

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/84

Assessor's number
4-9

USGS Quad
Newburyport

Area(s)
L,U

Form Number
2209

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

Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 48-50 State Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Commercial

Original Commercial

Date of Construction c.1820

Source visual inspection

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Brick, Sandstone

Roof Asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

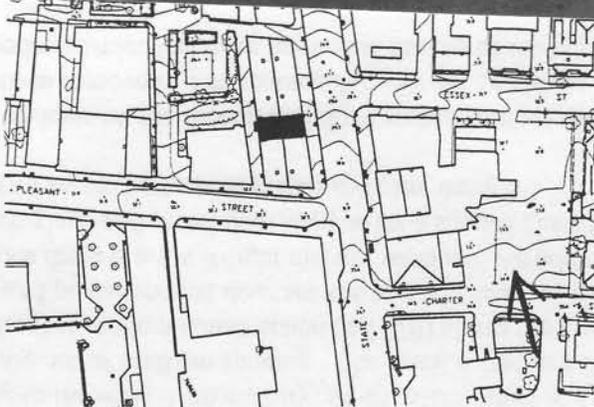
Major Alterations (with dates) c.1970 - new storefront

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 1068 SF

Setting central business district, row of similar
early 19th century brick buildings



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 1999

BUILDING FORM (48-50 State Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

Dating to the early 19th century, 48-50 State Street is a three-story brick block which measures four bays wide although the bays are not of uniform spacing. The brick is laid in a Flemish bond and appears to have been sandblasted. The first floor storefront is modern construction (c.1970) above the original granite base. The offcenter entrance contains a c.1970 multi-glass and panel wooden door set above a wooden step and flanked by pilasters with raised moldings. On either side of the entrance there is a 4 x 3-light display window. An additional entrance leading upstairs occupies the right bay and contains a modern glass-and-panel door capped by a stained glass transom. Above the first floor storefront is a wide, wooden frieze with two raised horizontal panels over the windows.

The windows on the second and third stories contain wooden 6/6 sash protected by storm sash. The original lintels appear to have been removed. The rectangular sills are sandstone with vertical striations. The third floor window are slightly smaller. A wooden cornice has been applied at the top of the building and displays a dentil-like detail.

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 block, like its neighbors, appears to date to the early 19th century and was definitely constructed after the 1811 fire. A "Reminiscences" article appearing in the Daily News in 1886 recalled that c.1816 this store was occupied by Jonathan Wood with Joseph Jenkins Knapp as clerk. After Wood came William Noyes and then Daniel Frothingham and George Cross, all before 1830. Among the mid 19th occupants of the storefront were B.F. Bartlett who sold boots and shoes here in 1851 and George Geary whose hat store was located here at least from 1850 to 1860.

In 1884 Yerxa and Co. grocers were established at 50 State Street. The store was started by Alfred A. Yerxa who came to this country from Canada. In the late 19th century, the grocery business was managed by Leverett DeVeber and became the leading store of its kind in the city. In 1917 the store became De Veber, Wright Co., operated by Moses Wright and Leverett De Veber. After Mr. De Veber's death in 1932, the store was operated by Mr. Wright until the late 1940s.

In 1962 the block, then owned by Edward Cetlin, was the subject of alterations to "restore the colonial appearance" of the structure. The work was completed by Roy Kerkian of City Builders.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

"Completes 58 Years in Provision Business", Daily News, April 15, 1949.
Daily News, December 27, 1886; Sept. 15, 1942 & April 11, 1962.
Newburyport Directories, various dates.
Newburyport Public Library, photographic collection.

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

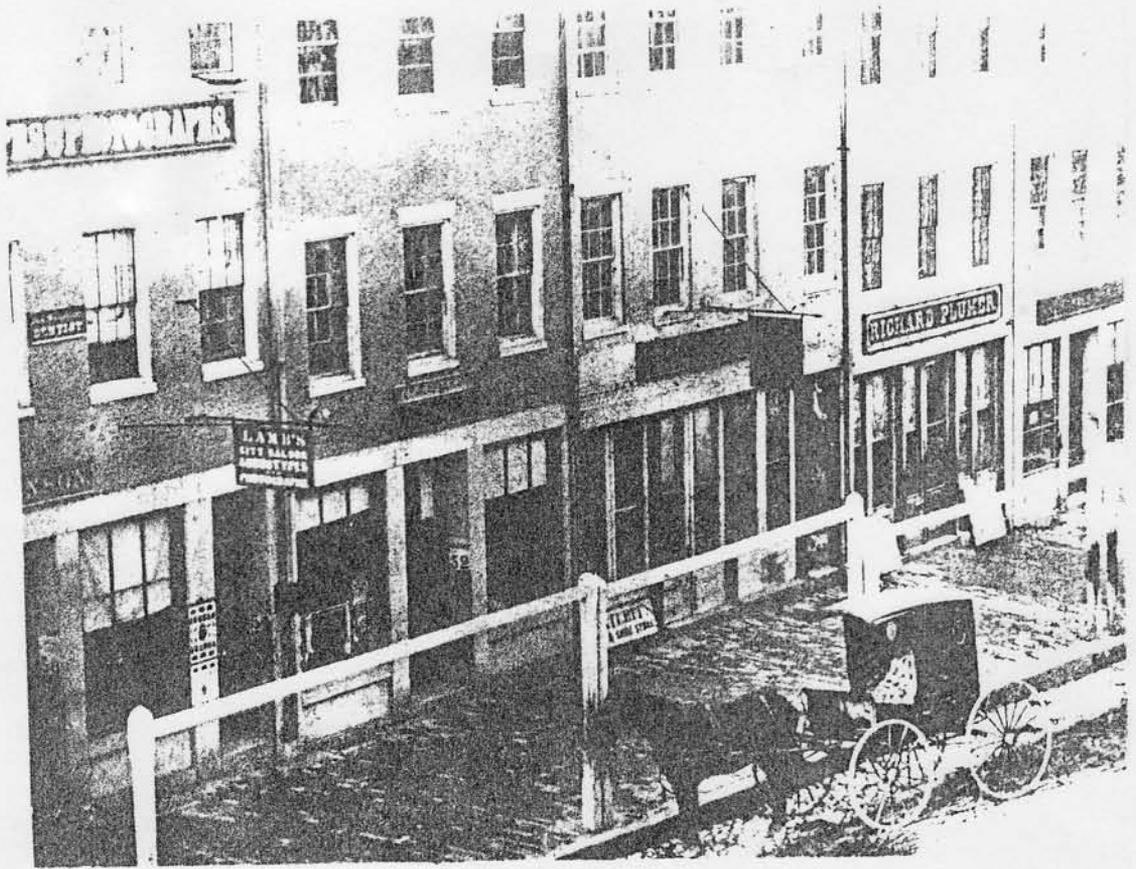
Town
Newburyport

Property Address
48-50 State Street
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L,U	2209
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48-50
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Historic photograph taken between 1866 and 1869.

Source: Photographic collection, Newburyport Public Library (S530A).