

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

PH0678961

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 12 1979

MAY 7 1979

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

G.A.R. Hall & Museum

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

58 Andrew Street

CITY, TOWN

Lynn

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Essex

CODE

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Lynn, Trustees of the G.A.R. Hall & Museum

STREET & NUMBER

58 Andrew Street

CITY, TOWN

Lynn

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Essex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Essex County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth #405

DATE

1977

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The G.A.R. Hall is a four-story brick structure of rectangular floor plan, which occupies almost its entire building lot. On the north and south it is separated from neighboring structures by six feet wide alleys set approximately five feet below sidewalk grade level. To the rear (east) is a parking lot which was formerly the site of commercial buildings. The G.A.R. Hall's facade is located on the property line, facing a sidewalk; it is constructed of pressed brick with rock-faced sandstone trim, while other walls (north, east and south) are built of common brick without decorative trim. The building is covered by a nearly flat roof. All facade windows above the first story have bronze finished storm windows (1970's).

The facade is divided by projecting brick piers into two wide outer bays which flank a narrow center bay. The piers rise from bases of dressed granite at the sidewalk to Ionic capitals at the top of the third story; set on the capitals are rock-faced sandstone blocks from which the piers rise (octagonal in section) to a parapet. Recessed in the center bay of the first story are aluminum and glass double doors, surmounted by a plate-glass transom. Flanking the entry bay are two store fronts, both of which have bases with vertical board siding, aluminum door and window trim, and vertical boarding in the position of a former transom. Entrance to the northern store front is centered, while that of the southern one is set north of center. Extending across the top of the first story and serving as a sill for second story windows is a course of molded sandstone. Fenestration of the second story consists of three, grouped windows in each outer bay and two, narrower windows in the center bay, all of 2/2 sash with single-pane transoms. Window lintels consist of rectangular sandstone blocks set on square blocks at the windows' corners. These blocks are supported by stylized foliate capitals. At the third story, windows of the outer bays are tri-partite, set in arched frames and divided internally by wooden stiles with stylized Ionic capitals. The center bay contains two narrow windows with rectangular lintels set on foliate capitals which are identical to those of the second story. Located beneath these two windows is a semi-circular, sandstone balcony with a fluted base and molded lip.

Separating the facade's third and fourth stories are three courses of sandstone, the top one of which serves as the sill for the fourth story windows. Fenestration of the fourth story consists of groups of three wide windows in each outer bay and two narrow windows in the center bay, all with 2/2 sash and rectangular lintels set on blocks at the windows' corners. Over the center bay is a semi-circular sandstone plaque inscribed "GEN. LANDERS POST 5" and "G.A.R." On a parapet above this plaque is a second plaque bearing the date "1885". Above the fourth story windows of the northern bay is a row of circular sandstone medallions; this section has been re-built in the southern bay and the medallions removed. A parapet extends the length of the facade and has a coping of concrete, tinted to resemble sandstone.

Fenestration of the building's side walls is irregular. All, however, are set in frames with low-arched heads, trimmed with brick. Centered on the east (rear) wall is a projecting four-story bay which contains a rear stairway and, at the second story, an iron fire escape which leads to the north alley.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☒ MILITARY	☒ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1885 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank Kelly (?)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The G.A.R. Hall possesses integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and reflects the popular nineteenth century institution of the fraternal organization. It also listed the majority of prominent Lynn businessmen as members during its peak in the later part of the century.

Organized on February 27, 1867 at Taylor's Building in Market Square, the General Landers Post #5 of the G.A.R. became an important social force in Lynn during the late nineteenth century and also became the largest G.A.R. post in the United States. In the early years of its existence (1867-1868), Post #5 organized a number of "fairs and bazaars" which drew as many as 20,000 spectators and encouraged the organization's growth from 227 members in 1871 to more than 1,000 in 1885. In addition to G.A.R. Hall, the Post #5 built and operated a theater (the Lynn "Coliseum" on Summer Street) during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Limited to veterans of the Civil War, the size and importance of the G.A.R. gradually diminished in the twentieth century with membership declining to 191 in 1922. Eventually, the remaining members established a Board of Trustees to operate the building as a museum under the ownership of the City of Lynn, an arrangement which remains to the present.

Prior to the construction of G.A.R. Hall, the organization occupied "Cadet Hall" (1868-1870), the Masonic Hall (1870-1871), the Cross Building (1871-1881), all demolished, and, finally, the Exchange Building (1881-1885), partially demolished, all formerly in downtown Lynn. Around 1885, the Andrew Street lot was purchased for \$9,275 and plans were prepared for the construction of a three-story building with a mansard roof and small balcony at the second story. For reasons unknown, these plans, which shared decorative details with the present structure, were drastically altered by October 26, 1885 when the cornerstone of the present building was laid. Contemporaneous accounts state that Frank G. Kelley, a local contractor and member of the G.A.R., obtained the plans for the structure but mention no architect. (It seems likely that the building was designed by a Lynn architect.) On April 26, 1886, the building was dedicated, having cost \$18,400 to construct and \$5,000 to furnish.

The Lynn G.A.R. Hall, is an important local example of Romanesque Revival architecture. It is also one of the few local buildings of its style pre-dating the fire of 1889 which destroyed most of the city's commercial area. In addition to the building's exterior which remains predominantly intact, the structure contains an especially fine hall on its third floor. Measuring 56 feet by 46 feet with a 20 feet high ceiling this hall was used as the main meeting room for the General Landers Post #5 of the Grand Army of the Republic. Original, unaltered interior decoration includes decorative stencilling, brass lighting fixture (designed by

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lynn Reporter, Sept. 18, 1885, p.2; October 30, 1885, p.2.
Lynn City Item, April 24, 1886, p. 3.
Lynn Transcript, April 23, 1886, p.2.
Daily Evening Item, May 29, 1914, p. 16; May 12, 1922, p.24.
Lynn Scrapbooks, unpublished, Vol. 40, p.72.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5,369 sq. ft.

QUADRANGLE NAME Lynn

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 339840 47102790

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please refer to the attached map which is page 19 of the Lynn assessor's maps. The nominated property is lot #2 and is outlined in red.

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

Brian Pfeiffer
City of Lynn

ORGANIZATION

Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

January 1979

STREET & NUMBER

294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE

(617) 727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

STATE

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 R. Nesbitt 3/1/79

TITLE

Exec. Director, Mass. Historical Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5-7-79

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

William H. Brasham 5.3.79

DATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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MAY 7 1979
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Original Appearance:

Originally the G.A.R. Hall had wooden front doors which were surmounted by a stained-glass transom. Both of the building's store fronts were framed with wood and had center-entrances. The facade's parapet bore crenellations, except at the center bay, where the top of the date plaque rose to a broken scroll pediment (now removed). Medallions also existed above the fourth story windows of the southern outer bay.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

F.W. Patten of Lynn) and furniture. Added to the room's walls in the nineteenth century is a wooden grid which contains photographs of all of the Post's members and provides a unique portrait gallery of nineteenth-century Lynn. The building also contains an uncatalogued collection of Civil War memorabilia and, in the second floor library, an extensive collection of nineteenth century histories of the Civil War. Furnishings of the library are also original and include ornate bookcases built by Frank G. Kelley, one of the Post's members.

633

Assessor's Map
City of Lynn
Page 19

REVISED MARCH 1974

RECEIVED
MAR 12 1979
NATIONAL
REGISTER

633

LIBERTY ST.
SUTTON ST.

CENTRAL

OLYMPIA SQ.

ANDREW ST.

632

631

OXFORD

62

MUNROE ST.

MARKET

5369

5369

Property G. A. R. Hall and Museum

State Mass. (Essex) Working Number 3,12.79.498

TECHNICAL

Photos 1
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK 3.13.79

HISTORIAN

*Significant as major part of G.A.R. movement in U.S. Substantially
unaltered. Collection of photos in main Hall ~~reports~~ provides
~~at~~ excellent of 19th century Lyman business community.*

*Accept
B. F. Fowler
5/3/79*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Slightly altered 1880s brick
structure with Romanesque revival influenced
design - Strong local associations*

*Accept
B. F. Fowler
5/3/79*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Accept
B. F. Fowler
5/3/79*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

6-5-79

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered MAY 7 1979



G.A.R. Hall *and Museum*
Lynn, Massachusetts
Brian Pfeiffer 1978
Brattle St., Cambridge, Mass.

MAY 7 1979

Photo #1
Facade, facing southeast

Essex County

MAR 12 1979

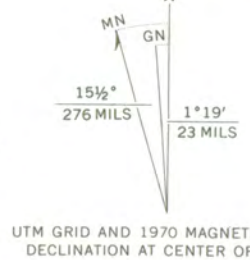
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

LYNN QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1939. Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 240(1970), 246
and 248 (1971). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Boundaries in tidal areas from information supplied by
Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.2 FEET

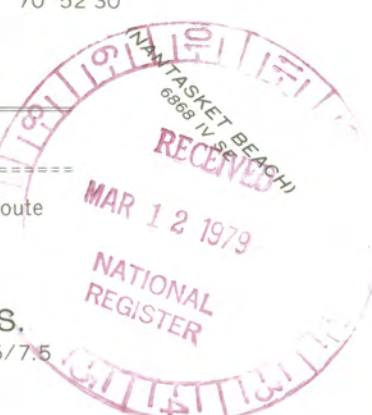
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

LYNN, MASS.
N4222.5—W7052.5/7.5
1970

AMS 6888 IV NW—SERIES V814



MAY 7 1979

PHONE REPORT

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CALL TO/FROM

Phil O'Donnell

TOWN:

ADDRESS:

Speaker McGee's Office

ZIP

PHONE #

BUSINESS:

HOME:

SUBJECT/PROJECT NO.:

G.A.R. Memorial Building, Lynn

DATE:

12 February 1979

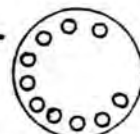
RECORD OF DISCUSSION

The Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, Thomas McGee, would like us to know of his strong endorsement of the G.A.R. Memorial Building in Lynn for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

I told him that the Commission would be voting on the G.A.R. Memorial Building on Wednesday and I foresaw no problems in getting the Commission's approval for the structure.



STAFF MEMBER: Kim



City of Lynn, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor



STUART S. DAVIS JR.
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

CITY HALL 01901
(617) 598-4000

Antonio J. Marino

Mayor

FILE
MAR 1 1979

February 12, 1979

Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts

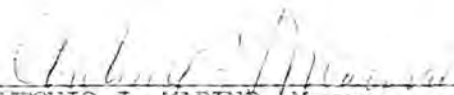
Dear Board Members:

This letter is to introduce the members of the Board of the Grand Army of the Republic, Memorial Building, 58 Andrew Street, Lynn, Massachusetts.

It has come to my attention that these members have applied for acceptance of the Grand Army of the Republic as a historical site.

Your consideration regarding this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


ANTONIO J. MARINO, Mayor

AJM/mr



THOMAS W. MCGEE
SPEAKER

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SPEAKER'S ROOM
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

April 9, 1979

Mr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
United States Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

I am writing to you in reference to the G.A.R. Hall and Museum in Lynn, Massachusetts and the consideration of same for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Your consideration will be greatly appreciated by all the citizenry of the City of Lynn.

With kind personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas W. McGee".

Thomas W. McGee
Speaker of the House

TWM/h

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 17 1973

51/h 4

Lynn Historical Society, Inc.

125 GREEN STREET, LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS 01902

TELEPHONE 592-2465



April 9, 1979

Dr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Dr. Murtagh,

On behalf of the Lynn Historical Society, I am writing to express our support of the proposal to list the Grand Army of the Republic Hall of Lynn in the National Register. ~~This building contains the original 1885 meeting hall of the Lynn G.A.R. Chapter with all its furnishings, as well as several rooms which are being developed into a museum of local military history.~~ The meeting hall and its contents are in need of extensive conservation work which is beyond the means of the city budget and which should be taken care of in the near future if the original fittings are to be preserved. The lack of cultural resources in this city make the efforts of the Trustees to turn the G.A.R. Hall into a historic site and museum particularly commendable and we feel this nomination for the Register merits serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Faith Magoun
Faith Magoun
Director

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE RECEIVED **APR 12 1979**

_____ (RECEIVED)

_____ (RECEIVED)

DATE _____

INITIALS _____

204/17



EDWARD T. CALNAN
Executive Director

48
MA
CITY OF LYNN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

LYNN CITY HALL - ROOM 315 • LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS 01901
Telephone: (617)598-4000 Ext. 37

G.P.R. Hall and
Museum
3/27/79
In Reply Refer To:
370/JC:js
Ser. #535
April 10, 1979

Mr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Services
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

We are pleased to hear of your intent to consider the Grand Army of the Republic Building for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The GAR post was the largest in the United States and is one of the few left in the country. The building now serves as a memorial to the men who fought in the Civil War. The GAR's original meeting hall is virtually intact, and is one of the City's most important Victorian interiors.

The Lynn Department of Community Development has supported the efforts of the GAR trustees to restore and maintain this urban historic asset. DCD funds have been expended to enhance the GAR's valuable exhibits and increase access to it. We wholeheartedly lend our support to future activities which would provide increased recognition of this historical entity and urge you to favorably consider listing the GAR memorial building in the National Register of Historic Places.

If we can be of further assistance with regard to additional information, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Edward T. Calnan
Executive Director

cc: Mr. Gilbert J. Lauzon,
Acting Chairman
GAR Trustees



40
TIMOTHY F. CLEARY, Chairman *Deceased*
JOSEPH E. SHANAHAN, Corresponding Secretary
EDMUND T. GIRARD, Recording Secretary
GILBERT J. LAUZON, Trustee



G. A. R. Hall and Museum
3127179

ELEANOR GUTHERIE, Trustee
D. JOSEPH CONNERY, Trustee
JAMES O. WILLIAMS, Trustee

City of Lynn
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
GRAND ARMY MEMORIAL BUILDING
58 ANDREW STREET
LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS 01901
TELEPHONE 599-3055

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

April 13, 1979

Dear Doctor Murtagh:

It was with a great deal of pleasure, pride and hope that I opened your letter of the twentieth and found that our plea was in your capable hands.

The Board of Trustees feel that the "Grand Army of the Republic" Memorial Building should be on the National Register as a lasting memorial to the brave men of Lynn, who so nobly responded to their governments call to arms in 1861.

According to the late Dr Richard Hale, Archivist for the state of Massachusetts, our Building is the last G.A.R. Building in the state that is still maintained just as it was when they last met here and, further, one of the last thirteen such Buildings left in the whole country.

The City of Lynn has very, very little left of significance historic value and this is one of our main reasons for our requesting that it be placed on the National Historic Sites Listing so that our children, grandchildren and the children of the future might have something to remind them of the "Patriotism", and "Loyalty" of their fore-fathers.

I am enclosing a couple of interesting articles about the Building that I hope will further aid our humble request.

The Board of Trustees wishes to thank you for your consideration and hope that our dreams and hopes will be realized in the very near future.

Thank you

c:c Mayor Marino
File

Joseph E. Shanahan
JOSEPH E. SHANAHAN, Secretary
Board of Trustees

enc: 3

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

APR 9 1979

100-201-2

22/1 of

GAR Museum Filled with W

BY DAN ALEXANDER

The Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Museum at 58 Andrew st. possesses a modesty which masks its historical significance. With its glass doors and recently repainted brick face it appears no different from the buildings around it. Yet inside is a museum which preserves the memories of the Lynn men and women who fought in the nation's wars.

It was built during Lynn's heyday in 1885 by the city's branch of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), the national Civil War veterans group.

The Lynn post, The General Lander Post No. 5, was the largest GAR post in the United States according to Joseph E. Shanahan, 60, the curator of the museum and an eighteen-year member of the building's board of trustees.

UNION VETERANS

Only veterans from the Union side of the Civil War were allowed membership in the GAR Shanahan explained. So, when the last GAR veteran died the organization died as well. The Lynn GAR, however, planned for its eventual death and shortly after World War I arranged to turn the building over to the city who still owns it.

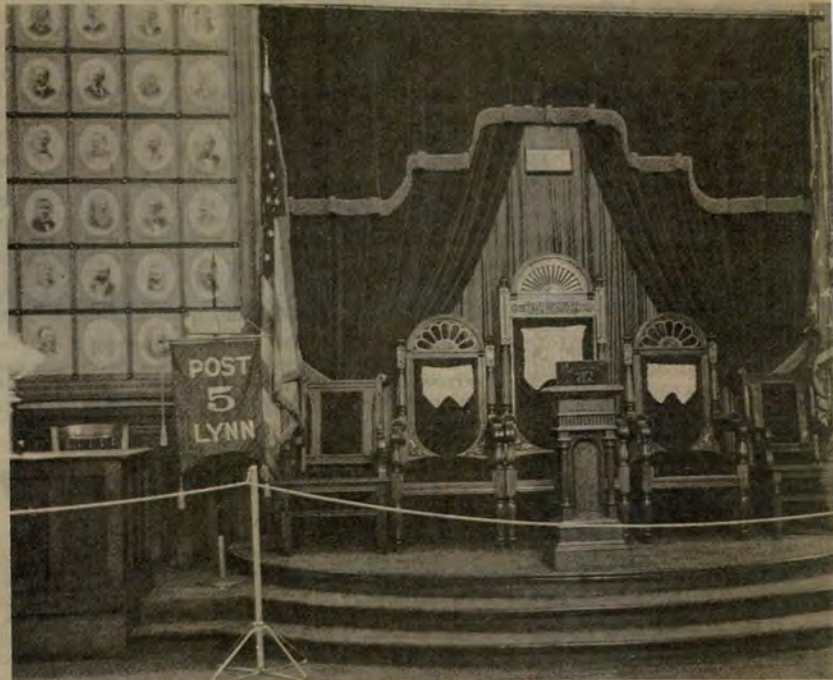
The museum proper was spread over three floors of the building. Downstairs was a banquet room which now serves as the World War I room. On the second floor were the Civil War rooms and the third floor housed the Spanish-American War room.

Also on the third floor is what Shanahan described as the museum's showpiece — the restored main hall where the GAR held its official meetings. The hall has been kept just as it was when the post last met in the mid-1930's. Shanahan said only 12 other GAR halls in the country have been maintained.

As I went from room to room it was not the displays — interesting though they were — that captivated me but rather Shanahan's anecdotes and asides. His historical commentaries gave the artifacts and exhibits the breath of life.

BEAN AND HAM SUPPERS

When he showed the World War I room he described the bean and ham suppers that the GAR used to hold for 25 cents per person. Soon after the building was completed, the post acquired a large book-



The Grand Meeting Hall of the GAR, General Lander's Post No. 5 has been preserved in its original state. According to curator Joseph Shanahan there are only 12 of these halls that have been

case. But the post had no books. Rather than buy any, the post decided to set the price of a meal at a book instead of a quarter. After two dinners the bookcase was filled.

WORLD WAR I

The main attraction of the World War I room is a collection of photographs of Lynn's World War I dead etched onto copper plaques.

These photos were originally intended to be shown publicly but ended up lying in storage for 35 years until Shanahan unearthed them a few years ago.

At that time the World War I vets still met in the old banquet room. Between meetings Shanahan secretly put up the pictures and hid them behind drapes. At the next meeting Shanahan told the vets that the drapes

maintained in the United States meetings at the Post.

covered some renovations that were underway. Shanahan then interrupted the meeting on some phony pretext and began to speak at some length. Some of the vets soon started to complain. Suddenly Shanahan walked to the drapes and dramatically pulled them aside to reveal the pictures of the dead soldiers.

"I'll never forget it. I swear to God those guys sat there with tears in their eyes. They'd never seen the pictures before," Shanahan said.

He told a story about General Lander after whom the post was named. The tale originally came from a gentleman, now forgotten, who related it to the post in the late 19th Century.

FOUNDER OF POST

The year before the Civil War began, Lander lost his billfold while walking around Washington, D.C. The gentleman above found the wallet across the street from a hotel and checked with the hotel desk clerk to see if Lander was staying there.

"He sure is," said the clerk, "but if you want to see him you'll have to wait in line." The clerk then escorted the gentleman to a room where a dozen or so men were waiting to see Lander.

"I don't think you're gonna see him today. He doesn't seem to want to see no one today. We've been here over



The museum's curator Joseph Shanahan points out the signature of Sam Adams on the Massachusetts Bay Colony Document dated August 3, 1770. It is part of the museum's Revolutionary War collection. (Connick Photo)

War Mementos and History



ates. The hall was used for official

(Connick Photo)

an hour," said one of the men waiting to call on Lander.

The gentleman with the wallet then prevailed upon the clerk and finally persuaded him to take him to Landers room. The clerk warned him however, that he would take no responsibility for anything Lander might do. It seemed that besides being reclusive, Lander was in a foul mood.

The gent pounded on the door and Lander yelled out that he didn't want to see anyone.

"But it's important," said the man who found the wallet.

"Bah! Nothing is important after what happened to me today," Lander replied.

Sensing the nature of Lander's problem, the gentleman rushed into the room to find Lander sitting on the bed with a gun poised at his head. Lander had been on a surveying mission out west and the men in the waiting room were waiting to get paid for the work they did for him from the \$4000 in Lander's wallet.

Three months after the Civil War began Lander was one of the first Union General to die in the Civil War.

LARGEST DISPLAY

The main Civil War room is the largest of the display rooms. In it are an array of artifacts and memorabilia from both the Union and Confederate armies. Besides a varied collection of weapons, uniforms, utensils and photographs and pictures were some unusual exhibits. One display case contained miniature canteens that served as flasks.

"The liquor companies knew that the soldiers liked their spot of tea," said Shanahan.

At one end of the room is a tableau made by Robert Marcotte of Lynn, commemorating the Battle of Bloody Angel which took place at the Battle of Gettysburg in early July, 1863. The craftsmanship is impressive. Marcotte hand-painted the HO-size soldiers and fashioned trees, grass and bulwarks from matches, sponges and paint.

Shanahan beamed at the entrance of the old GAR meeting hall. The room was lined with long wooden benches. At the compass points of the room are wooden chairs where the functionaries sat. In the middle of the room is a large brass ship's capstan.

Dangling from the ceiling, which is trimmed in gold leaf, are three large cut glass chandeliers. At the rear of the hall was a large balcony which holds a cannon and two stuffed eagles. Everything in the room had its own story and Shanahan was eager to tell each one. As he talked he flushed out details of the room that otherwise would have been missed.

OPENED IN 1975

A long time trustee, Shanahan began work on the museum when he retired from General Electric in June 1974. After a lot of hard work by Shanahan and the other trustees the museum opened in April 1975.

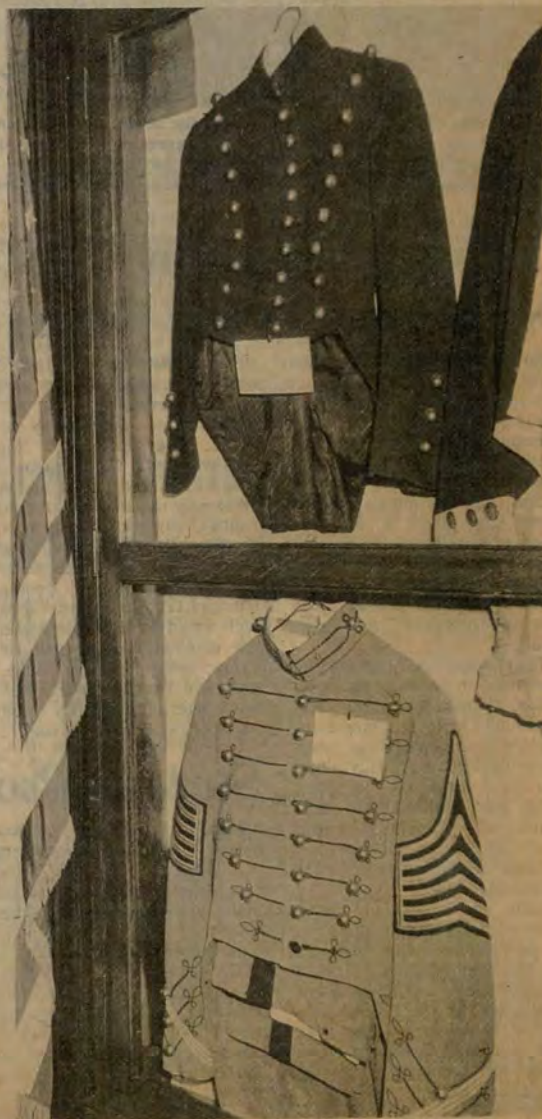
The trustees are unpaid, and even the curator Shanahan receives no money. The ceiling of the main hall is water stained, and the hall's rug — which is the original rug — needs a thorough professional cleaning but of course no money for these

repairs. The museum and the GAR receive no endowments.

Any money they receive comes from donations and from the rents collected from the two General Electric Union offices on the second floor. Shanahan is looking into grant possibilities. On February 14 he will go to Boston and attend a hearing which he hopes will eventually land the building on the National Register's list of historical

sites. Although money is scarce, the enthusiasm of Shanahan and the other trustees lend a personal flavor to the museum that other, better endowed institutions lack.

In the summer the museum is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. During the winter months tours are by appointment only. Appointments can be made by phoning 599-3055.



A variety of displays in the museum depict the history of the nation's wars. A Civil war dress tunic top above is compared to a modern West Point full dress tunic at the bottom in this display.

(Connick Photo)

NICHOLAS MAVROULES
6TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1204 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-8020

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House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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MASSACHUSETTS
(800) 272-6730

184 21 375
April 18, 1979

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation
Service
Department of the Interior
Pension Building, 440 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20243

Attn: NOM

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

I am writing to urge you to include the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Building, which is located in Lynn, Massachusetts, on the National Register of Historic Places.

I have visited this building on occasion and found it fascinating. In the past, it played a central role in the community and even today, it continues as a unique and important symbol of the history of Lynn.

This building was constructed in 1885 by the members of the General Lander Post #5, G.A.R. - the largest veterans organization in any city in the United States. Many members of that Post were leading members of the community - some of whom made the initial efforts which brought electricity and ultimately, General Electric, to the city of Lynn. Their photos, memorabilia and records, which are still on display in the Grand Army of the Republic Building, provide a remarkable collection of primary historical sources as well as enhancing a sense of continuity and heritage to the citizens of Lynn.

The Grand Army Building served as a meeting house, for minstrel shows, New England bean suppers and sporting events. It is believed to be the last such building in Massachusetts and one of the remaining 13 in the country. It would truly be a tragedy if steps are not taken in the near future to preserve and protect this structure.

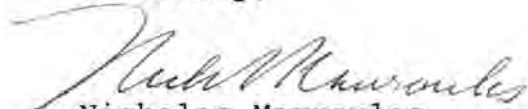
Dr. William J. Murtagh
April 18, 1979
Page 2

Incredible steps have been made in recent years toward the revitalization and redevelopment of Lynn. All who are familiar with the area are optimistic and excited over the city's progress. I believe that your decision to list the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Building on the National Register would further support the city's redevelopment efforts and likewise, the city's efforts will greatly enhance the status of the Building.

I urge you to carefully consider my remarks regarding this situation. I would be grateful if you would keep me informed of the status of your decision.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,



Nicholas Mavroules
Member of Congress

NM/crh

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

REC'D R 24 1979

INDIVIDUAL

PMATIVE MA

PHONE CALL (ATTN)

NOV 11 1979

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 23, 1979

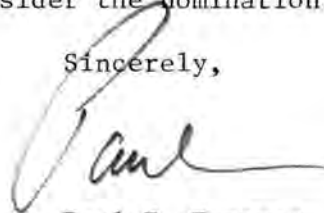
Mr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Pension Building
440 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20243

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

The Board of Trustees of the Grand Army Memorial Building in the City of Lynn, Massachusetts, has requested my support for the placement of the Republic Memorial Building on the National Register of Historic Places.

I heartily endorse the efforts of the Board of Trustees and hope that you will favorably consider the nomination.

Sincerely,



Paul E. Tsongas

PET:dsj

BOB. 12-23 Control No. 7181

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered

MAY 7 1979

Name

Location

G.A.R. Hall and Museum

Lynn
Essex County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul G. Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable James M. Shannon

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

NR Byers/bjr 5/8/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

H32-NR

MAY 15 1979

*transmitted 5/9
New York 5/9
Don P. Murphy
for 5-7
Council 5-14
Jesse
5/15*

Honorable Paul E. Tsongas
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Tsongas:

Thank you for your inquiry of April 23, 1979, concerning the nomination of the G.A.R. Memorial Hall, Essex County, Massachusetts, to the National Register of Historic Places.

We are pleased to inform you that the G.A.R. Memorial Hall was entered in the National Register on May 7, 1979. Enclosed is a leaflet which describes the National Register.

If we can be of further assistance to you, please let us know. We appreciate your interest in historic preservation.

Sincerely,

CHRIS T. DELAPORTE

Chris Therral Delaporte
Director

Enclosure

cc: Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
bcc: Director's Reading File
Chief, OAHP
FHR-Lumpkin
FHR-CL
CL / POR - 7181
FHR:B Frandsen:lw:343-6401:5-8-79

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN NR

ESSEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

H32-NR

Lightner
5-15-79
Nichols
5-16-79
Herrington for
Murtagh
5-16-79
Bozwall
5-18-79
5/24/79

Honorable Nicholas Mavroules
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Mavroules:

Thank you for your inquiry of April 18, 1979, to Dr. William J. Murtagh concerning the nomination of the G.A. R. Hall - Museum, Essex County, Massachusetts, to the National Register of Historic Places.

We are pleased to inform you that this property was entered in the National Register on May 7, 1979. Enclosed is a fact sheet which describes the National Register program.

If we can be of further assistance to you, please let us know. We appreciate your interest in historic preservation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Chris Therral Delaporte
Director

Enclosure

cc:
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

bcc:
CL
FHR-CL */ Chief, OAH P*
Director's Reading File
FHR: S. LIGHTNER:wcc 05/14/79: 343-6401

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