

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/84

Assessor's number
4-10

USGS Quad
Newburyport

Area(s)
L,U

Form Number
2208

Massachusetts Historical Commission



Town Newburyport
Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 46 State Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Commercial
Original Commercial

Date of Construction c.1820

Source

Style/Form ---

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite, Concrete
Wall/Trim Brick, Wood Clapboard
Roof Asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) by 1900 - upper floor windows replaced with tripartite; 1962 - upper floors clapboarded; c.1970-80 - new brick first floor

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreeage 832 SF

Setting central business district, row of brick
Federal era commercial buildings

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf
Organization Newburyport Historical Commission
Date (month/year) May 1999

BUILDING FORM (46 State Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

The present appearance of this three-story brick block is the result of alterations completed in 1962 in a Colonial mode. The upper stories of the narrow facade have been faced with wood clapboards between brick piers. There are three 6/6 wooden windows with molded surrounds and shutters on each of the two upper floors. The wooden cornice consists of two overlapping boards.

The first floor storefront is faced with brick above a concrete base. First floor openings consist of a tripartite, multi-glass display window topped by a dentil course and an adjacent wood and glass door flanked by raised pilasters and capped by a pediment.

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 original date of construction is difficult to estimate due to later alterations although, like its neighbors, it probably dates to the early 19th century and definitely postdates the 1811 fire. Historic photographs indicate that the original fenestration pattern of three individual windows on the upper floors was altered to contain a large tripartite window on each floor by the turn-of-the-century.

A "Reminiscences" article appearing in the Daily News in 1886 suggests that Joseph Johnson commenced business here in 1828; with him as clerk was Lewis Morris. Richard Plumer had a dry goods store at 46 State Street in the mid 19th century, from at least 1850 until c.1870. In 1880 Moses Brown was running a dry goods store here. A jewelry store was here in the late 19th century, run in 1891 by Sanford & Lunt and by 1898 by John E. Lunt alone. The early years of the 20th century saw the storefront occupied by a series of boots and shoes stores, run by James Caren and later known as Plouff's Shoe Mart. Jay's Chocolate Shop was here in the early 1930s and Earle Gurney had a confectionery at this address in the late 1930s and early 1940s. In the 1950s and early 1960s the space was occupied by Coleman's and later Woodbury-McLeod Jewelers. Brewster Brothers Insurance was here in the 1960s and 70s.

In the 1920s the Royal Arcanum was utilizing the upper hall. The Knights of Pythias met here in the 1930s.

In 1962, the upper stories of the building, then owned by Coleman Rosenfield, were remodeled by Roy Kerkian of City Builders. The reconstruction of the storefronts is a later c.1970-c.1980 alteration.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Daily News, December 27, 1886 & April 11, 1962.
Newburyport Directories, various dates.
Newburyport Public Library, photographic collection.

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