

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Community House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 284 Bay Road not for publication

city or town Hamilton vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Essex code 009 zip code 01982

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title  
Brona Simon  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Brona Simon, SHPO, MHC

March 25, 2011  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

5-16-11

Community House  
Name of Property

Essex, MA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	_____ building
_____	_____	_____ sites
_____	_____	_____ structures
_____	_____	_____ objects
_____	_____	_____ Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/civic

RECREATION & CULTURE/auditorium

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/civic

RECREATION & CULTURE/auditorium

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

\_\_\_\_\_

roof slate

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA

Section number 7 Page 1

### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Community House is located in the center of Hamilton, a small community of roughly 8,300 residents, twenty miles north of Boston, Massachusetts; the property situated at the prominent intersection of Bay Road (US Route 1A) and Asbury Street. The town's principal commercial district lies just to the south. A new police station and a senior center (in the former public library) stand on the opposite side of Bay Road to the east, while a large public park (Patton Park) is located on the opposite side of Asbury Street to the north. The area immediately west of the Community House includes a mix of commercial and residential properties, beyond which is a residential neighborhood dominated by houses dating from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. The Community House lot is characterized by mature trees and well-groomed landscaping. There is a small, paved parking area along the east side of the building, and paved walkways at the front and rear. Low fieldstone walls serve as retaining walls for raised planting beds at the front. Adjoining the Community House at its southwest corner is a building, which is now a separate lot. This adjoining building was constructed in 1960 as a bowling alley and was formerly associated with the Community House. In the 1980s the bowling alley was converted to use as medical offices. On the northeast corner of the site, close to the intersection of Bay Road and Asbury Street, is a flagpole on a bronze base, which sits on a broad, octagonal fieldstone plinth. There is no reference to the date of erection of the flagpole, but stylistically it would appear to have been constructed ca. 1930. All of these elements are considered contributing to the significance of the resource.

The Community House is a 1½-story brick building, designed in the Colonial Revival style by architect Guy Lowell. The historic fabric remains remarkably well preserved, and little has been removed except where noted below. The original construction consists of a central main block, and two slightly lower flanking wings to the north and south (Photo 1). One-story cross gables, pedimented at the façade (east), project front and rear from the lower wings, giving the building an H-shaped plan. A 1934 addition, partially below grade, was constructed off the southwest corner of the building (Photo 6). In 1992, a small single-story brick wing was added to the south elevation (Photo 5). A handicap access ramp was built at the façade at the same time. Fenestration at the façade and north elevation is symmetrical, while it is irregular elsewhere. Window openings include some with arched brick heads, and others with flat-splayed brick heads. Sills at all window openings are of wood. Windows at the façade hold multipane wood casement sash, while the remaining elevations have wood double-hung sash in varying configurations. The building was designed in such a way that there are exposed basement windows at the side and rear elevations, taking advantage of the drop in grade. These hold rectangular multipane wood sash of varying sizes. The gabled roofs of the main block are finished with slate shingles and copper valleys and ridges. An open wood cupola with a copper weathervane is centered on the main ridge. A compound wood cornice defines the eave. The roof of the main block features three arched dormers at both the façade and rear elevation.

The façade is dominated by a recessed central portico supported by four slender wood columns (fluted, with stylized Corinthian capitals), flanked by wood pilasters on the enclosing walls. Within the recessed portico are four large arched entries flanking a central limestone niche, which holds a bronze statue (1921) by Anna Coleman Watts Ladd (Photo 8). The arched entries hold tall, paneled-wood double doors, each topped by a fanlight (Photo 2). The brick floor of the portico is laid in a herringbone pattern. The life-size bronze sculpture depicts a young WWI soldier standing at ease. An inscription on the stone base of the sculpture reads "Samuel P. Mandell, 1897-1918, First Lieutenant, 20<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron, Killed in Action, Martincourt France, Nov. 5, A Tribute from his Friends."

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA

Section number 7 Page 2

The north elevation of the building features a large arched window with a limestone keystone and impost, a sunburst transom panel with egg-and-dart molding, sidelights, and fluted pilasters (Photo 3). A decorative metal balustrade is mounted over the paneled base of the opening. Above the arched opening is an oculus window with a radiate brick opening and a bull's-eye muntin pattern.

At the rear elevation, the main block faces a shallow courtyard, formed by the projecting side wings (Photo 4). Here the main block has three large, arched windows with fanlights. A small porch shelters an entry to the north wing. The porch has a brick base and simple wood posts supporting a flat roof. The entry holds a glazed wood door. A double-width entry within the base of the porch was removed (date unknown). Access to the basement is by means of an entry along the south wing. The entry is set within a simple brick enclosure and holds paneled-wood double doors.

Although three additions were made abutting the south wing, partially obscuring the original south elevation, several windows, including a copper-roofed oriel window with casement sash, remain visible at the second floor. The first addition was a single-story concrete structure with a flat roof and a stucco exterior. Built in 1934, this structure is partially below grade and originally held four bowling lanes, but was converted to a meeting room in 1992 (Photo 6). Three modern skylights were added atop this addition during the 1992 renovation. The second addition dates to ca. 1960 (Photo 7) and was built to connect the Community House to an adjacent building (which also housed a bowling alley—see below). The one-story ca. 1960 connector is constructed of concrete block at its south elevation, but the north side is faced with brick. The most recent of the three additions is a single-story brick wing, built in 1992 to provide additional office space and bathrooms (Photo 5). This addition has a flat roof and borrows stylistic elements from the original construction.

The interior of the Community House is very much intact and has been well preserved. The first floor is dominated by a large central auditorium space, with a stage at one end and balcony at the other (Photos 9 & 10). Historic finishes within the space remain intact. A small sitting room and adjoining library are finished with full-wall paneling (Photo 11). A commercial kitchen remains in its original location, although fixtures have been updated (Photo 12). A meeting room at the second floor features built-in cabinetry and a fireplace with a simple wood mantelpiece (Photo 13). Modifications have been made to secondary spaces in the building to expand storage and office space, but historic finishes were retained in most instances. When originally constructed, the building included a single bowling lane in the basement, beneath the front portico. The space remains, but historic finishes are gone; the surviving gutter recesses are the only indication of its original use.

The adjoining 1960 building, standing just west of the Community House, was originally a bowling alley associated with the Community House. It was converted to office use in recent years and now stands on a separate lot. This brick building is rectangular in plan and consists of a 1½ story main block with a gable roof, and a long rear wing enclosed by a flat roof. The principal (north) elevation of the main block is five bays wide with a central entry holding a six-panel door (Photo 15). A second entry at the west end of this elevation features a glazed and paneled wood door. The entries at the façade are defined by splayed brick heads; the same is true of the windows over most of the building. Most window openings hold 8/8 sash. The main block has little else in the way of architectural detailing, other than a cupola centered on the roof ridge. The east elevation shares the architectural character of the façade, having two entries with Colonial Revival-style surrounds (Photo 16). Two added bay

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Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA

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windows also decorate the east elevation. The west elevation (facing the railroad tracks) and rear elevation are more utilitarian in design, having concrete block walls and little ornamentation (Photo 17).

### Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known on the Community House property, sites may exist. Eight ancient sites are known in the general area (within one mile), located on the periphery of the many types of wetlands (streams, rivers, swamps, ponds) located in the area. Environmental characteristics of the Community House property represent locational characteristics (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native American sites. The Community House is located on excessively drained, level to moderate sloping glacial outwash plain deposits in close proximity to wetlands. Detailed Soil Conservation Service maps of the area illustrate the property as urban land, consisting of areas where soils have been altered or obscured by urban works and structures. More than 75% of the surface in these areas is covered by buildings, industrial areas, paved areas, and railroad yards. Larger-scale maps of the area, however, include excessively drained loamy and sandy soils formed in glacial till with urban land deposits. An unnamed pond and stream are located in Patton Park, located less than 1,000 feet northeast of the nominated property. In general, however, the potential for locating significant ancient Native American resources on the Community House property is low. Given the small size of the property (one acre), the construction of the Community House (1921), and later additions—the adjoining 1960 bowling alleys, parking area, walkway, and utilities—would have destroyed any ancient Native American resources located on the property.

A low potential also exists for the recovery of significant historic archaeological resources on the Community House property. The property was vacant at the time of its purchase in 1920. No historic land use has been identified on the property prior to that date. No structures or objects not extant have been identified on the property during its period of significance from 1921 to 1961. While post-1921 construction features and artifacts may exist around the main building and bowling alley, their presence should be documented in historical records and in the minds of living informants. Any potential archaeological resources associated with the Community House period of land use would be of limited research value.

(end)

Community House

Name of Property

Essex, MA

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1921-1961

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1921 – original building constructed

1960 – bowling alley constructed

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Guy Lowell

Anna Coleman Watts Ladd (sculptor)

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Community House possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It is significant for its associations with community development in the adjacent towns of Hamilton and Wenham, having served as a community center for the two communities for nearly 90 years. The Community House was constructed in 1921 as a social, recreational, cultural, and educational center for local residents, and continues to function in that capacity. The facility is also significant architecturally as a well-preserved example of Colonial Revival institutional design, and represents the work of a major late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century architect, Guy Lowell. The property, which includes the main building, the adjoining 1960 bowling alley, and a ca. 1930s flagpole (all contributing resources), is of local significance and meets Criteria A and C for National Register listing.

### Historical Context

Located in southeastern Essex County, Hamilton was a small agricultural town throughout most of its history. There were few permanent residents in the town until the 18th century. It was not until 1712 that a meetinghouse center was established near the present intersection of Cutler Road and Bay Road. Scattered agricultural settlement persisted into the early 19th century, after which residential density gradually increased along Bay Road/Main Street (Rt. 1A) and in the western part of town (along Asbury/Highland Streets). The focus of settlement shifted after 1839 when the railroad was laid out through the southern part of town. The civic center remained where it was previously but dense commercial and residential development radiated outward from the railroad junction (just south of the current Community House site). Expanded rail service in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries transformed the quiet agricultural town into a popular commuter suburb. Construction of nearby Routes 128 and 95 later in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century sparked further suburban development throughout the town, attracting affluent residents who desired the privacy and bucolic setting offered along the rural Hamilton streets.

### The Mandells and Establishment of Community Service of Hamilton & Wenham, Inc.

The Community House was made possible through the generosity of George Snell Mandell and his wife Emily, prominent local residents who were among a group of citizens who worked to establish a community center for local residents. George Mandell enjoyed financial success running the Boston *Transcript*, the city's principal afternoon daily newspaper, published from 1830 until 1941. George Mandell, grandson of founding partner William Henry Dutton, was the controlling force behind the newspaper from about 1889 until his death in 1934. He built a fine estate in Hamilton, where he bred and raised horses, and was an active member of the nearby Myopia Hunt Club, one of Essex County's oldest and most distinguished country clubs (founded in 1882). Emily Mandell also took an interest in horses and fox hunting and was engaged in many charitable endeavors. The Mandells, whose son Samuel was a WWI pilot killed in action, not only wanted to provide local residents with a community center, but they had the additional goal of creating a memorial for their son and seven other local soldiers who lost their lives in the recent war. To that end, the Mandells joined with a group of residents from Hamilton and Wenham to seek assistance from Community Service, Inc., a private national organization that was established in 1919 to assist communities in establishing and financing recreational facilities.

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Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA

Section number 8 Page 2

Community Service, Inc. was an outgrowth of a wartime agency known as the War Camp Community Service, a private non-profit organization. The WCCS was established in 1917 to organize the "recreation forces of every community" in which service men and women might expect to spend off duty time. The group provided advice and assistance to communities wishing to establish recreational facilities. By the end of WW I, more than 600 communities had worked with the WCCS to create local social and recreational resources. The program was so popular that it was extended after the war, and expanded to assist in establishing community service resources for all their residents. Community Service, Inc. was founded in 1919, with headquarters in New York City, to succeed the WCCS. By the end of 1922, more than 800 communities had active local Community Service organizations. Community Service, Inc. would later merge with several other organizations to form the National Recreation & Park Association (1965).

At the request of the Mandells and their fellow Hamilton/Wenham residents, Community Service, Inc. sent a representative, a Mr. F.S. Mathewson, to assist in the effort to expand local recreational and social services. The Mandells stepped in and offered to fund the construction of a community center where a proposed Community Service of Hamilton & Wenham, Inc. could operate. The structure would also serve as a memorial to their son and his fellow soldiers lost in battle. As a means of safeguarding the future of the building, should the local Community Service agency ever disband or wish to move to another facility, a separate entity was established to hold title to the property and carry out the Mandells' wishes that the building benefit local residents in perpetuity. Hamilton House, Inc. was incorporated in December of 1920 for that purpose. In November of 1921, residents petitioned the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for incorporation of Community Service of Hamilton & Wenham, Inc. (CSHW). According to the Agreement of Association dated December 10, 1921 and the meeting minutes from the first meeting of incorporation. The Corporation was constituted for the purpose of:

building community spirit and making leisure hours constructive and recreation wholesome; maintaining free health clinics for the inhabitants of the towns of Hamilton and Wenham, maintaining educational classes in subjects of interest to home makers, the maintaining of free lectures on educational subjects in science, music, history, art and business, the maintaining of a library for the free use of the inhabitants of the towns of Hamilton and Wenham, the furnishing of entertainments and sports of high order for the benefit of the inhabitants of the said towns and charging admissions therefore, only to the amount necessary to defray the expense of the maintaining of the said entertainments and the Community House, none of the profits from said entertainments to be distributed among the members of the corporation; and no salaries to be paid to any of the officers of this corporation; for the purpose of maintaining instruction in athletics and furnishing certain instructions therein free of charge to the inhabitants of the said two towns, generally for the purpose of elevating and educating the youth of the said towns in the manner aforesaid; and for the purpose of receiving contributions from outside sources for the aforesaid purposes, no part thereof, or any of the property or income of the said corporation, to be permitted at any time to ensure to the benefit of any member, manager, officer, or director thereof, excepting only the paid secretary or secretaries for the carrying on of the activities herein before specifically and generally set forth.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA

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### Design and Construction of the Community House

In October of 1920, the Mandells purchased a parcel of land in Hamilton at the intersection of Asbury Street and Bay Road, the principal north/south thoroughfare for Hamilton and Wenham, as the location for the new Community House. The vacant land on which the Community House was constructed was particularly attractive for the site of the building, being conveniently located just north of the Hamilton/Wenham shared commercial district and rail station, and standing opposite a town park. At the time the Community House was constructed, this stretch of Bay Road remained largely residential and a dense neighborhood of modest houses was emerging west of Bay Road. The area east of Bay Road in the vicinity of the Community House lot was developing at a slower rate and with less density.

Prominent Boston architect Guy Lowell (1870-1927) was commissioned to design the building. Lowell was one of the region's most distinguished architects and a member of a prominent New England family. Lowell studied at Harvard, MIT, and the Ecole des Beaux Arts. He enjoyed an illustrious career in architecture and taught landscape architecture at MIT. He opened an office in Boston in 1899, and by 1906 was also operating a branch office in New York. He became well known for his institutional design but was also responsible for many impressive commercial buildings, distinctive residences, and grand country estates. Lowell perhaps received greatest recognition for his design of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts (465 Huntington Avenue [1907] and later additions - extant), and the New York State Supreme Courthouse in New York City (60 Centre Street-[1919 to 1925]-extant). Lowell was also responsible for a variety of academic buildings at many of the region's most prominent institutions, including Phillips Academy Andover, Simmons College, Brown University, and Harvard University. He also designed the President's House at Harvard University (17 Quincy Street-[1911]-extant), commissioned by his cousin, Abbott Lawrence Lowell, during his tenure as Harvard President (1909-1933).

Friends of the Mandells secretly commissioned artist Anna Coleman Watts Ladd (1878-1939) to create a bronze sculpture of son Samuel Mandell as a gift to his parents. The sculpture stands at the front of the building within a limestone niche. A native of Pennsylvania, Ladd studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, and in France with Auguste Rodin. She worked from a studio on Clarendon Street in Boston, creating numerous fountain pieces, portrait busts, memorials, and reliefs. Her 1922 sculpture, "Triton Babies," is the centerpiece of a fountain in the Boston Public Gardens. She also maintained a summer studio in Beverly Farms. In 1917 Ladd founded the American Red Cross Studio for Portrait-Masks, which provided cosmetic masks to soldiers who had been disfigured in WWI. She was awarded the Legion d'Honneur Croix de Chevalier for her efforts.

### Community House Use

The new Community House included a large auditorium space, sitting room, library, and kitchen on the first floor; a meeting room on the second floor; and a game room, bowling lane, and men's lounge at the lower level. There was considerable enthusiasm among residents for the new Community House. More than 19 committees covering a broad range of interests were formed in the early days, including Finance, Moving Pictures, Social Activities, Girls' Activities, Athletics, Music/Dramatic, Library, Publicity, Children's Activities, House Committee, University Extension Course, Health Clinics, Educational Lectures, and Committee on Hostesses. The auditorium space also served, and continues to serve, as a function hall, and numerous weddings and other events have been

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Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA

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held here since the 1930s. The hall was the location of minstrel shows, dances, luncheons, teas and potluck suppers. Education and exercise classes of all types have been held over the years. Numerous clubs and scout groups have used the Community House as their meeting place. Women assembled in the kitchen for canning lessons, while the gentlemen enjoyed cigars in the library. The building included a "picture machine booth" so that films could be shown in the auditorium. The bowling lane in the basement was immensely popular, so much so that four additional lanes were constructed in an adjoining structure in 1934. The original lane, beneath the entry portico, became a pistol shooting range for local law enforcement officers. Bowling became a major source of income for CSHW. Its popularity was such that in 1960, a new building was constructed at the rear of the Community House to hold eight automated lanes. This new bowling alley remained in operation until 1978, by which time the demand for such a facility had fallen off. In 1980, the building was leased to Beverly Hospital for use as office space, and in 1987 was eventually sold to the hospital. It was subsequently sold to a private entity but remains in use as offices. The four lanes in the 1934 addition were converted to a meeting room in the 1992 renovation. The flagpole on the northeast corner of the site, a gift from the Trussells, one of Hamilton's oldest families, has an inscription on its bronze base that reads "1868 Fanny Bond Trussell 1927" and beneath "Whose spirit bore fruit in this association of neighbors for friendship and help". Fanny Trussell was the first president of the Hamilton Mothers Club, one of the early user groups of the Community House.

Emily Mandell continued to fund major expenses relating to the upkeep of the building until her death in 1943 (George Mandell had died in 1937), after which time CSHW assumed responsibility. CSHW held numerous fund-raising events, such as fairs, carnivals, auctions, plays, and equestrian events, to fund operations and building upkeep. Since 1984, the lower level of the Community House has been occupied by the School's Out program, a daycare facility for local families. In recent years the facility has turned more to renting space to outside users as a way to help defray the cost of building upkeep. Language classes, dog training, fencing, and yoga classes have all been hosted at the Community House. In 1999, title to the Community House was transferred from Hamilton House, Inc. to CSHW. CSHW continues to sponsor numerous educational, cultural, and social programs to benefit residents of Hamilton and Wenham.

(end)

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Community Service of Hamilton & Wenham, Inc. - Agreement of Association (December 10, 1921—in records of Community Service of Hamilton & Wenham, Inc.)

Druschell, Margo W. *Community Service of Hamilton and Wenham, Inc. (CSHW)* (history written for Board of Directors Retreat, Sept. 14, 2003)

*History of the National Recreation Foundation.* <http://www.nationalrecreationfoundation.org/history.html>

Nagazina, Julie. Hamilton Wenham Chronicle, *Global Conflict Created Community Ties* (March 10, 2005, page 1).

Rainwater, Clarence E. The Play Movement in the United States (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1922).

Rice, C.G. *Talk Delivered to Hamilton Historical Association* April 25, 1985 (in Community Service, Inc. collection).

Sanborn Insurance Atlas (1916, 1940).

Smithsonian Archives of American Art (Biographical Note – Anna Coleman Ladd)  
<http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/findingaids/laddanna.htm>

(end)

Community House  
Name of Property

Essex, MA  
County, State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.009 acres

### UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19	346398	4719536	3.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2.			4.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

— See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christine Beard, Tremont Preservation Services, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date March 2011

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Community Service of Hamilton & Wenham, Inc.

street & number 284 Bay Road telephone 978-468-4818

city or town Hamilton state MA zip code 01982

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA

Section number 10 Page 1

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### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated properties occupy Lots 230 (27,594 sq. ft.) and 230A (16,359 sq. ft.), shown on Hamilton Assessors Map 55 (extends onto Map 56, see attached). The two lots together comprise 1.009 acres. The Community House itself occupies Lot 230, while the former bowling alley rests on Lot 230A.

### Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all of the land that has historically been associated with the Community House.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA

Section number Photos Page 1

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The following information pertains to all photographs:

Subject: Community House  
Location: Hamilton (Essex County), MA  
Photographer: Christine Beard/Tremont Preservation Services  
Date of Photo: April, 2008

Photo	Image Name	Description
1	MA_Hamilton(Essex County)_Communtty1.tif	View west showing facade (east elevation)
2	MA_Hamilton(Essex County)_Communtty2.tif	View south showing detail of entry portico (east elevation)
3	MA_Hamilton(Essex County)_Communtty3.tif	View southwest showing facade (east elevation) and north elevation
4	MA_Hamilton(Essex County)_Communtty4.tif	View southeast showing rear (west) elevation
5	MA_Hamilton(Essex County)_Communtty5.tif	View northwest showing 1992 addition
6	MA_Hamilton(Essex County)_Communtty6.tif	View northwest showing 1934 bowling lane addition
7	MA_Hamilton(Essex County)_Communtty7.tif	View south showing ca.1960 connector
8	MA_Hamilton(Essex County)_Communtty8.tif	View west showing sculpture of Samuel Mandell in entry portico
9	MA_Hamilton(Essex County)_Communtty9.tif	View north showing auditorium
10	MA_Hamilton(Essex County)_Communtty10.tif	View south showing auditorium
11	MA_Hamilton(Essex County)_Communtty11.tif	View west showing library
12	MA_Hamilton(Essex County)_Communtty12.tif	View northwest showing kitchen
13	MA_Hamilton(Essex County)_Communtty13.tif	View west showing second floor meeting room
14	MA_Hamilton(Essex County)_Communtty14.tif	View west showing flagpole
15	MA_Hamilton(Essex County)_Communtty15.tif	View south showing façade (north elevation of 1960 bowling alley structure)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA

Section number Photos Page 2

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- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 16 | MA_Hamilton(Essex County)_Communty16.tif | View southwest showing east elevation of 1960 bowling alley structure |
| 17 | MA_Hamilton(Essex County)_Communty17.tif | View southeast showing west elevation of 1960 bowling alley structure |



WENHAM

HAMILTON

ORIGINAL

SCALE | INCH = 100 FEET

CURRENT TO JANUARY 1, 2008

COL-EAST INC.  
 BOSTON & PITTSFIELD  
 REV. 1974

46	47	48
54	55	56
61	62	



COL - EAST INC.  
 BOSTON & PITTSFIELD  
 1066' 25' Lot 13-12  
 14' 00' 25' Lot 13-12  
 14' 00' 25' Lot 13-12  
 14' 00' 25' Lot 13-12

# HAMILTON

## ORIGINAL

SCALE 1 INCH = 100 FEET

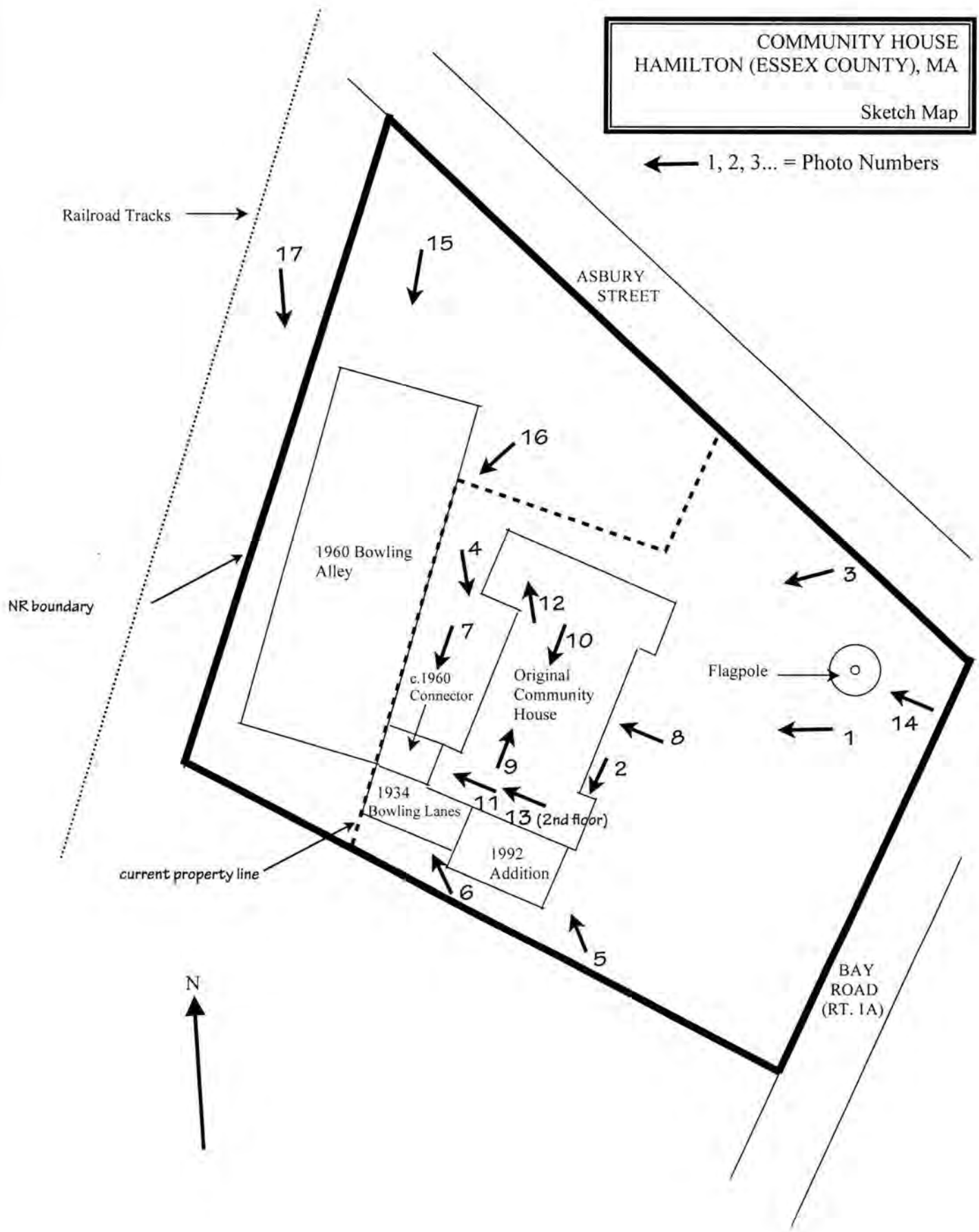
CURRENT TO JANUARY 1, 2009

47	48	49
55	56	57
61	62	63

5/24/10

COMMUNITY HOUSE  
HAMILTON (ESSEX COUNTY), MA  
Sketch Map

← 1, 2, 3... = Photo Numbers





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Community House  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Essex

DATE RECEIVED: 4/01/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/20/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/05/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/17/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000265

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 5.11.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



SALVATION ARMY BOARDMAN HOUSE

ROTARY HERE  
FRIDAYS 7:30 AM

Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA  
Photo 1 of ~~16~~ 17

MA-HAMILTON(ESSEXCOUNTY)-COMMUNITY01.tif

VIEW W, SHOWING E FACADE



Community House

Hamilton (Essex County), MA

Photo 2 of ~~16~~ 17

MA-HAMILTON(ESSEXCOUNTY)-COMMUNITY 02.tif

DETAIL of ENTRY PORTICO

View S



Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA

Photo 3 of ~~17~~ 17

MA-HAMILTON(ESSEXCOUNTY)-COMMUNITY 03. klf

View SW, SHOWING FACADE (E) AND N ELEVS.



Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA

Photo 4 of ~~17~~

MA - HAMILTON (ESSEX COUNTY) - COMMUNITY 04. tif

VIEW SE SHOWING W ELEV.



Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA

Photo 5 of ~~17~~ 17

MA\_HAMILTON(ESSEXCOUNTY)\_COMMUNITY05.tif

VIEW <sup>NW</sup> ~~NE~~ SHOWING 1992 ADDITION



Community House

Hamilton (Essex County), MA

Photo 6 of ~~X~~ 17

MA\_HAMILTON(ESSEXCOUNTY)\_COMMUNITY06.tif

VIEW NE, 1934 BOWLING LANE ADDITION



Community House

Hamilton (Essex County), MA

Photo 7 of ~~16~~ 17

MA\_HAMILTON(ESSEXCOUNTY)\_COMMUNITY07.tif

VIEW S, ca. 1960 CONNECTOR

DECEMBER 25 1918  
PRIVATE REGINALD YOUNG  
JULY 25 1918



SAMUEL P. MANDELL  
1897-1918  
FIRST LIEUTENANT  
20th AGRO SQUADRON  
KILLED IN ACTION  
MARTINCOUVRE FRANCE  
NOV 5  
A TRIBUTE FROM HIS FRIENDS

Community House

Hamilton (Essex County), MA

Photo 8 of ~~17~~ 17

MA\_HAMILTON(ESSEXCOUNTY)\_COMMUNITY08.  
tif

ENTRY PORTICO, VIEW W

SAM'L MANDELL SCULPTURE



Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA

Photo 9 of ~~16~~ 17

MA-HAMILTON(ESSEXCOUNTY)-COMMUNITY09.tif

AUDITORIUM, VIEW N



Community House

Hamilton (Essex County), MA

Photo 10 of ~~16~~ 17

MA\_HAMILTON(ESSEXCOUNTY)-COMMUNITY10.tif

AUDITORIUM, View S



Community House

Hamilton (Essex County), MA

Photo 11 of ~~16~~ 17

MA-HAMILTON(ESSEXCOUNTY)-COMMUNITY11.tif

LIBRARY, VIEW W



Community House

Hamilton (Essex County), MA

Photo 12 of ~~16~~ 17

MA-HAMILTON(ESSEXCOUNTY)-COMMUNITY12.tif

KITCHEN, VIEW NW



Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA

Photo 13 of ~~17~~ 17

MA-HAMILTON(ESSEXCOUNTY)-COMMUNITY13.tif

2ND FL. MEETING ROOM, VIEW W



Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA  
Photo 14 of ~~X~~ 17

MA-HAMILTON(ESSEXCOUNTY)-COMMUNITY 14.tif

FLAGPOLE, VIEW W



Community House  
Hamilton (Essex), MA  
Photos of IT

MA - HAMILTON (ESSEX COUNTY) - COMMUNITY IS.tif

VIEW S, N ELEV. of 1960 BOWLING ALLEY



Community House  
Hamilton (Essex), MA  
Photo 16 of 17

MA - HAMILTON (ESSEX COUNTY) - COMMUNITY 16.tif

VIEW SW, E ELEV. of 1960 BOWLING ALLEY



B  
23

Community House  
Hamilton (Essex), MA  
Photo 17 of 17

MA\_HAMILTON(ESSEXCOUNTY)\_COMMUNITY 17. tif  
VIEW SE, W ELEV. of 1960 BOWLING ALLEY

Community House  
Hamilton (Essex County), MA  
Easting 346393 Northing 4719536

Community House  
Hamilton  
42070-E7-TM-025

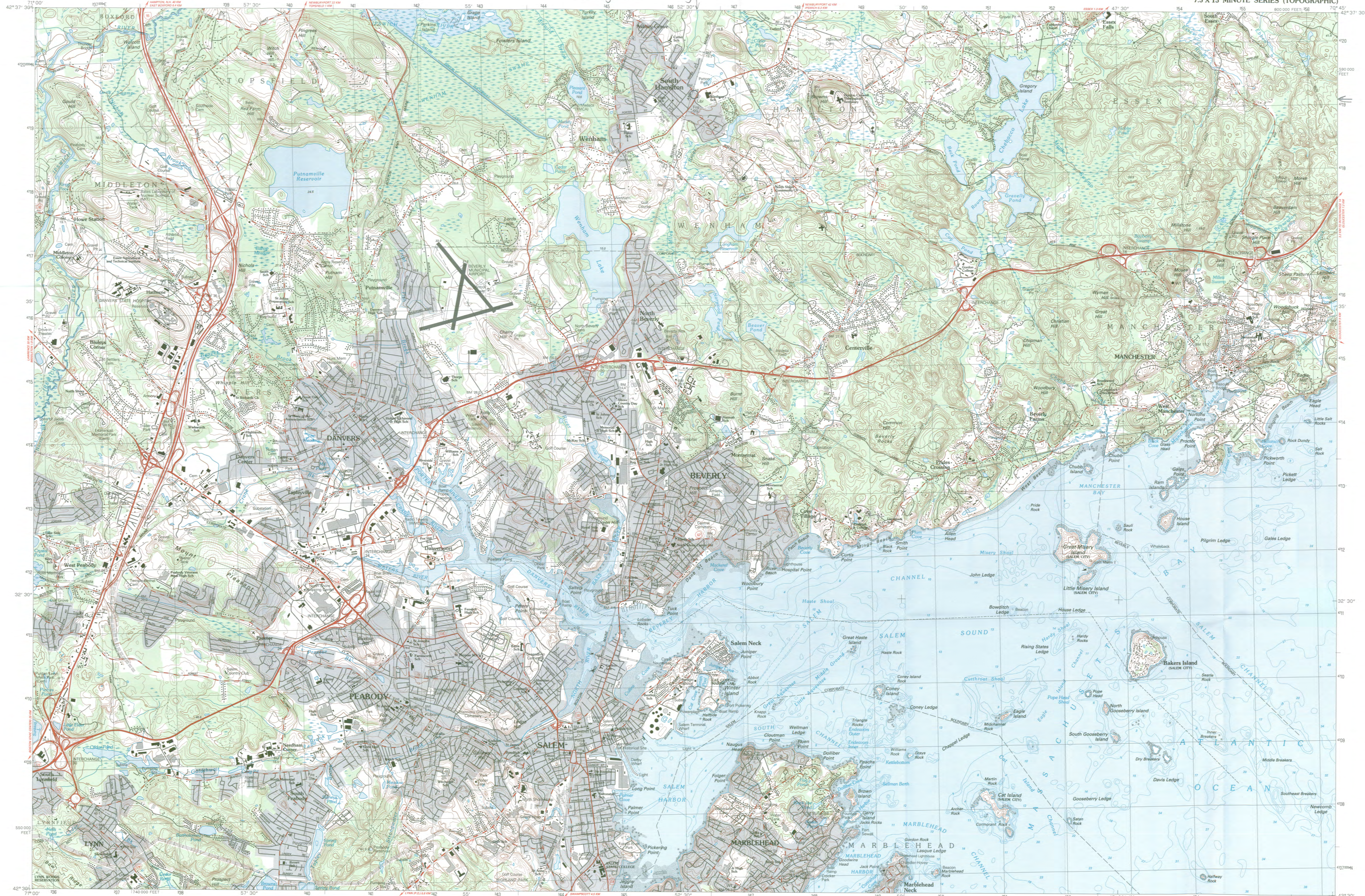
# Salem MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric  
topographic map

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE  
SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
1985



Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works  
Control by USGS, NOS-NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies  
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1978. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1985  
Supersedes Salem and Marblehead North 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1970  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 13275 and 13278 (1981). This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 19  
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, unadjusted zone  
1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south and 42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
CONTOUR ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER  
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.3 METER  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS  
DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE  
SOUNDINGS SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.1 METERS

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5616
3	9.8424
4	13.1232
5	16.4040
6	19.6848
7	22.9656
8	26.2464
9	29.5272
10	32.8080

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808  
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

CONVERSION TABLE	DECLINATION DIAGRAM	ADJOINING MAPS
		1 2 3
		4 5
		6 7 8

1 Laconia  
2 Ipswich  
3 Rockport  
4 Middlebury  
5 Gloucester  
6 Boston North  
7 Lynn  
8

ISBN 0-607-23445-8  
9 780607 234459

### Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface	
Secondary highway, hard surface	
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	
Unimproved road, trail	
Road marker: Interstate, U. S. State	
Railroad: standard gauge, narrow gauge	
Bridge: drawbridge	
Footbridge, overpass, underpass	
House, barn, church, school, large structure	
Boundary:	
National, with monument	
State	
County, parish	
Civil township, precinct, district	
Incorporated city, village, town	
National or State reservation, small part	
Land grant with monument, bond section corner	
U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section	
Range, township, section line: location approximate	
Fence or field line	
Power transmission line, isolated tower	
Dam; dam with lock	
Cemetery, grave	
Commemorative, picnic area; U. S. bicentennial monument	
Wellhead; water well, spring	
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave	
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	
Contour: index, intermediate, supplementary; depression	
Distorted surface: steep slope, levee, sand	
Bathymetric contours: index, intermediate	
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	
Shoals, ledge and small; lake, large and small	
Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp	
Land subject to controlled inundation; wooded	
Soils: mangrove	
Graben; wye	

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

March 25, 2011

Mr. J. Paul Loether  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Community House, 284 Bay Road, Hamilton (Essex), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the properties were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Two letters of support were received.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Christine Beard, consultant  
Melissa A. Elmer, Executive Director, Community House of Hamilton & Wenham  
Robert G. Preston  
Jennifer Scuteri, Chair, Hamilton Board of Selectmen  
Thomas Catalano, Hamilton Historical Commission  
Peter Clark, Chair, Planning Board



November 20, 2010

Ms. Betsy Friedberg  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Blvd.  
Boston, MA 02125

RECEIVED

FEB 18 2011

MASS. HIST

Dear MHC,

This letter is written to provide the necessary affidavit that the Patton Park Medical Practice and affiliated partners will allow the Annex, as it was called after it was built and added to the existing Community House property at 284 Bay Road in 1962, to be included in Community Services of Hamilton & Wenham petition to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC)/National Park Service National Register of Historic Buildings. The signatories are assured that allowing the property to be included in the petition for designation in no way implies a business or legal association between the Patton Park Medical Practice and Community Service of Hamilton & Wenham Inc.

This complex of buildings is not located within the boundary of an existing Historic District. As a stand alone property the restrictions and rules pertaining to properties within such a district are not in effect. Below is information related to the concerns of Patton Park Medical Practice taken directly from the MHC site: "Know How #3: What you need to know about listing in the National Register."

**"Will National Register listing restrict the use of my property?"**

Listing in the National Register in no way interferes with a property owner's right to alter, manage, or sell the property when using private funds, unless some other regional and/or local ordinance or policy is in effect. If you use state or federal funds to alter your property, or need state or federal permits, the alteration will be reviewed by the MHC staff. Local funding and permitting do not trigger MHC review."

Contacting the Massachusetts Historical Commission directly with any additional concerns is advised. We appreciate the desires of Patton Park Medical Practice to participate with Community Service of Hamilton & Wenham on this project.

By signing below the owners of the annex condominium offices affirm that you will allow the MHC to consider the Annex as part of the parcel proposed for inclusion the Massachusetts, and national registry when the application is approved.

Best regards,

Robert G Preston, Board of Community Service of Hamilton and Wenham

Dr. Bruce Smith

Dr. Michael Edwards

Dr. John R. Low

**Board of Directors**

Donna Whipple  
**President**

Caleb C. Powers  
**Vice President**

Nancy Littlehale  
**Secretary**

Thad Steward  
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Thomas Barrett

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Michael Maione

Jeanne Maurand

Beth Myers

Robert G. Preston

Holly Regan

E. Randall Smolik

Andrea Stewart

Catherine Stramer

Ken Wilson

Melissa A. Elmer  
Executive Director

284 Bay Road  
South Hamilton, MA, 01982  
P 978.468.4818  
F 978.468.0178  
info@communityhouse.org  
www.communityhouse.org

RECEIVED

DEC 04 2008

MASS. HIST. COMM

November 23, 2008

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
Attn: Betsy Friedberg, Director National Register

Dear Ms. Friedberg,

I am writing to express my support, and the support of the Hamilton Historic District Commission, for the National Register listing of the Community House of Hamilton and Wenham.

I realize that the structure is located out of our existing Historic District and that it is not part of our exiting inventory. Unfortunately I do not see a time when our Town will be able to afford another inventory that would be comprehensive enough to include significant buildings not currently in our district.

The Guy Lowell designed Community House is one of the most important historic structures in Hamilton and is in my opinion worthy of being listed on the National Register. The Hamilton Historic District Commission recognized the significance of the structure and we will continue to support the preservation of the building.

Hamilton's Community Preservation Committee also supports the preservation of the building and it has already funded two separate rounds of funding for the restoration and maintenance of the structure.

In both of my roles as chair of the Hamilton HDC and Hamilton CPC I have had a chance to see the state of the building and it indeed faces an imminent threat from its deteriorated condition. A listing on the National Register would allow the caretakers of the property to have a much more effective fundraising program tat would go a long was towards restoring he structure to a stable condition.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas P. Catalano,  
Chair Hamilton Historic District Commission