

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED 4/6/76  
DATE ENTERED MAY 12 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Salem Common Historic District

AND/OR COMMON  
Same

(St Peter's, Bridge + Derby + Collins Cove)

2 LOCATION

MA STREET & NUMBER Oliver, Mall, Williams, Howard, Brown, Brown Street Court, Curtis, Essex, Washington Square, Daniels, St. Peter's, Orange, Milk, Winter, Forrester, Boardman, Briggs, Pleasant, Andrews, Webb, Pickman, New Liberty, Hodges Court, Ives Court

CITY, TOWN

Salem

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Essex

CODE

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple

STREET & NUMBER Salem

CITY, TOWN

Salem

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Essex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER 32 Federal Street

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth  
HABS (MASS 281A, 281, 485, 490, 582, 116, 264, 802, 332, 797, 271)

DATE

1972; 1940, etc.

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Boston  
Washington, DC

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

The Salem Common Historic District is composed of 266 properties located in the eastern part of the city of Salem. The district includes buildings surrounding the Salem Common and those buildings on the streets radiating out from the Common which reflect the high architectural quality which predominates in the district. To the south of the district is the Derby Waterfront, to the west are commercial and municipal centers of the city, to the north Bridge Street forms a natural boundary, and to the east are more modest residences, which extend down to Collins Cove. The district is primarily composed of residences, although other uses include two churches, a library, armory, funeral home, school, home for the aged, jail, museum, and several commercial concerns. Because of the nature of the district, there are few obtrusive commercial signs present and the major intrusions are a parking area, several vacant lots, and traffic signs usually associated with a heavily traveled area.

The focal point of the district is the Salem Common, or Washington Square, which is surrounded by handsome Federal houses. The majority of these houses are brick, three-story, hip-roofed structures, which symbolize the wealth and power of Salem's maritime era. Other similar Federal houses - both brick and clapboard - extend into the outlying areas of the district, although these buildings for the most part are not as imposing as the ones in Washington Square. Most of the houses are set close to the street and to each other and have small yards or gardens to the rear. Generally, the scale of the district is dictated by the two- and three-story residences, with the greater scale maintained around the Common and slightly smaller houses on the periphery. These other buildings represent the wide variety of styles of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival. In addition, there are two seventeenth century buildings and several from the early eighteenth century. There are only about four buildings constructed between the mid-twentieth century and the present. For the most part the Salem Common District is in an excellent state of preservation, retaining important detail and character from each period represented. In a city where there is such a large number of historically and architecturally significant buildings, the boundaries of this district are drawn to encompass the highest concentration of quality architecture in the Salem Common section of the community.

The following represent some of the variety of types of buildings within the Salem Common Historic District:

The Narbonne House (#19) is one of the two oldest houses in the district. It is two stories with a steeply pitched roof and is covered with clapboards. The house is three bays wide and has its brick chimney and entrance on one side. The gable end is to the street and there is an ell beyond in the yard and a lean-to behind the original house. It is currently being restored by the National Park Service.

The Daniels House (#255) was built in 1667 by shipwright Stephen Daniels, and enlarged in 1756 by Samuel Silsbee. The oldest part of the building is the southern half where the original entrance was located. The present entrance on Daniels Street has a reproduction enclosed pedimented porch. The building is now used as a small guest house and restaurant.

According to records at the Essex Institute, the Boardman House (#60) was worked on by the McIntire brothers between 1782 and 1789. Although the house has undergone many

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

#7:

alterations over the years, it remains a handsome three-story clapboard house with hip roof.

Among the many handsome brick Federal houses surrounding the Common is the Bertram Home for Aged Men (#171), built in 1818 for John Forrester, the son of a successful Salem merchant. The house is three stories with a hip roof topped with a balustrade. It is five bays wide, and the windows (six-over-six sash) have black shutters and keystone lintels above. George Peabody added the one-story wing on the east side of the house, and to the rear is a two-story, hip-roofed carriage house with handsome arched windows. A tulip tree in the garden is said to be the tallest and oldest in the country.

The streetscape along Winter Street includes a number of fine Greek Revival houses, including the house at 16 Winter Street (#145). This residence is an excellent example of the Greek Revival style with its wide entablature and cornice, Greek pilasters, and gable end to the street.

The Salem Jail and House of Correction (#251) was originally built between 1811 and 1813. The sturdy granite building was greatly enlarged and remodeled between 1884 and 1885. The new addition lacks the ornamentation customary in the late nineteenth century, suggesting that it was designed to blend with the old. The two octagonal cupolas on the east and west ends of the building are the main decorative features of the building.

The Gothic Revival Witch Museum (#218) provides an interesting contrast to the primarily Federal structures on Washington Square. Originally built for the East Church in 1846, it was designed by noted New York architect Minard Lafever (according to Essex Institute records). The building was partially destroyed by fire in the 1960's, but its façade was restored and the structure adapted for use as a museum depicting the witch hysteria of the seventeenth century. The building has a brownstone gable facing the street with three entrances having pointed Gothic arches.

One of the most handsome Italianate designs in the district is the double house at 2-4 Forrester Street (#50). The two-story clapboard house stands on a high granite and brick foundation. Its deep eaves are supported by ornate brackets, and all of the window and door openings are heavily decorated, giving a feeling of plasticity to the facade. The double entrances are deeply recessed into a central pavilion which projects slightly.

Also adding interest and variety to the district are several Queen Anne structures, such as the house at 9 Forrester Street (#55), whose irregular massing and detail contrast with the more planar Federal buildings.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1667

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Salem Common Historic District is significant as one of the centers of Salem's early development and as an area associated with some of the city's most prominent citizens. The district is also noteworthy because it contains classic examples of architectural styles spanning two centuries. These range from the seventeenth century Narbonne House through the Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival periods. They reflect the rich history of Salem during the early fishing days, the troubled times of witchcraft, the Revolutionary War, the era of trade with the Orient, and the period of elegant society which included statesmen and literary figures.

Salem was founded in 1626 by Roger Conant as the plantation of Naumkeag and established two years later as the first town in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay. From the start her citizens engaged in fishing and shipping, and as early as 1643 trade was being carried on with the West Indies. Gradually the orbit of trade was extended to Europe, primarily to Portugal and Spain.

During this time in the seventeenth century the Salem Common was a marshy area where five ponds drained into nearby Collins Cove. Under such conditions the area was sparsely settled. The two oldest houses in the district were owned by people associated with Salem's important industry - the Narbonne House (#19) by a family of fishermen and ship joiners, and the Daniels House (#255) by a shipwright. One of Salem's witches, Ann Pudeator, also lived not far away. In 1714 the town voted to keep this area open for use as a training field which became known as the Common. A number of tanneries and ropewalks sprang up, and while still rural in character, the area also included a charity house, gunhouse and school as well as two or three handsome residences.

Salem trade with the West Indies continued to thrive until 1763 when Great Britain enacted measures which limited the commercial activities of the American colonies. Tensions arising from the British ban resulted in the tarring and feathering on the Common of two informers who had reported local shipping activities to Crown officers. During the American Revolution Salem gave aid to the Patriots through privateering, and its port was the one American continental port of significance that did not fall into the hands of the British during the course of the war.

Following the Revolution Salem merchants made pioneering voyages to the East Indies, China, and the Pacific Coast of North America, thus ushering in the first golden age of American foreign trade. The result was a rapid commercial development which led to a cultural expansion in Salem and left a lasting impression in the form of its architecture.

continued

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kimball, Fiske. Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic. New York, 1922.  
 Massachusetts, A Guide to its Places and People. American Guide Series. Boston, 1937.  
 Salem Historic District Study Committee Investigation. 1969.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 76 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	344820	4710000	B	1,9	345320	4709420
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,9	344480	4709130	D	1,9	344400	4709580
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Salem Common Historic District is comprised of all properties within the confines of a boundary formed when utilizing the back lot lines as follows: Beginning at the junction of Essex and Liberty Streets and running easterly along the back lot lines of properties on the south side of Essex Street to Hardy Street, thence running north between #48 and #50 Essex Street, between #14 and #16 Forrester Street as well as #11 and #15; then westerly to the back lot line of #80 Washington Square East. Resume a northeast direction across Boardman Street and between #1 and #5, then running in (continued)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Judy D. Dobbs, National Register Editor, and Ellen Welch and Angela LeBlanc, Salem Historic Commission

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Commission

Massachusetts Historical Commission

March 25, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts 02108

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Elizabeth Reed Amador*

TITLE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

3/30/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

5/12/76

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5.11.76

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

#8:

Among the merchants who prospered through Salem's great trade with the Orient was Elias Hasket Derby. As land in the Common area became more desirable, Derby sparked a private subscription in 1801 to improve the Common itself. The land was leveled, walks laid out, rows of Lombardy poplars planted, and the whole enclosed with a fence. Derby's effort was so successful that two years later he was able to raise an additional sum for four gateways by Samuel McIntire. The present iron fence was erected in 1850, but one of the McIntire gateways, with a medallion of Washington, has been preserved in the Essex Institute.

The first of the mansions built around the Common by prosperous merchants and sea captains was the Boardman House (#60), the home of Captain Francis Boardman. After Boardman's death, his daughter and her husband, shipowner Sachariah F. Silsbee, continued to occupy the house. Among the other merchants who resided in the area were Colonel Pickman, at 13 Washington Square East; James Kimball, captain of the Leander, at 14 Pickman Street (#98); Nathaniel Griffin, master of the Eliza and Mary and owner of the Neptune, at 1 Winter Street (#140); and Charles Millet, master of the Typee and initiator of the wool trade with Australia, at 17 Pickman Street. Nathaniel Silsbee, who lived at 94 Washington Square East (#67), began as a shipmaster for the Derbys and later went into politics. Silsbee was a friend of Daniel Webster, and Webster's son was married in Silsbee's Salem house. Captain James Devereux, whose home was at 74 Washington Square East (#49), sailed his ship Franklin to Japan in 1803 and was the first to trade with that country.

Although the embargo on American shipping in 1807 and during the War of 1812 was a severe blow to Salem's economy, the city quickly recovered afterwards with the opening of new channels of trade to Africa, Australia, and South America. Following the discovery of gold in California in 1848, Salem shipowners reaped additional profits from trade around Cape Horn to San Francisco.

During the early nineteenth century development of Salem's trade, Judge Joseph Story built and lived in the house at 26 Winter Street (#151). Elected to the General Court and later as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Story was appointed to the Supreme Court by President James Madison. At his Salem house Judge Story entertained President Monroe in 1817 and General Lafayette in 1824. His son William Wetmore Story was a well-known poet and sculptor.

Another prominent resident of this area was philanthropist George Peabody, son of Captain Joseph Peabody. Between 1834 and 1892 Peabody lived at 29 Washington Square North (#171) where he often entertained Longfellow, Aggasiz, and General McClellan. The house later was used as headquarters for the Salem Club, an exclusive gentlemen's organization, and now serves as the Bertram Home for Aged Men.

continued

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

#8:

Nathaniel Hawthorne lived at 12 Mall Street (#176) where he wrote his first successful novel The Scarlett Letter. Also in the district is the Essex Institute, already listed on the National Register.

The great increase in size which came in the decade of the clipper ship, 1850-1860, and the coming of steam, brought Salem's maritime cycle abruptly to a close after the Civil War. Her landlocked harbor was too shallow to accommodate the large new ships, and as a result her commerce was rapidly absorbed by the deep-water ports of Boston and New York. Salem turned from the sea to manufacturing, and through the end of the nineteenth century the areas around the Salem Common were further developed.

Today the Salem Common and the neighborhood around it are well-preserved reminders of the city's growth and periods of prosperity. The approximately nine acres of the Common itself were acquired by the Salem Park Department in 1928. The center grandstand was built in 1926, and the statue of Roger Conant was dedicated in 1913. The statue was designed by Henry Kitson for the Conant Family Association to honor Salem's first leader and founder.

In addition to its historical significance, the Salem Common Historic District stands as a record of architectural stylistic development. From the fine work of Samuel McIntire to the intricate Victorian detail crafted by anonymous builders, the structures in the district provide infinite variety. The area nevertheless achieves a certain continuity through its outstanding architectural quality, geographic cohesiveness, scale, and massing. The large concentration of essentially unaltered structures in this district is seldom found elsewhere.

#10:

an easterly direction to include the property of #84 Washington Square East, returning across #10 and #12 Briggs Street and across the back lot line of #94 Washington Square East to the back lot line of properties on Andrews Street in an easterly direction to Webb Street. At this point run north to include all properties on the west side up to Spring Street and easterly on Spring Street to Pleasant Street to include all the properties on the south side. Go north on Pleasant Street to Parker Court to include properties on the west side of Pleasant and down Parker Court in an easterly direction toward Bridge Street to include the back lot lines of #1 and #3 Winter Street. On Bridge Street at the corner of Winter Street, go west to include all properties on the south side of Saint Peter's Street. In a southerly direction continue down Saint Peter's Street to include properties on the east side to Brown Street. Go east on Brown Street to #13 (the Armory), turning in a southerly direction onto Liberty Street to the point of beginning.

Property Salem Common Historic District

State Mass Working Number 4.6.76.3025

Essex

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 11  
Maps \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROL**

OK <sup>cm</sup> 4.16.76

**HISTORIAN**

ACCEPT  
Linsengood  
20 Apr 76

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

Salem  
architects of significance?

Accept  
M.J. Tuttle  
4-29-76

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

Accept  
w. R. ...  
4/30/76

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Accept  
Cole  
5-10-76

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

Hunt  
5.11.76

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 6-1-76

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered MAY 12 1976

INT:2106-74



25, 29, 31, 35 Washington Square North  
Salem Common Historic District

Salem, MA *Essex County*

APR 6 1976

Richard Savickey, photographer

December 1975

Salem Historical Commission, City Hall,

Salem, MA

*Date Entered May 12, 1976*

Facing northeast.

Photograph #1 *of 11*

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



92, 84, 82, 80, 78 Washington Square East  
Salem Common Historic District  
Salem, MA *Essex County* APR 6 1976  
Richard Savickey, photographer  
December 1975  
Salem Historical Commission, City Hall  
Salem, MA *Date Entered May 12, 1976*

Facing northeast.

Photograph #2 *of 11*

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



82 (foreground), 92, 94 Washington Square  
East

Salem Common Historic District

APR 8 1976

Richard Savickey, photographer

December 1975

Salem Historical Commission, City Hall,

Salem, MA Essex County

Facing north. Date Entered May 12, 1976

Photograph #3 of 11

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



11, 7, 5, 3 Winter Street (right to left)

Salem Common Historic District

Salem, MA *Essex County*

APR 6 1976

Richard Savickey, photographer

December 1975

Salem Historical Commission, City Hall,

Salem, MA

*Date Entered May 12, 1976*

Facing north.

Photograph #4 *of 11*

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



7 (left) and 8 (right) Williams Street  
Salem Common Historic District  
Salem, MA *Essex County*

APR 6 1976

Richard Savickey, photographer  
December 1975

Salem Historical Commission, City Hall,  
Salem, MA

*Date Entered May 12, 1976*

Facing northwest.

Photograph #5 *of 11*

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



1 Daniels Street

Salem Common Historic District

Salem, MA *Essex County*

Richard Savickey, photographer

December 1975

Salem Historical Commission, City Hall,  
Salem, MA

Facing east.

Photograph #6 *0511*

APR 6 1976

*Date Entered May 12, 1976*

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



71 Essex Street (Narbonne House)  
Salem Common Historic District  
Salem, MA *Essex County*  
Richard Savickey, photographer  
December 1975  
Salem Historical Commission, City Hall,  
Salem, MA

APR 6 1976

*Date Entered May 12, 1976*

Facing east.

Photograph #7 of 11

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



9 Forrester Street

APR 6 1976

Salem Common Historic District

Salem, MA *Essex County*

Richard Savickey, photographer

December 1975

Salem Historical Commission, City Hall,

Salem, MA

*Date Entered May 12, 1976*

Facing north.

Photograph #8 of 11

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



2-4 Forrester Street

Salem Common Historic District

Salem, MA *Essex County*

Richard Savickey, photographer

November 1975

Salem Historical Commission, City Hall,  
Salem, MA

APR 6 1976

Facing northeast.

*Date Entered May 12, 1976*

Photograph #9 of 11



6 Andrews Street

APR 6 1976

Salem Common Historic District

Salem, MA *Essex County*

Richard Savickey, photographer

November 1975

Salem Historical Commission, City Hall,  
Salem, MA

*Date Entered May 18, 1976*

Facing east.

Photograph #10 *of 11*

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



APR 6 1976

20, 18, 16 Oliver Street (left to right)  
Salem Common Historic District  
Salem, MA *Essex County*  
Richard Savickey, photographer  
November 1975  
Salem Historical Commission, City Hall,  
Salem, MA

Facing east.

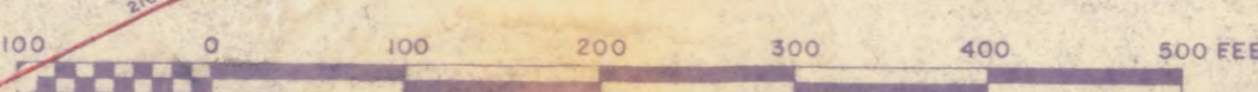
Photograph #11 of 11 Date Entered May 12, 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS  
ASSESSORS MAPS



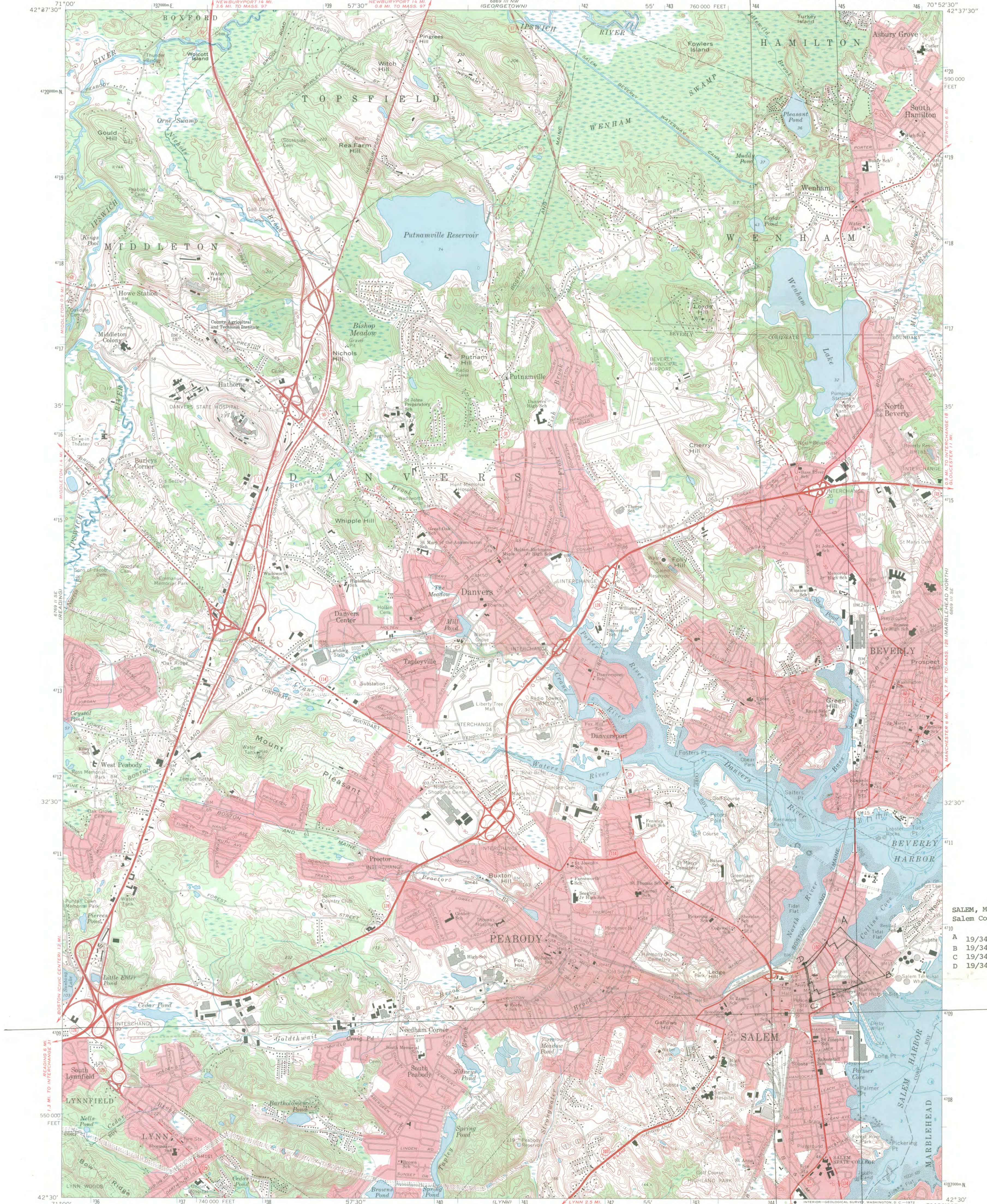
PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE  
SALEM BOARD OF ASSESSORS  
BY  
**AVIS AIRMAP INC.**  
BROOKLINE - BRAINTREE - HARTFORD



REV. BY 11/1974  
NUMBERS NOT USED: 21, 212,  
274, 275, 300, 394,  
554, 500N 415, 445, 507, 616  
765, 500E LAST N<sup>o</sup> USED 618.

27	36	42
26	35	41
25	34	40

4/6/76



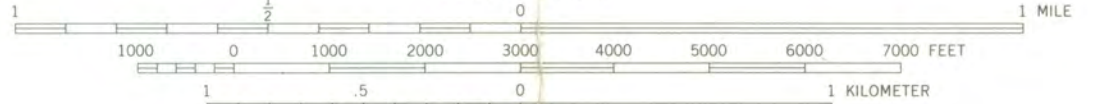
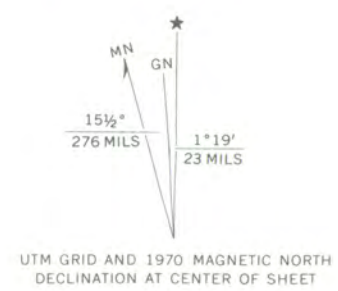
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS:  
Salem Common Historic District

- A 19/344820/471000
- B 19/345320/4709420
- C 19/344480/4709130
- D 19/344400/4709580

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1938. Topography by planimetric surveys 1942  
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 240 and  
241 (1970). This information is not intended  
for navigational purposes

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue  
Boundaries in tidalwater areas from information supplied  
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route



SALEM, MASS.  
N4230—W7052.5/7.5  
1970

AMS 6869 III SW—SERIES V814

4/2/76



DATE 4-6-76

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL 2:00 AM (PM)

1. CALL  TO:  FROM (Name)

Judy Dobbs

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

MASS

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Salem Common Historic District

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

She will check if any other dwellings in district are associated with any famous architects - master builders. She doesn't think there are of any significance but will check into it.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

M Kutz

DATE

4-6-76

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

2:00

AM  
PM

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Judy Dobbs

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

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NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

M Kutz

TITLE

OFFICE

HABS

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered MAY 12 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Salem Common Historic District	Salem Essex County
Hooper House	Marblehead Essex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
Hon. Edward W. Brooke  
Hon. Michael J. Harrington  
Regional Director, North Atlantic  
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon  
Executive Director, Massachusetts  
Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

PR MMott/row 5/12/76

NEWS (E)  
SALEM, MASS.  
D. 29.244

Woods

New  
England  
Newspaper

MAY 27 1976

## COMMON

(Continued from Page 1)

on the National Register of Historic Places are generally considered to be less restrictive than state and local ordinances.

The announcement by the Secretary of State said the new Common district "is significant as one of the centers of Salem's early development and as an area associated with some of the city's most prominent citizens."

The area has long been noted for its classic examples of architectural styles ranging from Georgian and Federal to Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival.

Among the houses included in the district are the area's two oldest, the Narbonne and Daniels Houses, the home of Capt. Francis Boardman, the Bertram Home for Aged Men, the Salem Jail, the Witch Museum, and the Winter Street home of Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story, already listed as a National Historic Landmark.

# After a long fight, Common becomes a historic district

SALEM — Salem Common is finally a historic district.

The classification comes to the central Salem area despite opposition and disagreement among neighboring property owners which twice resulted

in rejection of attempts by the Salem Historical Commission to have the area named a historic district under city and state laws.

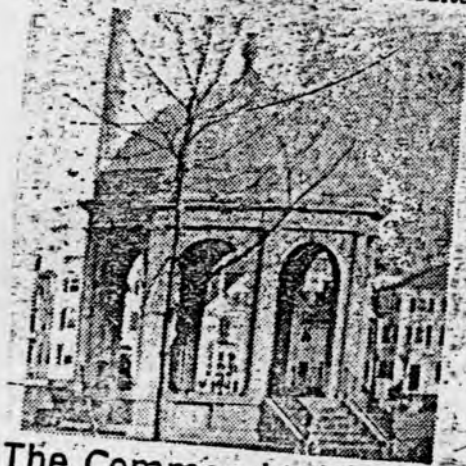
Instead, the Common area has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places after being nominated by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, at the request of the Salem Historical Commission.

The announcement was made by the office of Secretary of State Paul Guzzi, ex-officio chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

The area included in the classification involves 266 properties, all of which now become eligible for highly competitive federal matching grants for exterior rehabilitation. Regulations governing property listed

(COMMON)

(Continued on Page 2)



The Common bandstand

Salem Common H.D.

# NR Data Sheet

DATE: 11 Apr 76 *mickey*  
Reviewer INITIALS: [Signature]

NR DOE  
(5-12-76)

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Salem Common Historic District

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION: area roughly enclosed by Bridge, St. Peter, Webb, and (both sides of)  
STREET & NUMBER Essex Sts.

CITY, TOWN Salem

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6

STATE Massachusetts

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Essex code 009

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER MULTIPLE

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST  
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

## FEATURES:

INTERIOR EXTERIOR ENVIRONS  
 Substantially intact-1  Substantially intact-2  Substantially intact-3  
 unknown - 4  unknown - 5  unknown - 6  
 not applicable - 7  not applicable - 8  Not applicable - 9

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -  EXCELLENT  DETERIORATED  UNALTERED  ORIGINAL SITE  
 GOOD  RUINS  ALTERED  MOVED  
 FAIR  UNEXPOSED  RECONSTRUCTED  UNKNOWN  
 UNEXCAVATED  EXCAVATED

ACCESS - Yes-restricted  Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district?  YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO  
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO  
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE:  YES  NO Saved? YES NO  
*SOME*

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)  
then- residence, religious, commercial, public, government,  
park, museum  
now- same

## SIGNIFICANCE:

- |  |                                       |  |  |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW/Gov't/politics     | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             | <input type="checkbox"/> health         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING  | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY                          | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      | <input type="checkbox"/> settlement     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION  | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                             | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     | <input type="checkbox"/> socio/cultural |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE     | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             |  | <input type="checkbox"/> urban & commun |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    |  | <input type="checkbox"/> planning       |

## Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:**

architect/m.builder: Samuel McIntire - gateways

engineer:

landscape/garden designer: Minard Lefever

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

**ETHNIC GROUP:**

**NAMES:**

(label role & appropriate date)

personal

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Ann Pudeator - witch

Elias Hasket Derby - merchant, civic leader

Francis Boardman - ship captain

Sachariah F. Silsbee - ship captain

Colonel Pickman - merchant

John Forrester

events

George Peabody

Justice Joseph Story

James Kimball - ship captain

Nathaniel Griffin - shipowner

Charles Millet - ship master

Nathaniel Silsbee - shipmaster

Stephen Daniels Captain James DEVEREUX - ship captain

institutional

American shipping trade - 1645 - 1860; writing of The Scarlet Letter

Betham Home for Aged Men, Essex Institute

**DATES:**

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1650 - 1900

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1801 - improvement of Commons

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1928 - Commons made a park.

**SOURCE:**

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

**ACREAGE:**

(to nearest tenth of an acre) 76 acres

**COMMENTS:** (include architectural information here)

266 properties surrounding and radiating from Salem Common, a public park. 2-3 story brick Federal residences predominate, with other styles interspersed reflecting the spectrum of 19th century: Greek revival, Gothic revival, Italianate, 2nd Empire, Queen Anne, Colonial revival. Several commercial structures, Essex Institute, Salem jail, 2 churches, library, armory, home for the aged and museum included. Most buildings well preserved, signs unobtrusive, few intrusions.

HABS

**SIGNIFICANCE:** (maximum two sentences)

The town common of the first town in Massachusetts Bay Colony, this ~~area~~ ~~was~~ was an attractive residential area for early fishermen and seacaptains. ~~Through leaders of the Revolution~~ Homes of leaders in the Revolution and early national periods, and other buildings connected with development of the town still form an attractive residential historic district. The district was home to Justice Joseph Story and George Peabody and the house in which Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote The Scarlet Letter.



\* Curtis, Essex, Washington Square, Daniels, St. Peter's, Orange,  
Milk, Winter, Forrester, Boardman, Briggs, Pleasant, Andrews,  
Webb, Pickman, New Liberty, Hodges Court, Ives Court

✓ # 5 Bounded roughly by St. Peter's, Bridge, and Derby  
Sts. and Collins Cove