

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
35	193

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

1. Town Salem

Address 7 Ash Street

Name Bessie Monroe House

Present use Residential

Present owner Jan M. Robbins
7 Ash Street
Salem, Mass. 01970

3. Description:

Date 1811

Source Tax records

Style Federal

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Brick

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features quoins, 6/6 sash, pedimented
entry, granite basement.

Altered no Date _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size: 2,586 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 43 ft.

Approximate distance of building from street
Adjacent

6. Recorded by A. Crump

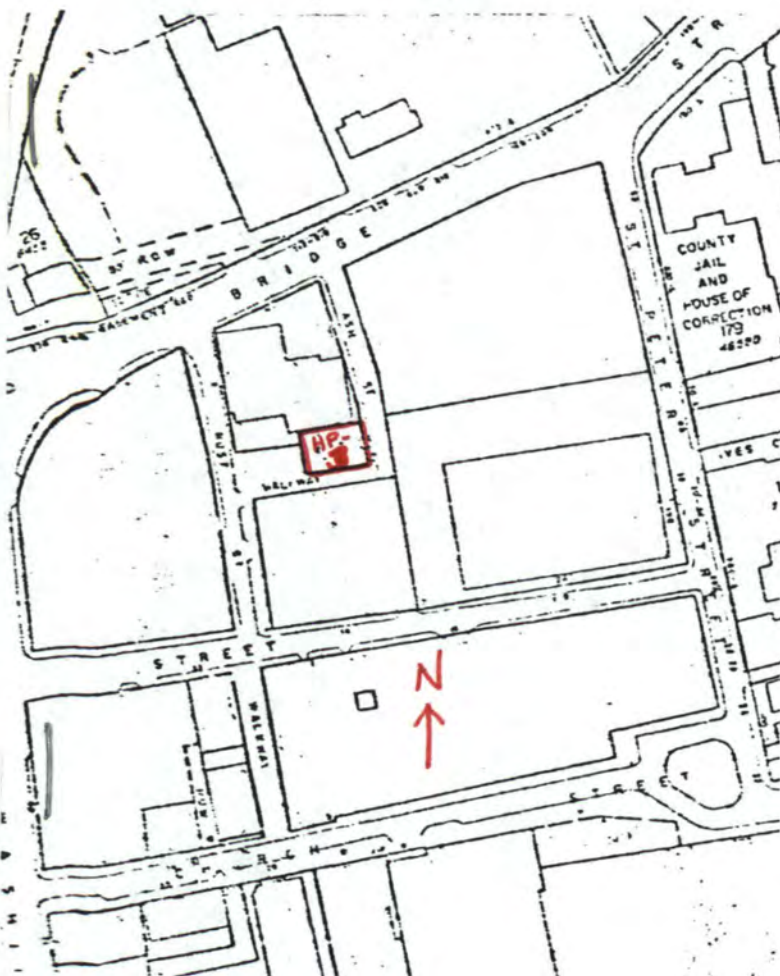
Organization Salem Redevelopment Authority

Date November 1979

UTM References: 19/344320/4709430

Assessor's Number: 35-193

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



7. Original owner (if known) Thomas Perkins

Original use Residential

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 modest brick house at 7 Ash Street is notable for the clarity of its Federal vernacular design, and is indicative of the character of an early 19th century neighborhood that was obliterated by urban renewal.

The simplicity and formality of the building are typical of Federal vernacular architecture. The two-story house is crowned by a hip roof punctuated on its forward slope by twin chimneys. A classically detailed fanlit doorway is centrally placed on the five-bay facade, and is the building's only decorative element.

The house was built in 1811 by Thomas Perkins, a prosperous merchant in nearby Topsfield. It was initially rented to Perkins' brother, a chairmaker, who occupied it until his death. While its modest character is typical of the surrounding neighborhood, now demolished, brick construction was relatively rare in Salem at the time it was developed, and the house was distinctive in its original context as much as it is today.

Bessie Monroe, for whom the house is named, owned and occupied the 7 Ash Street house until her death around 1975. Bessie Monroe was an elderly lady who became upset upon hearing that the property, in addition to all of the adjacent buildings, was to be taken by eminent domain through the Redevelopment Authority. The house was originally targeted for demolition. The Redevelopment Authority, concerned with how relocation would affect Bessie Monroe's health, decided to take the property but allow Mrs. Monroe to live there until her death. This decision delayed the planned demolition of the building, even though all other targeted properties were demolished.

(Continued)

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

Historic Salem, Inc. research files

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Salem	Form No: 193
Property Name: Bessie Monroe House	

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

9. Historical Significance (Continued)

Luckily, the renewal plan changed its focus from new construction to restoration of existing buildings between the time of the Taking and Bessie Monroe's death. The building was then sold to an owner interested in restoring the structure.

The Bessie Monroe House possesses integrity of location, design, 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

125 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 10/18/83 |
| | | 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 | |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION / RETURN SHE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Monroe, Bessie, House (Downtown Salem MRA)
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUN 14 1993
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84
Date Due: 7/14/83 - 7/29/83
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 7/29/83
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Entered in the National Register
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 _____ 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

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USGS 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
Munroe, Bossie, House
7 Ash St

NOV 1979
Prestige Prints
by Berkey

NOV 1979
Prestige Prints
by Berkey

7-22

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000277