

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no. 354
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
222 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Newburyport

Address 60 Pleasant Street

Historic Name City Hall

Original Town Hall

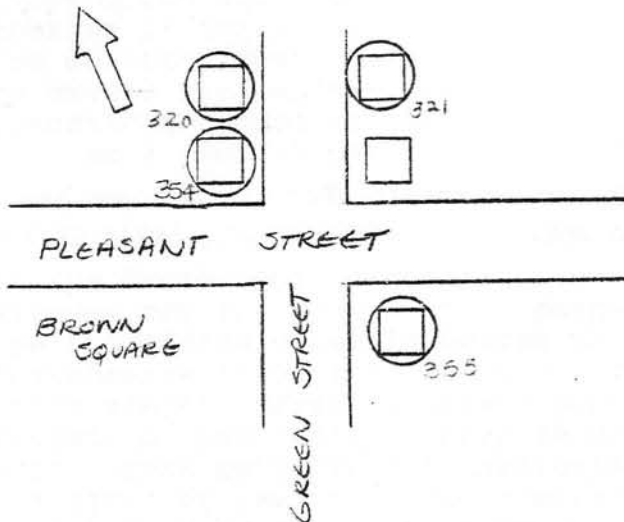
Present City Hall

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization

Public City of Newburyport

Original owner Town of Newburyport

Draw map showing location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1851

Source Currier, "History of Nbpt."

Style Italianate

Architect Frederick J. Coffin

Exterior wall fabric Brick

Outbuildings _____

Major alterations (with dates) addition and upper hall alterations, galleries

and new stage entrance added (1882), glass doors installed (1961)
Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 23,770 sq. ft.

Setting adjacent to central business

district and other public buildings

including the U. S. Post Office and the Newburyport Police Station.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwalt

Organization Office of Community Development

Date 8-25-80

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

City Hall is an excellent example of the Italian Villa style as interpreted in public buildings during the mid-nineteenth century. Buildings of the style are generally rectilinear in form as is City Hall. City Hall has the rusticated quoins that are often the only surface of the building that is not smooth and uniform in the Italian Villa style. Other important architectural features that are characteristic of this style are the shallow pitched gable roof, the projecting eaves supported by brackets, the pedimented second story windows and the double round beaded window within the pediment formed by the gable roof. (Cont.)

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

At a meeting held March 19, 1850, the citizens of the town of Newburyport voted to build a new and commodious hall at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.00. On April 15 a committee was formed to supervise the construction of the building. This committee was made up of Charles H. Coffin, Albert Currier, John M. Cooper, Frederick J. Coffin, James Blood and others. These men were authorized to purchase land on the Northwesterly corner of Green and Pleasant Streets which they proceeded to do.

The members of the committee provided all of the necessary expertise for the construction of the new Town Hall. Currier was a noted contractor and mason. Frederick Coffin was a local architect and James Blood was a real estate investor. The cornerstone was laid July 4, 1850. By February 1851 the building had been completed according to the designs of Frederick J. Coffin.

On May 24, 1851, Governor Boutwell of Massachusetts signed an act to establish the City of Newburyport. At that time the new Town Hall became Newburyport's City Hall.

In 1882 a small addition was made on the Western side of City Hall. At that time a new stage entrance was put in and galleries were added in the auditorium.

Since its construction, City Hall has been the site of Newburyport's municipal government.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Assessor's Records 1890-1980
- 1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
- 1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.
- J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport, 1764-1905, vols. I and II, reprint, Newburyport 1977.
- Newburyport Town Records Vol. IV
- E. V. Smith, History of Newburyport from the Earliest Settlement of the County to the Present Time, Boston, 1854 20M-2/80
- Newburyport Daily News, July 13, 1961.