

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 19 1975

DATE ENTERED MAR 10 1975

DB-75-000 294

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Charter Street Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

53 Charter and 20 Liberty Streets

CITY, TOWN

Salem

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE
025

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
6COUNTY
EssexCODE
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
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ OTHER: CEMETERY

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

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

Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

32 Federal Street

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1974

☐ 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 Charter Street Historic District consists of the Grimshawe House (c.1770), the Pickman House (c.1638-1680), and the Charter Street Cemetery (Burying Point, c.1637) which lies between the houses.

The Grimshawe House sits in the northwest corner of the Charter Street Cemetery, the oldest cemetery in Salem. It is a large hip roofed Federal style structure, three stories high and four bays wide. The house has been altered considerably on the exterior; the original clapboards of the wooden structure have been covered with asphalt shingles, the original chimneys and shutters have been removed and additional windows added. In 1896 the house was moved back several feet in order to widen the sidewalk.

In 1915 fire damaged the interior. After repairs were made the house was used as a boardinghouse, and the front entrance was moved to the Essex Institute to preserve it.

The Pickman House, whose c.1638 or c.1680 dates are a subject of much controversy (discussed under significance), is situated on the corner of Charter and Liberty Streets. This early 2½ story wooden building was extensively restored and renovated in 1972-73, and little of the original fabric remains.

The Charter Street Cemetery is situated between the two historic houses. It is the oldest burying ground in Salem and one of the oldest in the country, having been in use before 1637. Its original name was the "Burying Point" because of its location on a bluff overlooking the South River. Within its confines are the gravestones of many early settlers. The cemetery is a well kept up area and contains gravemarkers typical of the 17th and 18th centuries.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

Non-Contributing Structures

2780 W. Seven Mile Road	1360 W. Seven Mile Road
2700 "	1300 "
1640 "	1280 "
1610 "	1250 "

19285 Strathcona Drive	1626 Strathcona Drive
19262 "	1520 "
19301 "	1490 "
19360 "	1470 "
19374 "	1450 "
19381 "	1440 "
1770 "	1410 "
1775 "	1350 "
1743 "	1336 "
1720 "	1333 "
1690 "	1280 "
1656 "	1260 "
1641 "	1246 "
1940 "	

19441 Argyle Crescent	19261 Woodston Road
19520 "	19450 "
19530 "	
19531 "	
19555 "	
19575 "	
19631 "	

19250 Lucerne Drive
19019 "

1880 Lincolnshire Drive	1551 Lincolnshire Drive
1800 "	1540 "
1760 "	1520 "
1661 "	1500 "
1611 "	1480 "
1600 "	1460 "
1585 "	1440 "

1600 Balmoral Drive	1331 Balmoral Drive
1520 "	1311 "
1441 "	1281 "
1425 "	1265 "
1365 "	

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Page

4

Non-Contributing Structures (continued)

19481 Gloucester Drive

19457 "

19445 "

19120 "

19450 Suffolk Drive

19381 "

19340 "

19445 Cumberland Way

19480 Burlington Drive

19460 "

19420 "

19301 "

19255 "

19560 Afton Road

19540

19535 "

19520 "

19511 "

19500 "

19445 Afton Road

19400 "

19300 "

19270 "

19250 "

19232 "

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

c.1637, c.1770

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Charter Street Historic District contains the only remaining elements of the thriving business and residential neighborhood that once stood here, created in part by the neighborhood's proximity to the South River which formerly extended to the foot of Liberty Street. The area also has strong associations with the earliest settlers in Salem as well as literary associations with Nathaniel Hawthorne and the Peabody sisters.

Although the neighborhood surrounding the Grimshawe House and the Pickman House has disappeared through decay and urban renewal, and even though both of the remaining houses have been considerably altered, they still retain the significance they acquired through being associated with the neighborhood. The Grimshawe House (c.1770) has additional significance because of its associations with the Peabody family and Nathaniel Hawthorne. Dr. Nathaniel Peabody, a dentist and general physician, lived in the house with his family from 1835 to 1841. It was to this house that Nathaniel Hawthorne came and courted Sophia Peabody, and the house became the setting for the novel Dr. Grimshawe's Secret. In the story he vividly describes the house and the burying ground next door, both of which found their way into many of his other works.

Horace Mann, the notable educator, was a frequent visitor to the house when he was courting Mary Peabody. Her sister Elizabeth Palmer Peabody became one of the foremost women in the literary circles of her day. Her association with the Transcendentalists, Emerson, Thoreau, Alcott, and the feminist Margaret Fuller is well known. Elizabeth's untiring efforts were also responsible for the establishment of the kindergarten in America.

The Charter Street Cemetery (Burying Point) is historically significant as the oldest burying ground in Salem, c.1637, and because of the many early settlers that are buried here. These include Captain Richard More whose gravestone is the only one of a Mayflower passenger known to exist. Also buried here are Nathaniel Mather, the younger brother of Cotton Mather; Samuel McIntire, Salems' renowned woodcarver; Rev. John Higginson; Chief Justice Benjamin Lynde; Judge Hathorne of the witchcraft court; and Governor Simon Bradstreet.

The oldest stone is that of "Doraty, wife to Philip Cromwell," 1673. Earlier settlers were probably buried here, but none of the stones remains. Near "Doraty's" gravestone is that of Miss Mary Cromwell, dated 1683. This is thought to be the "finest and only perfect example of its ancient gravestones known to exist in the country, and one of the two or three now standing in New England."¹

¹Essex Institute, Visitor's Guide to Salem, (1937 edition)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Reardon, Elizabeth K., Salem Historic District Study Committee Report, 1968, Salem Public Library
2. Tharp, Louise Hall, The Peabody Sisters of Salem, 1950
3. Hoyt, Edwin P., The Peabody Influence, 1968
4. Essex Institute, Visitor's Guide to Salem, 1902, 1937
5. Registry of Deeds, Salem, Massachusetts
6. Gavenda, David T., The Goult-Pickman House in Salem, Massachusetts 1973

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 344520 47109080
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The district is bounded on the north by Charter Street; on the east by Liberty Street to the southerly end of the Pickman House property line, then south along the Charter Street Cemetery's eastern boundary, to Derby Street. The southern boundary continues along Derby Street to the westerly boundary line of the Cemetery, then goes north along that boundary and west of the Grimshaw House to Charter Street.

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

Christine Boulding, Assistant Survey Director, by Jacob S. Wolfson, Historic Salem, Inc.
ORGANIZATION
Massachusetts Historical Commission
STREET & NUMBER
40 Beacon Street
CITY OR TOWN
Boston
DATE
February 6, 1975
TELEPHONE
617-727-8470
STATE
Massachusetts

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Elizabeth R. Amador

TITLE Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 2/11/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

A. R. W. W. W.

DATE 3/10/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE 3/5/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Also buried here is Doctor Swinnerton, Physician, who died in 1688. Nathaniel Hawthorne used this name in many of his stories, including "The House of Seven Gables" and the "Doliver Romance." The burial ground itself was often visited by Hawthorne who made free use of it in his novels.

The Pickman House is at present embroiled in a controversy involving its date of construction. It was recognized as an early American House in 1964 by members of Historic Salem when certain distinguishing features were recognized under a mansard roof. The earliest date attributed to it, c.1638, is based on a grant of land to William Goult from the town of Salem in that year. Since Goult was married it is reasonable to assume that he built a house on this land. Second mention of the land and a house is found in a deed, transferring the house and land to Samuel Pickman in 1660. According to Abbot Cummings of the SPNEA the house that Goult built and that Samuel Pickman acquired in 1660 was located on a plot of land next to the site of the present house, and that contemporary inventories indicate the c.1638 Goult House was inexpensive to build. The house now standing at 20 Liberty Street has fine original 17th century carved posts, and would have been expensive to build. On the basis of this information and on stylistic evidence, Abbot Cummings attributes a c.1680 date to the house. In spite of the dispute over the date and identity of the house, it is important as one of the few remaining 17th century houses in New England.

The history of the house becomes less confused as time passes, however. Benjamin Lynde, Jr., Judge and Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, was the most famous owner. It was under his jurisdiction that the British soldiers involved in the Boston Massacre were acquitted.

One of the boarders in the house when it was owned by Captain Woodbridge Grafton, shipmaster, (c.1800) was Michele Felice Corné, an Italian painter who came from Naples in 1799. Corné, one of the great marine artists of his time, held painting classes for children in the house. Many of his paintings are on display at the Peabody Museum, in Salem. Corné is also supposed to have introduced the tomato, as an edible fruit, to America.

The House was completely "restored" in 1972-73, and while the roof and much of the trim is new fabric, the frame, with its finely carved posts, is original. The restoration of the fireplace, roof and trim was based on detailed research and physical evidence and the house retains its architectural significance as a 17th century structure.

Property Charter Street Historic District

State Massachusetts

Working Number 2.19.75.274

Essay

TECHNICAL

Photos 3

Maps 1

CONTROL

OK - 2.21.75

HISTORIAN

The literary and historical significance of the district is great and although the houses have been altered, I am inclined to accept. But perhaps a conference would be best.

Conf.
E. Smith
2-24-75

Certainly significant, but integrity?

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

CONF
Shorman
2-24-75

PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE A CONFERENCE, GIVEN THE ALTERATIONS, BUT I AM WILLING TO ACCEPT BECAUSE THE LITERARY ASSOCIATIONS ARE STILL THERE. ALSO, PEARBOYS ARE QUITE IMPORTANT (I DO NOT KNOW IF OTHER HOUSES STILL EXIST ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PEARBOYS)

ARCHEOLOGIST

ACCEPT
LEBOVICH
2-24-75

OTHER

CONF
Shorman
3-4-75

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept
Shorman
3.4.75

KEEPER

Wm
3/5/75

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered MAR 10 1975

Federal Register Entry 5-6-75

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



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TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Charter Street Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Salem VICINITY OF COUNTY Essex STATE Mass.

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Jacob S. Wolfson

DATE OF PHOTO December 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT Historic Salem Inc., Box 865, Salem, Massachusetts

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Charter Street Cemetery
looking south

PHOTO NO. 3

103



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CITY, TOWN Salem VICINITY OF COUNTY Essex STATE Mass.

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Jacob S. Wolfson DATE OF PHOTO December 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT Historic Salem Inc., Box 865, Salem, Massachusetts

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 1

Grimshawe House, 53 Charter Street
East Facade

#203

12821

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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1 NAME

HISTORIC Charter Street Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Salem _____ VICINITY OF COUNTY Essex STATE Mass.

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Jacob S. Wolfson DATE OF PHOTO December 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT Historic Salem Inc., Box 865, Salem, Massachusetts

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 2

Pickman House, 20 Liberty Street
eastern gable end, north facade

#303

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Charter Street Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Salem

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Essex

STATE Massachusetts

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

Sketch map

SCALE

None

DATE December 1974

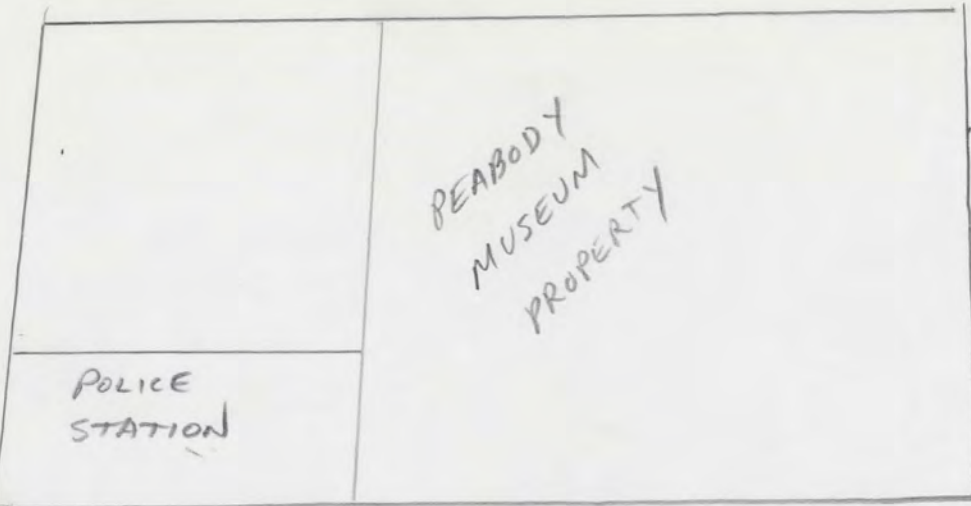
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

ESSEX STREET

STREET



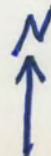
LIBERTY STREET

CHARTER STREET



HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

DERBY STREET



KEY

- # 1 GRIMSHAW HOUSE
- # 2 PICKMAN HOUSE
- # 3 VACANT BUILDING
- # 4 VACANT BUILDING

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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1 NAME

HISTORIC Charter Street Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Salem VICINITY OF COUNTY Essex STATE Massachusetts

3 MAP REFERENCE

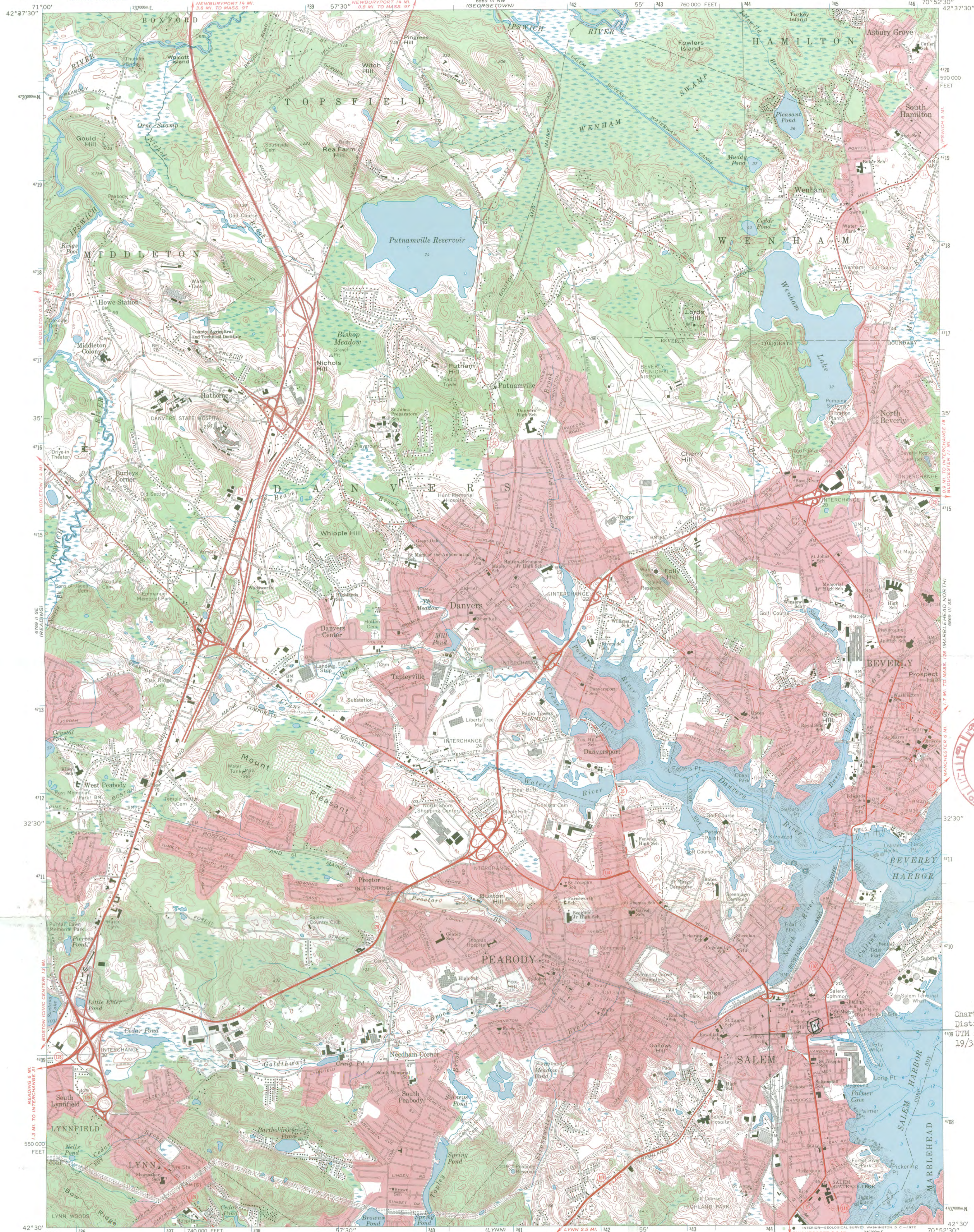
SOURCE United States Geological Survey

SCALE 1:24,000 DATE 1970

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

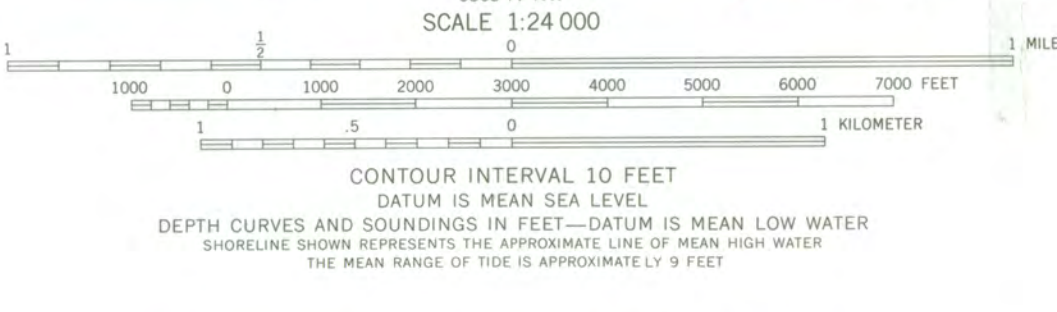
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



Charter Street Historic
District, Salem, MA
UTM reference:
19/344520/4709080

UTM - OK
14A

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 1938. Topography by planimetric surveys 1942
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970.
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS 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 tidalwater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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

SALEM, MASS.
N4230—W7052.5/7.5

1970

AMS 6869 III SW—SERIES V814

Salem
Chart 951

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered MAR 10 1975

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Charter Street Historic District	Salem Essex County
Leonard, Captain Charles, House	Agawam Hampden County
Lawrence Light Guard Armory	Medford Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Hon. Silvio O. Conte
Hon. Torbert M. McDonald
Regional Director, North Atlantic
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Massachusetts Historical Commission
40 Beacon St.
Boston, Massachusetts 02108