

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984

Assessor's number
47-5

USGS Quad
Newburyport

Area(s)
L

Form Number
2013

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



Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 74-76 Pleasant Street

Historic Name Charles Butler Double House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction c.1845

Source maps, directories

Style/Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood Clapboards

Roof Asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

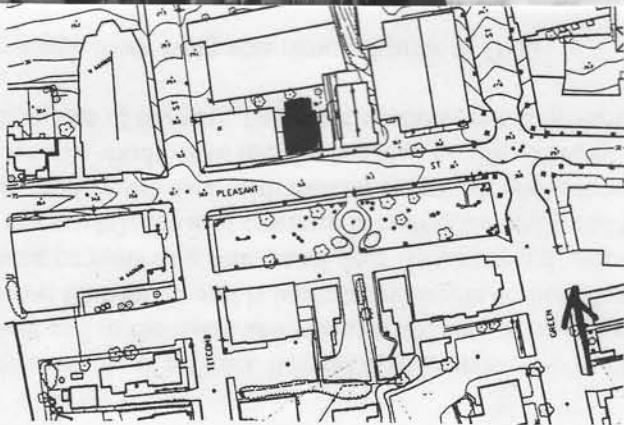
Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 2100 SF

Setting opposite Brown Square Park



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) April 1999

BUILDING FORM (74 Pleasant Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

A good example of a Greek Revival double house, 74-76 Pleasant Street is a 2 1/2-story, 4 x 5-bay building set with its pediment end to the street and symmetrical entrances centered on the east and west elevations. The clapboarded building rests on a stone foundation and is outlined by simple corner pilasters which support a two-part frieze. Each of the entablatured entrances consists of a four-panel door flanked by full side and transom lights. That on the west side is fronted by a modern brick stoop while the east entrance is built out slightly and fitted with an awning. Almost all of the windows on the building contain modern 6/6 sash with molded surrounds and exterior storm windows. Those on the second story extend to the frieze; there are two windows in the clapboarded facade pediment. Some of the windows retain louvered shutters. On the east elevation, one of the rear, first floor windows has been replaced by a modern casement unit.

A rear single story wing was removed prior to 1900.

The house is set directly on the brick sidewalk. The adjacent early 20th century barber shop (MHC#2012) is set just a few feet from the east elevation.

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 Charles H. Butler, who operated a bakery on Titcomb Street. The earliest directory listing for Butler at this address appears in the 1849 directory. (His address in the 1852 directory is listed as 10 Brown Square). After Charles Butler's death c.1865, his widow continued to occupy the house until her death in 1894. The 1872 map indicates that Mrs. Butler shared ownership of the property with Mrs. Nathaniel Hale, who resided in the other half of the house, listed as 8 Brown Square. Mrs. Butler is shown as the sole owner on the 1884 map.

By 1900 the address of the house had been renumbered and was 54-56 Pleasant Street. It changed to 56-58 Pleasant Street before 1906 and was finally known as 74-76 Pleasant Street by the 1930s. About 1920 the west half of the house was occupied by Mrs. Alvira Miller, widow of Charles. Mrs. Miller continued to live here until about 1940. About 1945 the building was acquired by Lucien Ebacher who occupied the east half of the building (#74) for many years (c.1945-1971+) with his wife, Helen. Lucien Ebacher was a barber in the small store next door at 72 Pleasant Street (MHC#2012). The west half of the house was occupied by George Melvin, a bottler at Coca Cola, from about 1944 until 1951 and later by the Vogue Beauty Salon, operated by Mrs. Angie Sheehan.

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.*