

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

Town Newburyport
Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 40 State Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Commercial

Original Commercial

Date of Construction c.1811

Source visual inspection

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Brick, Sandstone

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) c.1960 - new

storefronts, new windows; 1962 - brick sandblasted

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreeage 804 SF

Setting central business district of similar brick buildings



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 1999

BUILDING FORM (40 State Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

As originally constructed, this three-story brick building was nearly identical to its neighbor at 38 State Street. The brick is laid in a Flemish bond and shows signs of having been sandblasted in 1962. The first floor storefront appears to date to c.1960 and consists of large vertical pane windows with transoms set in an aluminum surround above a granite base. The three windows are setback from the front wall and the adjacent entrance is recessed even further. A wide wooden frieze/signboard is located above the storefront. The second floor windows contain modern 6/6 sash with applied mullions and shutters. The third floor windows are slightly smaller and contain a modern 1/1 sash. All of the windows display splayed sandstone lintels and plain sills. The third floor lintels extend nearly to the brick modillion cornice. A large brick chimney rises from the low gable roof.

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 originally constructed in the early 19th century, sometime after the 1811 fire. A "Reminiscences" article appearing in the Daily News in 1886 recalls that this was the location of Porter's Reading Room in 1822. After that had closed, Joseph Hervey kept dry goods here, with Richard Plumer as clerk. Joseph A. Frothingham, Jr. is shown as the owner on the 1851 map. Frothingham had a dry goods store here from at least 1849 (the date of the first directory) until c.1870. Historic photographs indicate that a tailor was located upstairs. The Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank, established in 1854, was originally located over Frothingham's store. The bank moved to rooms at the Mechanics' National Bank at 51 State Street in 1857.

In 1880 the dry goods store was being operated by E.B. Stover. In 1890 Joseph Moulton, silversmith, had his shop here. Moulton came from a long line of Newburyport silversmiths. His son, William Moulton, in company with John E. Lunt, under the name of Moulton & Lunt, had a jewelry store here in the late 19th century and early 20th century. In 1920 the store was occupied by John E. Lunt, jeweler.

A First National grocery store was located here in the 1930s and early 1940s. Gordant's Television Service Company occupied the first floor in the 1960s and 1970s. The building was sandblasted in 1962 (Daily News, 3/20/1962).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Currier, History of Newburyport, p. 171.
- Newburyport Daily News, 12/27/1886.
- Newburyport Directories, various dates.
- Newburyport Public Library, photographic collection.
- "The New Old Downtown Look", Daily News, March 30, 1962.

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