

Hazard Block
405-411 Thames Street
Newport
Newport County
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-379

HABS
RI,
3-NEWP,
74-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HAZARD BLOCK

Location: 405-411 Thames Street, Newport,
Newport County, Rhode Island

Present Owner: E. S. Peckham Coal and Oil Company, Inc.

Present Occupant: Peckham Coal and Oil Company

Present Use: Commercial office space

Significance: This three-unit store building with dwellings above is typical of the 1830s and is distinguished by a monitor roof characteristic of local construction.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Circa 1836.
2. Architect: Not known
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to Land Evidence Books in the Office of the City Clerk, Newport, Rhode Island.

1827 Deed of October 27, 1827, recorded in LEB. 16, p.532-38.

From: Henry Ruggles
To: William Richmond and Nathan M. Wheaton
For: \$100 + (Indenture)

5/6 of land and distillery.

1831 Deed of February 25, 1831, recorded in LEB. 18, p.152.

From: John Stevens
To: Henry Bull
For: \$500

"one undivided sixth part of a certain lot of land with distillery and other buildings. (Wharf, distillery, store, rum house)".

1831 Deed of March 8, 1831, recorded in LEB. 18, p.155, 156.

From: Henry Bull
To: William A.T. Sproat
For: \$3,000

Lot with distillery and other buildings.

1836 Deed of May 11, 1836, recorded in LEB. 21, p.194, 195.

From: William A. T. Sproat
To: Nathan Hammett and Clark Burdick
For: \$7,000

"Lot with factory"

1836 Deed of July 2, 1836, recorded in LEB. 21, p.178.

From: Nathan Hammett and Clark Burdick
To: Thomas R. Hazard
For: \$7,000

"land with factory and other buildings" bounded northerly by
by land of Captain John Cahoone, Southerly by a way, Westerly
67 ft. by water and Easterly 68' by Thames St.

1863 Deed of February 28, 1863, recorded in LEB. 36, p.134.

From: Thomas R. Hazard
To: Clarke H. Burdick and Jonathan Truman Burdick
For: \$2500.00

"lot of land, with the block of dwelling houses, and other
buildings thereon standing, ... beginning at the SE corner
of the Dye House, on the Woolen Mill Wharf, thence running
with said Dye House to the NE corner of the Dye House parallel
with Thames to land of Albert Sherman; thence easterly to
Thames St. thence South about 68 ft. on Thames, thence
Westerly about 45'...."

1863 Deed of April 30, 1863, recorded in LEB. 36, p.160.

From: Clark H. Burdick
To: Jonathan Truman Burdick
For: \$483

"one certain lot... w/ about 2/3 of a range of buildings,
known as the Hazard Block, it being the South part thereof,
and described as follows. East on Thames St., about 43' 4".
South on a Street leading to the water 45'; west on the Dye
House and fence as it now stands, late the property of Samuel
Rodman, 43' 4", North about 45', and bounded on this grantee.

the line divided as the partition now stands, reserving the right to use the chimney standing near the line, also a privilege to the well, and a right of passing through the yard out of the gate."

1904 Deed of June 22, 1904, recorded in LEB. 85, p.384.

From: Clark H. Burdick
To: Robert S. Cash
For: \$1.00 +

"a lot of land with 1/3 of a range of buildings known as the Hazard Block, it being the north end."

Bounded: Easterly on Thames St., 22' 8", Southerly on land of J. Truman Burdick, 45', Westerly on land of Samuel Rodman, 22' 8", Northerly on land of Albert Sherman, 45 ft.

1907 Deed of February 27, 1907, recorded in LEB. 88, p.176.

From: J. Truman Burdick
To: Anthony M. Marolda
For: \$1.00 +

Same

1925 Deed of February 2, 1925, recorded in LEB 116, p.222.

From: Anthony J. Marolda
To: E. S. Peckham Coal Co. Inc.
For: \$10 + \$4000 mortgage

"Bounded Easterly on Thames St. 46' 8" Southerly by Brown and Howard's Wharf 110' Westerly by land of grantee 69' 6" Northerly by land of Albert K. Sherman 65' Easterly by land of Robert S. Cash (heirs) 22' Northerly by land of Robert S. Cash 45' with easements set forth in deed of April 30, 1863 Bk 36, p.160."

4. Alterations and additions: Shops remodelled at undetermined date.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This monitor-roofed framed commercial and residential structure has Greek Revival trim.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Approximately 66' (three principal bay-front, each subdivided into three minor bays) by 22', two-and-one-half stories, monitor roof.
2. Foundations: Brick.
3. Walls: Clagboarded, with shingled monitor.
4. Structural system: Wooden frame.
5. Chimneys: Old photograph shows two brick chimneys at roof ridge. None now visible above roof.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Two recessed store-front doors and one two-leaved paneled door in front plane face the street. All have rectangular transoms.
 - b. Windows: Plate glass store windows on first floor. Second floor has six-over-six-light double hung sash. Monitor has three-over-three-light double hung sash. One first-floor side window has two-over-two-light double hung sash. Other windows not recorded.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable-ended monitor roof of moderate pitch. Asphalt shingles and tarpaper covering.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Simple boxed cornice incorporating gutter in wooden cyma molding.
 - c. Dormers: Monitor has six front windows instead of the more frequently occurring continuous clerestory.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:
 - a. First floor: Three shop spaces.
 - b. Upper floors: For plans of second and third floors, SEE attached sketch plans.
2. Stairways: Two stairways lead directly from street entrances in straight runs. Stairway in south end leads upward from rear of shop. SEE attached sketch plans for positions of stairways.

3. Flooring: Wooden flooring.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster. Single board tongue-and-groove partition 3/4" thick divides third-floor south end from middle section.
 5. Doorways and doors: Four-panel doors with simple Greek Revival trim.
 6. Decorative features: North section of first floor has remains of shop decoration dating from circa 1870s. Shelves and counters are ranged along the walls.
 7. Lighting: Gas lighting remains in situ.
 8. Heating: Fireplaces and chimneys have been removed.
- D. Site: Building faces Thames Street across concrete sidewalk.

Prepared by: Osmund Overby
Project Supervisor
National Park Service
August 1969

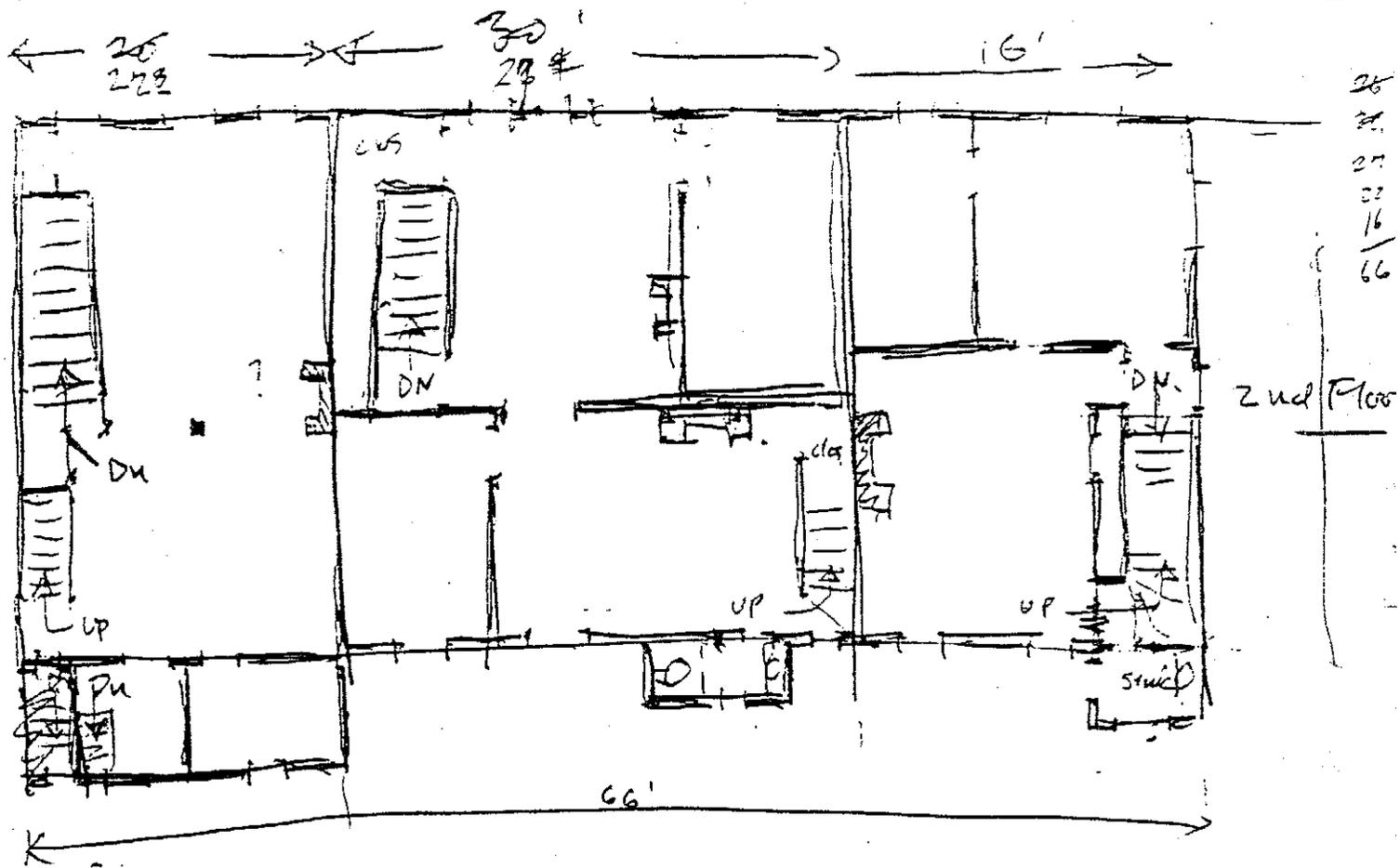
PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Historic American Buildings Survey 1969 Newport, Rhode Island Project was sponsored by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Antoinette F. Downing, Chairman; Operation Clapboard, and the Preservation Society of Newport County, and was carried out by HABS under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS, and supervised by Osmund Overby (University of Missouri), Project Supervisor. The photographs were taken in 1969 by HABS Photographer Jack E. Boucher and in 1970 by Cervin Robinson.

405-11 Thomas

NORTH

approximate dimensions.



First floor - north section - remains of shop decoration c. 1870's - shelves & counters along the walls. shop windows to either side of corr.

single board partition, 3/4" thick, - d.b. + better strips

