

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984

Assessor's number
47-6

USGS Quad
Newburyport

Area(s)
L

Form Number
2011

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building

Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 68 Pleasant Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Commercial/Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction c.1845

Source visual inspection, maps

Style/Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood Flushboard/Wood Clapboard

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) c.1890 - bay windows;
c.1925 - west storefront; c.1940 - east storefront

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 2650 SF

Setting opposite Brown Square Park and adjacent to
Newburyport City Hall



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) April 1999

BUILDING FORM (68 Pleasant Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

Originally constructed c.1845 as a Greek Revival-style double house, this building has been modified by late 19th century features such as bay windows as well as two 20th century storefronts. Outlined by recessed panel corner pilasters capped by anthemion, the facade of the two-story house is sheathed in horizontal flushboards while the sidewalls are clapboarded. The building is capped by a flat roof with a low gable front parapet topped by an acroterion. The cornice includes a bold dentil course, wide frieze and two-part entablature. On the east side of the building there is a center entrance consisting of a glass-and-panel door with sidelights, transom lights and plain pilasters, fronted by concrete steps. There is a two-story pilaster between the entrance and the facade. A frieze of anthemion and palmette separates the first and second floor between the pilasters. Above the frieze is a 6/6 window with a bold entablature with an egg-and-dart molding. At the rear, on both the east and west elevations, is a late 19th century two-story, three-sided bay window with 2/1 windows. Extending behind the eastern half of the building is a single-story addition. A two-story addition with a modern deck is set behind the west half.

Built out from the facade are a pair of 20th century single-story storefronts. That to the east incorporates a plate glass window and mid 20th century glass-and-wood door surrounded by recessed panels while there is a sliding window on the sidewall. The western storefront has an angled entrance on the front corner and two plate glass windows on the front wall with paneled transoms and bulkheads. Suspended above the storefronts are two three-sided oriel windows which appear to date to the late 19th century. The 2/2 windows are set into recessed surrounds and include a pair of narrow windows on the face flanked by a single window on each side. There are recessed panels below the windows and a projecting cornice above.

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.

Inspection of historic maps indicates that this double house was constructed prior to 1851, at which time it was owned by P.B. Bass, a dry goods dealer on State Street who lived in Newbury. The 1872 map lists the owners of the building as the BM Co. and J.Q.A. Kimball. Kimball's association with the property appears to have been rather brief. The 1872 directory lists him as the driver of a bread cart and lists him as the occupant of 4 Brown Square. He seems to have changed residences frequently. (He lived on Boardman in 1866, on Birch in 1869 and on High Street in 1873). By 1884 the property was owned by Mrs. B.P. (Benjamin P.) Dow. Mrs. Dow does not appear to have ever occupied the house, residing instead at 51 Merrimac Street. LeRoy Millerick, a bookkeeper, owned the property from about 1930 until the 1940s. Directories indicate that the building had been divided into three apartments by 1951. In the 1960s and 70s it was divided into two units. The property is now divided into four condominium units.

A storefront was first constructed in front of the west half of the building about 1925. The space was occupied by the 20th Century Market, (Mr. Florence Donahue, proprietor). The 20th Century Market continued to operate here until the early 1950s. The space was later occupied by Gus's Tailor shop and is now the home of Chetsas & Sons Insurance Agency. The eastern storefront addition was constructed in the 1940s and has been occupied since that time by Chouinard's Beauty Salon.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Newburyport Directories, 1900-present.
Sanborn Insurance Maps. Massachusetts State Library, Boston, Massachusetts.
Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts. Philadelphia: D.B. Beers & Co., 1872.
Plan of Newburyport. Philadelphia: H. McIntyre, 1851.

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