Newburyport Public Work

Foundry

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

PHOTO (3x3" or 3x5", black & white) Staple to left side of form Photo number poop-17

SKETCH MAP

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

Department Ownership: Private individual Private organization Public City of Newburyport Original owner Unknown DESCRIPTION: Date Mid Nineteenth Century Source Building Fabric Style Utilitarian chitect Unknown terior wall fabric Brick tbuildings jor alterations (with dates) roof s been altered (date unknown)

etting in area of mixed

the banks of the Merrimack River.

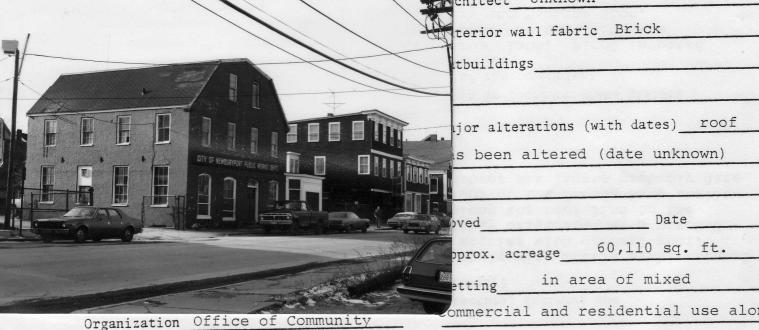
Town Newburyport

Present

Address 125-127 Merrimac Street

Use: Original Iron Foundry

Historic Name Albert Russell and Sons



Date 12-12-80

(Staple additional sheets here)

Development

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 a 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, <u>History of Newburyport</u> 1764-1905, vols. I and II., reprint, Newburyport 1977.

R. Cheney, <u>History of Merrimac River Shipbuilding</u>, Newburyport, 1964. Ssessor's Records 1890-1980

2851 Plan of Newburyport, Mass. H. McIntire

1872 Map of the City of Newburyport, Mass. D. G. Beers and Co.