

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984

Assessor's number
1-15USGS Quad
NewburyportArea(s)
L,UForm Number
2964

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

Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 84 State Street

Historic Name A & P Store

Uses: Present Restaurant

Original Commercial

Date of Construction 1940

Source Mass. Div. of Inspection records

Style/Form Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder A & P

Exterior Material:

Foundation Undetermined

Wall/Trim Brick

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 8032 SF

Setting central business district, shares lot with former
shoe factory

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) April 1999

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

BUILDING FORM (84 State Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

The former A & P Store is a single-story, side-gabled building constructed of brick laid in a Flemish bond. The building displays various Colonial Revival details including a center entrance embellished by cabled, fluted pilasters, triglyphs and dentils and capped by a semi-elliptical divided light with a brick surround, granite keystones and springblocks. The recessed entrance has a paneled embrasure and is fitted with a multi-light door. To each side of the entrance is a wooden 6 x 3-light display window set into a molded surround. The long, horizontal signboard is constructed of horizontal boards with an awning mounted below.

Centered on the asphalt-shingled roof is a square cupola resting on a rusticated base. The tower is sheathed in horizontal flushboard with arched louvered openings on each of the four faces. It is capped by a cushion roof with knob.

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.

Sanborn insurance maps suggest that this building was built on the site of an earlier two-story frame building shown on the 1924 map although the records at the Massachusetts Division of Inspection suggest it is an alteration of an earlier building which was then owned by Arthur W. Clancy. Historic photographs show that the site was previously occupied by a c.1830 two-story, side-gabled dwelling with an entablatured entrance centered on its five-bay facade. Directories indicate that in 1939-40 Annie C. Ryan operated a tea room on the site of this building. By 1941 however the building had been taken over by the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. (A & P). The 1946 Sanborn map update shows a 1 1/2-story brick building on the site.

The building appears to have been renovated several times in the 1940s and 50s. In June 1949 novelist John P. Marquand snipped the ribbon stretched across the doorway of the supermarket to officially open the remodeled store. When the store was taken over by Sampson's Red and White Supermarket in 1954, the ribbon was cut by Mayor Henry Graf. The store was completely redecorated and equipped with new and modern fixtures including the latest in refrigeration units. The store was operated by Richard W. Sampson of Skowhegan, Maine and continued to occupy the space until 1969, when it was replaced by the Clipper City Market. Most recently the building served as a restaurant.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

"Crowd Hails Market Opening; Ribbon is Cut by Mayor Graf", Newburyport Daily News, July 14, 1954.
Massachusetts Division of Inspection. Building Inspection Plans. Card File. [Massachusetts State Archives, Boston].
Newburyport City Directories, various dates.
Newburyport Daily News, 11/12/1969.
"Novelist Wields Big Shears at A & P Ceremony", Newburyport Daily News, June 2, 1949.
Sanborn Insurance Maps, Newburyport, 1906, 1914, 1924, 1946.

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