

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
34	429

1. Town Salem ✓
 Address 55 Lafayette Street ✓
 Name Salem Laundry ✓
 Present use commercial

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
 Staple to left side of form
 Photo number _____

Present owner Salem Laundry Co.
69 Lafayette St.

3. Description: Salem, Mass. 01970

Date 1906

Source Directories

Style Functional

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Concrete

Outbuildings (describe) N/A

Other features pier and spandrel construc-
glazed with multi-pane sash

Altered No Date _____

Moved No Date _____

5. Lot size: 34,074 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 318 ft.

Approximate distance of building from street
Adjacent

6. Recorded by A. Crump

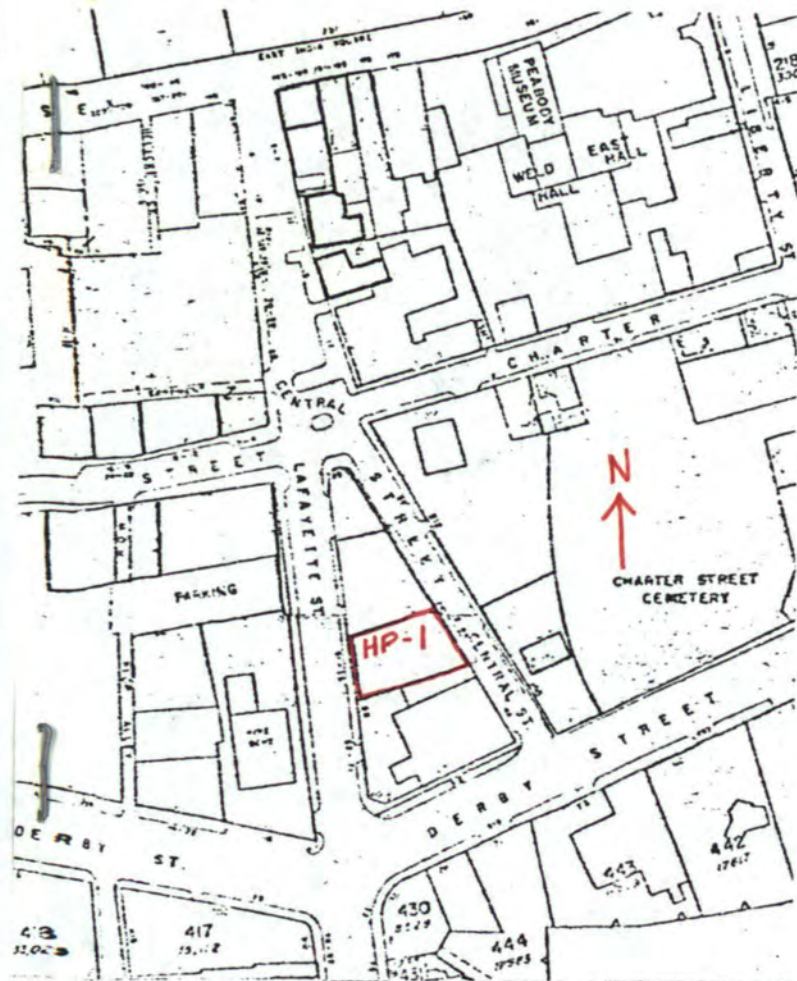
Organization Salem Redevelopment Authority

Date November 1979

UTM Reference: 19/344430/4709050

Assessor's Number: 34-429

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location
 in relation to nearest cross streets and
 other buildings. Indicate north.



7. Original owner (if known) Salem Laundry Co.

Original use Commercial

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>x</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	<u>x</u>	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The Salem Laundry building at 55 Lafayette Street, built in 1906, was the first concrete structure in Salem, and represents contemporary technology in its advanced form.

The factory is four stories high. The facade is divided into three bays characterized by large areas of steel frame factory sash. The central bay projects slightly from the wall plane. Ashlar-^{rusticated}tooled concrete block piers separate the bays, while spandrels and fasciae are smooth-faced and severely detailed. The storefronts are divided like Chicago windows with transoms; the center bay of each of the end stores is emphasized by an archway in its transom.

The imitation ashlar character of the concrete block used to construct the Salem Laundry is typical of a stage in the development of this technology that was at its height in the decade 1910-1920. The vertical tooled face and pseudo-ashlar coursing of these blocks are typical of the intermediate stage of concrete block development, between coarse, technologically primitive rock-faced block and the abandonment of the "imitation stone" appearance in favor of a forthright expression of the material. The appearance of this intermediate style in Salem as early as 1906 is especially notable since the Laundry was the first concrete structure in the city. The relatively creative application of concrete block, in the severity of the building's form and in the use throughout of a pattern typically limited to architectural accent, suggests an ambitious approach reaching ahead to a direct expression of the material in anticipation of technological feasibility.

(Continued)

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

City Directories

Gillespie, Ann: "Early Development of the Artistic Concrete Block",
APT Bulletin, Vol. XI, No. 2(1979).

Walker Lithograph & Publishing Co.: Atlas of the City of Salem, 1911.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Salem	Form No: 429
Property Name: Salem Laundry	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

9. Historical Significance (Continued)

The Hooper family has owned and operated the Salem Laundry business since its inception in the late 1800s. It was not the only laundry business in the area. The business was moved to its present location in 1906. Aside from the one-story addition to the north side of the building, the original structure remains intact. The Salem Laundry Company has reduced its commercial laundry service in favor of a small coin-operated location and dry cleaning business. The business offices remain in the building.

The Salem Laundry possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and association. It meets criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 2

12-8-3
0 3

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Downtown Salem Multiple Resource Area
State Massachusetts

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Bowker Place | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | Melona Byers 7/29/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 2. | Federal Street District | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | Melona Byers 9/16/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 3. | First Universalist Church | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | Melona Byers 7/29/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 4. | Monroe, Bessie, House | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | Melona Byers 7/29/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 5. | Downtown Salem District | Substantive Review | for
Keeper | accept Patrick Andrews 10/19/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 6. | Peabody, John.P., House | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | Melona Byers 7/29/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 7. | Salem Laundry | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | Melona Byers 7/29/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 8. | Shepard Block | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | Melona Byers 7/29/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 9. | Wesley Methodist Church | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | Melona Byers 7/29/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 10. | Crombie Street District | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | Melona Byers 9/16/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Salem Laundry (Downtown Salem MKA)

Essex County

MASSACHUSETTS

JUN 14 1983

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84

Date Due: 7/14/83 - 7/29/83

Action: ACCEPT 7/29/83

Entered in the RETURN _____

National Register REJECT _____

Federal Agency: _____

resubmission

nomination by person or local government

owner objection

appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below _____

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
_____ completeness
_____ clarity
_____ applicable criteria
_____ justification of areas checked
_____ relating significance to the resource
_____ context
_____ relationship of integrity to significance
_____ justification of exception
_____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
_____ Photographs
_____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Downtown Salem MRA, Ma

Salem Laundry

55th LaFayette St

Prestige Prints

by Barkey

NOV 1979

Prestige Prints

by Barkey

2-18

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000277