

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984

Assessor's number
3-15

USGS Quad
Newburyport

Area(s)
R

Form Number
321

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



Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 15 Green Street

Historic Name Strand Theater

Uses: Present Offices

Original Theater

Date of Construction 1917

Source newspapers

Style/Form Classical Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Concrete

Wall/Trim Brick

Roof Tar

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

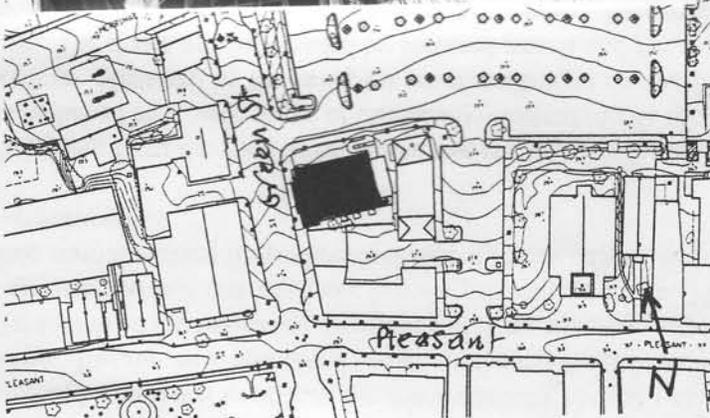
Major Alterations (with dates) 1937 - interior renovation; c.1960 - conversion to offices

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 8502 SF

Setting central business district, opposite Police Station



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 1999

BUILDING FORM (15 Green Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

Although converted to offices, the former Strand Theater retains much of its exterior integrity as an early 20th century movie house. Resting on a concrete foundation, the building is faced in red brick of mixed coloration including some glazed brick. The facade of the two-story, brick theater is organized vertically into a three-part division, with each section separated by wide, paneled belt courses and a heavily projecting cornice. Horizontally the facade is also organized into three bays with the wide central section flanked on each side by more narrow end bays which project slightly and have a border of stretcher brick laid vertically.

Projecting from the wide lower beltcourse is a decorative canopy suspended by metal chains from brass medallions and embellished by a wide range of classically-inspired motifs including medallions, swags, bell flowers, acroterion and tied reeding. Sheltered by the canopy a set of multi-light double doors are flanked by identical fixed, multi-panel panels of equal size. The doors are surrounded by recessed panels and the area in front of the doors has modern tiles. Centered on the outer bays of the first floor are vertical signboard panels. The second floor of the facade features long vertical panels set into molded surrounds with decorative shields and lyres at the top and 3 x 3-light windows at the bottom. The outer bays are punctuated by long, narrow, multi-light windows set into heavy molded surrounds capped by concrete consoles with wreaths.

The upper level of the facade has smaller, horizontal panels - filled with either patterned brick or sets of three panes of glass. Between the panels are raised cast stone panels of medallions with bell flowers. Above the projecting cornice is a simple brick parapet.

Fenestration on the south elevation is limited to three circular recesses at the top of the wall, several 2/2 windows and a narrow opening near the facade. The north elevation of the building is punctuated by four large windows rising two stories in height divided into vertical panes with panels between the floor. A modern entrance has been added, fronted by a concrete ramp with a metal pipe railing. The rear (east) elevation is windowless and is fronted by an exterior brick chimney.

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.

Opened a few months after the beginning of World War I, the Strand Theater was constructed as Newburyport's first modern cinema house. The Strand Theater and the Premier Theater at 1 Hale's Court (no longer extant) were operated under the same owner-management for many years. Both were operated by Warner Brothers from 1930 until 1949, when the Port Theater was constructed as a Warner Brothers outlet. The closing of the Strand in 1959 left the city with a single theater.

The interior of the theater was renovated in 1937 and a new stage setting, screen, sound equipment and carpets were installed. The walls of the theater were covered with damask and the display frames outside were also added at this time.

The building was purchased by the O'Brien family in 1959 and in 1962 the building was remodeled into office space for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Division of Employment Security. It continues to serve as office space today.

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
NewburyportProperty Address
15 Green Street
Area(s) Form No.

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

R	321
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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Maps

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