

FORM A - AREA SURVEY

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

Form numbers in this area HP-29 to HP-36	Area no. B
---	---------------

1. Town Salem

Name of area (if any) Crombie Street district

7-15 and 16-18 Crombie St., and  
13 Barton St.

3. General date or period early 19th century

4. Is area uniform (explain):

in style? compatible mix

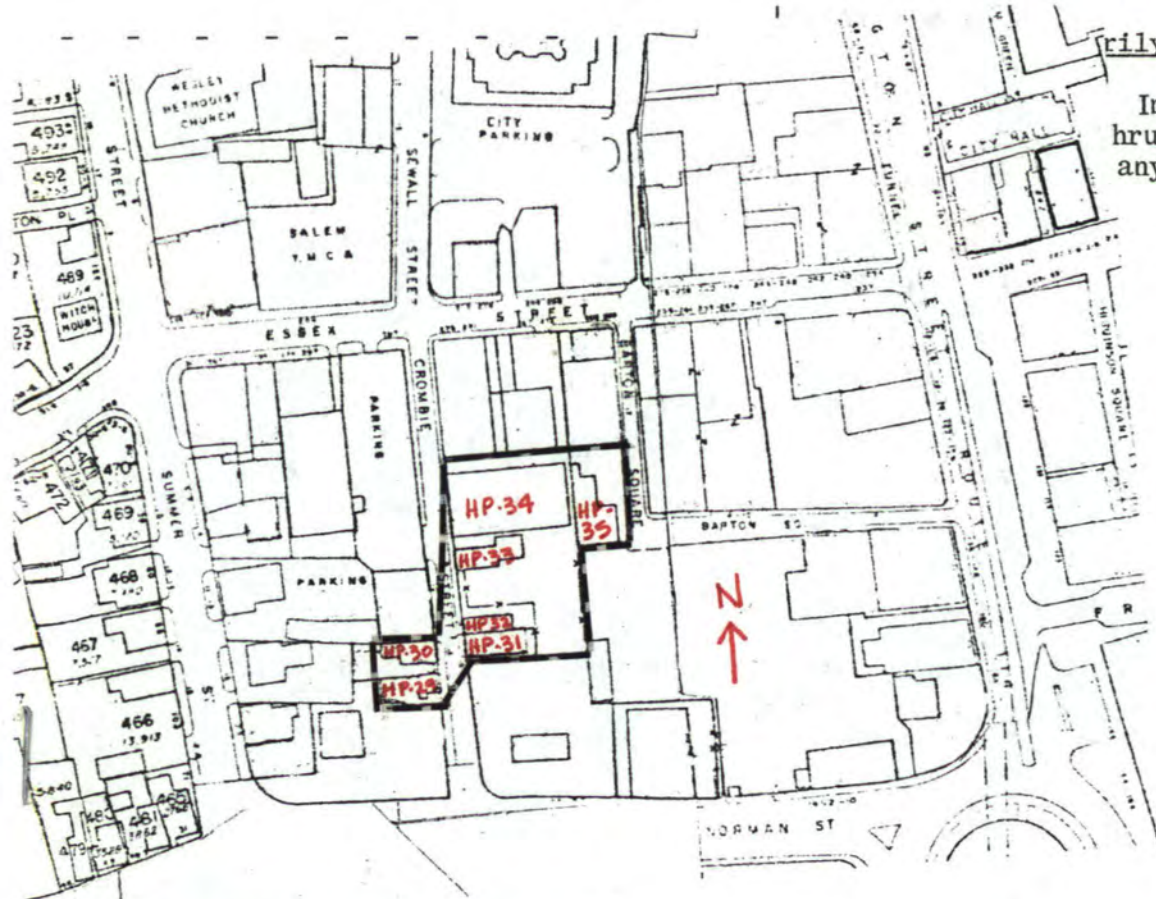
in condition? generally good

in type of ownership? private

trily residential

Indicate any historic  
hru F, using corres-  
any) and indicate north.

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



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE  
USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_  
MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Recorded by A. Crump

Organization Salem Redevelopment Authority

Date November 1979

(over)

UTM Reference: 19/344110/4709120

Acres: .77 acres

7. Historical data. Explain the historical/architectural importance of this area.

The Crombie Street District is composed of the eight remaining buildings of this downtown residential enclave. The district includes a cross-section of residential buildings from various periods of development, along with a church building originally built as a theater. The boundaries include the six buildings that face Crombie Street and the two buildings at the west end of Barton Square, adjacent to Crombie Street on the west.

Crombie Street was laid out in 1805 by Benjamin Crombie, proprietor of a tavern called the Sign of the Ship, that stood on Essex Street east of his new street. Between 1805 and 1815, Crombie sold four house lots behind his tavern, as well as narrow strips of frontage on the street to three other landholders to the west. Only two of the houses standing today were built before Crombie sold the remaining property in 1819, but the district is shown intact on the 1851 map of the city.

As the only surviving downtown residential group from the early 19th century, the houses on Crombie Street provide important information about the character of the city at that time. All the buildings directly abut the sidewalk, suggesting high density, but placement on the lots is irregular, creating a rural atmosphere. Wood is the dominant material, although the church (HP-34) and the Bowker House (HP-33) are brick, as is the Prince House (HP-36), which predates Crombie's activity.

While architectural quality within the district is variable, three buildings clustered at its north end are all individually noteworthy. The Crombie Street Church (HP-34), built as a theater in 1828, is the architectural highlight of the district. The monumental relieving arches of the facade define its composition and suggest the Federal style, but the panelled detailing of the broad piers separating these arches, along with the pair of quadrant windows in the gable and wide corner pilasters, introduce a newer Greek Revival influence.

Neighboring the church stands the substantial Bowker House (HP-33), built in the Federal style around 1810, and modernized by overlaid brownstone trimmings in 1860. The hybrid design is very successful, reinforcing the central importance of this house to the district. The Pierson House (HP-35), facing Barton Square, is an unusually graceful vernacular Italianate residence, typical of the houses that lined Barton Square in the mid-19th century.

HP-29: 18 Crombie Street (c. 1770; moved to site 1830)

The origins of this two-story, gambrel-roofed Georgian house are unknown, but it was moved onto this site in 1830 by James Bott. The end wall faces the

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

City of Salem tax records

Essex County Registry of Deeds

McIntyre, H.: Map of the City of Salem, 1851.

Pickman, Benjamin: "Account of Houses and Other Buildings in Salem in 1793",

Essex Institute Historical Collections, vol. VI, p. 93.

Salem Historic District Study Committee: Report, 1968.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET Crombie Street ITEM NUMBER B PAGE 16

street, and contains three six-over-six windows, vertically aligned and centered on the wood-shingled wall. A narrow, simple framed doorway which crowds the right corner was probably added when the house was moved. A massive central chimney is readily visible from the street. A small ell with a shallow pitched roof extends to the left, set back fifteen feet from the front wall.

HP-30: 16 Crombie Street (1831)

This two-story, wood-frame vernacular Federal house is oriented to the left side of its lot, with its gable end on the street. The street elevation is very simple, with two windows on each floor level and a single gable window. The moderately projecting cornice returns above plain corner boards. The side elevation is symmetrically composed, with the classically framed entrance in the center of its five bays. Two gabled dormers face this side. Its modest architectural character is appropriate to the social and economic standing of the original owner, a painter and glazier named Samuel Ferguson.

HP-31: 15 Crombie Street (c. 1810)

This pleasant wood-frame Federal house was built by Joshua Loring, a chaise-maker. Two-and-one-half stories high, with a shallow hip roof, it faces end on the street, with its five-bay symmetrical facade on the south side of the lot. The delicate, classically detailed doorway at the center of the facade is the building's major decorative element; the overall composition demonstrates the restraint typical of the style. A rear ell, originally set back from the major wall plane of the facade, is now concealed by an open staircase and porch structure added when the building was converted to multifamily use.

HP-32: 13 Crombie Street (c. 1830)

The modest classical detailing around the doorways is the strongest stylistic element on this two-story, wood-frame house. The gable end faces the street, with two entrances located on the north side. The end wall is framed by a sheer cornice and simple corner boards, with two windows on each floor and a single window in the gable. The side elevation creates the illusion of bilateral symmetry, although the elements are not as precisely aligned. The two doorways, one flush and the other contained in a small gabled projection, are balanced by pairs of vertically aligned windows. The building crowds its southern lot line, creating a generous side yard toward the north.

HP-33: 9 Crombie Street (c. 1810, c. 1860)

This two-and-one-half-story, red brick house was built before 1811 in the Federal style, and updated about 1860 with Italianate details. The sheer mass of the building, its shallow hipped roof and shortened attic windows are readily recognizable as characteristic of Federal architecture. The building sits with its end wall facing the street, and the entrance at the center of

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CONTINUATION SHEET Crombie Street ITEM NUMBER B PAGE 17

the five-bay side elevation. Brownstone lintels, a bracketed cornice, and a heavy entry hood are the Italianate elements added in mid-century. Built by Benjamin Crombie, the developer of the street, the building was soon tenanted and later purchased by Joel Bowker, one of Salem's leading merchants and entrepreneurs. Among his many accomplishments is the credit for introducing anthracite coal to Salem.

HP-34: Crombie Street Church (1828)

This handsome red brick building was built as a theater in 1828 by J.W. Barton, proprietor of the adjacent tavern. When the theater failed after a promising beginning, it was converted to a church in 1832. Its monumental facade is divided into three bays by relieving arches with broad piers articulated as panelled pilasters. The gable contains two demi-lunettes flanking a date stone. The arches contain arched windows at the second floor level, and a doorway in each end bay framed by a heavy wood entablature and pilasters. The transition from the Federal style to the Greek Revival is evident in the combination of strength and refinement exhibited in the design. The breadth of the monumental arcade and the doorways tempers the fundamental elegance of the facade.

HP-35: 13 Barton Square (1846)

This elegant Italianate house is representative of the original residential character of Barton Square, which has now been eroded except along its western edge. Built in 1846 by Dr. E.B. Peirson, the house exhibits the full expression of this vernacular style. A full bracketed cornice separates the gable from the two main stories. Twin arched gable windows, beneath a small continuous label molding, face Barton Square, while three bays of windows punctuate the flush board siding. An open porch supported by pierced posts extends along the south side at the first floor level. A two-story, cross-gabled ell on the north side is set well back from the front wall, and contains the entrance, sheltered by a second porch.

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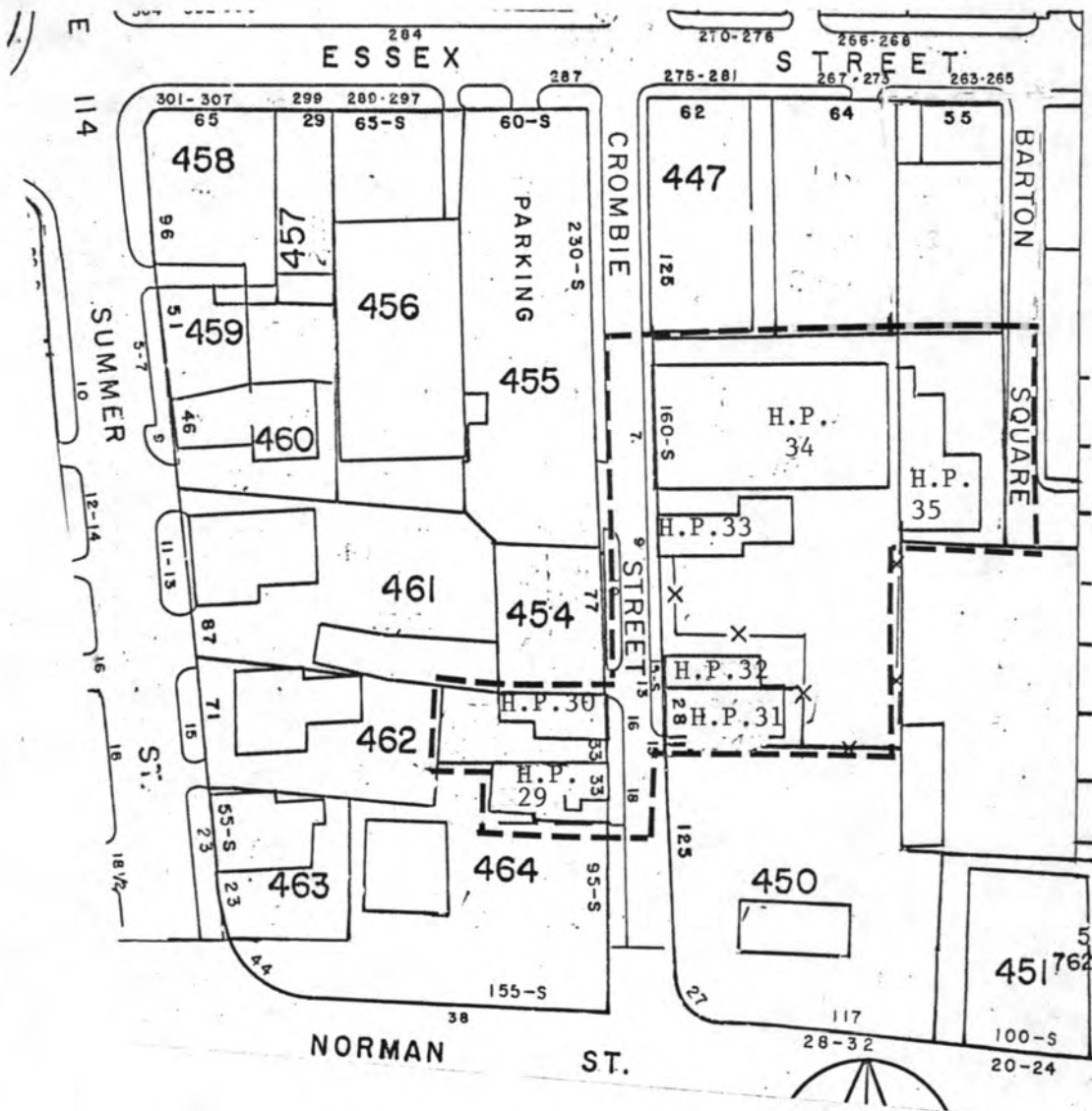
CONTINUATION SHEET Crombie Street ITEM NUMBER B PAGE 18

Crombie Street National Register District

Ownership Data & Importance Rating

<u>Property Address (SAM#)</u>	<u>Importance Rating*</u>	<u>Ownership</u>
7 Crombie Street (26-448)	1	Crombie Street Congregational Church 7 Crombie Street Salem, Mass. 01970
9 Crombie Street (26-448)	1	Crombie St. Congregational Church see above
13 Crombie Street (26-139)	1	Crombie St. Congregational Church see above
15 Crombie Street (26-449)	1	Crombie Street Realty Trust Norma A. Smigowski et ali, Trs. 15 Crombie Street Salem, Mass. 01970
16 Crombie Street (26-453)	1	Joanna M. & Mary W. Cass 16 Crombie Street Salem, Mass. 01970
18 Crombie Street (26-452)	1	Frances H. Wendt 18 Crombie Street Salem, Mass. 01970
13 Barton Square (35-6)	1	Doering Trust 2 Oliver Street Salem, Mass. 01970

- \*Key:
1. Central importance to district
  2. Contributing to character of district
  3. Intrusion on character of district



SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS: CROMBIE STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

1"=100'

- HP 29  
18 Crombie Street
  
- HP 30  
16 Crombie Street
  
- HP 31  
15 Crombie Street
  
- HP 32  
13 Crombie Street
  
- HP 33  
9 Crombie Street
  
- HP 34  
7 Crombie Street
  
- HP 35  
13 Barton Square

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Crombie Street District (Downtown Salem  
MRA)  
Essex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUN 14 1983  
Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Due: 7/17/83 - 7/29/83  
Action:  ACCEPT  
 RETURN 7/29/83  
 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       deteriorated      Check one      Check one  
 excellent       ruins       unaltered       original site  
 good       unexposed       altered       moved      date \_\_\_\_\_  
 fair

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

Address of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

USIT References \_\_\_\_\_

*Please provide address*

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 *Alvin Byers*

Date 7/29/83

Phone: 202 ~~272-3504~~  
343-9553

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

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

12-5-3

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Crombie Street District (Downtown  
Salem MRA  
Essex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 6/14/83  
Fed. Reg. Date: 3/7/84  
Date Due: 10/22/83  
Action:  ACCEPT 9/16/83  
 RETURN  
Entered in the 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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM 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: \_\_\_\_\_



Downtown Salem Multiple Resource Area  
Crombie Street Historic District

Allison M. Crump, 1979  
Salem Redevelopment Authority

Looking northeast at 13 Crombie (foreground),  
9 Crombie and the Crombie Street Church.  
Photo #3 of 6

3



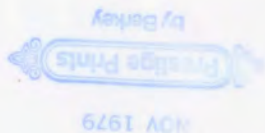
Crombie Street District

Downtown Salem MRA, Ma

11-23A



Downtown Salem MRA, Ma  
Crombie St, District  
18 Crombie St,



HP-29

1-26



16 Cranbie St  
Cranbie St District  
Downtown Salem MRA, Ma

NOV 1979



NOV 1979



HP-30

1-27



Downtown Salem MRA, Ma

Crombie St. District

15 Crombie St.

NOV 1979



by Highway

NOV 1979



HP-31

1-25



Downtown Salem MRA, Ma  
Crombie St. District  
13 Crombie St.

NOV 1979



NOV 1979



HP-32  
1-29



Downtown Salem MRA, Ma  
Crombie St. District  
9 Crombie St,

NOV 1979



by Berkey

NOV 1979

HP-33

1-28



1832.

Downtown Salem MRA, Ma

Crombie St. District

Crombie St. Church

NOV 1979



by Berkeley

HP-34

1-30



Downtown Salem MRA Me

Crombie St. District

13 Barton Square

DEC 1979

Prestige Prints

by Berkey

HP-35

9-18



Wenford Frame Shop

STOP

GIARDINO

DAVID FRYE REALTORS

KORSA Flower Shop

RETIRED SINCE 1967

Downtown Salem MRA, Ma  
Crombie St. District

NOV 1979



by Berkey

HP-36

8-8

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000277