

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	NWB.1685
Historic Name:	Smith, Justin and Rufus Grocery Store - Adams Hous
Common Name:	Hennessy, Thomas Fruit Market
Address:	36-38 Market Sq
City/Town:	Newburyport
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	4-40
Year Constructed:	C 1811
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Federal
Use(s):	Barber Shop Or Hair Salon; Commercial Block; Hotel or Inn; Market or Grocery Store
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce
Area(s):	NWB.K: Market Square Historic District NWB.L: Newburyport Historic District
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (2/25/1971); Nat'l Register District (8/2/1984)



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 2/25/1971; 8/2/1984

Assessor's number
4-40USGS Quad
NewburyportArea(s)
L,KForm Number
1685

Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 36-38 Market Square (& 2 Inn Street)

Historic Name

Uses: Present Commercial/Offices

Original Commercial

Date of Construction c.1811

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) c.1860 - iron cresting;

1972-3 - building rehabilitated

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 2508 SF

Setting corner of Inn Street pedestrian mall

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 1999

RECEIVED

SEP 30 1999

BUILDING FORM (36-38 Market Square/2 Inn Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

Located at the southwest corner of Inn Street and Market Square, 36-38 Market Square/2 Inn Street is a three-story brick building capped by a low hip roof with iron cresting on the front edge, just above the brick modillion cornice. The building is constructed of brick laid in a Flemish bond which appears to have been sandblasted. The Inn Street elevation measures five bays across and the Market Square side is six bays wide; the corner bay is angled.

The storefront on the Inn Street side has semicircular arched openings including a wide wooden door with three upper vertical panes of glass set over three lower panels. The easternmost storefront on Market Square appears to date to the mid to late 19th century and features 3 x 3-light shop windows outlined by four octagonal posts with fluted corners, resting on octagonal bases. The posts are spanned by arches with keystones centered over the windows and doors and recessed geometric panels over the columns. By contrast, the two storefronts to the west display a trabeated system of granite posts, lintels and bulkheads which was popular in the early 19th century.

The second and third story windows facing Inn Street Mall contain 12/12 windows; some are without lintels and others have lintels constructed of header brick. The corner window and those on the Market Square elevation contain 12/12 replacement sash set in molded wood surrounds but display splayed sandstone lintels and simple stone sills. Two shed dormers containing 2 x 3-light windows rise from the front slope of the roof in addition to several tall brick chimneys.

The west wall of the building displays a low gable profile with a copper-covered parapet. There are two central window openings on the second and third floors containing pairs of narrow 9/6 sash. The rear elevation is punctuated by three to four bays of windows and displays the same cornice treatment as the facade.

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 located approximately where a major conflagration 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. The building at 36-38 Market Square stylistically appears to predate the other adjacent buildings on Inn Street. It was probably constructed shortly after the 1811 fire.

In the late 19th century the eastern part of this block (36 Market Square and 2 Inn Street) was part of the Adams House hotel. Justin and Rufus Smith, grocers, were located at 36 Market Square as early as 1816 and were still there in 1860. The store was the principal store for the sale of grindstones in the town. The corner storefront (36 Market Square) contained a fruit store for much of the late 19th and early 20th century. It was operated by Thomas Hennessy in the 1880s and by (Tony) Barboro & Dondero from about 1890 until 1920. In the 1930s this was known as the Newburyport Fruit & Produce Market. From about 1940 into the 1960s Newton's men's store was located at #36.

The storefront at #37 Market Square contained a men's clothing store in the mid 19th century, operated by various proprietors including D.R. Martin, C.P. Vay and Lewis Toppan. By the late 1880s this had been converted to a meat store. It was later operated by Sullivan & Lyons who initially sold meats and later changed their focus to liquors.

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

Town
NewburyportNWB. 1685
Property Address
36-38 Market Square
Area(s) Form No.Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

L,K	1685
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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

The store at #38 Market Square was home to J.G. Pearson, clock repairer, and N.G. Bassett, crockery, in 1860. By the 1880s it was occupied by a bootblack. In the early 20th century a barber shop was located at #38, and later an auto supplies store moved in.

Most of the buildings on Inn Street were demolished as part of Urban Renewal in the late 1960s. The building at 36-38 Market Square/2 Inn Street was rehabilitated by developer Chris Snow under the review of the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority. The Inn Street Mall was completed in 1975 and the brick building to the west (the Parcel 8 condos) was constructed in 1983.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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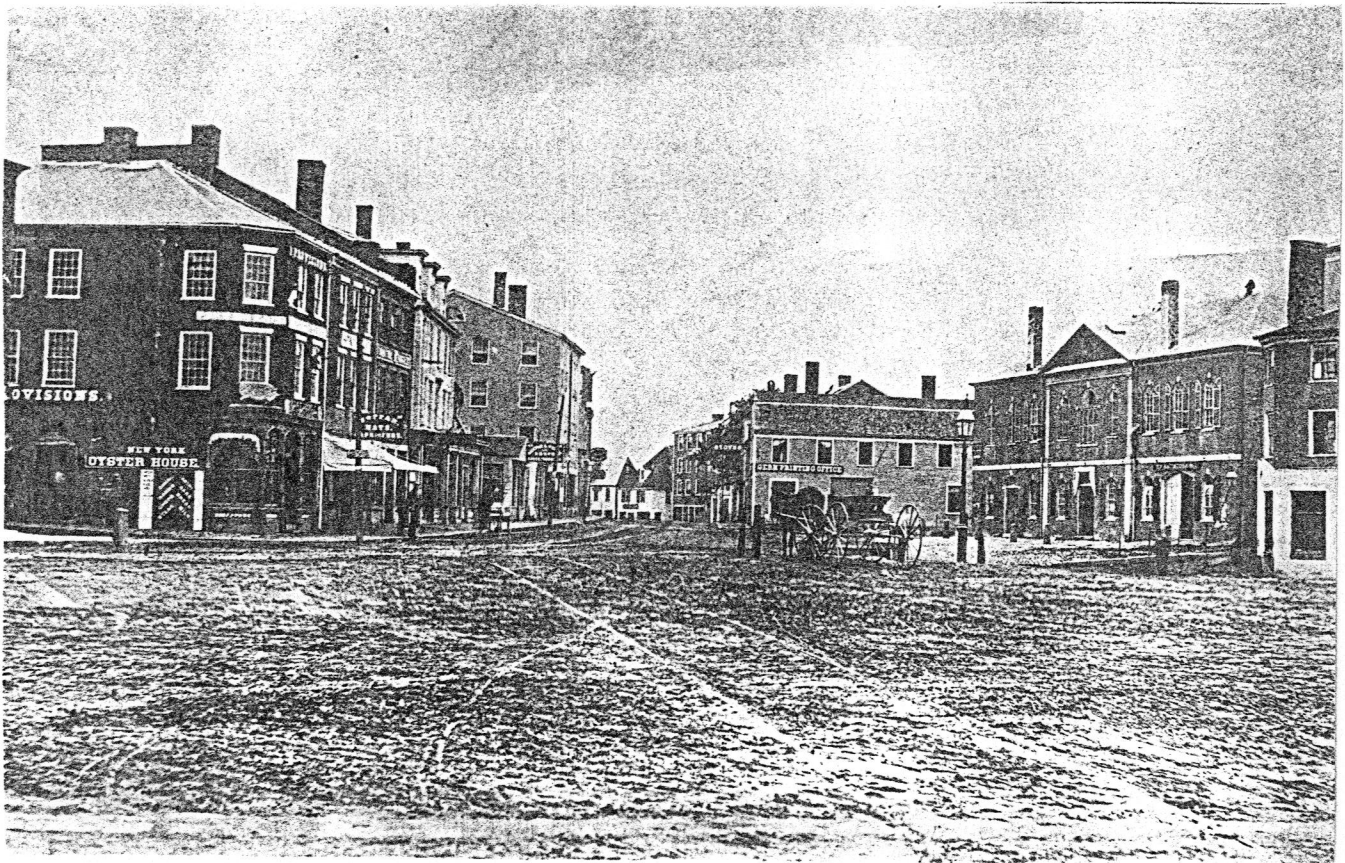
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36-38 Market Square visible at left, about 1890 (note 12/8 windows)

Source: Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Mass. (E.I. neg. #10,922)

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36-38 Market Square visible at left, early 20th c. (note 1/1 windows)

Source: Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Mass. (E.I. neg. #11,593)