

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984

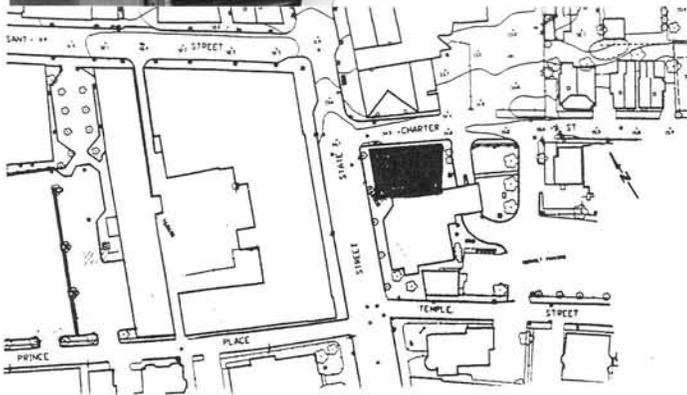
Assessor's number
6-36

USGS Quad
Newburyport

Area(s)
L,U

Form Number
2182

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



Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 63-69 State Street

Historic Name Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank

Uses: Present Offices/Bank

Original Bank

Date of Construction 1928

Source Daily News, 2/29/1928

Style/Form Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder Thomas M. James & Co. (Boston)/
Leslie R. Porter Co. (Salem)

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Brick

Roof Tar

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) 1982 - addition to south

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 3840 SF

Setting central business district, corner of Charter Street

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) April 1999

BUILDING FORM (63-69 State Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

The Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank is a Colonial Revival-building of brick and stone which occupies the southeast corner of State Street and Charter Street. The two-story building rests on a foundation of polished granite; the brick is laid in a Flemish bond. On the five-bay facade, the front pediment is supported by a distyle-in-antis arrangement of two-story, fluted interior columns and paneled piers with foliate capitals. The center entrance contains a pair of varnished six-panel doors flanked by pilasters with a cornice of incised lines, rosettes, leaves, egg-and-dart and dentil moldings with a broken pediment above. The two windows adjacent to the entrance contain 6/6 windows with three-light transoms and a splayed cast stone lintel set into a semi-circular arch with a stone keystone and springblocks. Inside the semicircle the brick is laid in a diamond pattern with a central diamond. Most of the remaining windows contain 6/6 sash with splayed stone lintels, the only exception being three large windows on the first floor of the seven-bay long Charter Street elevation which are set into arched recesses. Most of the first floor openings are fitted with iron grills.

A decorative cornice wraps around the principal elevations and displays a plain frieze with guttae. Above the cornice is a three-part brick parapet.

To the south of the 1928 bank building is a modern concrete and glass addition constructed in 1982 and designed by Jonathan Woodman.

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 bank building is the second bank building erected in Newburyport for the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank. The architects of the bank were Thomas M. James & Co. of Boston, who were also responsible for the renovations to the First and Ocean Bank (MHC#2180) in 1922. Leslie R. Porter Co. of Salem served as the general contractor. As described in a 1928 article, the main first floor banking room measured 28 by 30 feet and was finished with mahogany woodwork, wainscoting and furnishings. The black and gold marble baseboard measured eight inches high and the walls were painted a warm gray with an ornamental plaster ceiling. The second floor of the building consisted of large and spacious office rooms including one room reserved for the directors of the bank. The new building was erected on the site of one of the oldest buildings in Newburyport which was demolished in April 1927. The cost of the new bank building was approximately \$125,000.

The Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank was incorporated on April 24, 1854. The original proprietors of the bank were Dudley D. Tilton, John Balch, Edward Lesky, John Porter, Daniel P. Pike, Benjamin I. Lane, Luther T. Dimmick, Daniel M. Reed, Samuel J. Spaulding, William C. Balch and Richard Plumer. The bank opened for business on June 19, 1854 in rooms over the store of Joseph Frothingham at 42 State Street. The bank later occupied rooms over the Merchants Bank (53 State Street). In 1874 the bank erected a building at 72-80 State Street (MHC#362) which it occupied until 1928.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

"Throngs Admire Five Cents Savings Bank Building", Newburyport Daily News, Feb. 29, 1928.

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