

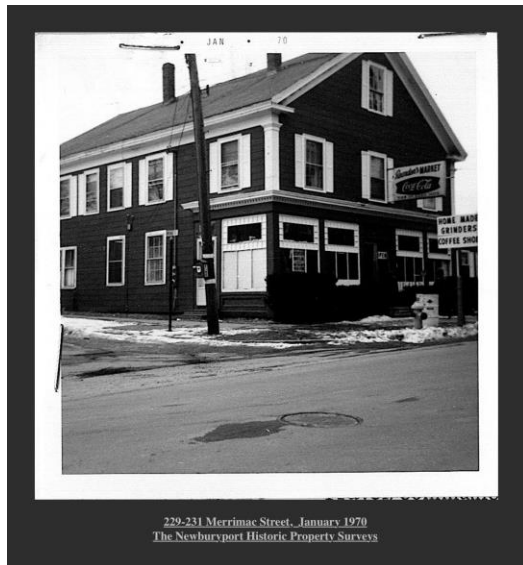
229-231 Merrimac Street – Grocery Businesses over the years.

In 1851 Enoch M. Read bought land at the corner of Merrimac and Broad Streets and built a grocery store. In 1866 it became Read & Webster, and an ad in the Newburyport Daily Herald described the inventory as “Flour, Groceries and Miscellaneous Articles.” In 1871 the store was sold to Paul A. Merrill. The store is on the 1872 and 1884 map and “The Reardon Family Collection” has a wonderful photograph that must be sometime around the 1890s.



Paul Merrill was born in 1840 and his obituary in 1911 describes him as being in the grocery business for 52 years. The article lists all the many ways that Mr. Merrill was deeply involved in Newburyport's community, including being the treasurer as well as being on the board of trustees of the Home for Aged Men (Please see The Griffin House at 361 High Street on the map). It says that he, “Gave freely of his time and thought and was conceded a valuable counsellor and administrator.” The headline reads, “Was Long Active in Local Educational and Benevolent Matters.” Paul Merrill fought in the Civil War, the official documentation says that he received a gun shot wound in his right elbow in 1864.

After his return from the Civil War he opened his store in 1871 and married Lucy Ann Pike in 1873. There are a series of 1877 advertisements lauding “Bixby's Best,” a leather polish, “the great discovery of Dobbin's Stark Polish,” for ironing linens and clothes and “Siddall's Magnetic Soap” which claimed to make “Wash-day a Pleasure, both Winter and Summer,” along with flour, grain, salt and groceries. From all accounts he was both an involved member of the Newburyport civic community and a highly successful businessman as well.



Merrill's wife died in 1900

The 1970 photo is from the Newburyport Historic Property Surveys. The store had become Reardon's Market. Edward and Marilyn Reardon bought the store in May of 1965.

It has since been converted to condominiums. The last photograph is from July 2019 and shows the condominium conversion.

References:

History from Salem Deeds and the Historic Newburyport Newspapers courtesy of the Newburyport Archival Center and Family Search.

P. A. Merrill Grocery Store
The Reardon Family Collection

1872 and 1888 maps courtesy of the Newburyport Archival Center

1894 Sanborn Fire Map from the Library of Congress

Ads for Paul A. Merrill's store, the Newburyport Daily Herald, October 2, 1877

Obituary for Paul A. Merrill, Newburyport Daily News, October 2, 1911

1970 photograph is from the Newburyport Historic Property Surveys

2019 photograph from the City of Newburyport