

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

35

Form no.

194

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

1. Town Salem ✓
Address 6 Rust Street ✓
Name First Universalist Church ✓
Present use Church
First Universalist Church
Present owner 6 Rust Street
Salem, Mass. 01970

3. Description:
- Date 1808
- Source Salem Historical Commission

- Style Federal

- Architect William Putnam

- Exterior wall fabric Brick

- Outbuildings (describe) None

- Other features pedimented frontispiece,
balustraded tower, arched entry

- | | | | | |
|---------|------------|----------|------|------|
| Altered | 1855;1878; | Restored | 1924 | Date |
|---------|------------|----------|------|------|

- | Moved | No | Date |
|-------|----|------|
|-------|----|------|

5. Lot size: 16,252 sq. ft. (0.4 acre)

- One acre or less ☒ Over one acre

- Approximate frontage 126 ft.

- Approximate distance of building from street
- Adjacent

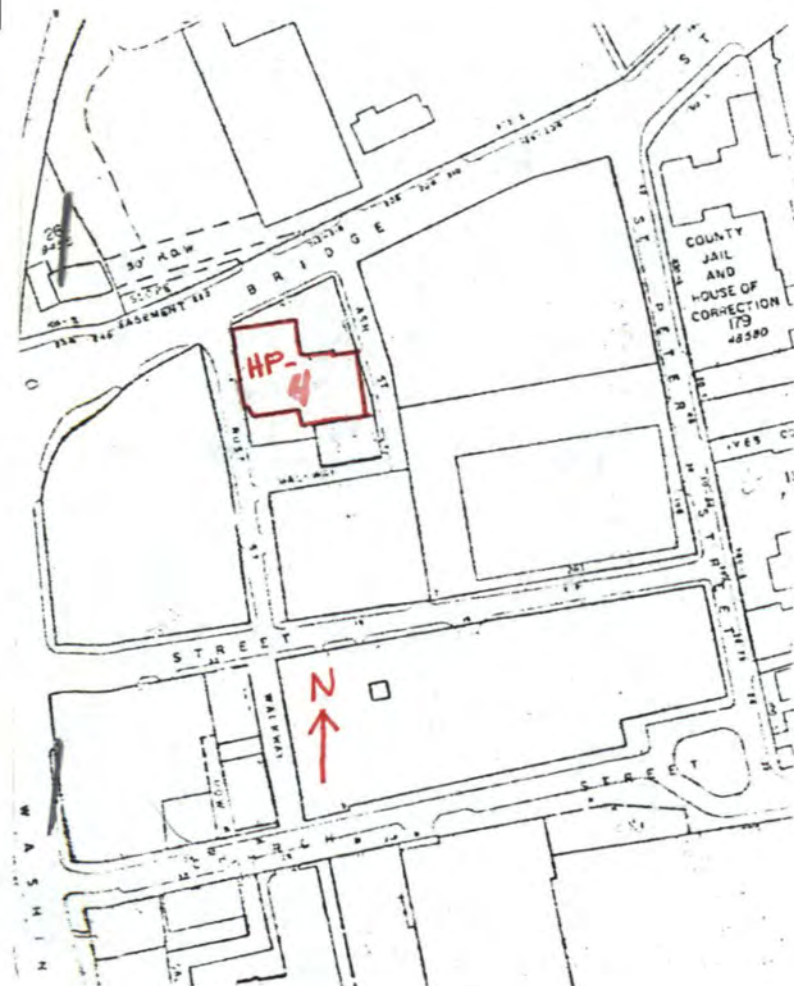
6. Recorded by A. Crump

- Organization Salem Redevelopment Authority

- Date November 1979

- UTM References: 19/344300/4709460

- Assessor's Number: 35-194



7. Original owner (if known) First Church

Original use Church

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	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>x</u>				

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

The First Universalist Church on Rust Street is one of two Federal period churches remaining in the city. In addition, it is one of only two buildings to survive in an early 19th century vernacular neighborhood that was cleared for urban renewal.

The two-story, red brick church is built on a typical Federal meetinghouse plan, with a projecting five-bay facade supporting a square tower at its center, which masks the ridge of the pitched roof behind. Brick sill courses mark the second story of the facade and encircle the tower, but do not appear on the main mass of the building, which is completely sheer except at the cornice. This restraint enhances the bold effect of the stronger cornice and balustrade capping the tower. Broad granite steps lead to three doorways symmetrically placed on the facade. The center entry is recessed in a round arch; the secondary side entries, also recessed, are segmentally arched. The end bays are marked with rectangular windows.

The Universalist Society of Salem was founded in 1805, and a lot of land on St. Peter Street was donated for construction of a church. This was considered to be too close to the town jail, so the lot was sold for \$1,000 and the present lot purchased for 1,500. The cornerstone was set on August 17, 1808; the first service was held on May 14, 1809.

The First Universalist Church possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship and association. It meets criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

Salem Historic District Study Committee: Report, 1968.

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

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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 | Melous Byers 7/29/83 |
| | | Attest | |
| 2. Federal Street District | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Melous Byers 9/16/83 |
| | | Attest | |
| 3. First Universalist Church | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Melous Byers 7/29/83 |
| | | Attest | |
| 4. Monroe, Bessie, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Melous Byers 7/29/83 |
| | | Attest | |
| 5. Downtown Salem District | Substantive Review | for Keeper | accept Patrick Andrews 10/18/83 |
| | | Attest | |
| 6. Peabody, John.P., House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Melous Byers 7/29/83 |
| | | Attest | |
| 7. Salem Laundry | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Melous Byers 7/29/83 |
| | | Attest | |
| 8. Shepard Block | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Melous Byers 7/29/83 |
| | | Attest | |
| 9. Wesley Methodist Church | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Melous Byers 7/29/83 |
| | | Attest | |
| 10. Crombie Street District | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | Melous Byers 9/16/83 |
| | | Attest | |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION / RETURN SHE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

First Universalist Church (Downtown Salem
MRA)
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUN 14 1983

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
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ 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 _____ Boulder 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 _____

UNIT 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 _____

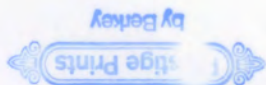
Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



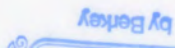
Downtown Salem MRA, Ma

First Universalist Church



NOV 1979

02-1



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000277