

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984
Assessor's number
12-12

USGS Quad
Newburyport

Area(s)
L,W,K

Form Number
391

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building



Town Newburyport
Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 35-41 Water Street
Historic Name Mooney Block

Uses: Present Commercial
Original Commercial
Date of Construction 1873-4
Source Herald, 8/4/1873
Style/Form Italianate
Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite
Wall/Trim Brick/Cast Iron
Roof Tar

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) 1998 - building rehabbed
and three-story brick addition constructed to west

Condition excellent
Moved no yes Date

Acreage 15060 SF

Setting commercial area adjacent to Market Square and
the Merrimack River



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

BUILDING FORM (35-41 Water Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

The three-story brick building at 35-41 Water Street is a well-preserved late 19th century commercial block which has recently witnessed extensive renovations and the construction of complementary additions to the west and rear. Brick piers order the facade of the original building into four sections of three bays with a single bay marking each end of the facade. At the top of each pier there is a pair of wooden brackets. Between the brackets the cornice work includes brick corbelling and a wooden dentil course. The first floor is divided into four identical cast iron storefronts. Each recessed storefront entrance is framed by a pair of fluted Corinthian cast iron columns, which are echoed by Corinthian pilasters at the ends of the display windows. The arched storefront windows are divided into two upper and two lower panes and are set above raised panel bulkheads. Keystones with raised pyramids are centered above each arch with brackets above each column. The east bay contains an elongated six-panel door flanked by side panels while the west entrance retains original double wooden four-panel doors. The arch above both of the entrances is filled with clapboarding. The windows on the upper stories consist of segmental openings containing new 4/4 sash.

A modern three-story, wooden frame connector of equal height links the original building with a slightly shorter, three-story brick addition to the west. The connector has tripartite windows on the upper levels above an arched ground floor entrance. The new brick building is seven bays wide with paired 4/4 windows and a simple modillion cornice. The first floor consists of single-pane display windows capped by transoms and set above bulkheads. The southwest corner of the building is cut-away with an additional seven bays on the west side. In contrast to the slant roof on the original building, the new section is capped by a hip roof. Fenestration and detailing on the rear elevation is more contemporary in nature and includes continuous 6/6 windows on the third floor capped by a projecting cornice supported by paired trusses.

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.

This building was constructed about 1873 for Amos W. Mooney, who sold it soon thereafter to Cyrus Wakefield of Boston. Shortly after the block was built, on June 5, 1873, fire destroyed the adjacent three-story block owned and occupied by J.B. & E. Knight as a grist mill (see continuation sheet for photo). The roof of the Mooney Block was partially burnt and there was some damage but the building survived relatively unscathed. At the time the second and third floors of the Mooney Block were occupied by N.D. Dodge & Bro., shoe manufacturers. First floor tenants included William Holker & Co., stove dealers; Stiles & Donahue, harness makers; A. F. Ross & Co., spice grinders and A.W. Mooney, commission merchant in general produce. In addition to their storefront, A.F. Ross & Co. also had a factory for grinding spices at the rear of the building.

After the fire damage was repaired, it appears that only Ross & Co. and Dodge returned to the building. Ross & Co. remained in the building until 1911 and eventually took over all of the storefronts from 37-41 Water Street. In later directories the establishment is identified as a wholesale grocery store. Coffee roasting and the milling of spices occurred in the rear two-story ell. Ross & Co. moved to the Water Street location from a previous site in the Hope Mills at the rear of 88 State Street. Ross Spice Mills later moved to Boston.

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
NewburyportProperty Address
35-41 Water Street
Area(s) Form No.Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

L,W	391
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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued):

In 1913 Nellie Currier sold the property to Fred Piper who conveyed it to Emery Marshall in 1918. In 1914 the Meek Reel Oven Co. occupied most of the building with the Knight Allen Shoe Company using part of the third floor. H.N. Marshall & Son, Inc., wholesale grocers, occupied the building from about 1918 until 1931.

In 1931 the property was purchased by William Atkinson whose coal and lumber company had occupied a large area on the waterfront since the 1880s. The former Mooney Block was used by the W.E. Atkinson Co. as a lumber store and in 1972 a large lumber warehouse was completed behind the building. The property was sold by the Atkinson family in 1998 and has recently been rehabilitated and renovated according to designs by Olson, Lewis & Dioli, Inc. of Manchester, Massachusetts.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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 Newburyport City Directories, various dates.
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 Stirgwolt, Mary Jane. "Historical Buildings Survey and Inventory, Newburyport, Massachusetts: Narrative History",
 Prepared for the Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1980.

Maps

- Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: D.B. Beers & Co., 1872.
Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts. Boston: George H. Walker, 1884.
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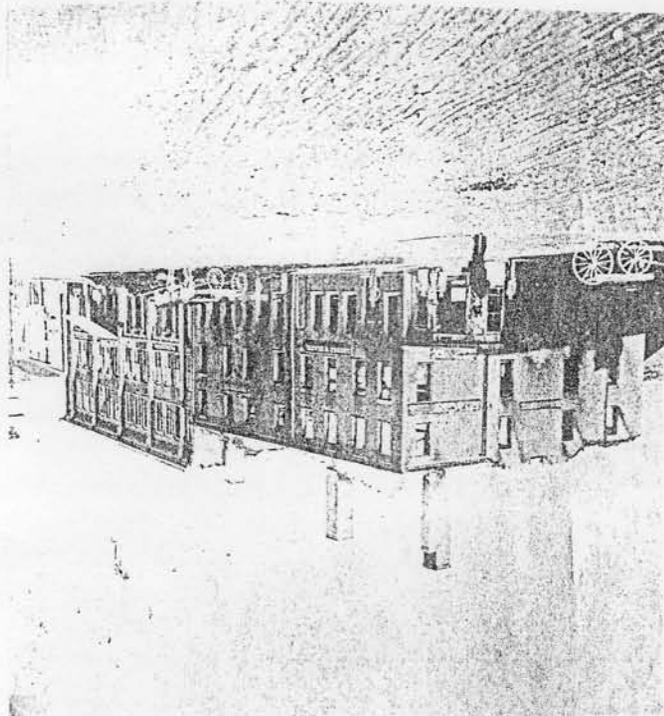
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View of Ruins of Knight's Grist Mill in 1873 with Mooney Block in background.

Source: Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Mass. (E.I. neg. #17,102).