

## FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984

Assessor's number  
4-36USGS Quad  
Newburyport

Area(s)

Form Number  
1543

Massachusetts Historical Commission



Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 24-26 Inn Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Commercial/Offices

Original Commercial

Date of Construction c.1818

Source visual inspection

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder unknown

## Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Brick/Granite

Roof Asphalt Shingle

## Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) 1973 - building rehabbed

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 1173 SF

Setting pedestrian mall south of Market Square

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 1999

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

## BUILDING FORM (24-26 Inn Street)

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

The building at 24-26 Inn Street is the southernmost of the row of five restored blocks extending south from Market Square. Urban renewal has exposed the south wall of 24-26 Inn Street, although originally several wood-frame buildings extended further south. The three story block is constructed of brick laid in a common bond alternating six courses of stretchers to a single row of headers. Rising from the low-gable roof is a parapet end of modern construction, incorporating two square chimneys. Facing Inn Street pedestrian mall, there is a large central opening capped by a wide granite sill. The large opening has been filled with two c.1970 glass-and-wood doors which are capped by a wooden transom with four recessed squares. On either side of this opening is a storefront consisting of two 3 x 3-light display windows and a glass-and-panel door on the inside edge. On each of the storefronts, the windows and door share a continuous wooden cornice. Four 8/8 windows punctuate the second floor, there is no opening in the center. On the third floor, there are five smaller 8/8 windows with header brick lintels and wooden sills.

The gable end is without any openings. The fenestration pattern on the west wall consists of two central doors flanked by two windows on the first floor; four windows on the second floor (a center opening has been filled in) and five unevenly spaced windows on the third floor.

### 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.*

What is now Inn Street is roughly the area where the fire started in 1811, destroying much of Market Square. Inn Street was laid out in 1818 as part of the reconstruction of the area after the fire.

As in most business areas, the businesses on Inn Street changed frequently and 24-26 Inn Street was no exception. In the 1880s and 1890s Abraham Ray operated a saloon at 24 Inn Street. Solomon Schmidt, a tailor, is also known to have been here in the 1880s. In the early 20th century a series of barbers occupied the building including Joseph Thibault (c.1909-1920), Louis Thibault (c.1900-c.1945), John Johnson (c.1925-c.1946) and Sylvan Ovide (c.1945-c.1960). E.J. Marsolais, an upholster, was located at 26 Inn Street in the 1940s and 1950s.

Most of the buildings on Inn Street were demolished as part of Urban Renewal in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The building at 24-26 Inn Street (Urban Renewal Parcel 9A) was rehabilitated by Dr. Michael Rowan and Dr. William Tenenbaum, subject to review by the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority. Philip Briggs of ADD, Inc. of Cambridge served as architect. A photograph of the building prior to rehabilitation was printed in the Newburyport Daily News on November 26, 1971. Work was completed in 1974, the same year the Inn Street pedestrian mall was completed.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Cogger, Virginia H., Chairman. "An Informal History of the Downtown Streets of Newburyport". Unpublished, c.1973 [Newburyport Public Library].

Newburyport Daily News, 10/19/1971; 11/26/1971.

Newburyport Directories, 1900-present.

Sanborn Insurance Maps. Massachusetts State Library, Boston, Massachusetts.

*Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts.* Philadelphia: D.B. Beers & Co., 1872.

*Plan of Newburyport.* Philadelphia: H. McIntyre, 1851.

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