

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Area	Form no. 453
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Town Newburyport
Address 125-127 Merrimac Street
Historic Name Albert Russell and Sons
Foundry
Use: Original Iron Foundry
Newburyport Public Works
Present Department
Ownership: ☐ Private individual
Private organization
Public City of Newburyport
Original owner Unknown

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

Date Mid Nineteenth Century

Source Building Fabric

Style	Utilitarian
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Architect Unknown

~~Interior~~ wall fabric Brick

atbuildings

rior alterations (with dates) roof

has been altered (date unknown)

Approved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 60,110 sq. ft.

etting in area of mixed

Commercial and residential use along

the banks of the Merrimack River.

Organization Office of Community
Development

Date 12-12-80



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

This building is strictly utilitarian in style with little architectural ornament. The structure is of two and a half stories with gambrel roof. The roof appears to have been altered and possibly originated as a pitched roof. There is a simple brick dentil detail along the roof line on the building's facade. The window on the first floor of the facade have shallow arched heads. The double window sash with six over six lights probably date from the original construction.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

The owner of this building in 1859 was James Blood. Blood invested heavily in real estate in Newburyport's North End. At that time the building was occupied by the Newburyport Foundry and Machine Shop.

Prior to 1860 Albert Russell had a foundry at the foot of Green Street. At about that time Russell moved to this building. His firm, later known as Albert Russell and Sons Company, manufactured iron and brass castings, windlasses, and bilge pumps for the ship-building industry. Their equipment was used throughout the country. Russell was given an award for his patent bilge pump in 1883. Later the firm specialized in marine engines, building the "dummy steam locomotives used on the railway from Plum Island Point to the Plum Island Hotel." The Russell firm was in business until after World War I.

In 1948 this property was conveyed to the City of Newburyport. It is presently occupied by the Public Works Department.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, vols. I and II., reprint, Newburyport 1977.
R. Cheney, History of Merrimac River Shipbuilding, Newburyport, 1964.
Assessor's Records 1890-1980
1851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire
1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.