

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	NWB.1674
Historic Name:	Currier, Albert School
Common Name:	
Address:	37 1/2 Forrester St
City/Town:	Newburyport
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	62-35
Year Constructed:	C 1910
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Classical Revival
Use(s):	Doctor Or Dentist Office; Public School
Significance:	Architecture; Community Planning; Education; Health Medicine
Area(s):	NWB.L: Newburyport Historic District
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (8/2/1984); Preservation Restriction (7/12/2004)



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B – BUILDING

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Newburyport

L 1674

NPTS- 8/2/84
PR- 7/12/04

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town Newburyport

Place Newburyport Historic District

Address 37 1/2 Forrester Street

Historic Name Albert Currier School

Uses: Present Offices

Original School

Date of Construction c. 1910

Source Plaque on building, assessor's records

Style/Form Beaux Arts/Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder Unknown

Exterior Material: Brick

Foundation Concrete

Wall/Trim Brick, concrete trim

Roof Tar

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

Front door replaced by wall and window, front stairs demolished, windows east, south and west bricked up, new doors and surrounds southeast and northwest elevations; access ramp on southeast elevation.

Condition good

Moved No

Acreage Less than 1 acre.

Setting On corner lot in residential neighborhood, set back from street behind surrounding paved parking lot.

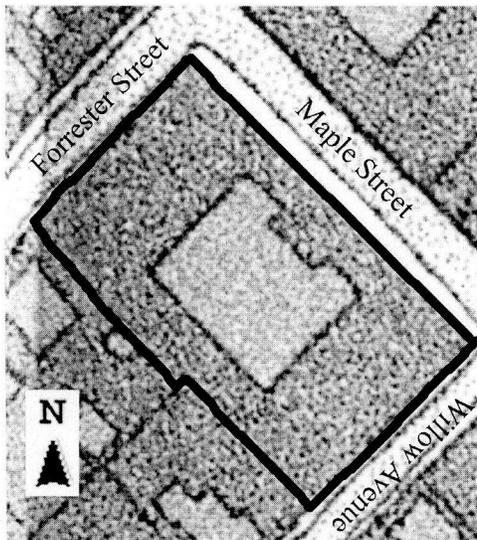
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MAR 19 2004

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Sketch Map



Recorded by Pauline Chase Harrell
Organization Boston Affiliates Inc.
for the National Architectural Trust
Date March, 2004

BUILDING FORM**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION** *see continuation sheet*

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

This former school has been altered for office use but retains much of its character-defining design. Sited on a corner lot, its northeast-facing façade is set back from Maple Street behind a small lawn. Foundation plantings line the façade and the front of both side elevations. The rear of the side elevations and rear elevation are paved, and now used for driveways and parking.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

Discuss 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.

The building that now has an address of 37 1/2 Forrester Street, formerly listed on Maple Street, was built in 1910 as the Albert Currier School. Albert Currier, who lived on Kent Street in the 1840s, was a partner in the Globe Steam Mills, which built a factory between Federal, Independence and Water Streets in 1846. He also had shipping interests; in 1882, like numerous Newburyporters, he was awarded a settlement by the Court of Commissions of Alabama Claims, having been part owner of the *Crown Point*, which was captured and burned off the coast of Florida by the Confederates in 1863 while sailing from New York to San Francisco with assorted cargo.

Currier was active in local affairs. He was elected Selectmen in Newburyport in 1850, and when Newburyport became a City in 1851, he served on the committee to select and acquire a site for the new City Hall. In that year, also, he served as a State Representative, and in 1852 became a State Senator, a post he repeated in 1884. In between those terms, he served several terms as an Alderman, and was twice elected Mayor, in 1859 and 1860. In 1893, he was an incorporator of the Newburyport Homeopathic Hospital, which opened in 1906 across High Street from the head of Woodland Street.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Currier, J.J., *History of Newburyport, 1764-1905*, vols. I and II. (Newburyport: [?], reprint 1977).

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. National Register of Historic Places Inventory: Newburyport Historic District. 1980.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

37 1/2 Forrester Street is in the Newburyport National Register District.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community Property Address

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

NEWBURYPORT 37 1/2 FORRESTER STREET

Area(s) Form Number

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, continued

The brick building with concrete trim, is Beaux Arts/Colonial Revival in style and typical of school design around the turn of the twentieth century. It rises from high concrete foundations with windowed basement two stories high to a stepped parapet with copper coping that shields a flat roof. The symmetrical building is U-shaped in form with wings extending towards Maple Street and the original main entrance centered on the five-bay block that is set back to connect the wings. This entry, which was sheltered under a heavy concrete cornice supported on scrolled brackets, has been closed with a brick wall and picture window. Above the entry is an inset concrete tablet with the inscription ALBERT CURRIER SCHOOL. Centered above this on the flat parapet and resting on a continuous concrete cornice is a concrete Beaux Arts style cartouche bearing the numbers 1910, the date of construction. Larger concrete diamond insets centered above the cornice and smaller insets below it on the stepped parapets of the wings provide decorative accents.

The wings are each three evenly spaced bays wide (the central window on each floor is currently blocked). But the building is an unsymmetrical six windows (in five bays) deep. These windows are grouped towards the front of the building while a large wall area at the rear housing stairwells is windowless. The stairwell area, like the rest of the building laid up in a variant of American Common Bond, is ornamented with a square composed of soldier and rowlock courses ornamented by square concrete insets at the corners. Windows throughout the first floor have segmental-arched splayed lintels ornamented with oversized concrete keystones. The concrete sills that curve upwards at the ends are an unusual touch. Windows of the second floor touch a frieze composed of a soldier course. Sash of the oversized windows throughout is 2/2. Other details include a deep concrete water table topped by a brick soldier course.

The rear elevation is lit by ten windows (four are currently bricked up) and one window set between the floors on both sides of this group that light the stairwells. This elevation has tall basement windows. On the northwest and southeast side elevation entries in the fifth of five bays have been altered with large glass doors and surrounds but the original concrete door hood on scrolls remain. The date of the concrete stairs is unknown. Awnings on metal poles at each of these entries do not substantially affect the integrity of the design. On the southeast elevation a concrete ramp and stair navigate the greater drop to the ground on this side.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, continued

The Currier School was built as a grammar school to serve the growing population in the Belleville section of Newburyport, which stretched from Oakland Street to the Artichoke River. Annexed to Newburyport, after several decades of attempting to secede from the agricultural town of Newbury to join the port, at the time the town became a city in 1851, Belleville had long been the primary center of shipbuilding for the port and remained so through the 1880s. The area inland from the shipyards at the foot of Merrimack Court, Oakland, Woodland, Ashland and Jefferson Streets was more rural than the densely settled port section, and after annexation provided lots for many new homes. As shipbuilding declined later in the century, the old yards became the sites for new industrial uses, including trolley car barns, a generating plant, and the large Towle silver factory at the foot of Broad Street, and these attracted workers.

Belleville soon outgrew the old one-room schools on "the Plains" along Story Avenue and in Moultonville, and the newer and larger Curtis School on Ashland Street (all three now demolished). These became solely primary schools, feeding into the new Currier School, built as a grammar school. This system, with the Plains and Moultonville schools phased out by the 1930s, served until another wave of modernization in the 1960s and '70s accommodated the post-World War II subdivision development with newer schools. Following construction of the Nock Middle School, the Currier School was closed in 1975. It has since been converted to medical offices, with the paved play areas converted to parking.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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PHOTOS



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NEWBURYPORT 37 1/2 FORRESTER STREET

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PHOTOS

Right side and rear. NAT file: 37.5 Forrester Street - rear.jpg



Right side (new entrance). NAT file: 37.5 Forrester Street - right side.jpg

