

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



Town Newburyport  
Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 1-11 Pleasant Street (60-68 State Street)

Historic Name S.S. Kresge Co.

Uses: Present Commercial

Original Commercial

Date of Construction 1928

Source Mass. Div. of Inspection records

Style/Form

Architect/Builder Eisenberg & Feer, Boston

Exterior Material:

Foundation Brick

Wall/Trim Brick, Stone

Roof Tar

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

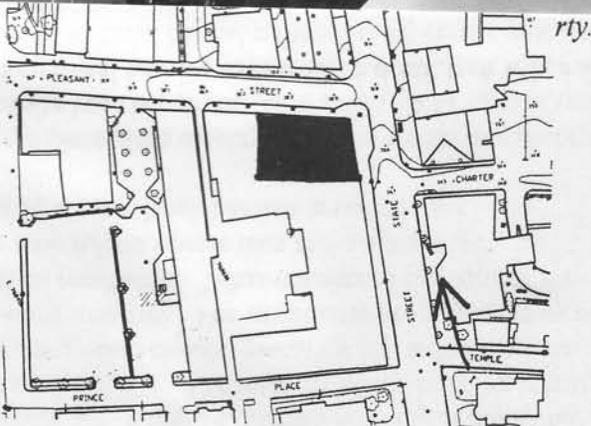
Major Alterations (with dates) 1941 - alterations?,  
removal of much of original cornice - date unknown;  
1972 - Pleasant St. frontage subdivided

Condition good

Moved  no  yes Date

Acres 7524 SF

Setting corner of Pleasant and State Streets in central  
business district



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

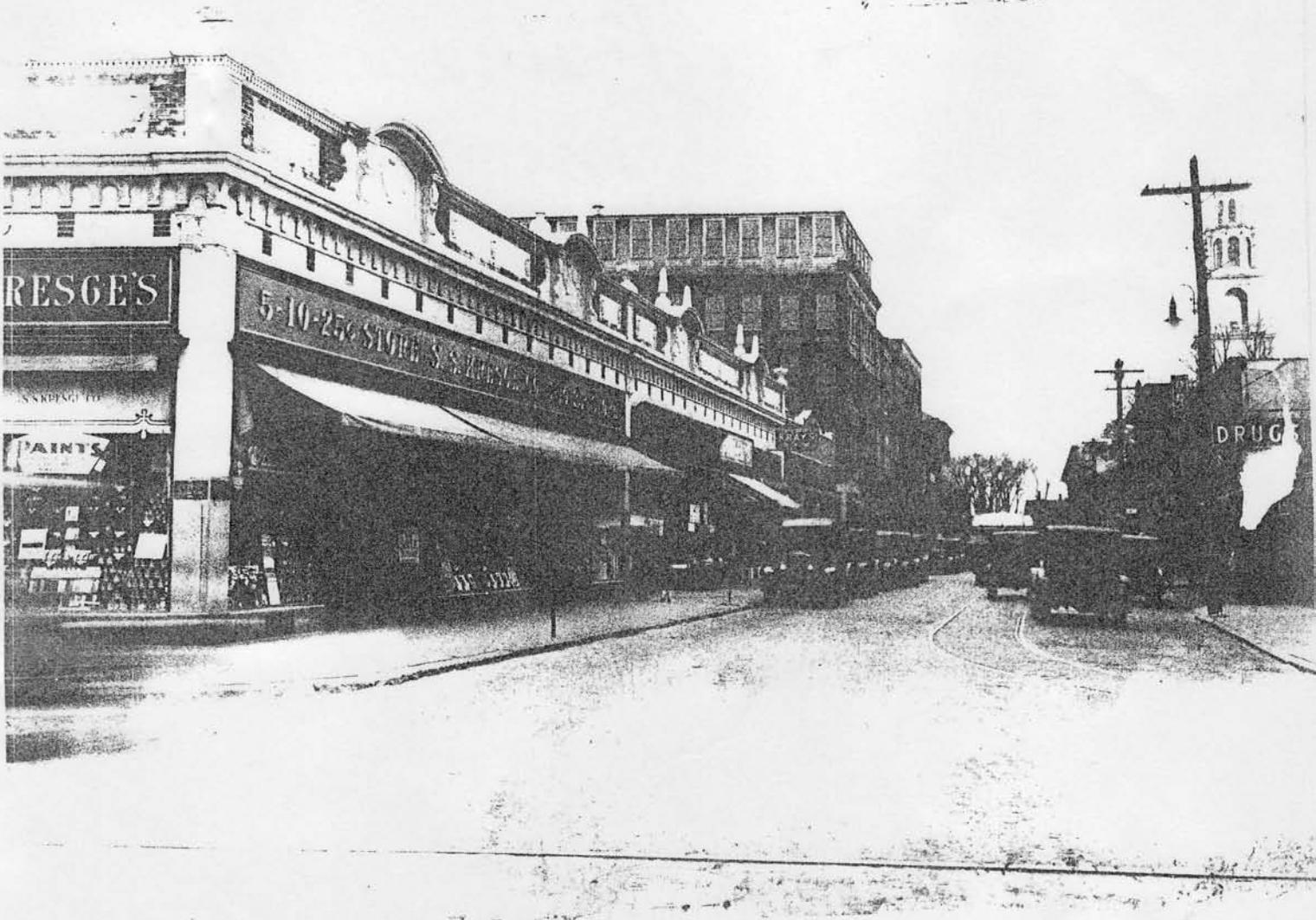
INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
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Town  
Newburyport

Property Address  
1-11 Pleasant St.  
Area(s) Form No.

L	2003
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Source: Newburyport Public Library.

## BUILDING FORM (1-11 Pleasant Street)

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

The former S.S. Kresge Company building at the corner of State and Pleasant Streets is a single-story commercial building constructed in 1928. The integrity of the building is marred by the loss of its original ornate decorative cornice which included bas relief panels, pinnacles and a dentil course. Despite the removal of this significant feature, the storefronts do retain some integrity. The storefronts are separated by cast stone blocks with stylized Ionic stone capitols capped by anthemion ornaments. What remains of the cornice is a row of stone blocks alternating with brick panels, a stone corbel course with foliate square tiles and a stone roping molding. The cornice above consists of a cyma reversa molding and is capped by a plain brick parapet seven courses high.

The large plate glass display windows are set into chrome frames above a polished granite base which is rounded at the top. The granite base is punctuated at intervals by bronze ventilation grills. Above the windows there is a bronze band and a projecting metal cornice with wooden dentil trim which appears to be a recent addition. At the corner of the building, the entrance is centered behind a freestanding corner post and outlined by pilasters. Historic photographs indicate that this corner entrance is a later alteration.

One of the storefronts facing Pleasant Street has been faced with T111 siding, punctuated by smaller display windows. In the adjacent storefront, the smaller display windows are topped by a bricked-in area which extends up to the cornice. The display windows are cantilevered over a brick base with slate paving below. Next to the Richdale store, the storefront for Angie's (7 Pleasant Street) retains its original display windows. The bulkhead area below the windows consists of green "marble" tiles on one side and modern green tiles on the other. The trapezoidal-shaped area in front of the entrance is tiled. The doors have been replaced with modern anodized aluminum and glass doors although the original transom remains. On State Street there are three paired display windows as well as one which has been blocked down with a modern six-panel door.

### 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 in 1928 for Abraham Kaplan and leased to S.S. Kresge's 5-10-25 Cent Store. According to the Massachusetts Division of Inspection records, the building was designed by Eisenberg & Feer of Boston. In the late 1930s the storefront at 5 Pleasant Street was occupied briefly by the Great A & P. The Mass. Division of Inspection records also indicate that the building was altered in 1941, probably after A & P's departure. Kresge's continued to occupy the space until Christmas of 1970. The building was purchased by Richdale Convenience store in 1970 from the George F. Poor estate. In 1972 part of the frontage on Pleasant Street was subdivided to accommodate three stores.

The space at 9-11 Pleasant Street was occupied by Kray's clothing store from about 1930 until 1954 when the new Kray's store was constructed.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Massachusetts Division of Inspection. Building Inspection Plans. Card File. [Massachusetts State Archives, Boston].  
Newburyport Daily News, 12/23/1970; 1/20/1972.

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