

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984

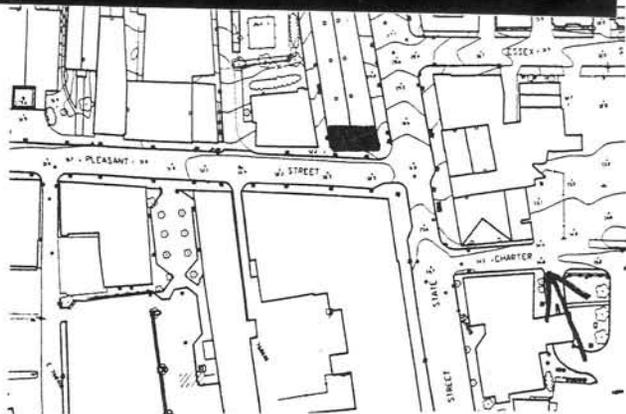
Assessor's number  
4-6

USGS Quad  
Newburyport

Area(s)  
L,U

Form Number  
2212

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



Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 58 State Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Commercial

Original Commercial

Date of Construction c.1811

Source "Reminiscences", 4/2/1883

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.1890 - new 2/2 windows

including larger sash on second floor, Pleasant St. elev.,  
new storefront, alt. of parapet from step to gable.

Condition good

Moved  no  yes Date

Acreage 796 SF

Setting corner of Pleasant Street, adjacent to other  
similar early 19th century brick buildings

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 1999

## BUILDING FORM (58 State Street)

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

Located at the northwest corner of State and Pleasant Streets, 58 State Street is a three-story brick block oriented with its narrow, three-bay wide facade facing State Street and its deep, gabled side elevation fronting Pleasant Street. The first floor storefront dates to the late 19th century and rests on the original granite base. It features a cutaway corner entrance, emphasized by two curved brackets which meet at the corner. The glass-and-panel door is capped by a transom and is flanked by iron columns. On either side are large display windows (one facing Pleasant and two facing State) which have semi-circular mullions with circular frames resting on the spandrel formed by the joining of the adjacent arches. Below the displays windows there is a wooden bulkhead with a raised molding and horizontal panels. On the facade, the original windows have been replaced by 2/2 sash with sandstone, splayed lintels. A brick modillion course caps the facade. A gabled parapet and large brick chimneys rise from the asphalt gable roof. Historic photographs indicate that the south parapet was altered from a stepped profile to the present gable between 1880 and 1909.

Fenestration on the first floor of the Pleasant Street elevation includes a 2/2 window, round-arched door and a six panel door to the west, capped by a transom with an adjacent column at the corner. The six large 2/2 windows on the second floor are a later alteration. They are without lintels and have simple stone sills. Smaller 2/2 windows with splayed stone lintels punctuate the third floor. Centered in the gable is a semi-elliptical divided fanlight with a scalloped outer edge and a surround of header brick. The rear elevation is lit by a combination of 6/6 and 2/2 windows.

### 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.*

According to a "Reminiscences" article appearing in the Herald in 1883, this building was constructed in 1811, shortly after the great fire. Merchant Arthur Gilman was the first tenant, from 1812 until 1834. Gilman was also the father of architect Arthur Gilman. It appears that this block was owned by Brown at the time of the 1851 map. John Buntin occupied the store from about 1848 until 1883. Buntin operated a dry goods store. Directory advertisements indicate that he was a dealer in woolen and worsted yarns as well as threads. In 1890 Abbie Currier was selling fancy goods here. Historic photographs indicate that various alterations were made to the building between 1880 and 1909 including renovations to the corner storefront and the alteration of the parapet from a stepped profile to a gable.

In 1922 Eaton's Drug Store moved into the building. The drug store was established by Edward W. Eaton at 1 State Street in 1900. The store was purchased by Herbert C. Eggleston in 1944. The store was completely remodeled in June 1953 but was gutted by fire on April 14, 1954. It reopened in June. Irving Fram purchased the business in 1962 from Herbert Eggleston. Eaton's Drug Store remained here until the late 1980s. The storefront now houses a book store.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- "Eaton's Fills 300,000th Prescription; Pharmacy's History Goes Back 54 Years", Daily News, Dec. 11, 1954.
- Irving, Ron. Unpublished research on State Street.
- Newburyport Directories, various dates.
- Newburyport Herald, 4/3/1883 & 12/27/1886.
- Newburyport Public Library, photographic collection.
- Phillips Library, photographic collection, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.

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