

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The Superior Courthouse was designed by Charles Bulfinch and was completed in 1805. As originally constructed the building was Federal in style. The building was two stories with a pediment over the center bays much like the old Market House in Market Square. The first story had an open arcade and a belt course between the first and second floors. The original character of the building is still visible in the rear of the building which has not been altered.

In 1853 the front side of the Courthouse was extensively remodeled. The original roof was removed and replaced with one of Italianate (cont.)
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

The Superior Courthouse was built in 1805, to the designs of Boston's Charles Bulfinch. The building was a grand addition to the Bartlet Mall, which had always been a focal point of the community.

Town meetings were held in the building until the 1830's and a school for girls was kept in one of the lower rooms during this period. On April 18, 1834, a committee was appointed to sell all of the town's interest in the building and on June 3, 1834, the property was conveyed to the County of Essex.

The Superior Courthouse has served as a meetingplace and courthouse throughout its history. It still serves that purpose for the County of Essex and is the site of many community activities. Numerous famous men have argued cases in this building among them Daniel Webster, and Newburyport's Caleb Cushing.

The Superior Courthouse located on the Bartlet Mall is a focal point for the entire City of Newburyport as well as of the High Street Historic District. The Courthouse and the Mall have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, Vols. I and II., reprint, Newburyport 1977.
- Assessor's Records 1890-1980
- J. Dobbs, National Register Nomination Form, 1976.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newburyport	Form No: 29
Property Name: Superior Courthouse Bartlet Mall - High Street	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

inspiration with heavy bracket and cornice. The brick arches were filled in and the entire building was covered with mastic. The main entrance of the building dates from this period and has rusticated columns flanking the door and supporting a segmental arch above.

In 1973 the exterior of the Courthouse was renovated.

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