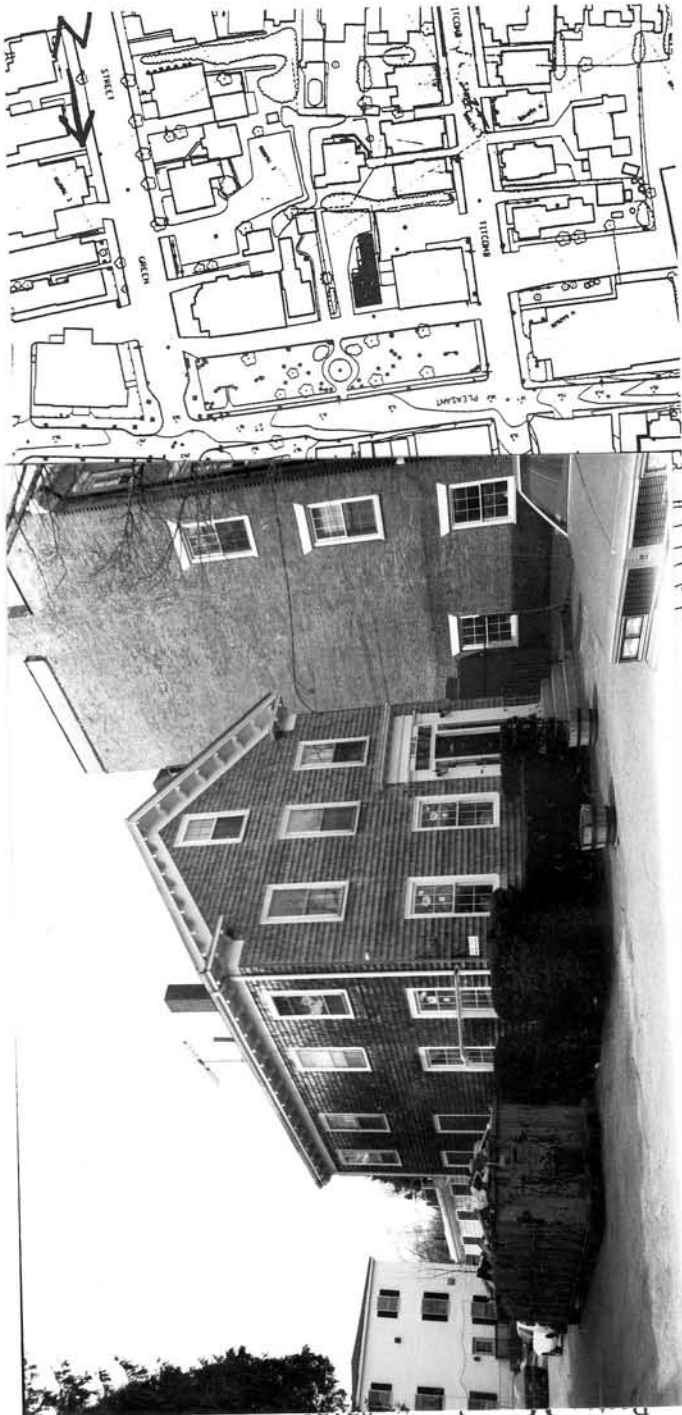


FORM B - BUILDING

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard



Date (month/year) April 1999

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

NRDIS 8/2/1984
Assessor's number 47-3A
USGS Quad Newburyport
Area(s) 0
Form Number 420

Town Newburyport
Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 7 Brown Square

Historic Name Spalding House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1854

Source maps, directories

Style/Form modified Greek Revival/Italianate

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood Shingles

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) wood shingles - date

unknown

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Average 6560 SF

Setting Fronts Brown Square and City Hall

BUILDING FORM (7 Brown Square)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

The mirror image of the house next door (5 Brown Sq., MHC#419), 7 Brown Square is a 2 1/2-story, gablefront dwelling which bears the imprint of both the Greek Revival and to a lesser degree Italianate styles. The 3 x 4-massing of the building, its sidehall plan and entablatured entrance with full sidelights and transom lights are all Greek Revival in inspiration while the bold jigsawed bracketed cornice and smaller brackets on the entrance entablature borrow from the Italianate. The building is now sheathed in wood shingles which probably obscure clapboarded siding as well as decorative trim such as cornerboards. The main entrance with its six-panel door is fronted by granite steps with modern wrought iron railings. Windows contain 6/6 sash set into molded surrounds and protected by storm windows. Extending behind the main block and aligned with the west side of the building is a two-story wing with modern deck. On the east side of this is a single-story addition resting on a concrete foundation. This section is three bays deep and is punctuated by modern 6/6 windows.

The building faces Brown Square Park and is set back a few feet from the brick sidewalk with evergreen bushes planted in front of the house.

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 house was constructed between 1851 and 1872. The first directory listing found for the property appears in the 1855 directory and indicates that Prescott Spalding was in residence. Oliver B. Spalding, who was employed as a shoemaker, is shown as the owner on the 1872 map. The house remained in the Spalding family until 1923 when it was sold by Ralph C. Spalding to Vira Lattime. Frank and Jennie Lattime were living here in the 1930s; Jennie Lattime continued to live here into the late 1940s. Dr. Alan Davitt, a dentist, first occupied the house in the mid 1960s. It is now owned by Ronald Davitt.

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 attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*