

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Massachusetts	
COUNTY: Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
DEC 4	1972

1. NAME	
COMMON: Old Town Hall Historic District	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Town Hall Historic District	

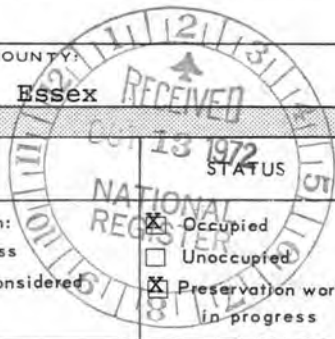
2. LOCATION	
Cong. District #6, Michael J. Harrington	
STREET AND NUMBER: #215-231 Essex St., #121-145 Washington St., #6-34 Front St., Derby Square	
CITY OR TOWN: Salem	
STATE Massachusetts	CODE 025
COUNTY: Essex	CODE 009

3. CLASSIFICATION	
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP
☒ District ☐ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ 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 ☐ Park ☒ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☒ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious ☒ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific	
☐ Transportation ☐ Comments ☐ Other (Specify) _____	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME: Public and private	
STREET AND NUMBER: see above location	
CITY OR TOWN: Salem	STATE: Massachusetts
	CODE 025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Essex County Registry of Deeds	
STREET AND NUMBER: Federal Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Salem	STATE: Massachusetts
	CODE 025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY: Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth	
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971	☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Massachusetts Historical Commission	
STREET AND NUMBER: State House, Beacon Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Boston	STATE: Massachusetts
	CODE 025



STATE: Massachusetts
COUNTY: Essex

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
DEC 4 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PH0006335

DB-72-000-149
HB NO 117m

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 Old Town Hall Historic District includes eleven brick buildings of the Federalist period (1780-1830) and seven which were built within the next fifty years. Together they represent the best remaining small area of early commercial buildings in downtown Salem. This compact area extends from the southeast corner of Washington and Essex Streets, along Essex Street to include the building east of Derby Square and both sides of the Square to Front Street including the buildings on either side of the southern end of Derby Square. The district also includes numbers 6 through 34 Front Street as well as 125 through 145 Washington Street. The Old Town Hall was built in 1816 and is an excellent example of a Bulfinch-influenced, Federal period public building. Five bays wide and eleven bays deep, it is a brick structure with a pitched roof. The main facades, which are on the gable ends and face north and south, are pedimented, accented by a wooden cornice with modillions and ornamented by fanlights. A small cupola is centered on the ridgepole. A belt course runs between the first and second floors. All the doorways and windows have rounded tops, with simple fanlights over the first floor windows which are recessed in narrow arches. As the Hall was originally built to be a market house as well as meetinghouse, it is possible that these first floor recessed window areas were once open to the street. On the south facade three entrances in the first, third and fifth bays are reached by a flight of granite steps; at the north end the center entrance is at street level. Above both north and south central entrances are Palladian windows. The large square brick building at 231 Essex Street (Low's Building) dominates the junction of Essex and Washington Streets. Three bays wide, the original Greek Revival structure (1826) faces on Essex Street and has a pitched roof. This facade has a large pediment with dentilled cornice, tall round-topped windows two stories in height rise from the second floor while the first floor has shop windows with a center entrance. In 1877 the west elevation was altered by the addition of Gothic style towers. This west facade, five bays wide, is three stories high with Gothic windows on the third floor and a canopied first floor center entrance. A new course of brick was laid over the old on the north facade and square granite blocks were set in an arched pattern above all the windows, both old and new. The Hale Building at 221-225 Essex Street was built c. 1874 and is the only Salem example of a cast iron front. It is five stories high with a bracketed cornice and sides and rear of brick. The facade fenestration, seven bays wide, varies on each floor, the window sizes decreasing as they ascend and each level of windows headed in a different style. The brick Naumkeag Bank at 217 Essex Street was built at the turn of the 19th century and is a fine example of Colonial Revival architecture. It is three stories high with a wooden cornice of modillions and dentils topped by a balustrade. Three bays wide on the facade and six on the east elevation, the building's center entrance is recessed and has Doric pilasters with a fanlight above. On the third floor, the round arches of the windows are emphasized by a similar arch of granite blocks set in the wall above them. The row of three attached brick buildings at #7 - 9 Derby Square (c.1816) were built by Pickman and Derby. The structures are two stories high with pitched roofs, above which extends the party walls. There are two round windows in the gable end of the southern building. The original first floor windows and doors, arched and with fanlights, will be restored.						

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Essex	
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	DEC 4 1972

(Number all entries)

Old Town Hall Historic District, Salem

8. Significance (continued)

Because of the multiplicity of functions served by shipping, the Old Town Hall area came to house numerous activities which were dependent on the port. Imported goods such as molasses, indigo, wine and English manufactured goods were warehoused here, as were goods for export, such as salted beef, dry salt cod and wood products. Small manufacturing firms, directly dependent on trade, were also located in the district, for example rum distillers, fish curers and coopers. Ship chandlers and riggers were also quartered near the wharves. Salem depended on this dock area for the transportation of people and the communication of information to other communities along the coast. An outdoor produce market was established in the Old Town Hall Square early in Salem's history and continues at the same location today. Later one of the brick structures served as the first Police Station for the City of Salem and another housed the Salem Athenaeum, one of whose most prominent members was Nathaniel Hawthorne.



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) 1629, 1816, 1826, 1874

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 Old Town Hall Historic District is bounded by Washington Street, Front Street, Essex Street and Derby Square which has pedestrian accesses to Essex and Front Streets. The street pattern is an early one—Washington Street was laid out, four rods wide, in 1629; Essex Street, which intersects it, is believed to have been originally an Indian path along the ridge of Salem peninsula; Front Street was one of the ancient ways along the waterfront and was called a highway as early as 1682. The Historic District is built on a gentle slope of land running down to what was formerly the South River, now completely filled in. Salem historians agree that this section of the South River shore was the first developed waterfront area of Salem and remained dominant until the early 19th century. In the period prior to the advent of the railroad, the life of a coastal city such as Salem owed its development to its port. Accordingly, many of the important political and social events of Federalist Salem occurred in the Old Town Hall Historic District.

Derby Square, in the center of which the Town Hall now stands, was the site of the mansion built in 1784 by Elias Haskett Derby. Derby's heirs, Benjamin Pickman, Jr. and John Derby, demolished the mansion and gave 16,500 square feet in the center of their inherited property to the inhabitants of Salem, on which to construct a town hall/market house. This building was constructed in 1816. A condition of the gift was that only buildings of brick or stone could be erected on land contiguous to the Town Hall, an early example of city planning which afforded great unity to the area.

Soon after the opening of the new Town Hall, the upstairs hall was "furnished and festooned very handsomely and illuminated with pleasing effect", in honor of a visit by President Monroe. The market stalls on the first floor were opened with great success on November 25, 1816. The building continued to be used as a Town Hall until 1838 when the present City Hall was completed. For some years the basement and first floor, now offices, continued to be used as a market; the second floor hall is still used for local political rallies and other meetings.

The location of the First Church (now Low's Building) and the Town Hall/Market House in the Derby Square area made the Square the center of Salem activity. When the First Church was built in 1629, Roger Williams was one of its earliest pastors. The present church structure, the fourth to be built on the site, was designed by Solomon Willard and Peter Banner in 1826. When it was built, the second floor was planned for use as the church; shops occupied the first floor.

The Hale Building, built in 1874 to the east of the church, is architecturally significant as a fine example of an early cast-iron-fronted brick structure, the only one remaining in Salem and one of the few left in Massachusetts.

(continued)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Gazette newspaper, Salem, 1816

Hamlin, Talbot, Greek Revival Architecture in America, New York, 1944

Essex Institute, Visitor's Guide to Salem, Salem, 1953

Chamberlain, Samuel, A Stroll Through Historic Salem, New York, 1969

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 1 "	0 1 "		42° 31' 16"	70° 53'	43 "
NE	0 1 "	0 1 "				
SE	0 1 "	0 1 "				
SW	0 1 "	0 1 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: c. 5 acres

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:

Elizabeth R. Amadon, Regional Director

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

July 22, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:

State House, Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

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

Title Secretary of the Commonwealth

Chairman of the Mass. Historical Commission

Date October 4, 1972

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

Robert A. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

12/4/72

ATTEST:

William J. Hunt
Keeper of The National Register

Date

11.28.72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UTM 205C19
E 344310
N 4709160

PROPERTY Old Town Hall Hist. Dist. STATE Mass.
Working number 10.13.72-1559

Essex

TECH REVIEW
Photos 2
Maps 1

REVIEW
OK 11/28/72

HISTORIAN
O.K. 11-29-72
C. Shell

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT
OK Chambliss 11-27-72

BRANCH CHIEF
OK R... 11/29/72

EDITORIAL REVIEW
OK Rowland 11-28-72

KEEPER
W... 11/28/72

National Register write-up _____
Federal Register entry 1-2-73
Acknowledge 10/13/72
Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

#6 Michael J. Harrington

Register no. DEC 4 1972



NPS Number Dec 4 1972

Title: Old Town Hall Historic District
Old Town Hall Historic District

2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

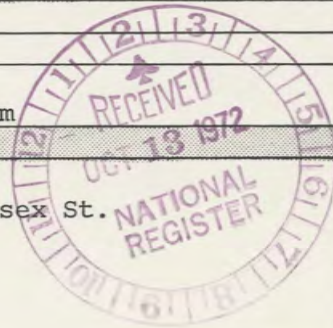
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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CITY OR TOWN: Salem			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Essex	CODE 009
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Salem Redevelopment Authority			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1972			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Salem Redevelopment Authority, 60 Washington St., Salem			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Low Building, southeast corner of Washington and Essex St.			



Old Town Hall Historic District, Salem



#8

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)

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COUNTY Essex	
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CITY OR TOWN:

Salem

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Essex

CODE

009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Salem Redevelopment Authority

DATE OF PHOTO: 1972

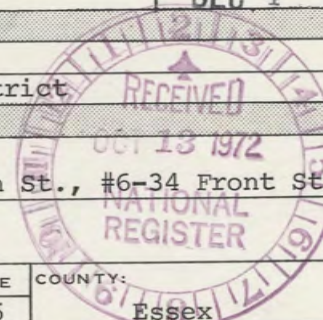
NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Salem Redevelopment Authority, 60 Washington St., Salem

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Old Town Hall in Derby Square looking north from Front Street



#8 - Old Town Hall Historic District, Salem

Form 10-301
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Essex	
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CITY OR TOWN:

Salem

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Essex

CODE

009

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

Supplementary map - Salem Redevelopment Authority

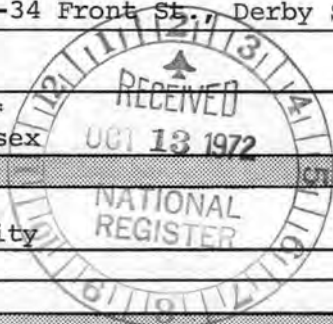
SCALE: 1" = 60'

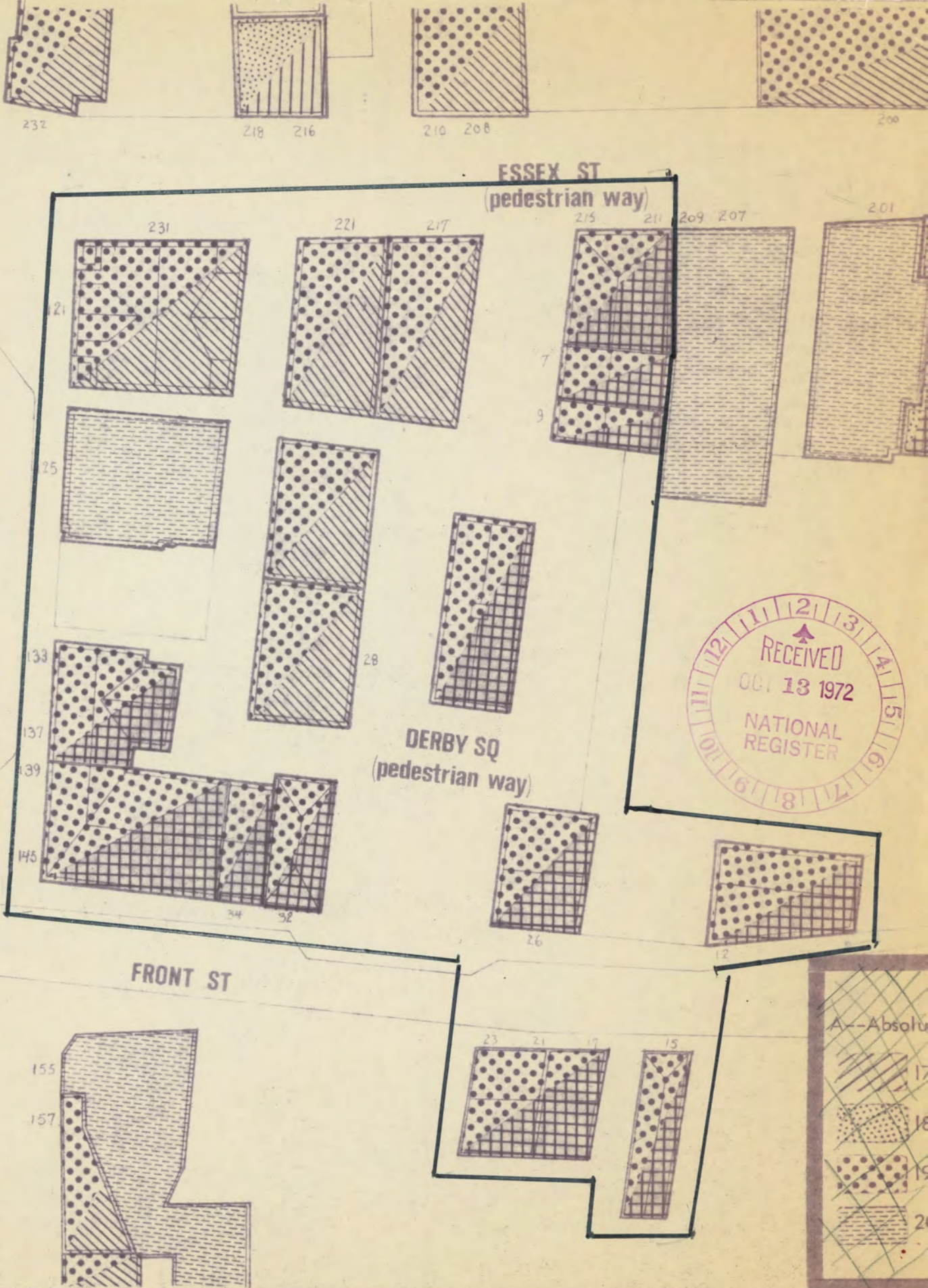
DATE: 1972

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.





Old Town Hall Historic District
Salem, Mass.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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CITY OR TOWN:

Salem

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Essex

CODE

009

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. 7.5' series, Salem, Mass. quadrangle

SCALE: 1: 24,000

DATE: 1956

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

OLD TOWN HALL HISTORIC DISTRICT

U.S.G.S. Salem, Mass.

N4230 - W7052.5/7.5

1956

AMS 6869 III SW-SERIES V814

42° 31' 16"
70° 53' 43"

LYNN 2.5 MI. 342
BOSTON (CITY HALL) 12 MI.

SWAMPSCOTT 2.3 MI.
LYNN 4.2 MI.

MARBLEHEAD 2.1 MI.

1 MILE
5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER

MEAN LOW WATER
MEAN HIGH WATER
FEET



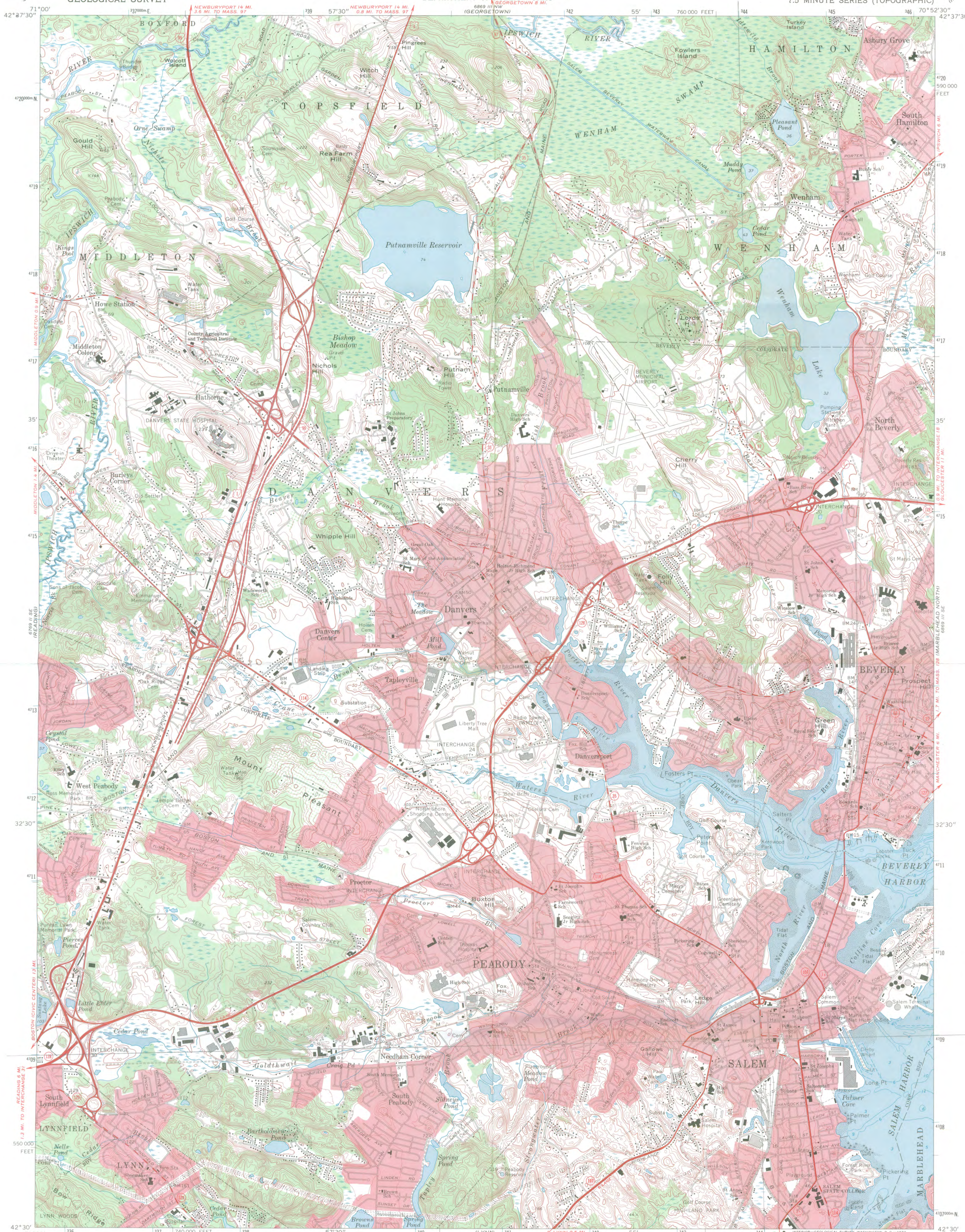
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty _____ Light-duty _____
Medium-duty _____ Unimproved dirt - - - - -
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

SALEM, MASS.
N4230-W7052.5/7.5

1956

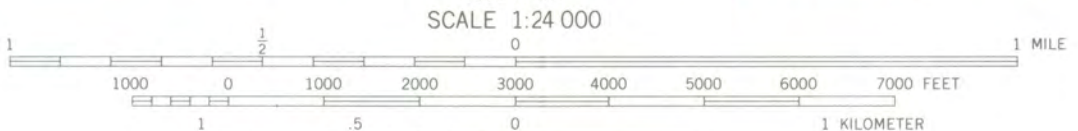
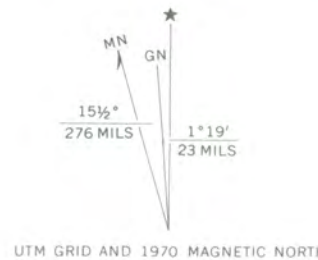
AMS 6869 III SW-SERIES V814



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USCGS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1938. Topography by planimetric surveys 1942
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USCGS Charts 240 and
241 (1970). 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 tide water are from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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 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
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

SALEM, MASS.
N4230—W7052.5/7.5
1970

AMS 6869 III SW—SERIES V814



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

State House, Boston 02133

John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

~~The Office of Archeology and Historic
Preservation~~

~~National Park Service~~

~~801 19th Street, N.W.~~

~~Washington, D. C. 20005~~

Attention: Mrs. Sally Marusin

Registration & Nominations Branch
National Register of Historic Places
Room 3207 A
1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Sirs,

Enclosed are National Register submissions for:

Old Town Hall Historic District, Salem, Massachusetts



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

Sincerely yours,

Richard W. Hale Jr.

Richard W. Hale, Jr.

Acting Chairman

Massachusetts Historical Commission

RWH:aw

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered DEC 4 1972

Name

Location

Old Town Hall Historic District

Salem
Essex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy

Hon. Edward W. Brooke

Hon. Michael J. Harrington

Director, Northeast Region

State Liaison Officer

Hon. John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission

40 Beacon Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

PHR

NRowland:mm

12/4/72