

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/84

Assessor's number
6-24 & 25

USGS Quad Area(s)
Newburyport

Form Number
L,U 2177

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

Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 43-49 State Street

Historic Name Chase & Lunt Insurance

Uses: Present Offices

Original Commercial

Date of Construction 1954 (altered in 1971)

Source Daily News, 8/18/1954

Style/Form Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder Edmond Burke, architect & Roy
Kerkian, builder for the 1971 renovations

Exterior Material:

Foundation Concrete/Granite

Wall/Trim Brick/Granite

Roof Tar

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) 1971 - Colonial Revival
alterations; c.1990 - renovations to corner store

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 3812 SF

Setting central business district



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) July 1999

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

BUILDING FORM (43-49 State Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

The offices of Chase & Lunt Insurance are housed in a building which was built in 1954 and renovated in a Colonial style in 1971. The single-story, flat-roofed, brick building displays a five-bay facade with brick corner quoins. At the center of the 1954 building is an arched surround with a paneled recess and transomed doorway. The flanking windows contain 6/6 sash and are fitted with louvered shutters. The c.1990 addition to the north is more contemporary in design but incorporates "Colonial" elements including a 6/6 window with semicircular fanlight and plain concrete beltcourses. The corner of the building is suspended above a metal post.

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 is located on the site of the old Washington Hall which was destroyed by fire on February 13, 1954. This was the site of the first Town Hall, a wooden building constructed in 1762 and replaced by a brick town house in 1810, containing the town hall, courthouse, police station and town offices. After the construction of the present City Hall in 1851-2, the old town house was renamed Washington Hall. Over the years, it was used for political meetings, as an armory, dance hall, the chapel of the French church, a clubhouse and a movie theater.

The three-story Washington Block was replaced in 1954 by a single-story building erected by the Raeport Trust. As constructed in 1954, the building contained three stores, including the Quality Shoe Store on the corner, operated by Abraham Edelstein.

In 1971 the building was sold by Abe Edelstein to Josiah Welch, owner of Chase & Lunt Inc., insurance agency. On October 29, 1971, the new office of Chase & Lunt was opened. The Colonial Revival-style renovations to the building were designed by Edmond Burke and Roy Kerkien served as the contractor. Two of the stores were combined to form the office and the brick fire wall between them was removed. The renovations used Vermont granite and "Colonial" bricks made by a brickmaker in Boston.

The construction of the new building by Chase & Lunt represented the company's fourth move since it was founded in 1879 by William E. Chase and William F. Lunt. The firm was originally located on State Street and moved to a new business block erected by Chase & Lunt at 55-57 Pleasant Street in 1903. The firm moved to 40-50 Pleasant Street in 1942 and finally to 43-45 State Street in 1971.

The north end of the building was constructed c.1990 on the site of the former Quality Shoe Store.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Irving, Ron. Unpublished research on State Street.
- Newburyport City Directories, various dates.
- Newburyport Daily News, 8/18/1954; 5/15/1971; 10/29/1971.
- Sanborn Insurance Maps, Newburyport, 1888, 1894, 1906, 1914, 1924, 1946, 1961.

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