

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984

Assessor's number
9-5

USGS Quad
Newburyport

Area(s)
L,D

Form Number
1838

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



Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 3-7 Middle Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Commercial

Original Commercial

Date of Construction after 1811

Source visual inspection, Carrier

Style/Form

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Stone

Wall/Trim Brick

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) c.1880 - new window

lintels; c.1970 - alterations to storefronts

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 4792 SF

Setting side street to east of State Street in central
business district

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 1999

BUILDING FORM (3-7 Middle Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

Historic photographs indicate that this three-story brick block originally (and until about 1880) had lintels and first floor arches that were identical to 9-15 Middle Street (MHC#1839) next door and an additional building (no longer extant) which once stood across the street. The present building appears to have been renovated in the late 19th century. It is capped by a low gable roof.

The first floor of the building is divided into two storefronts with a central entrance containing a modern door leading upstairs and is outlined by brick piers resting on the original granite base. The storefront to the west (#3 Middle Street) has a c.1970 glass-and-wood door flanked by large plate glass windows above glazed bulkheads. The east storefront (#7) has been more dramatically altered and contains a modern door flanked by arched display windows with arched transoms. The first floor is capped by a wide signboard. Each of the upper two floors has five openings with modern 6/6 sash set into segmental openings with granite sills and distinctive brick lintels consisting of arched dentil courses set between end blocks. The third floor openings extend up to the dentil course.

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.

The buildings on this section of Middle Street were destroyed in the great fire of 1811. The earliest known occupants of this building include Charles Huse, a painter, and Joseph Akeman, provisions, both of whom were here in 1855. In 1875 A.F. Hunt published "The Advocate" at 3 Middle Street. In the late 1870s Alfred W. Thompson began operating an establishment here which directories label by various labels including, saloon, restaurant, billiards room and oysterhouse. Thompson remained in business until about c. 1910 and lived upstairs.

About 1922 the Salvation Army began using the upper floors of the building and remained here until 1972 when it moved to new quarters on Water Street. First floor tenants during this period included a barber shop.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (and/or) REFERENCES

- Currier, John J. *History of Newburyport, Massachusetts, 1764-1906*, vols. 1 & 2. Newburyport: 1906 & 1909.
Essex County, Register of Deeds.
Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic Resources Inventory: Newburyport*.
Newburyport City Directories, various dates.
Photographic Collection, Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.
Stirgwalt, 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.

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

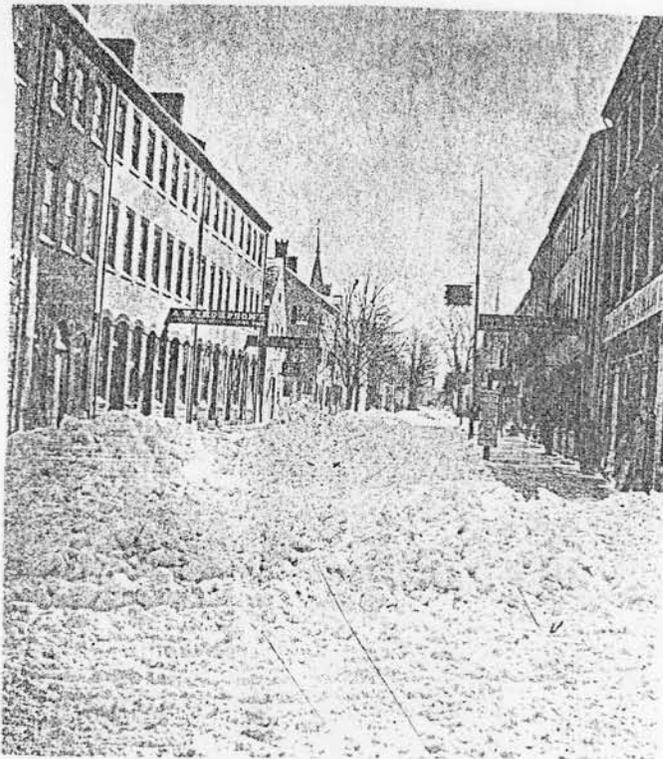
INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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(before 1880)

Source: Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.

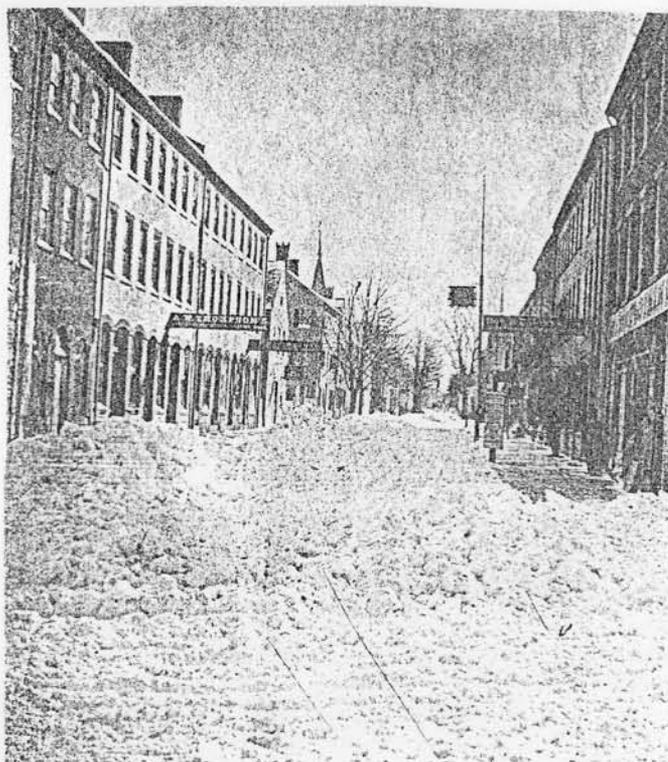
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