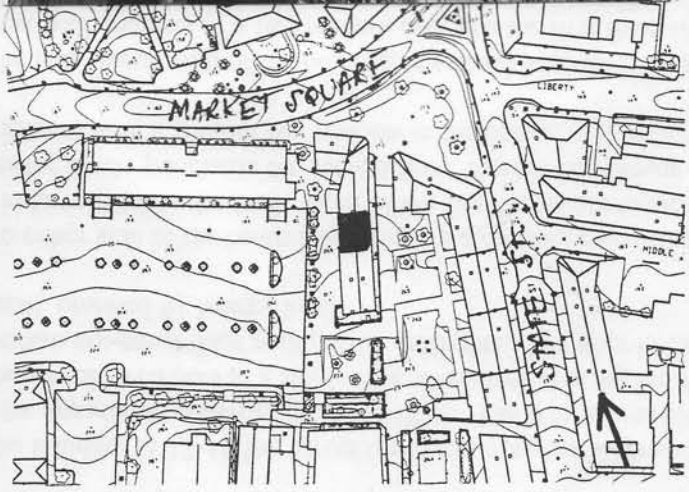
FORM B - BUILDING NRDIS 8/2/1984

| Assessor's number | USGS Quad | Area(s) | Form Number |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4-38 | Newburyport | | 1541 |

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building




**Town** Newburyport

**Place** *(neighborhood or village)*

**Address** 12-16 Inn Street

**Historic Name**

**Uses: Present** Commercial/Offices

**Original** Commercial

**Date of Construction** c.1818

**Source** visual inpection

**Style/Form** Federal

**Architect/Builder** unknown

**Exterior Material**:

**Foundation** Granite

**Wall/Trim** Brick/Granite

**Roof** Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures**

none

**Major Alterations** *(with dates)* 1973 - building rehabilitated

**Condition** good

**Moved** ☒ no ☐ yes **Date**

**Acreage** 1153 SF

**Setting** pedestrian mall south of Market Square

**Recorded by** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization** Newburyport Historical Commission

**Date** *(month/year)* May 1999

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

BUILDING FORM (12-16 Inn Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

The building at 12-16 Inn Street is a three-story brick commercial block, flanked by similar buildings. All of the buildings were apparently constructed about 1818. The side-gabled block is constructed of brick laid in a common bond alternating si courses of stretchers to a single row of headers. Facing Inn Street pedestrian mall, there is a central entrance containing a modern six-panel door with partial sidelights. The door is capped by a row of three square panels and a semicircular wood panel, outlined by header brick.

On either side of the central opening is a storefront consisting of glass-and-wood double doors flanked by 3 x 4-light picture windows cut into the wall. Both of the storefronts are topped by header brick lintels. Six wooden 12/8 windows with brick header lintels punctuate the second floor, there is no opening in the center. On the third floor, there are six smaller 8/8 windows with a smaller 6/6 window in the center.

The rear (west) wall of the building is setback slightly from the adjacent building to the south. The fenestration pattern on th west wall consists of a two modern doors on the first floor and two bays of windows on the ends of the floors above.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building an the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

What is now Inn Street is located approximately where a major conflagration started in 1811, destroying much of Market Square. Inn Street was laid out in 1818 as part of the reconstruction of the area after the fire. This block and its neighbors were probably built shortly after the street was laid out.

As in most business areas, the businesses on Inn Street changed frequently and 12-16 Inn Street was no exception. Josiah R Brady manufactured cigars at 12 Inn Street beginning in the 1870s. The 1888 Sanborn map shows the building containing a cigar store and a fruit store. Around the turn-of-the-century Harry Brooks operated a restaurant at 16 Inn Street; between 1909 and 1919 it was owned by Benjamin Nesmer. In the early 20th century a cobbler was also located here. By the 1960s the building was vacant.

Most of the buildings on Inn Street were demolished as part of Urban Renewal in the late 1960s and 1970s. In 1971 Richar E. Sullivan of the Merrimack Valley Credit Bureau was selected as the developer of 12-16 Inn Street, known as Urban Renewal parcel 9C. A photograph of the building prior to rehabilitation appeared in the Newburyport Daily News on November 26, 1971 and work on the building was completed in April 1973. The Inn Street pedestrian mall was completed i 1974.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Cogger, Virginia H., Chairman. "An Informal History of the Downtown Streets of Newburyport". Unpublished, c.1973 [Newburyport Public Library].
Newburyport Daily News, 10/19/1971; 11/26/1971; 4/19/1973.
Newburyport Directories, 1900-present.
Sanborn Insurance Maps. Massachusetts State Library, Boston, Massachusetts.
*Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts.* Philadelphia: D.B. Beers & Co., 1872.
*Plan of Newburyport.* Philadelphia: H. McIntyre, 1851.

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