

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984

Assessor's number
4-13

USGS Quad
Newburyport

Area(s)
L,U

Form Number
2205

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

Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 38 State Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Commercial

Original Commercial/Hall

Date of Construction c.1811

Source visual inspection

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Brick, Sandstone

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) c.1975 - rehabilitation

including alterations to first floor storefront

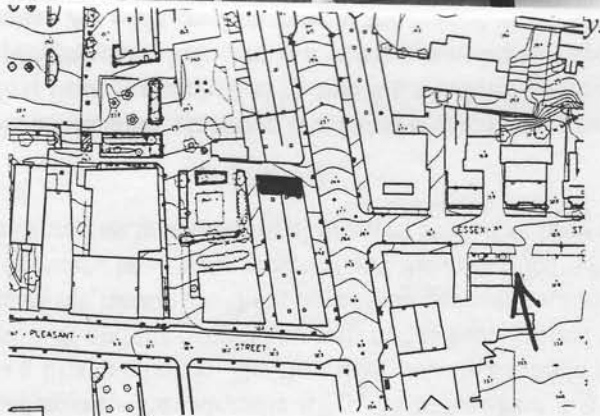
Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 1040 SF

Setting central business district, corner of Threadneedle

Alley



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 1999

BUILDING FORM (38 State Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

Located next to Threadneedle Alley, 38 State Street is a narrow, 3 1/2-story building with a broad gable end. The brick is laid in a Flemish bond. The first floor retains a granite sill and lintel although the main entrance is no longer at the front of the building and the original storefront has been infilled with five 1/1 windows resting on a paneled bulkhead. The upper two stories of the facade are three bays wide and contain modern 6/6 replacement windows. The original lintels above the second floor openings have been removed and the area filled with brick. The slightly smaller third story windows retain splayed brownstone lintels with vertical grooves as well as brownstone lintels. The front eaves are decorated by a brick modillion cornice.

Visible on the alley elevation is a faded painted advertisement for Coca Cola "delicious and refreshing...relieves fatigue". The first floor is punctuated by two 6/6 windows with semi-circular arched transoms, brick lintels and sandstone keystones and springblocks. Adjacent is a vertical board door capped by a flat door hood supported by two quarter-round brackets with pendants. An additional opening at the rear of the elevation has been bricked in. The second and third floors feature four bays of modern replacement windows with applied mullions. Like the facade windows, they are capped by splayed stone lintels. Two diamond-shaped iron tie rods are located between the second and third floors. A lunette lights the attic. The rear elevation has arched openings on the first floor and four bays of 6/6 windows on the two upper floors.

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 probably built shortly after the 1811 fire. A "Reminiscences" article appearing in the Daily News in 1886 recalls that c.1816 this was the location of Osgood & Brackett's shoe store. The store was later occupied by J.T. Pike and George Emery, both before 1830. Eliphalet Griffin had a dry goods store here in 1851. The Post Office was here from 1832 until 1877 including the period during which Richard Plumer served as postmaster (April 21, 1869-May 1877). Plumer had a dry goods store at 46 State Street. The building at 38 State Street was remodeled in 1872 for use as the post office according to designs by local architect Rufus Sargent (Woodman, p. 344).

An undated photograph at the Newburyport Public Library, Hamilton Room (see continuation sheet) shows the building when the post office was here. The Grant Club is shown occupying the second floor. Although no further information was found regarding the Grant Club, Ulysses Grant visited Newburyport on October 17, 1871 and the club may have been a short-lived organization which developed at the time. In the late 1880s the Seventh Day Adventists, who were organized in 1877, met in the upper hall. This hall was later occupied by the St. Jean Hall in the 20th century.

In 1880 Charles Johnson ran a book shop at 38 State Street. Harrison G. Johnson had a fancy goods store here in 1898, followed by Zafris Brothers fruit and confectionery. From about 1920 until 1973 the storefront was occupied by E.W. Pearson Estate Florists. Various restaurants have occupied the space since the 1970s.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Newburyport Daily News, 12/27/1886.

Newburyport Directories, various dates.

Newburyport Public Library, photographic collection.

Woodman, Betsy H. "Rufus Sargent (1812-1886): A Newburyport Architect Rediscovered", Essex Institute Historical Collections, vol. 122, Oct. 1986, p. 143-4.

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

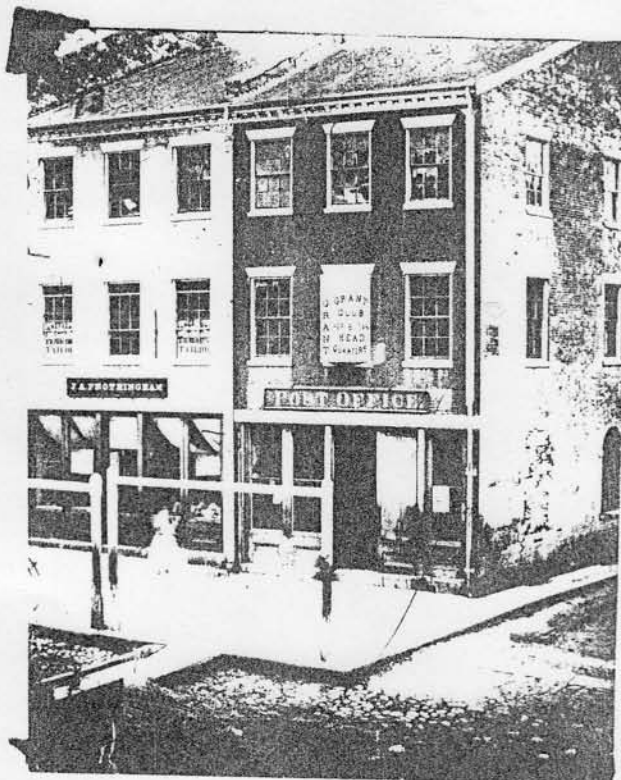
INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
Newburyport

Property Address
38 State Street
Area(s) Form No.

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

L,U	2205
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Source: Photographic collection, Newburyport Public Library (S-532A).