

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984

Assessor's number
1-16

USGS Quad
Newburyport

Area(s)
L,U

Form Number
2214

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

Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 88 State Street (corner Prince Place)

Historic Name

Uses: Present Commercial

Original Commercial

Date of Construction 1883

Source Herald, 7/31/1883

Style/Form Altered

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Undetermined

Wall/Trim Wood Shingles

Roof Tar

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

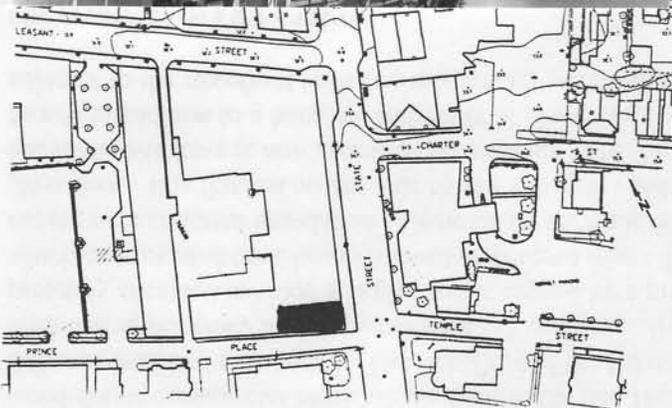
Major Alterations (with dates) c.1970? - original display windows & 2/2 sash removed, building sheathed in wood shingles

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 636 SF

Setting corner location in central business district, opposite Public Library



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) April 1999

BUILDING FORM (88 State Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

Located in front of the former N.D. Dodge shoe factory, at the corner of State Street and Prince Place, is this two-story, wood-frame commercial block which dates to the late 19th century. Historic photographs show a building which is quite different than that seen today. The first floor of the flat-roofed block had large display windows with multi-light transoms while the upper story was lit by multiple 2/2 windows. Iron cresting originally crowned the roof. Today, the building is presently sheathed in wood shingles and is capped by a projecting cornice with a modillion-like detail. Any cornerboards which once existed have been removed or covered over. The first floor storefront has been bricked in with common brick resting on a concrete foundation. Centered on the State Street facade is a recessed entrance containing a modern metal and glass door. It is flanked on one side by a 3 x 3-light window and on the other by a round window. The simple sign band above the windows is now obscured by awnings. There is a single offcenter, modern 1/1 window on the second floor of the facade in addition to a hanging, internally lit plastic sign. The Prince Place elevation has two 3 x 3 windows on the first floor adjacent to the storefront with two modern 1/1 sash and a frame on the second 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.

On July 31, 1883, the Newburyport Herald reported that the old wooden building on State Street, previously occupied by John Sumner, was being torn down to make way for a new building at the corner of Prince Place and State Street. Sumner's store selling stoves, plumbing and tinware had occupied the site since at least 1869. After the construction of the new building Sumner continued to occupy the first floor until at least 1891. In 1891 a new restaurant managed by Carter & Morgan opened at the store on the corner of State Street and Prince Place. The next occupant of the building was the Zatriss Bros. fruit and confectionery. In 1925 Annie C. Ryan had a fruit and confectionery store here; in the 1930s she also operated a tearoom next door at 86 State Street (which later became the A & P). Annie Ryan continued to operate a restaurant at 88 State Street through the 1940s. She lived at 6 Cherry Street. Sanborn insurance maps suggest that the building was somewhat altered between 1924 and 1946; the earlier map shows the front wall of the building as being recessed slightly in relation to that of the adjacent building.

Taffy's was opened by William Rymsha and his bride, Olga in 1951 and is still owned and operated by the family today. It is considered Newburyport's oldest downtown eatery.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Newspaper clipping, July 10, 1996.

Currier, John J. *History of Newburyport, Massachusetts, 1764-1906*, vols. 1 & 2. Newburyport: 1906 & 1909.

Irving, Ron. Unpublished research on State Street.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic Resources Inventory: Newburyport*.

Newburyport City Directories, various dates.

Newburyport Daily News, 7/9/1891.

Newburyport Herald, 7/31/1883.

Photographic collection, Newburyport Public Library.

Photographic collection, Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.

Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts. Boston: George H. Walker, 1884.

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.*

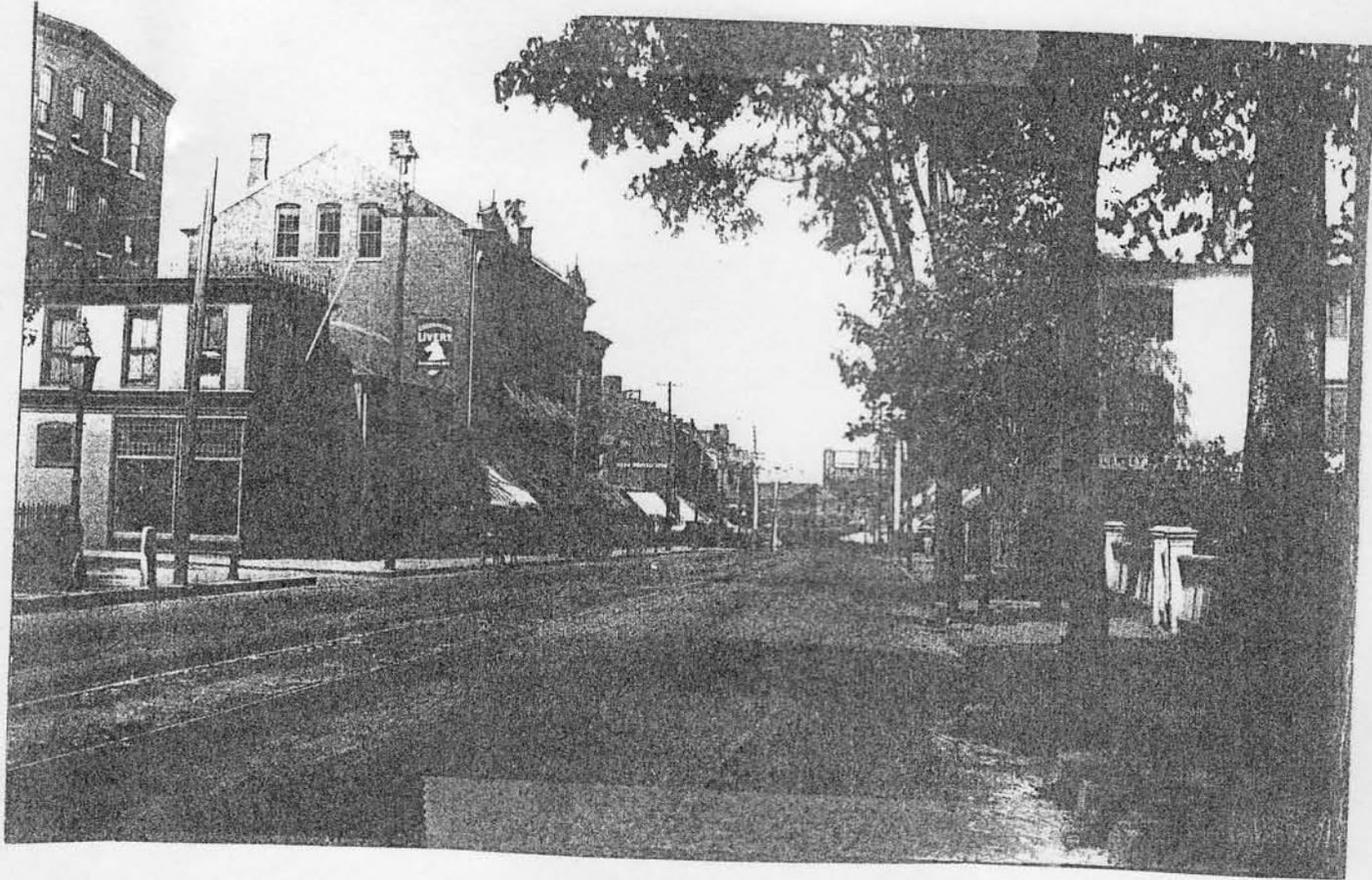
INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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Undated photograph with 88 State Street visible at left.

Source: Photographic collection, Newburyport Public Library.

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Undated (c.1890) photograph with 88 State Street visible at left.

Source: Photographic collection, Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Mass. (E.I. Neg. #10,4