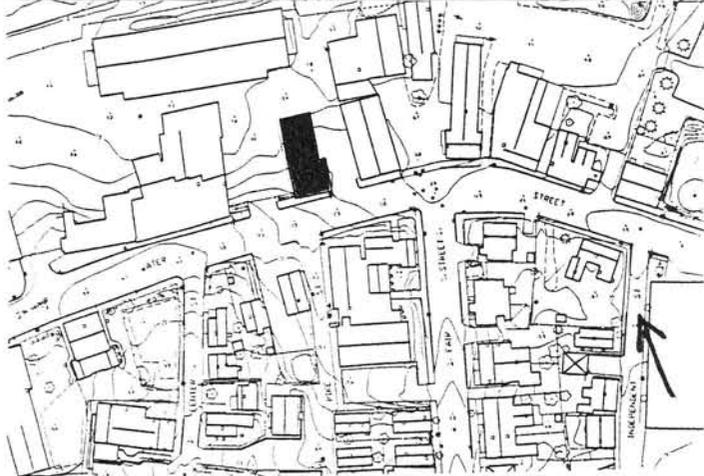


Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building



Town Newburyport  
Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 45 Water Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Commercial

Original Commercial

Date of Construction 1822

Source keystone

Style/Form Federal (altered)

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Stone

Wall/Trim Brick/Marble

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) late 19th century - west bay added to facade; early 20th c. - SW tower; c.1990- new roof, dormers, towers, rear addition

Condition good

Moved  no  yes Date

Acreage 3231 SF

Setting commercial area on banks of Merrimack River, adjacent to Market Square

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf  
Organization Newburyport Historical Commission  
Date (month/year) June 1999

## BUILDING FORM (45 Water Street)

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

The original appearance of this Federal-style commercial building has been altered by the addition of a fourth bay on the west end of the facade in the 19th century and alterations to the roofline and the addition of dormers and towers in more recent years (since 1980). With the exception of the west wall which is stretcher brick, the brick is laid in a Flemish bond and ivy obscures much of the building. Significant features corresponding to a Federal style influence include the marble splayed window lintels and modillion cornice and the arched first floor openings. The height and pitch of the present hip roof is greater than the original roof profile and the iron cresting, like the dormers and towers, is a recent addition. The hip-roofed tower at the southwest corner is a c.1990 reconstruction of an earlier square tower. The south and west sides are faced with brick and contain clock faces while the remaining two sides are clapboarded. Extending behind the main block is a three-story hipped roof addition which is seven bays deep.

The predominant window is a 1/1 replacement sash fitted with exterior storm windows. There is a modern bay window on the upper story of the east elevation and the dormer windows consist of casements capped by lunettes and "Palladian"-style dormers on the west side. The arched first floor facade openings have been filled with a modern multilight door, 8/12 replacement sash and a 3 x 4-window, the western bay consists of an arched recess.

### 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.*

As recorded in the building's keystone, this building was constructed in 1822, after the great fire and the passing of the ordinance requiring new buildings over ten feet high to be constructed of brick. It was located at the head of Commercial Wharf. The first directory published for Newburyport in 1849 indicates that John Wood & Son, flour and grain dealers, were located here. Wood owned the entire wharf in addition to this building. It is possible that the building was originally built for him although this could not be determined without deed research. Beginning about 1854 the building housed the firm of Sumner, Swasey and Currier, grain and flour dealers and commission merchants. On June 15, 1880, the Newburyport Herald reported that the Sumner, Swasey & Currier building was being "extensively refitted" by the Perry & Sumner Shoe Co. In the late 1880s the building also briefly housed a paper box factory run by Edward Hale. The October 3, 1883 edition of the Herald reported that the Merrimac Beef Company had opened in the brick building at 45 Water Street for the sale of Armour & Co.'s dressed beef and provisions. In 1894 the occupants were J.B. Thomas, who sold wholesale provisions including beef, and Edward Moody, boot and shoe manufacturer on the second and third floors. By 1902 the Swift Company was using the building as a wholesale meat warehouse. The Swift Company continued to own and occupy the building until it was sold in 1969. It was vacant in the early 1970s and was occupied by a shirtmaker in 1980. The building was subsequently renovated and now houses Bennett & Company.

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  
45 Water Street  
Area(s) Form No.Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

L,W	392
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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Currier, John J. *History of Newburyport, Massachusetts, 1764-1906*, vols. 1 & 2. Newburyport: 1906 & 1909.
- Erickson, Candace Chapman. "Dooryard and Shipyard: Four Walking Tours of Newburyport".
- Essex County, Register of Deeds.
- Irving, Ron. Unpublished research on Water Street.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission. Historic Resources Inventory: Newburyport.
- Newburyport City Directories, various dates.
- Photographic collection, Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Mass.
- 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.
- Plan of Newburyport*. Philadelphia: H. McIntyre, 1851.
- Sanborn Insurance Maps. Massachusetts State Library, Boston, Massachusetts.

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