

PH0686000

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED OCT 12 1978  
DATE ENTERED DEC 14 1978

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** Methuen Memorial Music Hall  
HISTORIC Serlo Organ Hall

AND/OR COMMON  
\* Methuen Memorial Music Hall (preferred)

**2 LOCATION**  
STREET & NUMBER 192 Broadway  
CITY, TOWN Methuen  
STATE Massachusetts  
VICINITY OF CODE 025  
COUNTY Essex  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5th  
CODE 009

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
NAME Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Incorporated  
STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 463  
CITY, TOWN Methuen  
STATE Massachusetts 01844

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Essex County Registry of Deeds  
STREET & NUMBER 381 Common Street  
CITY, TOWN Lawrence  
STATE Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
TITLE Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth  
DATE 1973  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts Historical Commission  
CITY, TOWN Boston  
STATE Massachusetts

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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

Methuen Memorial Music Hall is located on Broadway (Mass. Route 28) on the north bank of the Spicket River, just south of the town center. The nominated property is approximately 7/8 of acre and informally landscaped.

The monumentally scaled, Renaissance Revival structure has a Latin cross plan and is built of brick on a granite foundation. The slate ridge roof has gently flared leaves and a modillioned cornice. Projecting pavilions with cross gable roofs act as the arms of the cross. A continuous sandstone stringcourse encircles the structure dividing the grand scaled hall from a second floor. The facade faces east towards Broadway and is dominated by the balancing elements of the attached tower and projecting pavilion.

The tower is built in 3 stages. The first stage includes the principal entrance. This entrance is round arched and framed by a pedimented sandstone frontispiece set within a tall round arched recession. Above the entrance are long, paired round arched windows and single round arched windows on the side elevations. The second stage begins above the encircling belt. It is 3 levels high with 3 round arched brick panels. There is a single round arched window set with the center panel, on the third level of the tower facade. The side elevations have 3 similar windows on the first level and single windows on the second and third levels. A projecting sandstone cornice divides the second and third stages. The third stage has a columned arcade on all four elevations. Above this is a corbelled table and hip roof.

The principal element of the projecting pavilion is a large scale round arched window. Above the encircling cornice/stringcourse are paired narrow round arched windows capped by a blind receiving arch. The pavilion gable is stepped in four stages with sandstone finials and baroque scrolls and pinacles on each step. The middle step has tripled narrow round arched windows. The crowning step has a triangular sandstone pediment.

The portion of the facade between the tower and pavilion has a round arched window. To the other side of the pavilion is a narrow round arched window.

The north elevation is plain and relieved only by the stringcourse. In the gable pediment is a two level pilastered feature, topped by a scroll relief. In the first level is a sandstone plaque, reading in raised lettering "Serlo Organ Hall." In the second level are paired 6/6 windows.

The south elevation is also plain with an open arched two story ell which formerly led to a now demolished organ factory.

The rear elevation, with the exception of the tower, is similar to the facade. On the northern end is a shed roofed basement entrance with glass block fenestration.

The Corinthian order interior has ornate panneling, and gilded coffered vaulted ceilings with lavish plaster relief ornament. Busts of great composers set in cartouche line the walls.

The Boston Music Hall Organ dominates the interior. The organ case is the principal fixture. This baroque case features pipes supported by carved heroic figures. The tallest pipes are capped by wooden domes and surmounted by standing and kneeling musical putti. Pilasters, friezes and panels of the case are lavishly decorated with figures, faces, brackets and other ornamental features.

The Methuen Organ Factory once stood to the west and was connected by the archway. This structure burned in 1943.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry Vaughan

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Methuen Memorial Music Hall is significant for its architecture, as the final location of the famous Boston Music Hall Organ, and as an example of the eccentricity and philanthropy of Edward F. Searles.

The Music Hall was designed by the English architect, Henry Vaughan. Vaughan also designed the National Cathedral and the Groton School Chapel. Searles built this hall to house the famous Boston Music Hall Organ which had been built in 1863 by Walcker of Germany. The organ had been in storage for many years after having been removed from the stage of the Music Hall to make room for the newly organized Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Edward F. Searles was a Methuen native born to poor farmers. After working in many jobs from an early age, he made a small fortune and established a professional reputation as an interior decorator. After touring Europe to add to his art collection, he returned to America and became associated with the firm of McKim Mead and White. Searles met the widow of Mark Hopkins in San Francisco in 1881 and quickly became her financial advisor as well as decorator. In 1887 they were married which caused a sensation since Mary Hopkins was so many years Searles' senior. They returned east and Searles immediately began constructing identical castles in Great Barrington on Mary's maiden aunt's land, and in Methuen on the site of his family's farm.

The Music Hall was originally known as the Serlo Organ Hall; the Anglophile Searles believed that Serlo was the old English derivation of his family name.

In addition to the Music Hall Searles also gave his home town two schools, three churches, a reproduction English tavern, and paid off the town debt. He also built two castles in nearby Windham New Hampshire as well as Block Island, Rhode Island.

Searles gave \$1.5m to the University of California at Berkley, calling it a "mere trifle," and the Searles Scientific Building to Bowdoin College. He donated the Nob Hill Mansion to San Francisco as an art museum.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

\_\_\_\_\_ ; The Great Organ-Serlo Organ Hall, Methuen: Methuen Organ Co., 1909.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ; The Great Organ, Methuen: Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Inc., 1954.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7/8 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	32,10,6,0	4,73,23,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please refer to the attached plat map on which the boundaries are delineated in red. The nominated property includes only the Organ Hall.

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

Candace Jenkins, National Register Editor & Joseph G. Bella, Methuen Historical Comm

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

24 February 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts

# 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

*Patricia A. Weslowski*

TITLE Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE 9/28/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Charles A. ...*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 12-14-78

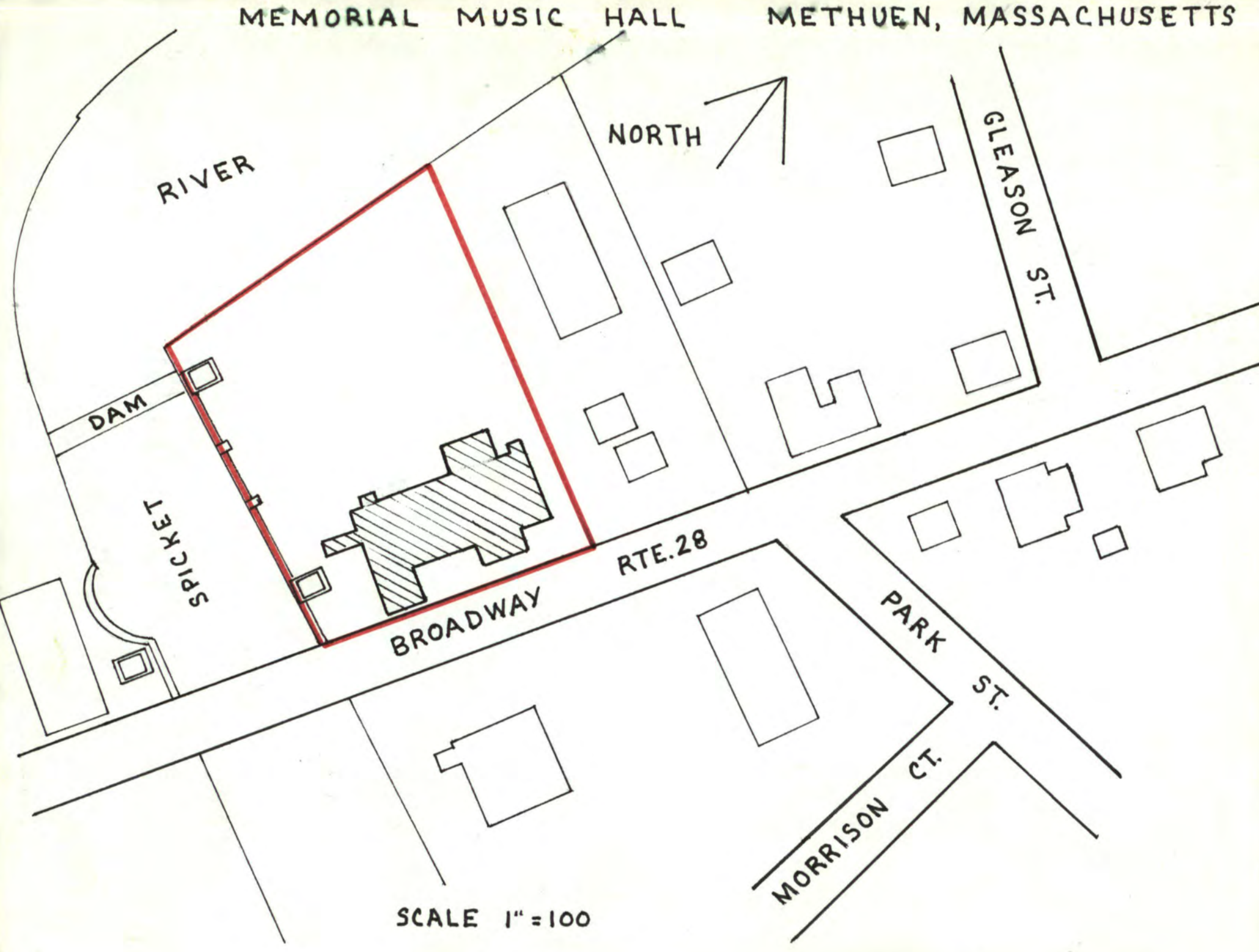
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Bruce ...*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/13/78

MEMORIAL MUSIC HALL

METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS



NORTH

RIVER

GLEASON ST.

DAM

SPICKET

BROADWAY

RTE.28

PARK ST.

MORRISON CT.

SCALE 1" = 100



DEC 14 1978

Property Methuen Memorial Music Hall

State Mass.

Working Number 10.12.78.42.52

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 3  
Maps 1

**CONTROL**

*OK 10.12.78*

**HISTORIAN**

*Jae Towne  
12-05-78*

*Weak on philanthropy + music, but will defer to architectural historian.*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

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

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*THE MUSIC HALL IS SIGNIFICANT AS A LARGE SCALE <sup>AND</sup> ELABORATE EXAMPLE OF RENAISSANCE REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE AND AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE WORK OF NOTED ARCHITECT HENRY VAUGHAN. IT WAS BUILT TO HOUSE THE 1863 BOSTON MUSIC HALL ORGANS WHICH IS SIGNIFICANT IN ITS OWN RIGHT AS A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT. THE HALL IS <sup>A REFLECTION OF</sup> ~~REPRESENTATIVE~~ OF THE INTERESTS, TASTES, AND VALUES OF A TURN OF THE CENTURY PHILANTHROPIST, WHO WAS A NATIVE OF METHUEN. EDWARD F. SEARLES.*

*ACCEPT  
MSE DANAL  
12/12/78*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry \_\_\_\_\_

2-6-79

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

Entered DEC 14 1978

INT:2106-74



Serlo Organ Hall  
Methuen, MA  
Joseph Bella 1975  
299 Broadway, Methuen

OCT 12 1978

DEC 14 1978

#1  
Corner, North and East elevations



Serlo Organ Hall  
Methuen, MA  
Joseph Bella 1975  
299 Broadway, Methuen

OCT 12 1978

DEC 14 1978

#2  
Corner, South and East elevations



Serlo Organ Hall  
Methuen, MA  
Joseph Bella 1975  
299 Broadway, Methuen

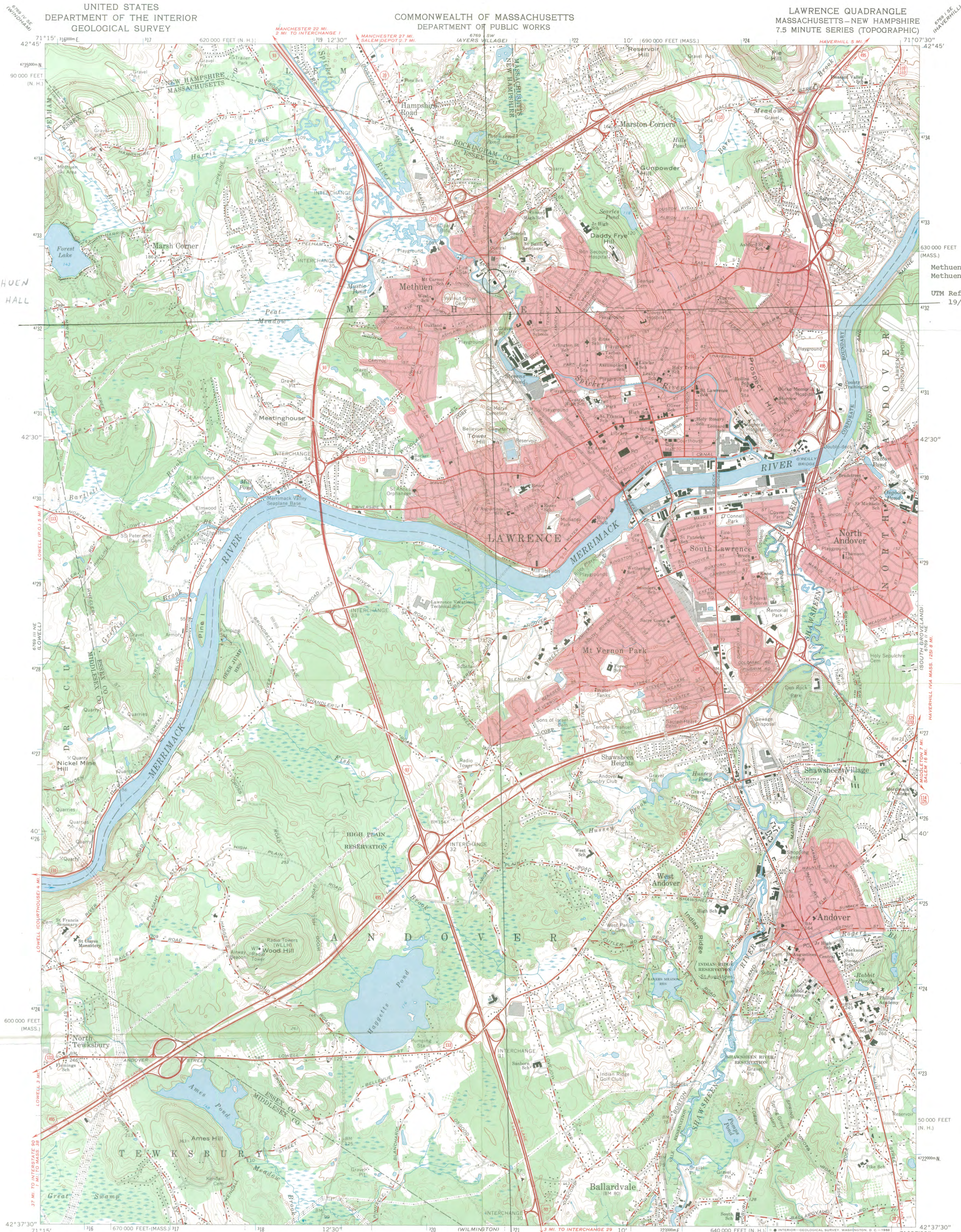
DEC 14 1978

#3  
Interior, Organ Console

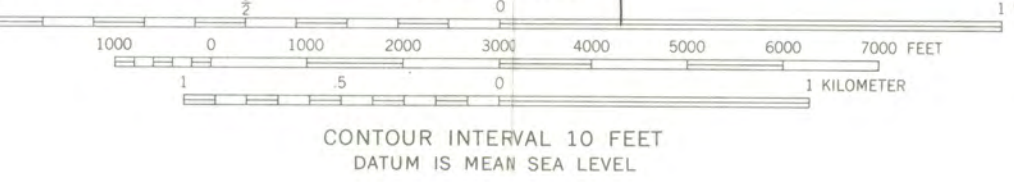
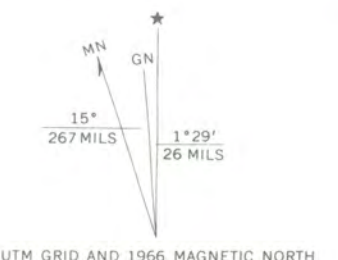
OCT 12 1978

METHUEN: METHUEN  
MEMORIAL MUSIC HALL

Methuen Memorial Music Hall  
Methuen, MA.  
UTM Reference:  
19/321060/4732380



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1941 and 1942. Revised 1966  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone, and New Hampshire coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	State Route



LAWRENCE, MASS.—N. H.  
N4237.5—W7107.5/7.5  
1966  
AMS 6769 II NW—SERIES V814

DEC 1 1978

*Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Inc.*



17 November 1978

Dr. William J. Murtagh,  
Keeper of the National Register  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Thank you for your letter (H32-NR) of 17 October 1978 confirming that the Methuen Memorial Music Hall has been nominated by the Massachusetts Historical Commission for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The historical significance of this property lies in the fact that the Methuen Memorial Music Hall houses the first concert organ in the United States (originally built for the Boston Music Hall in 1863) and is probably the only instance in history in which a hall of such proportions and such magnificence has been built for the sole purpose of housing an organ.

Organized in 1946 in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a non-profit educational corporation, the Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Inc. is responsible for the preservation of the organ and hall. The present corporation Board of Trustees sponsors a summer series of weekly organ recitals and a fall series of weekly varied musical programs.

I respectfully encourage you to act favorably on this nomination.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and if there is any additional information I may provide, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

METHUEN MEMORIAL MUSIC HALL, INC.

*Edward J. Sampson Jr.*

Edward J. Sampson Jr., President  
38 Chestnut Court  
North Andover, Massachusetts 01845

Property Address:  
Post Office Box 463  
Methuen, Massachusetts 01844

EJS, Jr/dml

cc. Ms. Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Mr. Ernest G. Mack, Chairman  
Methuen Historical Commission

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

NOV 22 1978

DATE RECEIVED

NO. DUPLICATE RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

NO. PHOTO MATERIAL SENT

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE OF VISIT TAKEN

12/4/78

INITIALS

ST

YD

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered DEC. 14 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Martha's Vineyard Campground	Oak Bluffs Dukes County
Methuen Memorial Music Hall	Methuen Essex County
Alden, John, House	Duxbury Plymouth County

Also Notified

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Honorable Paul G. Tsongas  
Honorable Gerry E. Studs  
Honorable James M. Shannon

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

PROBLEMS:	TOTAL NUMBER
1. Name of Property:	
2. Owner:	
3. Definition of Resource:	
4. Integrity (alterations):	
5. Boundary Justification:	
6. Explicit Statement of Significance:	✓
7. Assessment of Significance:	
8. Context:	
9. UIM:	
10. Verbal Boundary Description:	
11. Signature Block:	
12. Maps:	
13. Photographs:	
14. Nomination Does Not Define What is being Protected:	1

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Methuen Memorial Music Hall  
 ② OTHER NAMES: Serlo Organ Hall  
 ③ date of entry: DEC 14 1978  
 ④ county code: 009

⑤ LOCATION street & number: 192 Broadway  
 city / town: Methuen  
 vicinity of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 state: MA  
 county: Essex  
 ⑥ NPS REGION: N Atlantic

⑦ OWNER  PRIVATE  STATE  MUNICIPAL  COUNTY  MULTIPLE  FEDERAL (agency name)  
 ⑧ ADMINISTRATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS  HABS  HAER  NHL  
 ⑩ FUNDED?  YES  NO  
 ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 5  
 ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION  STATE  FEDERAL  
 if state who prepared form? \_\_\_\_\_

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?  YES, NAME \_\_\_\_\_  NO  
 ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?  YES, NAME \_\_\_\_\_  NO  
 ⑮ ACREAGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 LOCAL  PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION  
 excellent  good  fair  
 deteriorated  ruins  unexposed  unexcavated  
 altered  unaltered  reconstructed  excavated  
 original site  moved  unknown  
 ⑰ features:  
 INTERIOR:  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-4  NOT APPLICABLE-7  
 EXTERIOR:  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-5  NOT APPLICABLE-8  
 ENVIRONS:  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-6  NOT APPLICABLE-9

⑱ ACCESS  YES-Restricted  YES-Unrestricted  No Access  Unknown  
 ⑲ ADAPTIVE USE  YES  NO  
 ⑳ SAVED?  YES  
 ㉑ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?  yes  no

㉒ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:  
 ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2  ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1  
 AGRICULTURE-3  ARCHITECTURE-4  ART-5  
 ENGINEERING-11  ENTERTAINMENT-26  
 COMMERCIAL-6  COMMUNICATIONS-7  
 CONSERVATION-8  ECONOMICS-9  
 EDUCATION-10  
 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15  LAW-16  
 LITERATURE-17  
 MILITARY-18  
 MUSIC-19  
 PHILOSOPHY-20  
 POLITICS/GOVT.-21  
 RELIGION-22  
 SCIENCE-23  
 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24  
 SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30  
 TRANSPORTATION-25  
 RECREATION-28  
 SETTLEMENT-29  
 URBAN PLANNING-31  
 OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_  
 ㉓ CLAIMS: explain  
 'first'   
 'oldest'   
 'only'

㉔ functions  
 WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT:  
 CURRENTLY:  
 ㉕ dates of initial construction:  
 major alterations:  
 historic events:  
 ㉖ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

㉗ architectural style(s):  
 ㉘ architect:  
 ㉙ master builder:  
 ㉚ engineer:

㉛ landscape architect / garden designer:  
 ㉜ interior decorator:  
 ㉝ artist:  
 ㉞ artisan:  
 ㉟ builder/contractor:

㊱ NAMES give role & date  
 PERSONAL:  
 EVENTS:  
 INSTITUTIONAL:

㊲ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP