

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984

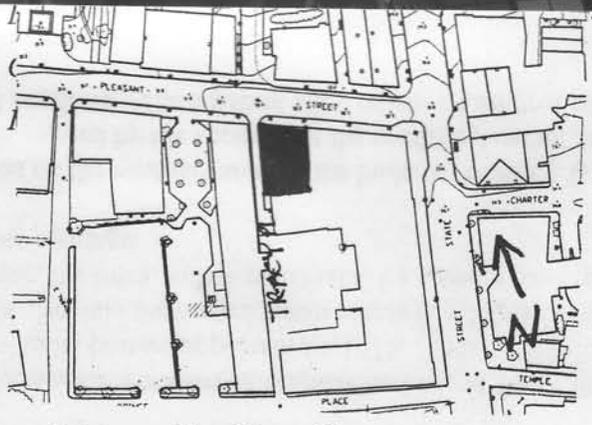
Assessor's number  
1-21

USGS Quad  
Newburyport

Area(s)  
L

Form Number  
2004

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



Town Newburyport  
Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 13-17 Pleasant Street  
Historic Name J.J. Newberry Co.

Uses: Present Commercial  
Original Commercial

Date of Construction 1940

Source directories, Sanborn Insurance maps

Style/Form Altered

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Concrete

Wall/Trim Brick, Wood

Roof Tar

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) c.1975 - new front

Condition good

Moved  no  yes Date

Acreage 2640 SF

Setting central business district

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

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

## BUILDING FORM (13-17 Pleasant Street)

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

The former J.J. Newberry Company building at 13-17 Pleasant Street is a single-story brick building which was heavily altered to its present appearance c.1975. Today, the brick front is capped by a modern wooden, three-part cornice with dentils. Set into the arched center recess is a display window flanked by two glass and metal doors. To each side of the entrance, the brick wall is punctuated by a single-pane rectangular display window. All three bays are sheltered by semi-circular awnings.

Painted on the west elevation of the building, fronting Tracy Court, is a mural of Newburyport in 1870. The top edge of the wall is capped by tile coping. At the southwest corner of the building is a square brick projection with metal grates over the metal windows. The adjacent alley retains its original cobblestone pavers partially covered with asphalt paving.

### 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.*

Sanborn Insurance Maps suggest that the present building on this site was constructed between 1924 and 1946, replacing an earlier two-story building and then owned by the Newman family. According to local historian Ron Irving, a wooden factory building erected at the corner of Pleasant Street and Tracy Place in the 1880s was razed in 1941 to make way for a 5 & 10 store. A plan record in the Massachusetts Division of Inspection indicates that the building was altered in 1940, to connect the building to 70 State Street. It was owned at the time by Edith Adams and W.J. O'Brien but leased to J.J. Newberry Co. The J.J. Newberry Five, Ten and Twenty-Five Cent Store occupied this site from the late 1920s until the 1960s. During the late 1960s the Rite Price Store was located here but closed in 1971. The building is presently occupied by the Card and Gift Shop. A photograph of the former J.J. Newberry, prior to its alteration, appears in the Newburyport Daily News on March 1, 1974 (p. 10).

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Irving, Ron. Unpublished research on Pleasant Street.  
Massachusetts Division of Inspection. Building Inspection Plans. Card File. [Massachusetts State Archives, Boston].  
Newburyport City Directories, various dates.  
Newburyport Daily News, March 1, 1974, p. 10.  
Sanborn Insurance Maps, Newburyport, 1888, 1894, 1906, 1914, 1924, 1946.

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
Newburyport

Property Address  
13-17 Pleasant Street  
Area(s) Form No.

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

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Source: Newburyport Daily News, March 1, 1974.