

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

35

Form no.

210

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

1. Town SalemAddress 144-156 Essex StreetName Bowker PlacePresent use Commercial

Present owner L.H. Rogers, Inc.
144 Essex Street
Salem, Mass. 01970

3. Description:

Date c. 1830Source Title recordsStyle Greek RevivalArchitect UnknownExterior wall fabric BrickOutbuildings (describe) none

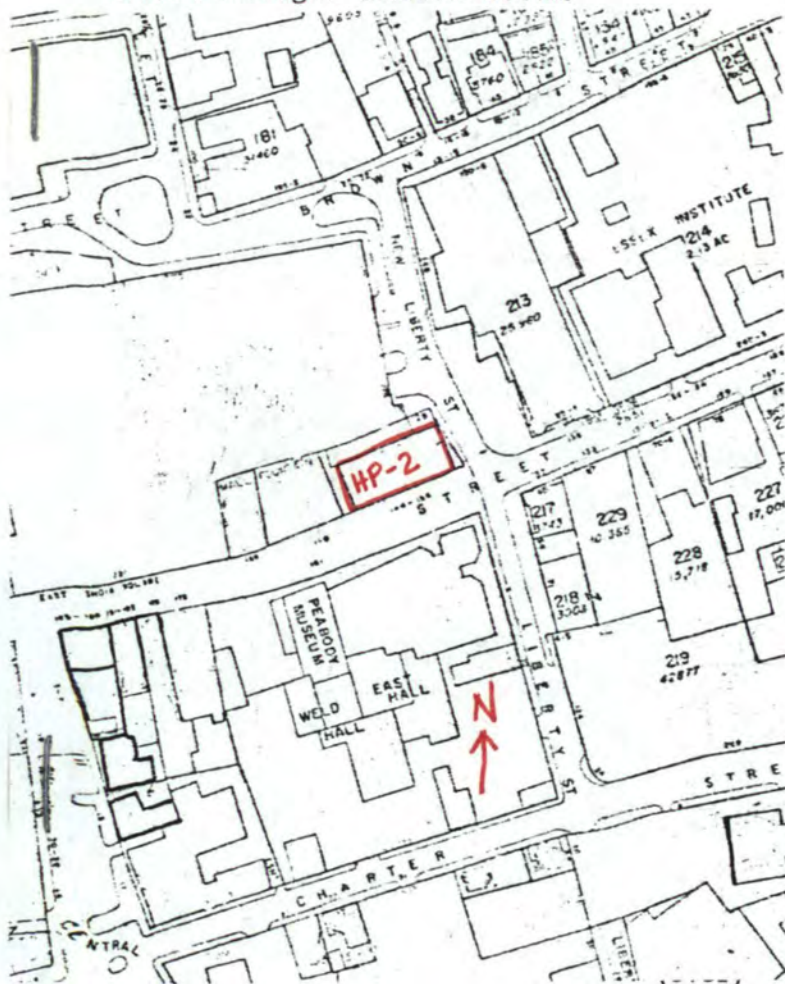
Other features 6/6 sash, brownstone lintels
and sills

Altered storefronts Date 1974Moved no Date _____5. Lot size: 8,499 sq. ft.One acre or less X Over one acre _____Approximate frontage 131 ft.

Approximate distance of building from street

Adjacent6. Recorded by A. Crump/A. Van IngenOrganization SRA/Historic Salem, Inc.Date November 1979UTM Reference: 19/344510/4709260Assessor's Number: 35-210

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



7. Original owner (if known) William Manning

Original use Commercial

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Office, municipal, military

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	☐	Conservation	☐	Recreation	☐
Agricultural	☐	Education	☐	Religion	☐
Architectural	☒	Exploration/ settlement	☐	Science/ invention	☐
The Arts	☐	Industry	☐	Social/ humanitarian	☐
Commerce	☒	Military	☐	Transportation	☐
Communication	☐	Political	☐		
Community development	☐				

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

The Bowker Block, at 144-156 Essex Street, is a distinguished Greek Revival commercial building erected about 1830 by William Manning. Manning's bankruptcy forced sale of the building in 1844 to Joel Bowker, a leading local merchant, whose name was long associated with the structure. The building is significant both architecturally and through its association with the commercial development of the city.

The three-story brick building is divided into three four-bay units, with each party wall marked by twin chimneys. The front slope of the pitched slate roof is also punctuated by two dormer windows on each unit. Brownstone lintels and sills trim the six-over-six windows on the upper floors; an elliptical window marks the center of the row on each story. The ground floor storefronts are framed by granite piers and lintels.

The Bowker Block occupied a significant place in the commercial life of the community, as well as in its architectural environment. The Merchants Bank, the Naumkeag Bank and the Salem Police Court were among the first tenants; later in the 19th century, occupants included the Salem Marine Insurance Company and the Second Corps Cadets. Prominent local retailers James F. Almy, David Conrad, and William Filene all started their operations in this building; Almy's and Filene's are major department stores in the Boston area today.

(Continued)

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

Essex County Registry of Deeds

Salem Historic District Study Committee: Report, 1968.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Salem	Form No: 210
Property Name: Bowker Place	

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

9. Historical Significance (Continued)

In 1974, the Bowker Block was purchased by the L. H. Rogers Clothing Store. The original storefronts over time had been completely changed to a combination of wood, glass and aluminum. With L. H. Rogers' arrival, the mix and match storefronts were replaced with granite piers and lintels to approximate the original appearance.

The Bowker Block possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and associations. It meets criteria A and 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

12-8-3

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 ServiceBowker Place (Downtown Salem MRA)Essex CountyMASSACHUSETTSWorking No. JUN 14 1993Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84Date Due: 7/14/83 - 7/29/83Action: ☒ ACCEPT 7/29/83Entered 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. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing SurveysHas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ altered

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

Acres 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



Prestige Prints

by Eckhart

NOV 1979

Prestige Prints

by Eckhart

2-30

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000277