

FORM B - BUILDING

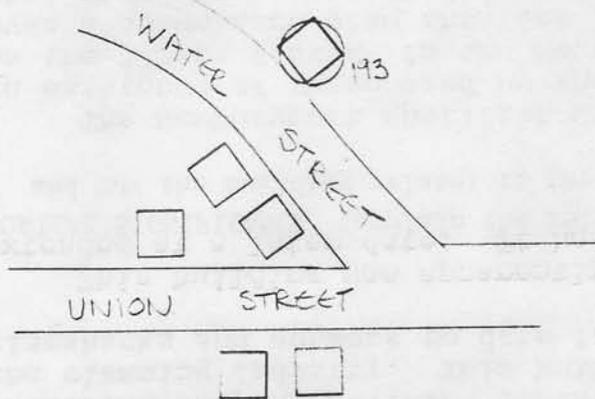
Area F	Form no. 193
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Newburyport  
 Address 267 Water Street  
 Historic Name Newburyport Shellfish Co.  
 Original Commercial/clamshack  
 Present Commercial/clamshack  
 Ownership:  Private individual  
                   Private organization \_\_\_\_\_  
                   Public \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original owner Unknown

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



DESCRIPTION:

Date Early twentieth century  
 Source Newburyport, Photo Collection  
 Style \_\_\_\_\_  
 Architect Unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric Shingles  
 Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_  
 Major alterations (with dates) building has been altered and extended (dates unknown)  
 Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage 820 sq. ft.  
 Setting on the bank of the Merrimack River in the primarily residential area known as Joppa.

Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt  
 Organization Office of Community Development  
 Date 10-28-80

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This building has little architectural detail. Its form is simple and functional. This form was used on the banks of the river by the men clamming on the Joppa flats. There was, at one time in the late nineteenth century, an entire row of similar one story, pitch roofed structures with one or two windows. At present the Newburyport Shellfish Company building is the only building on a foundation used by the clamming industry. This building is larger than most of the earlier clamshacks and appears to date from the early twentieth century.

This building was apparently originally four bays wide and was extended at a later date. It has a concrete foundation.  
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

The Newburyport Shellfish Company is one of the very few structures in existence of those used by the fishermen of Newburyport who clammed on the "Joppa Flatts" in the Merrimack River. Originally, there were over a dozen such clam shanties lining Water Street. The Newburyport Shellfish was established in 1930. It is quite possible that this building was built at that time.

Joppa is the district of Newburyport that grew around the fishing interests of the settlement. The clam shacks and the early homes in this area, both built by fishermen, helped to create the distinctive character of a fishing village.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Assessor's Records 1890-1980

J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, vols. I and II., reprint, Newburyport 1977.

"The Passing of the Clam Shanties", Newburyport Daily News, November 8, 1918.

Photographic Collection Newburyport Public Library, Newburyport, Ma.