transom. To each side of the entrance is a multi-light (4 x 4 light) display window resting on a granite bulkhead. A door to the viewer's right leads upstairs and is capped by a clear transom.

The upstairs window openings consist of three evenly-spaced bays and contain 6/6 wooden windows flanked by wooden shutters. All of the windows have plain granite lintels and wooden sills. The third floor openings are slightly smaller. At the top of the building the cornice consists of bricks set on edge.

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 early history of this building is not known at this time although it appears to date to about c.1830.

In the mid to late 19th century William B. Morss' shop selling shoes and fancy goods was located here. Sanborn insurance maps indicate that there was a boot and shoe store in the building until the 1890s with offices above. The 1888 Sanborn map depicts a hall on the third floor although this has not been confirmed. In the early 20th century the telegraph office was located here. The building was occupied for much of the 20th century (from about 1910 until about 1976) by the William Humphreys real estate and insurance agency. It is now occupied by the Newburyport Chamber of Commerce.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Currier, John J. *History of Newburyport, Massachusetts, 1764-1906*, vols. 1 & 2. Newburyport: 1906 & 1909.
Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic Resources Inventory: Newburyport*.
Newburyport City Directories, various dates.

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, 1888, 1894, 1906, 1914, 1924, 1946. Massachusetts State Library, Boston, Massachusetts.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attached a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*