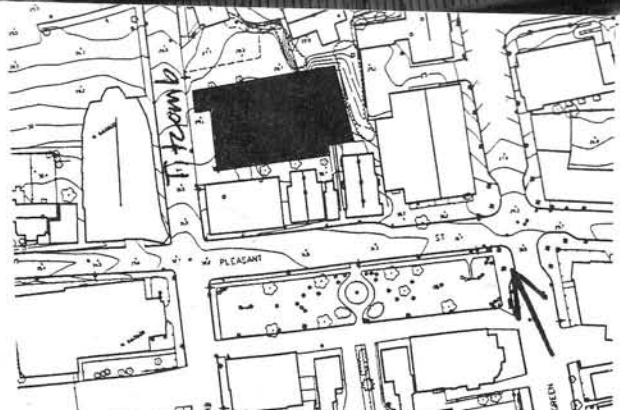


Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 9-11 Titcomb Street

Historic Name Henchey Motors

Uses: Present Garage

Original Auto Showroom/Garage

Date of Construction c1930

Source Sanborn maps, directories

Style/Form ---

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Undetermined

Wall/Trim Brick

Roof Undetermined

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) c1940 - shed addition on front; 1957 - renovated for use as a bottling plant.

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 13400 SF

Setting mixed use side street between Brown Square and the waterfront

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

BUILDING FORM (9-11 Titcomb Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

The former Henchey Motors building is a single-story brick garage constructed about 1930. The Titcomb Street facade features a three-part stepped parapet with the long central section decorated by a long, narrow recessed brick panel. Projecting from the north end of the facade is a small, single-story, shed-roofed addition with a metal chimney. The addition was constructed prior to 1946. The facade is punctuated by two sets of replacement overhead garage doors - one wood and one metal, as well as metal windows and what appears to be an original garage opening. The original garage doors appear to have been transomed, with a multi-light garage door. The side elevations are ordered by a series of eight shallow brick piers. The predominant window is a 5 x 4 metal window with concrete sill. The windows on the south side remain fairly intact. Many of the openings on the remaining elevations have been filled-in.

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.

In the late 19th and early 20th century this site was occupied by a steam bakery operated by a Mr. Butler. Between 1906 and 1914, the building was removed for the construction of the new Johnson Educator Food Company Cracker Bakery No. 1. This 2-3 story building was replaced about 1930 by the present single-story building which was apparently constructed for Henchey Motor Co. The first directory listing for the property appears in the 1932 directory and lists William H. Henchey as the president of the company and George Cashman as treasurer. Henchey Motors had vacated the building by 1935 and the building was later occupied by Hoyt's Garage, owned by Malcolm Hoyt. According to Ron Irving, the Johnson Building, which was later occupied by the feed business of the Cashman Brothers, was razed to construct an auto showroom and garage for one of the Cashman sons-in-law.

The building later served as an annex to the Ruth Shoe Company Factory located at 44 Merrimac Street. In 1955 the property was sold by the Michael Cashman estate to C. Leary and Company. After the shoe factory gave up production in the building, it was used for storage by the bottling firm. In 1957 C. Leary and Company made plans to renovate the former garage for use as a bottling plant. At the time the company was the largest individually owned bottling firm in Massachusetts and the third oldest bottling firm in Essex County. The company was formed in 1900 and began the bottling of soft drinks in 1906 in a building on Merrimac Street near Strong Street. In 1957 the company was also operating another bottling plant, the Coca Cola plant at 506 Merrimac Street. The 1961 Sanborn map indicates that 9-11 Titcomb Street was being used as a 7-Up bottling plant and it remained a bottling plant into the 1970s. By 1980 the building was occupied by the Lombardi Oil Company.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Currier, John J. *History of Newburyport, Massachusetts, 1764-1906*, vols. 1 & 2. Newburyport: 1906 & 1909.
Irving, Ron. Unpublished research on Merrimac Street.
"Leary Company Plans Bottling Plant on Titcomb Street", *Newburyport Daily News*, November 9, 1957.
Newburyport City Directories, various dates.
Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1888, 1894, 1906, 1914, 1924, 1946.

Maps

- Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: D.B. Beers & Co., 1872.
Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts. Boston: George H. Walker, 1884.
Plan of Newburyport. Philadelphia: H. McIntyre, 1851.
Sanborn Insurance Maps. Massachusetts State Library, Boston, Massachusetts.

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