

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Massachusetts
COUNTY:	Bristol
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUL 2 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:

Academy Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Academy of Music Building and Borden Block

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

South Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Fall River

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Tenth

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Bristol

CODE

005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

(Check One)

- ☐ District ☒ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ Public
☒ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☒ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☒ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
☐ Restricted
☒ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government
☒ Commercial ☐ Industrial
☐ Educational ☐ Military
☒ Entertainment ☐ Museum

- ☐ Park
☐ Private Residence
☐ Religious
☐ Scientific

- ☐ Transportation
☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Mr. John Braz et al.

STREET AND NUMBER:

207 Academy Building

CITY OR TOWN:

Fall River

STATE:

Massachusetts

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Bristol County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

44 North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Fall River

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE OF SURVEY:

- ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
MassachusettsCOUNTY:
BristolFOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
JUL 2 1973
DATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Academy Building (1876) occupies an important corner block and fronts on three streets: So. Main, So. Frontage, and Second Streets. It is four stories high, of red pressed brick, with plain and carved sandstone trim, and polished granite and encaustic tile detail. The style is High Victorian (or Ruskinian) Gothic, and the three facades, though composed differently, are unified through an abundant use of chromatic Gothic detail. The So. Main St. and So. Frontage St. facades are basically tripartite with large, shallow projecting, pedimented bays and flanking wings. The larger portion of the Second St. facade serves as a theater wall and is simpler than the rest of the building; it is flat, with decoration confined to a row of colossal pointed-arch windows with panel-brick insets and is capped with a wide panelled and corbelled brick entablature.

The principal facades, on So. Main and So. Frontage Sts., have modern glass shop fronts on the street level, but retain their original fenestration of single, paired, and triple-grouped windows in the upper three stories. Decoration is colorfully and exuberantly applied. Windows are capped with pointed arches in the second story, segmental arches in the third story, and scalloped lintels in the fourth story. Sandstone courses divide the facades horizontally and connect windows at both sill and cornice levels. On the fourth floor and in the central bays, paired stone columns with stylized Gothic pinnacles and framing roundels with finely carved grotesques, add to the Academy's decorative liveliness. Further sandstone ornamentation occurs on the So. Frontage St. facade, in the carved and tiled panels above the entrance, and in the canted corner bays projecting at either end. A sandstone bracketed cornice, interrupted by pediments adorned with Gothic crockets and finials, and framing a hipped roof with tall, gabled chimneys completes the decorative treatment and picturesque massing of the building.

The Academy Building contains retail store space on the first floor, office space in the upper stories, and a theater. The principal entrance on So. Frontage St. is still in use and contains Gothic-style plasterwork, the original main stairway, and handsome mirrored elevators enhanced by brass dadoes.

The theater interior is large, consisting of an horseshoe-shaped orchestra divided at its midsection by a continuous, curving brass rail. Columns placed at various points along the rail support the first balcony. Above this rise an additional two balconies and the whole ensemble culminates in an expansive saucer dome decorated with period frescoes and a pendant crystal chandelier.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1876

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☐ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | |
| ☒ Architecture | ☐ Landscape Architecture | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Literature | ☒ Theater | |
| ☒ Commerce | ☐ Military | ☐ Transportation | |
| ☐ Communications | ☒ Music | | |
| ☐ Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Academy Building is an outstanding example of Ruskinian Gothic architecture, the most important building of this style in Fall River, and, in terms of its quality, scale, and condition, one of the finest in New England. It was completed in 1876 for Simeon Borden from designs of the Boston architects, Hartwell and Swazey. Constructed at the height of Fall River's commercial and cultural growth, it is unique in providing space and facilities for these two major forces in the city's development. With shop-fronts and three floors of office space it offered the most desirable business location and was the finest commercial block in the city when completed. Today the office and retail portions of the block remain as the commercial heart of Fall River. The chief theater and opera house (the Academy of Music, from which the building took its name) was located in the building and for over half a century it was the cultural center of the city, with the theater playing host to many famous performers in its day.

Except for the much altered store fronts, the facades and exterior decoration of the building are in excellent condition. Inside, most original woodwork and plasterwork survives, also in good condition. The theater is now in operation as a movie house, and is original throughout except for the seating of the parquet. There have been no major renovations at any time, and a theater the size and age of the Academy, still retaining its original stage machinery, drops, and sets, as well as its original crystal chandelier and ornate plastered and painted audience hall is a rare survival. It could be fully restored and opened again for live entertainments, a possibility suggested by the fact that it is the only surviving downtown theater suitable for live productions.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Earl & Bamford, "Views of Fall River and Vicinity" Fall River, 1888.
 Fall River Historical Society, Miscellaneous Correspondence and Theater Programs for the Academy.
 Phillips, Arthur Sherman, The Phillips History of Fall River, 3 Vol., Fall River, 1944, Vol I, p.83; Vol II, pp. 116,161,162; Vol III, pp. 39, 49,89,138.
 Information supplied by William Underwood, 38 Rock St., Fall River, Ma. 02720

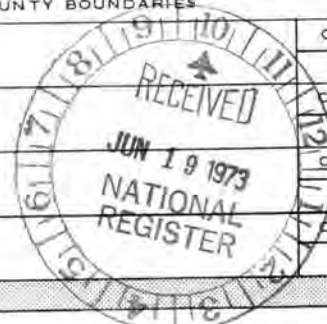
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		41 42 02½	71 09 21	
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Alexander A. Cassie, Consultant for Elizabeth R. Amadon, State Survey Dir.
 ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE: April 17, 1973
 STREET AND NUMBER: 40 Beacon Street (617) 727-8470
 CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts 02108 CODE: 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☒

Name: John F.X. DAVOREN
 JOHN F.X. DAVOREN, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Chairman of the Mass. Title

Historical Commission

Date: June 12, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Robert M. Utley
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/2/73

ATTEST:

C. S. McIntyre
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6 27 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PROPERTY

Academy Building

STATE

Mass

WORKING NUMBER

6.19.73. 3130

Bristol

TECH REVIEW

Photos

2

Maps

1

CONTROL REVIEW

Cm
6-21-
73

HISTORIAN

Talked to Mr. Green HRP & notified of name
when she find out something will call backAccept- AML
6/25/73

Accept 26-73

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

I'd be tempted to call this "Chateausque"
rather than Ruskinian gothic. Nice bldg. though.Accept
KHC
6/25/73

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

Harris
for review
6-26-73

KEEPER

Re Ruskinian Gothic

Cm
6/27

National Register write-up

Send-back

Federal Register entry

8-7-73

Re-submit

Entered

JUL 2 1973



NPS Number on 7/2/73

Title: Academy Bldg.

Loc. Bristol, Mass.

corner at south main st. and

south Frontage St. detail

①

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON Academy Building	AND/OR HISTORIC Borden Block also Academy of Music	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS) JUL 2 1973
2. LOCATION		
STATE Massachusetts	COUNTY Bristol	TOWN Fall River
STREET AND NUMBER South Main Street		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT William Underwood	DATE April, 1973	NEGATIVE FILED AT 38 Rock Street, Fall River, Ma. 02720
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

corner at South Main St. and South Frontage St., detail.





NPS Number 7/2/73

Title: Academy Bldg.

Loc. Bristol, Mass.

Looking S.E. from I-95

bridge

(2)

MASSACHUSETTS, FALL RIVER,

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME

COMMON

Academy Building

AND/OR HISTORIC

Borden Block also
Academy of Music

NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)

JUL 2 1973

2. LOCATION

STATE

Massachusetts

COUNTY

Bristol

TOWN

Fall River

STREET AND NUMBER

South Main Street

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

William Underwood

DATE

April, 1973

NEGATIVE FILED AT

38 Rock St., Fall River
Ma., 02720

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Looking southeast from I-95 Bridge
Facade of Academy at South Frontage and South Main Sts.





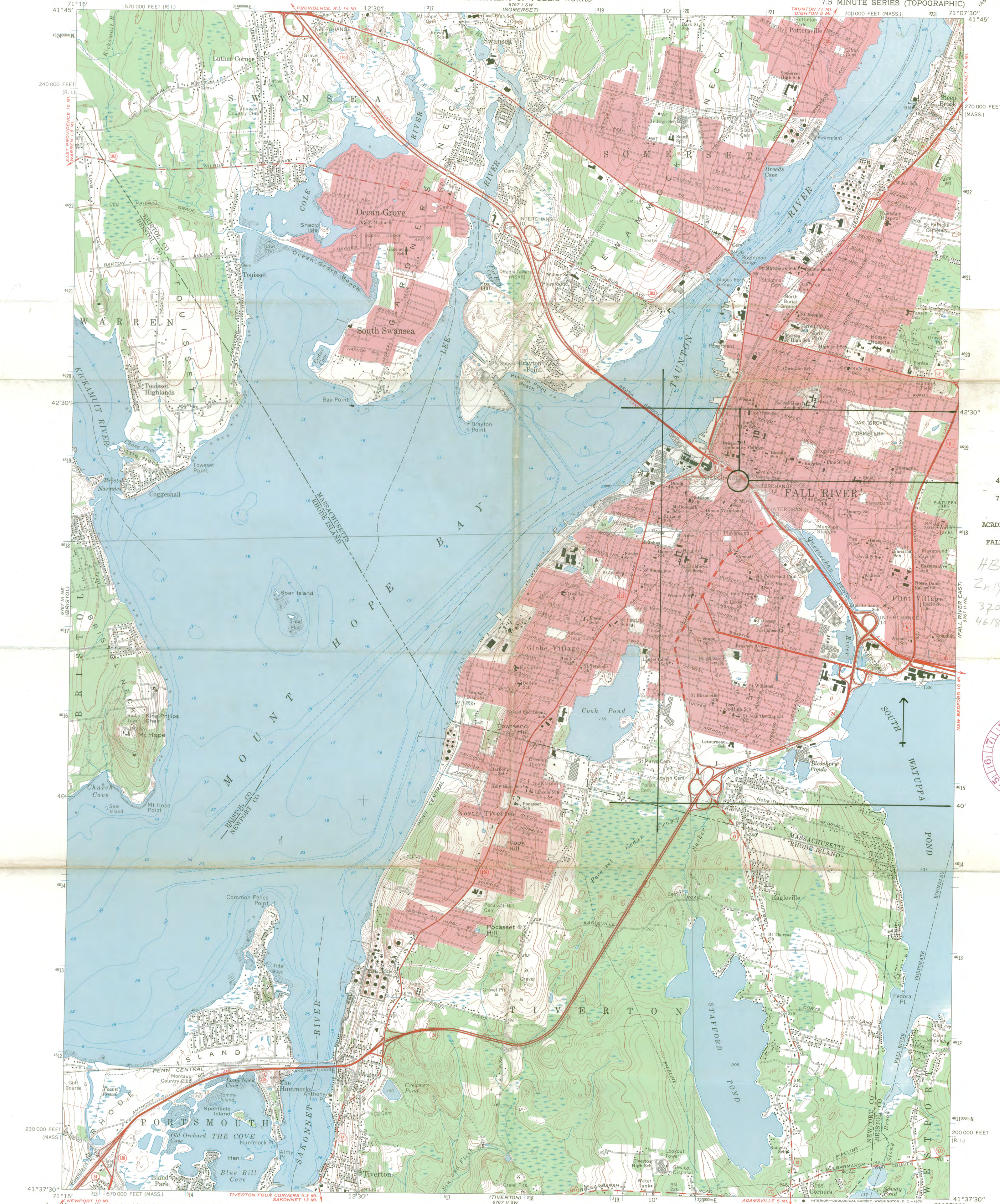
Fall River MRA, Mo

Academy Bldg.
102 So. Main St.
Comm. III - #27

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

FALL RIVER QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS—RHODE ISLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



41° 42' 02.4"
71° 09' 21"

ACADEMY BUILDING
FALL RIVER

HB
2419
320900
4618560



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by plane-table surveys 1938-1939. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 350 (1966)
and 353 (1967). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19,
shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Boundaries in tidewater areas in Massachusetts from information furnished
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works

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 4.4 FEET

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

FALL RIVER, MASS.—R.I.
N4137.5—W7107.5/7.5

1967

AMS 6767 II NW—SERIES V814

SALT MARSH'S
\$1.19

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME

COMMON Academy Building	AND/OR HISTORIC Borden Block also Academy of Music	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i> JUL 2 1973
----------------------------	--	---

2. LOCATION

STATE Massachusetts	COUNTY Bristol	TOWN Fall River
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STREET AND NUMBER

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S. 7½' Quadrangle Fall River Map	DATE 1967	SCALE 1:24,000
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REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.



T. J. MOORE, JR. A.I.A. ARCHITECT

38 ROCK STREET
FALL RIVER
MASSACHUSETTS
0 2 7 2 2
TEL. 617 679-0126

April 6, 1973

Massachusetts Historical
Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts



Gentlemen:

The Academy Building, which we have proposed be included in the National Register of Historic Places, is at the present time included in the Fall River Downtown Urban Renewal Area. The plan, which was completed November, 1971, calls for the demolition of the Academy Building and the construction of new commercial and office space on the same site.

Without the input of the Urban Renewal Plan, this building would not be threatened. It has for many years functioned as viable office space. The theater has remained open, and vacancies in the commercial area have been minimal. Only in the face of demolition has the building been underutilized.

Furthermore, we feel that the building can be successfully integrated into the Plan. A thorough renovation would provide office and commercial space equivalent of that proposed in the Plan, and would not materially effect the site planning. Registration of the building would provide the needed impetus to include it in the Urban Renewal Plan, and would stimulate interest to developers and the Community at large to work for the restoration of this valuable landmark.

Yours truly,


William Underwood, Jr.

WUJ/smo

rec'd 5/19/73 RBR

RICHARD C. BRIGHAM	AIA
JOSEPH L. ELDREDGE	AIA
SYLVAN LIMON	AIA
CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY	AIA

BELH

15 HARCOURT STREET
BOSTON
MASSACHUSETTS 02116
TELEPHONE (617) 266-2707

ARCHITECTS

Mr. Robert B. Rettig
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108



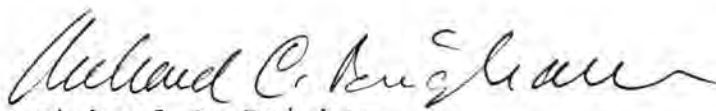
Dear Mr. Rettig:

I am writing because I feel a grave urgency concerning the fate of a very unique structure in Fall River, The Academy Building.

At one time Fall River had a rich assortment of robust victorian buildings as can be seen in the accompanying "Gazetteer". Today virtually all have been lost. This one remaining example has significant architectural stature in its own right. It represents also a period of history when Fall River began its cultural and industrial rise. Today it still offers commercial value to the City (retail and office use) as well as a fine music hall/theatre presently being misused.

I am certain this historically and architecturally important building has a wealth of contributions to make to its community. There is much interest now being generated for its survival and rejuvenation. The Application for National Register Submission which you now have and will be processing is a first step in its new life. I urge that it be given rush priority both here in Boston and in Washington.

Sincerely yours,


Richard C. Brigham

10 May 1973



June 2, 1973

Mrs. Amador

As representatives of a group attempting to preserve the Academy Building of Fall River, Mass., we would like to impress upon you the need for expedience in the matter of acceptance of this building by the National Register.

As the prospect of demolition becomes more probable those of us interested in preservation of Fall River's Historical Buildings are becoming more concerned with the time involved in acceptance by the National Register. If it is within your power we would appreciate any help you can provide in expediting this application.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

C. Patricia Moraghan
525 Harvard St
Fall River, Mass 02720

Patricia A. Horvitz
357 Albany St
Fall River, Mass 02720
Mrs. William Underwood
Rock St c/o T. J. Moore
Fall River, Mass



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
Massachusetts Historical Commission

John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth

~~3--Joy--Street~~
40 Beacon Street

Boston, Mass. 02108
(617) 727-8470

June 12, 1973

National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240



Attention: Mr. Jerry Rogers

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Jerry:

Enclosed is the National Register nomination for:

Bristol County, Fall River, Academy Building

This has been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and has been signed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, John F.X. Davoren, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and designated State Preservation Officer.

The enclosed letters from private Fall River citizens indicate the popular concern over the immediate fate of this submission. Though the Academy is scheduled to be demolished under the present Fall River Urban Renewal Plan, a local group has been formed with the purpose of preserving it, and it is felt that inclusion in the National Register would be a first and important step in mobilizing popular interest and demonstrating to the Renewal Authority the importance of retaining this building. Since it may be only a matter of a few months before demolition starts, we would urge that you expedite the Academy submission.

With Thanks,

Sincerely,

Bob,

Robert B. Rettig
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered JUL 2 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Academy Building	Fall River Bristol County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Margaret M. Heckler
Mr. Floyd H. Hyde, HUD

Director, Northeast Region

PHR MMott:jal 7/6/73

State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Mass usetts 02108

Nov 14, 1976

Dear Sir: PR 880

I am interested to know that if a certain building called the ACADEMY BUILDING here in Fall River, Mass. has been designated a historical site or has any architectural value. If so, by what criteria does your Office establish such a finding. If not, has the proposition been considered.

I would like to find out ^{how} the criteria is established for having a site designated a historical site or how does it acquire architectural value.

Sincerely

Norman Schuldt

196 Spring St.

Fall River, Mass.

02723

NOTED

7/2/78

K Burns
11/24
Cole
11-26-76

H34-880

NOV 30 1976

Bristol

Mr. Norman Thiburd
196 Irving Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02723

Dear Mr. Thiburd:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Academy Building, Fall River, Massachusetts, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Academy Building was listed in the National Register July 2, 1973. We are enclosing a copy of the nomination form for your information. We are also enclosing a leaflet which describes the National Register program and explains the criteria for nominations. If you feel other properties in your community would merit National Register listing, we suggest you send any information, written or photographic, to your State Historic Preservation Officer. For Massachusetts this official is Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon, Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission, 294 Washington Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108.

We appreciate your interest in historic preservation.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Herrington (Sgd.)
for
William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register

Enclosures

cc: Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Massachusetts SHPO w/c

bcc: Regional Director, North
Atlantic Region w/c
001 Reading File
880 w/c

FNP:BURNS:sle:11-24-76

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 880



The Fall River Historical Society

451 ROCK STREET

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS 02720

July 6, 1978

B. Andrew Corsini, Editor
MARQUEE
P.O. Box 101
Notre Dame, Ind. 46556

Dear Mr. Corsini:

On February 5, 1978 you wrote to Mr. F. Glenn Pontes in answer to his letter sent to the Theatre Historical Society & which had been forwarded to you.

His letter was regarding the Academy of Music, located in the Academy Building also known in Fall River as the Borden Block. You suggested that he write to Mr. Craig Morrison which I am to do this evening.

Since Mr. Pontes wrote the Academy of Music is threatened. The Borden Block is to be restored, but the theatre has to go. The building itself is on the National Register; this does not protect the theatre within?

The Academy of Music was opened in 1876, and on its stage have appeared the World's Greatest, including Edwin Booth, Joseph Jefferson, Lillian Russell.

Any help you can give us in saving this theatre will be greatly appreciated.

Very sincerely yours

Florence C. Brigham

Florence C. Brigham, Curator

to Cora 1/30 is NR *L.P. Wheeler*
7/12/78

**The
Theatre Historical Society**
and
marquee: Official Quarterly Journal

MEMBERSHIP SECT'Y
Frederick Beall
P.O. Box 2416
Alameda, Ca. 94501

PRESIDENT
Steven Levin
230 Hyde Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94102

EDITOR, MARQUEE
B. Andrew Corsini
P.O. Box 101
Notre Dame, Ind. 46556

Dear Lucy:

July 10

Recd the enclosed letter
today - can you pass it on to
someone who can make noises?

I'm going to be away from
13-30. Conclave in Texas and
a week of vacation.

Best
/ B. Andy

TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: Academy Building

TO/FROM: Sharon Conway

DATE: 7/12/78

ADDRESS: ACHP

PHONE: 2

STAFF MEMBER: C. Griffith

DIVISION: NR

REPORT: Explained the situation to her & gave her Mrs. Brigham's name & ~~address~~ phone number - she is going to try to find out exactly what sort of HUD funding is involved, then contact HUD.

TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: ~~Florence Brigham~~ ^{Bristol Co.} Academy of Music Fall River, Mass.

TO/FROM: Florence Brigham DATE: 7/12/78

ADDRESS: Fall River Historical Society PHONE: 617-677-9291

STAFF MEMBER: C Griffith DIVISION: NR

REPORT: ^{Academy Bldg.} Gordon Block is on N.R. - to be renovated as
HUD funding → apartments for elderly & market. Inside to be
gutted, including theater. Told her of need for HUD
to get ACHP comments.

^{Ronald?}
I Mr. Lowenstein - HUD office in Fall River
617-673-5351

TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: ~~Joseph Orfant~~ Academy of Music (Borden Block)

TO/FROM: ~~Mass SHPO~~ Joseph Orfant DATE: 7/12/78

ADDRESS: Mass SHPO PHONE: ~~617 699~~

STAFF MEMBER: C Corlith DIVISION: NR

REPORT: I said there probably would be HUD funding - but final project has not been decided upon (from among three, at least one of which proposes to keep theater intact). They are concerned, but there's nothing to be reviewed yet.

Sarah
NR
Dr. Poppeliers:

This letter just came from the Theatre Historical Society.

I have shown it to Sarah Bridges of the National Register, who will take it in hand as per paragraph 1, and see what, if anything, they should be doing.

A copy of this note will be attached for the information of the National Register.

I should mention that I phoned B. Andrew to say what we had done, and that the NR had told me to say they would look into it. However both Sarah and I were puzzled by Brigham's letter--it's not clear where the theatre is. Brother Andrew thinks it may be attached to the Bordon Building, or have a separate entrance within it, so that may be why they are concerned. A possible call from the NR to Fall River could clarify this.

LPWheeler
7/12/78

Academy Theatre

cc: Sarah Bridges, NR

Conklin 7/14/78
Bridge 7-14-78

JUL 17 1978

H32-NR

Ms. Florence C. Brigham, Curator
Fall River Historical Society
451 Rock Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02720

Dear Ms. Brigham:

We are writing as a follow-up to the National Register staff's telephone conversation with you on July 12 concerning the Academy Building in Fall River. As you know, a copy of your letter to B. Andrew Corsini of the Theatre Historical Society was referred to the National Register by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS). Lucy Wheeler of HABS is currently engaged in a project to document historic American theaters.

Because the Academy Building, in which the Academy of Music is located, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, any Federal agency conducting or funding a project affecting the building must afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on the project. We consulted Mr. Joseph Orfant of the Massachusetts State historic preservation office, and he confirmed your belief that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) would be providing funding for the rehabilitation of the Academy Building. Mr. Orfant does not know, however, whether the plans for such rehabilitation have been finalized. He advised us that three different proposals have been submitted, at least one of which would provide for the preservation of the theater within the building.

We also notified Ms. Sharon Conway of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation about the proposed rehabilitation project. HUD is obligated to consult both the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Council before proceeding with any action affecting the building.

If you would like additional information, we recommend that you consult either Mr. Orfant, Massachusetts Historical Commission, 294 Washington Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108 (617-727-8470) or Ms. Conway,

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 1522 K Street NW., Suite 430
Washington, D.C. 20005 (202-254-3967).

We appreciate your concern on behalf of historic preservation.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Herrington (Sgd.)

For

William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register

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

Mr. Robert C. Embry, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for Community Planning
and Development Room 7100
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, D. C. 20410

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1522 K Street NW., Suite 430
Washington, D.C. 20005

bcc: Mr. Maurice H. Lundy
Regional Director
Northeast Region
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Federal Building, Room 990
915 Second Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98174
IAS (A)
HABS
NR
Director's Reading File

FHR: C Griffith:bac 523-0431 7-14-78

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN N.R.

Bristol Co.
dated Dec 9, 1980
1973

Dear Sir

May I take this opportunity
to object to the status of the Academy
Bldg Cherem Fall River, Mass as a
historical site.

The reason for it's designation as
a historical site was it's architectural qua-
lity & other factors. But, recently a
private concern has remodeled the building
in part. The west side has been de-
molished & the entire ground floor has
been demolished & remodeled. The entire
interior has been converted to an apart-
ment complex. So that leaves very little
in the way of historical preservation. Again
I think it would be wiser to have the
site stricken from the National list of
historical sites.

Respectfully
Norman Chitault
196 Spring St
Fall River, Mass 02723