

FORM B - BUILDING

NRDIS 8/2/1984

Assessor's number
9-6, 9-7

USGS Quad
Newburyport

Area(s)
L,D

Form Number
1839

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

Town Newburyport

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 9-15 Middle Street

Historic Name

Uses: Present Commercial

Original Commercial

Date of Construction after 1811

Source visual inspection, Currier

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Stone

Wall/Trim Brick

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) brick exterior painted -
date unknown

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 1440 SF & 1228 SF

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



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Newburyport Historical Commission

Date (month/year) June 1999

BUILDING FORM (9-15 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 was originally one of three identical blocks on Middle Street with an arcaded first floor and splayed window lintels above. One of the buildings, 3-7 Middle Street (MHC#1838) next door was altered c.1880 while the other building across the street is no longer extant.

This three-story block is constructed of brick (painted) laid in a Flemish bond. The block actually consists of two separate buildings. The two are capped by a low gable roof with a continuous brick modillion cornice. A series of four tall brick chimneys rise from the roof.

The first floor displays a series of eight connected segmental arches. The openings include four entrances set above granite sills and four single pane display windows which are cut into the brick wall. Two of the entrances contain an early 20th century wooden door with an upper glass over a lower panel. The entrances into the first floor consist of double doors. The eight bays of windows on the two upper stories are grouped horizontally in sets of four and consist of modern 6/6 sash, fitted with exterior storm windows, with sandstone sills and splayed stone lintels.

The east gable end of the building has been exposed by the removal of the adjacent building. It is covered with stucco and punctuated by four varied window openings.

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 original buildings on this section of Middle Street were destroyed in the great fire of 1811. The earliest known occupants of the building were Towle & Jones, silversmiths, who were briefly located at 11 Middle Street about 1851. Jones continued at the location for several years after the partnership was dissolved. Samuel H. Safford & Co., cabinet makers and undertakers were located at 13-15 Middle Street in the 1870s if not before. A dressmaker named Lucy Lake was at 9 Middle Street in 1855 and this upstairs space was later occupied by a sewing machine merchant and tailor. In the 20th century this apartment was occupied for many years by members of the Fotos family.

The adjacent building was removed prior to 1946. Leary's Lunch, liquors and restaurant, was operated at 15 Middle Street by Cornelius Leary from the 1930s until the 1960s. The establishment has been known as "The Grog" since the 1970s.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

Essex County, Register of Deeds.

Irving, Ron. Unpublished research on Middle Street.

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

Newburyport City Directories, various dates.

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

Stirgwort, Mary Jane. "Historical Buildings Survey and Inventory, Newburyport, Massachusetts: Narrative History", Prepared for the Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1980.

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
Newburyport

Property Address
9-15 Middle Street
Area(s) Form No.

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

L,D	1839
-----	------

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.