

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984

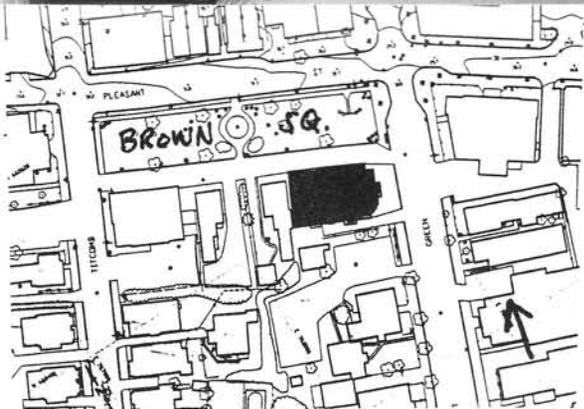
Assessor's number  
47-3

USGS Quad  
Newburyport

Area(s)  
R

Form Number  
323

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



Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 26 Green Street

Historic Name First Baptist Church

Uses: Present Church

Original Church

Date of Construction 1847

Source Newspaper, Feb. 9, 1848

Style/Form Gothic Revival

Architect/Builder Frederick Coffin (1847)

Exterior Material:

Foundation Stone

Wall/Trim Vinyl Siding/Wood

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) 1873 - church raised to accommodate vestry in basement, exterior remodelled; 1946 - steeple rebuilt; c.1980 - vinyl siding

Condition fair - good

Moved  no  yes Date

Acreage 12690 SF

Setting adjacent to Brown Square Park, opposite Post Office and City Hall and in close proximity to 19th century residences.

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 1999

## BUILDING FORM (26 Green Street)

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

Originally constructed in 1847, the First Baptist Church assumed its present form after alterations were made in 1872. In recent years the appearance of the building has been altered by the application of vinyl siding. Historic photographs show that in the late 19th century, light colored clapboards contrasted with dark trim and window surrounds. The church originally had a much taller, two-stage, octagonal steeple which was replaced in 1946 by the present pyramidal steeple.

The building is rectangular in plan with a three-story tower rising from the center of the east gable front. The church is set above a granite base with a painted brick lower level, dating to the raising of the building in 1873. The asphalt-shingled roof displays projecting eaves with pairs of wooden truss brackets adorned by cutout trefoils. On the facade, the square tower is flanked by angled, buttressed side sections resting on brick piers. The projecting gabled entrance porch has a pointed arch recess and double doors with four raised panels on each. At the front of the entrance porch are corner buttresses with weatherings. Not covered with siding, the entrance gable is sheathed in its original horizontal flushboard with gablets at the ends of the roof. Above the entrance is a set of three narrow lancet windows filled with colored glass and flanked by narrow attenuated columns under a continuous hood mold. Punctuating each side of the tower above are tripartite pointed arches with columns and capped by a gable. The original corner pinnacles are no longer in place. At the two front corners of the church there is a quarter-round, single-story projection sheathed in vertical vinyl siding above a brick base.

Both side elevations are punctuated by four individual windows each of which consists of a pair of arched panels filled with blue opalescent glass panes. Each window is capped by a Tudor arch hood mold. The basement is lit by pairs of rectangular 4/4 windows.

### 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.*

This church was originally constructed in 1847 for the Central Baptist Church (which changed its name to the Green Street Baptist Church and Society in May 1848). The congregation consisted of members who had withdrawn from the First Baptist Church of Newburyport. The land for the Green Street church was acquired in 1846 from Ebenezer and Sarah W. Hale. The Gothic-style church was designed by Newburyport architect Frederick Coffin and constructed at a cost of \$12,000. Other designs by Coffin include Newburyport City Hall. The interior of the church originally featured graining by Thomas H. Cutter. The pews were grained to resemble black walnut on the pews, with the remainder grained to resemble black oak. The fresco at the rear of the pulpit was by Mr. Wendte of Boston and the chandelier was by Jones, Low and Poor of Boston, Mass. The church was dedicated on February 9, 1848.

In 1869, the Society voted to unite with the Baptist Society of Newburyport on Congress Street and the name was changed to the Baptist Society of Newburyport. In January 1873 the combined congregation voted to remodel the Green Street church. The church was raised several feet to accommodate a vestry room in the basement. At the same time the spire and facade were remodeled and new pews and a new pulpit were installed. The cost of the renovations was \$10,000. John B. Atwood, Edward Cogswell and Shaw Marshall served as contractors for the work.

A Favrite glass window by Tiffany & Co. was installed in the recess at the back of the pulpit in 1899, in memory of Sally and Don Clement. The interior of the church was again remodeled in 1946 and the steeple was renovated at this time.

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

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NewburyportProperty Address  
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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Currier, John J. *History of Newburyport, Massachusetts, 1764-1906*, vols. 1 & 2. Newburyport: 1906 & 1909.  
Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic Resources Inventory: Newburyport*.  
Newburyport City Directories, various dates.  
Newburyport Daily News, February 9, 1848 and January 18, 1946.  
Photographic collection, Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts.  
Stirgwolt, Mary Jane. "Historical Buildings Survey and Inventory, Newburyport, Massachusetts: Narrative History",  
Prepared for the Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1980.

## Maps

- Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: D.B. Beers & Co., 1872.  
*Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts*. Boston: George H. Walker, 1884.  
Beck & Paul. *City of Newburyport*. Framingham, Mass.: Bigelow and Hazen, 1880.  
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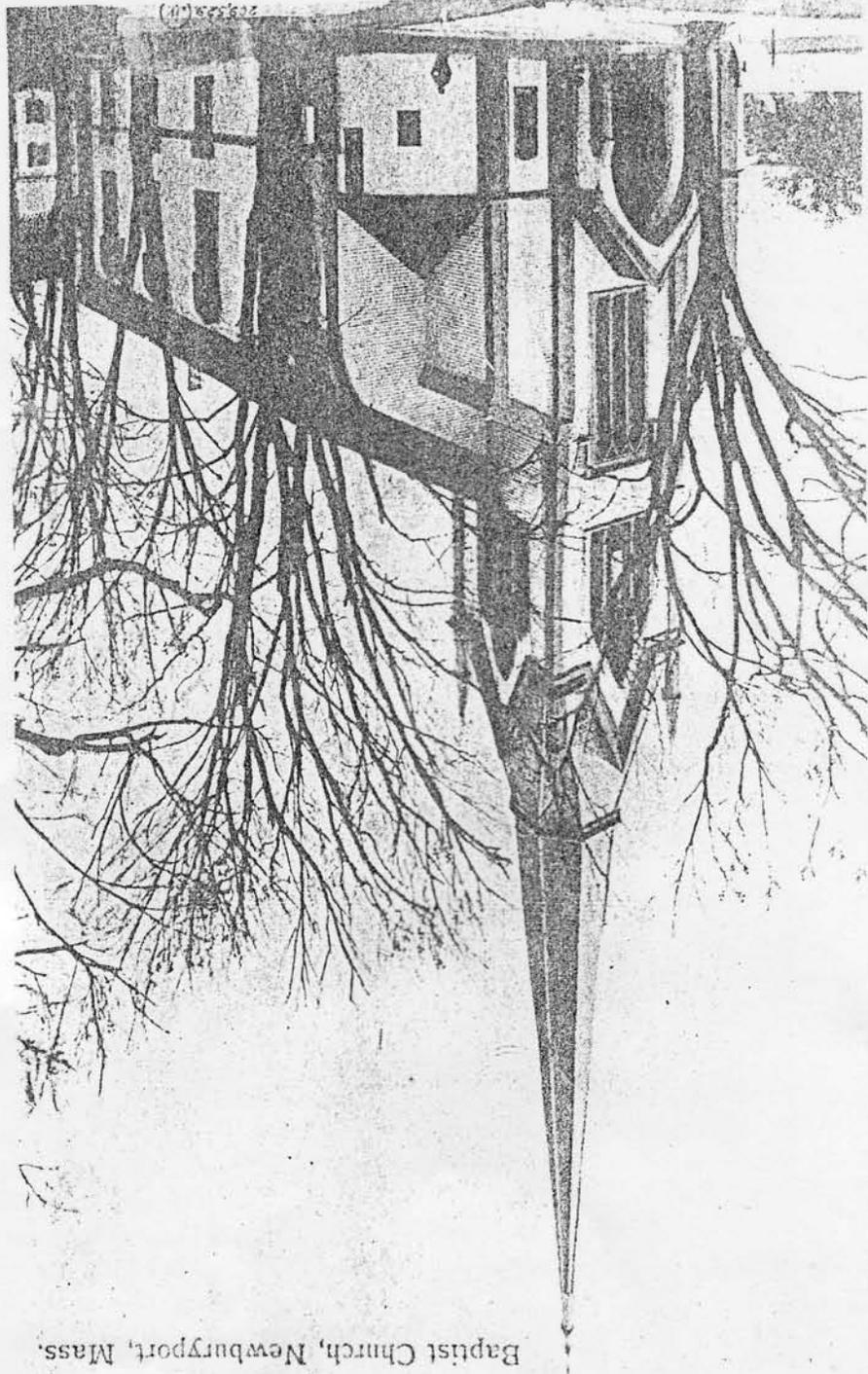
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Baptist Church, Newburyport, Mass.



Source: Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, Negative #11,779

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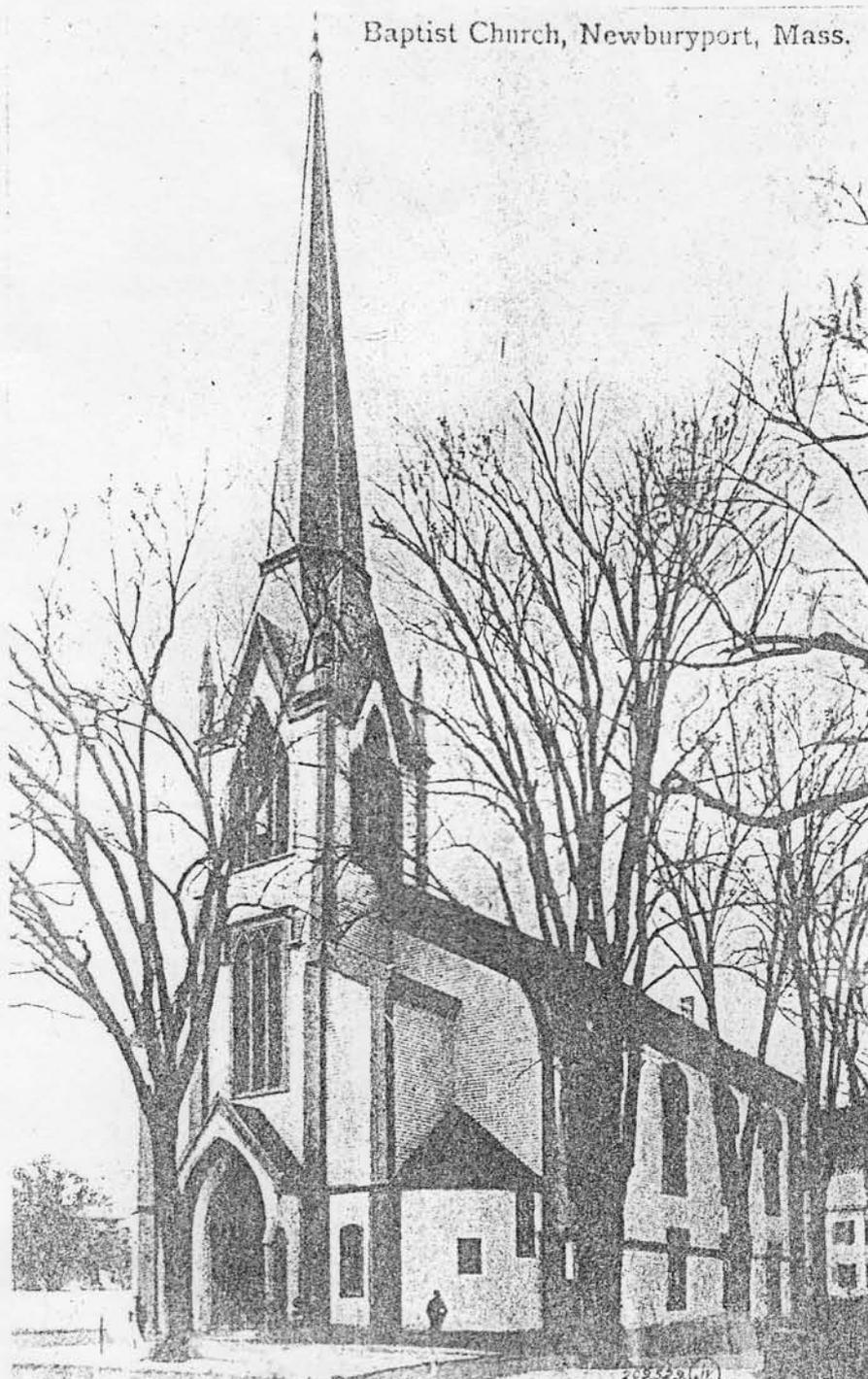
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