

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Town Newburyport

Address 200 Merrimac Street

Historic Name Caldwell Rum Company

Use: Original Distillery

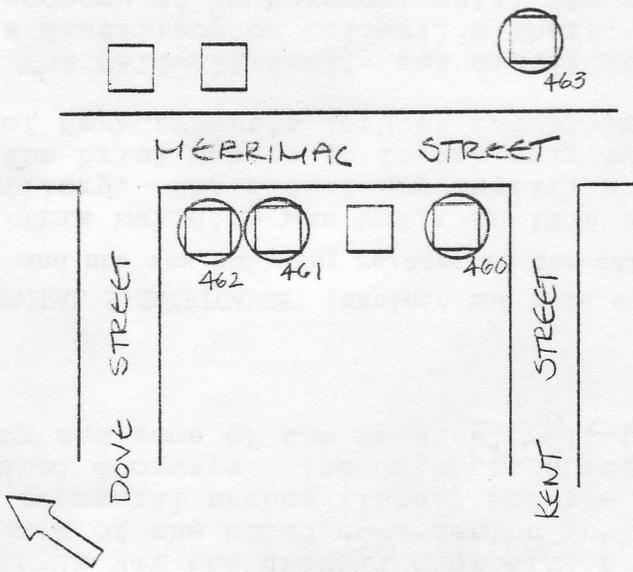
Present Liquor Store

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization

Public _____

Original owner Caldwell Rum Company

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1876

Source Date on Building

Style Victorian

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Brick

Outbuildings _____

Major alterations (with dates) First

floor fenestration has been extensive-

ly altered (date unknown) addition at
side (date unknown)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 43,510 sq. ft.

Setting in area of mixed residential

and commercial uses along the banks

of the Merrimack.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwort

Organization Office of Community
Development

Date 12-15-80

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

This three story brick building with pitched roof is an excellent example of a Victorian utilitarian structure. The architectural detail is simple yet the overall composition of the building is impressive. Noteworthy elements of the building's design include the brick dentil cornice, windows with segmental arches lintels and the squared granite lintels which mark the original doorways. The original brick walls have been covered with a brick veneer and some of the original wall openings have been bricked in.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

This building was built in 1876 as the warehouse of the Caldwell Distillery. The distillery itself, a wooden structure has been destroyed and the brick warehouse is the only surviving structures of what was once one of Newburyport's largest industries.

The Caldwell family was distilling rum as early as 1851 when there was a distillery on Caldwell's Wharf. The rum industry was important to the economy of Newburyport until the passage of the Volstead Act.

The Caldwell family owned this property until 1924 when it was purchased by John T. Leary. The Leary family has made extensive renovations to the building and presently the structure serves as a warehouse and liquor store.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Assessor's Records 1890-1980

1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire

1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.

. Malloy, editor, The Lower Merrimack River Valley: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites (Washington, 1976)