

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 6 1985

date entered MAY 16 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections**1. Name**

historic AMESBURY AND SALISBURY MILLS VILLAGE

and or common Amesbury and Salisbury Mills Village Historic District

2. Locationstreet & number Market Square, Millyard and portions of
Main, Market, Elm, Water, High and Ring Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Amesbury N/A vicinity of

state MA code 025 county Essex code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☒ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture
☐ building(s)	☐ private	☐ unoccupied	☒ commercial
☐ structure	☒ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment
☐ object	☐ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government
	☐ being considered	☒ yes: unrestricted	☒ industrial
	N/A	☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☒ park
			☒ private residence
			☒ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name multiple /see attached owner/property list

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Essex County Registry of Deeds, Southern District

street & number 32 Federal Street

city, town Salem state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle Inventory of the Historic Assets
of the Commonwealth has this property been determined eligible? yes ☒ nodate 1981 federal ☒ state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

Amesbury, Amesbury and Salisbury Mills Historic District

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Amesbury and Salisbury Mills Village Historic District is a 15-acre, 13-block area of 19th century textile mills and related structures located in the center of Amesbury. Running north-south through the district is the Powow River, a tributary of the Merrimack River to the south. The district contains 76 buildings, of which 60 contribute to its historic and visual integrity. The buildings are primarily industrial and commercial, with several residential and civic structures as well.

The district is composed of five streets that converge on a central market square, just to the north of the Powow River. The northern side of the river is of higher elevation than the southern side. Just north of Market Square, the river drops 75 feet in a series of waterfalls. Ranged along the river's sloping banks, on both sides of the square, are the textile mills. Seven of these mills form a contiguous group to the west of the square known as the Millyard. At the western edge of the district, the Pond Street Bridge spans the river. While no buildings remain from the district's first years of settlement in the early 17th century, the configuration of streets along the Powow reflects that early period of development.

A densely developed urban unit, the district has few trees and little landscaping, except for a small park at its southern edge. Buildings line the streets with little or no setback. The dense construction of the district creates a unified appearance. Also contributing to the cohesiveness of the district are its uniformity of height and scale, consistency of building materials (red brick), and compatibility of 19th century architectural detailing. While no longer used as textile mills, the majority of the nine mill structures now serve industrial or commercial purposes or are vacant.

The earliest surviving mill building, erected in 1825, was built across a northern branch of the Powow River. Typical of early mill construction, the mill was built so that its basement contained a millrace. When steam replaced waterpower, later in the 19th century, the millrace was filled in and the branch no longer remains. The town's mills are of typical 19th century mill construction. Buildings are long and narrow and range in height from two to five stories. Facades are punctuated by regular patterns of window openings. The material of construction is red brick, a material used throughout the district. Ranged around the market square, and adjacent to the millyard, are a number of commercial structures exhibiting similar detailing and styling. Their massive size and number contrast with the rest of the community, which is small in both area and size of population.

The following description of key and representative buildings is arranged first by function (mill, commercial, religious, civic, and residential) and second, within those categories, chronologically. Locations are indicated on the attached assessors map.

Mill Buildings

Built in 1825, Mill #2 (#101) is the oldest existing structure in the Millyard. It is a five-story brick structure, built into a hill with four stories facing north on High Street. There are exterior stairtowers on the north and south sides. Mill #2 was built over the north branch of the Powow River so that a millrace ran through its

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basement. That millrace has since been filled in, but two enormous arches remain. The building originally had a clerestory roof, and a cupola capped the southern stairtower; today, there is a low-pitched roof. The building's cornice is composed of brick dentils and a brick ogee molding. Windows are rectangular 12/12 with flat lintels composed of header bricks.

Mill #12 (#100), also known as the Whittier Press Building, was built ca. 1825. It too is located in the Millyard and is sited to the south of Mill #2, directly on the Powow River. The brick building has two distinct components. The eastern component is oblong with an angular bend in the middle. It is 1 1/2 stories in height. Fenestration is irregular, with a variety of windows, doors, and a 20th century garage door. The western part is square, 2 1/2 stories in height, and has a long sloping roof and fairly regular fenestration with almost square windows. There is a loading platform attached to the northern side.

Mill #4 (#200) was built in 1854 and is located southeast of Market Square, on the northern bank of the river. The mill displays Greek Revival styling. It is five stories in height and has a steeply pitched roof with dormers, and dentilated brick cornice returns in the end gables. A large oculus is centered in each gable. Windows are 12/12 and have granite sills and lintels. On the east side of the building are two brick six-story exterior stairtowers with flat roofs and dentilated cornices. There have been several additions to the mill, including a brick three-story pitched roof structure of similar design to the main building that is appended to the south end of the building. In addition there are also several corrugated steel sheds attached to the southern end. A steel elevator shaft is attached to the main building next to the southern stairtower. At the north end of the building, a brick infill structure connects Mill #4 with Mill #17 (#72).

Situated on the Powow River, in the Millyard complex adjacent to the Pond Street bridge, Mill #1 (#106) was built in 1855, and it too features Greek Revival-style detailing. Only two stories in height, the brick structure has a pitched roof with gable ends and brick cornice returns. A dentilated brick cornice runs the length of the building. Contained within each gable is a globe window with blind quadrants on either side. Other windows in the building are rectangular with granite sills and lintels. A three-story exterior stairtower is attached to the center of the north side of the building. On the east end of the building, there is a 20th century one-story concrete block addition.

Mill #14 (#104) and Mill #15 (#105) are two of several mill buildings in the district with Italianate styling. Built in the Millyard ca. 1860, the two-story red brick buildings have a low-pitched roof, elaborate corbelled brick cornices, splayed brick lintels, and stone sills. Mill #15 was used originally as a carriage house and stable. Its fenestration is sparser and less regular than in other Amesbury mill buildings. A concrete-block boiler house was added in the 20th century to link the two buildings. Mill #15 also has a 20th century concrete-block office wing at its southeast corner.

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In 1872, Mill #9 (#102) was built, the first of Amesbury's textile mills to operate with steam, rather than waterpower. Also part of the Millyard complex, Mill #9 is typical of several structures financed by the Salisbury Manufacturing Company in the mid 19th century and featuring Italianate detailing. Of brick construction, the flat-roofed mill has recessed bays capped by a corbelled brick cornice. Each bay contains three 12/6 segmental-arch windows with corbelled brick hoods. One side of Mill #9 faces east onto Market Square; several modern single-story storefronts have been added on this side. A second-floor addition forms a bridge between the mill and the present-day Boyle Drug; beneath the addition is an entryway into the Millyard. The interior of the building is a cavernous open space that was occupied originally by 21 boilers, which provided steam to power the textile mills. After the mills closed in 1912, the boilers continued to provide heat to buildings around Market Square until 1947. At that time the boilers were removed, as was a 144-foot chimney that rose above the north corner of the building.

Joining Mill #9 at its northwestern corner is Mill #11 (#103), built ca. 1872, which shares most of the other building's decorative features (granite lintels on the first floor windows are the only notable departure). Twentieth-century additions include a masonry and glass single-story addition on the mill's southern facade and the installation of four overhead garage doors--three on High Street, the building's north side, one on the south side adjacent to the new addition.

The town's latest surviving mill building, Mill #17 (#72), was built in 1875. The three-story building with shallow-pitched roof features many of the same details that are seen in textile mill structures built between 1860 and 1875, including a corbelled brick cornice and segmental-arch windows, with brick hoods, set into a recessed wall plane. The northern end of the building is dominated by an enormous octagonal smokestack. At the southern end there is a steel elevator shaft and a brick infill structure that connects with Mill #4.

All of the mills are of typical 19th-century mill construction. The structural system is derived from post-and-beam construction and is comprised of masonry load-bearing walls. The interior framing system is massive wooden beams spanning the width of the building and pocketed in the brick, with iron tie-rods running the length of the beam. The rods are tightened by decorative beam anchors on the buildings' exteriors. No machinery related to the textile industry remains in any of the mills, but a crib dam in the Powow River next to Mill #12 still exists.

Commercial Buildings

The Counting House, 17 Main Street (#37), is the district's earliest surviving commercial structure. Built ca. 1828, the building has undergone several alterations, and only the rear elevation, which faces the millyard, retains its original appearance. Two-and-a-half stories in height, the rear elevation has a steeply pitched roof and front-facing gable. A lunette in the gable has been bricked in, as have the second-story windows.

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On the front elevation, only a dentilated cornice capping the second story remains. A ca. 1875 renovation of the front facade added Italianate-style fenestration--segmental arch, brick-hooded windows resembling those in the adjacent mill buildings. A late 20th-century storefront occupies the first story.

Two brick commercial structures built by the Salisbury Manufacturing Company ca. 1860 remain at 19-23 and 25-27 Main Street (#36, #35), although they have undergone storefront renovations. The latter building has been recently restored; it retains Italianate brick hoods above roundhead windows as well as its corbelled brick cornice.

Though not financed by Amesbury's textile companies, the 1860 three-story Excelsior Block, 14-24 Market Street (#42), shares many of the same decorative features displayed by the town's mill company buildings. Included in the Italianate red-brick building are a corbelled brick cornice and segmental-arch windows set under brick hoods. The modern storefront of aluminum and glass, installed in the 1960s, incorporates several massive granite piers that were part of the original facade.

The Italianate-style Rowell Block, 11-15 Elm Street (#60), was built in 1874 and is one of Amesbury's best-preserved buildings. A recent rehabilitation has returned the building to its original appearance. The three-story building is of brick construction with a single-story cast-iron front; it has a flat roofline. A projecting box cornice supported by paired brackets caps the structure. The seven-bay facade has segmental-arch windows with granite hoods, keystones, and lintels. A granite plaque between the second and third stories identifies the building. The cast-iron columns on the first story support a bracketed wooden cornice. Side windows also have granite sills but are capped by brick segmental arches.

On Main Street, a trio of commercial buildings exemplify the Italianate styling popular in the 1880s. Located at 48-50, 52-54, and 56-62 Main Street (#83, #84, #85), the three display bracket-supported window hoods and a common deep bracketed cornice. Number 52-54 retains most of its original cast-iron storefront, while its neighbor, number 48-50, has a few remaining cast-iron elements, including engaged columns and pilasters. The Webster Block, number 56-62, was originally constructed as a two-story Greek Revival-style building in 1850. Corner pilasters and a cornice with wide fascia remain from this period, but with the addition of a third story in the 1880s, the building was altered to resemble its Italianate-style neighbors.

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Built in 1891, the three-story brick Dondero Block, 49-57 Main Street (#12), displays Renaissance Revival detailing. A granite cornice tops the three-bay facade, while a granite string course delineates the upper two stories. The central bay is framed on the second and third stories by brick piers. Fenestration here includes two roundhead windows with brick hood-molds on the third story and a pair of unadorned rectangular windows on the second story. A granite name plaque is directly beneath the string course. On either side of the central bay, fenestration includes three plain rectangular windows on the third story and three segmental-arch windows on the second story. A twentieth-century storefront occupies the first story.

The Wilman Block, 105-113 Main Street (#19), built in 1899, retains much of its Renaissance Revival appearance despite numerous twentieth-century alterations. The ten-bay facade is dominated by elaborate round-arched windows incorporating roundels on the third story. On the second story, there is a central second-story window with arched classical surround and entablature, framed by pilasters of light-colored brick and topped by terracotta capitals. A broad, light-brick entablature is probably an early 20th-century replacement. Centered in the entablature is a plaque with Masonic emblem, reflecting one of the building's original functions. Although most of the second-story windows and wood-shingled walls are modern replacements, one original plate-glass window remains. The first story's storefronts are also replacements.

The 1902 Fuller Building, 45 Main Street (#11), is likewise Renaissance Revival in style, using contrasting materials to highlight its decorative detailing. The three-story building has a light-brick three-bay facade with wide pilasters capped by terracotta capitals. Second-floor windows have brownstone lintels, while those on the third floor have sills and round arches of brownstone. A bay window of wood occupies the central bay. The storefront retains much of its original character. A secondary facade is capped by a metal entablature, which incorporates the structure's name. Still in use as a clothing store, Fuller's interior retains many of its original features, including tin ceilings, woodwork, display units, office apparatus (such as pneumatic mail chutes), and circular radiators.

The light-brick Solari Block, 8-12 Market Street (#40) is a similar Renaissance Revival-style structure, three bays wide and dominated by a pair of bay windows on the second and third stories. Of note is a wooden parapet projecting from the central bay's single third-story window. Directly below, on the second story, is a single roundhead window with hood-mold. A heavy cornice with dentils and brackets caps the building. The building's modern first-story storefront incorporates two cast-iron piers, part of the original structure.

On Main Street, the former Crown Theater (#18), now used solely as commercial space, was built in 1912 on the site of the Amesbury Opera House (which burned in 1899). The Neoclassical structure, Amesbury's first movie theater, has undergone a series of renovations since its original construction, but the present facade above the ground-floor storefront retains a pedimented gable, paired pilasters, and dentilated frieze.

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The Associates Block, 6-8 1/2 Main Street (#74), was built on the edge of Market Square in 1916. It is a two-story building with three first-story storefronts with plate-glass display windows. The second story, of red brick, features a mix of Chicago-style single- and paired-sash windows. The windows have stone sills and yellow brick splayed lintels. Capping the building is a metal cornice, below which is a string course of angled brick headers that is reminiscent of the brick cornices used in Amesbury's mill structures.

Religious and Civic Structures

The only church in the district is the Market Street Baptist Church (#57). Built in 1873, it has a rectangular main body set on a raised basement. An engaged tower at the front is flanked by two one-story ancillary connections to the main body. The facade and tower are sheathed in flush board, while the sides and rear of the church are sided in wood shingles. The church has Italianate-style detailing, including segmental-arch nave windows and front entrance surrounds. Also Italianate in styling are the round-arched windows of the ancillary connections and the double round-arched window in the tower and in the steeple's octagonal lower section. The steeple is capped by a shingled spire. A variety of wood details--including rosettes, bosses, and brackets--adorn the facade.

The former Post Office, 100 Main Street (#89), now used as commercial office space, was built in 1905 following the design of architect James Knox Taylor, then on the staff of the United States Department of the Treasury. Essentially Neoclassical in style, the single-story building features Flemish-bond red brick walls with prominent limestone trim (including roof balustrade, modillioned cornice, and round-arched window and entrance surrounds with keystones). A front entrance portico features a heavy pediment supported by paired limestone columns. A triangular piece of marble occupies the center of the pediment. There is a small enclosed entrance porch on the north side.

Residential Buildings

Built around 1800 as a double house, 47-49 Market Street (#54) retains some Federal-period elements, although it was remodeled in the 1860s. These include its long narrow windows and paired semicircular fanlights over the double entrance, which is framed by tapered pilasters. The building is a 2 1/2-story wooden structure with endgables and a steeply pitched roof. Two chimneys are located on the ridge. A Greek Revival-style porch, added ca. 1860, has a classically inspired frieze supported by tapered columns atop pedestals. A pair of side porches display similar styling.

The district has two side-hall plan Greek Revival houses, located at 39 and 41 Market Street (#56, #55). Both were built ca. 1850 and feature front-facing pedimented gables, cornice, and trabeated door surrounds. Forty-one Market Street has had aluminum siding installed, but most of the building's original features have been retained, including

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the corner pilaster and deep entablature. Thirty-nine Market Street has been sheathed in vinyl siding and its corner pilasters have been lost; however, its original transom and sidelights remain.

At 51-53 Market Street (#53) stands a two-story clapboard house with a mansard roof and elaborate decorative detailing. It was built ca. 1853. Its present appearance, however, is the result of a ca. 1870 renovation. The house features a projecting central pavilion capped by a bell dormer. A double entrance porch has segmental-arch valance boards and a bracketed cornice. There are side porches with similar details. The first floor has several bay windows, while second-story and roof-dormer windows have projecting hoods with a variety of pediments. Below the mansard is a pronounced cornice ornamented with large and small brackets.

The Sidley-Clark House, at 55 Market Street (#52), built in 1872, is another large residence on Market Street. It is a 2 1/2-story clapboard structure with eclectic Victorian styling. Details include a bracketed cornice and multigabled roof. Corners are ornamented with quoins, and most windows are topped with pedimented hoods. A central two-tiered porch features both freestanding and engaged columns, as well as a variety of brackets, dentils, and other wooden details. The second level of the porch has a double-arched window. The roof gable above the porch has bracketed returns and a Palladian window. A one-story side porch echoes the front porch in detailing.

The district includes several multifamily apartment buildings, all built in the first years of the twentieth century, with ground-floor storefronts and two stories of apartments above. A notable example, the Rand-Adams Block located at 104-114 Main Street (#90), retains its classical detailing: a swag-ornamented frieze above its bay windows and a continuous projecting dentilated cornice.

The Pond Street Bridge (#901) is a single-span, stone-arch structure, built in 1836 to cross the Powow River upstream of the mills. The bridge is constructed of random coursed-granite rubble with a segmental arch of quarry-finished granite blocks. The arch has a fifteen-foot span and a six-foot rise. Its total length, including abutments, is fifty feet, and it is twenty feet wide.

Noncontributing Structures

With the waning of Amesbury's industrial base in the 1920s, the town's business district experienced little commercial construction. It was not until the Second World War that Amesbury began an economic recovery. As a result, the few intrusions in the District consist, typically, of commercial structures of relatively recent construction. Noncontributing buildings include the Gould Insurance Agency at 12 1/2 Market Square (1961, #76), and its neighbors, Aubuchon Hardware, 14-18 Market Square (1942, #77), and Goodwin's, 20-24 Market Square (1967, #78). The three are typical mid-nineteenth century commercial buildings and are of undistinguished style and construction. On

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Market Street, three small, recent commercial buildings (1973, #43; ca. 1960, #45; and 1963, #46) also intrude upon the District. Most of the intrusions in the commercial center are smaller in scale than the 19th century buildings that predominate in this part of Amesbury and bear little relationship to them.

Two 19th century buildings in Market Square have recently received extensive alterations and no longer retain integrity. These are the Northeast National Bank, 1 Market Square (#59), built in 1855 in the Italianate style, and the Bartlett Block, 2 Market Street (#39), a ca. 1870 structure also built in the Italianate style. The facades of both buildings have been completely covered by modern atrium additions.

8. Significance

Amesbury, Amesbury and Salisbury Mills Historic District

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
prehistoric	X	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	X	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599		agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
X 1600-1699	X	architecture	education	military	social
X 1700-1799		art	engineering	music	humanitarian
X 1800-1899	X	commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater
X 1900-		communications	X industry	politics government	transportation
			X invention		X other (specify) comm. Development

Specific dates 1641-1916 **Builder Architect** multiple

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Amesbury and Salisbury Mills Village Historic District retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. Historically, the district is significant for its associations with the 19th-century textile industry in the center of Amesbury, one of the earliest New England towns to establish a textile manufactory (1812). Architecturally, the district embodies the distinctive character of a mid-19th century industrial community, with mills, associated structures, commercial buildings, and residences. The Amesbury and Salisbury Mills Historic District meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The town of Amesbury was part of a land grant of 1638 known originally as Merrimac. In 1639, "Merrimac" was changed to "Colchester"; it became "Salisbury" in 1640. The first settlers in the area were from the Winthrop fleet that arrived in Salem in 1630. Due to a shortage of farmland, thirty families from Salisbury were given settlement rights on the west side of the Powow River, a tributary of the Merrimack, in 1642. By 1666, this western tract was made a precinct, "Salisbury New Town," and house lots were organized in a scattered pattern around a meetinghouse and cemetery, located midway between the Merrimack and the present town center. Salisbury New Town was incorporated as Amesbury in 1668. For most of its history, the district was in two separate villages, Amesbury on the east and Salisbury Mills on the west, divided by the Powow River. It was not until 1886 that the western portion of Salisbury New Town, which bordered on Amesbury and which included Salisbury Mills Village, was annexed to Amesbury.

Most of the present town of Amesbury was settled originally as small family farms, with the exceptions of the nominated district and the Point Shore area to the south. Due to its steep land contours, the district was not suitable for farming. However, the water power offered by the Powow River attracted early operators of sawmills and iron forges, who built their homes nearby. One of the nation's earliest water-powered sawmills was located here, as were early iron forges (no longer extant).

In 1798, Amesbury mechanic Jacob Perkins (1766-1849) invented a machine that revolutionized nailmaking by cutting the nail and heading it in one complete operation. Perkins was to become one of the leading mechanics in New England, as well as a prominent inventor in the United States and England. Products manufactured at the iron forges and sawmills helped give life to Amesbury's shipbuilding industry (outside the nominated district), which became nationally important. Among the ships built in Amesbury was the Alliance, one of the first ships commissioned by the Continental Congress in 1778.

1641-1812

From the first years of settlement, the major impetus for the community's development was the availability of waterpower. In 1641, William Osgood established in what is now Amesbury one of the nation's first water-powered sawmills. At first the materials

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 15 acres

Quadrangle name Newburyport West

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UTM References

A

1	9
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3	4	2	4	2	0
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4	7	4	6	4	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

1	9
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3	4	2	3	4	0
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4	7	4	6	4	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

1	9
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3	4	2	2	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	7	4	6	3	8	0
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D

1	9
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3	4	2	1	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	7	4	6	4	2	0
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E

1	9
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3	4	2	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	7	4	6	5	6	0
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F

1	9
---	---

3	4	2	0	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	7	4	6	7	0	0
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G

1	9
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3	4	2	3	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	7	4	6	8	8	0
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H

1	9
---	---

3	4	2	4	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	7	4	6	8	6	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached assessor's map

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betsy Friedberg, Preservation Planner, Massachusetts Historical Commission with
Scott Ackerly, Preservation Planner, Town of Amesbury

organization Mass. Historical Commission date January 1985

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA

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 Valerie A. Talmage

title Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

date February 19, 1985

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

included in the
National Register

date 5-16-85

J. Melvyn Byrum
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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produced in the sawmills were used primarily in building construction. In 1710, however, John March, John Barnard, Joseph Brown, and Jarvis Ring started the first iron forge in town. From this point on, the town's wood and iron products were used for shipbuilding, Amesbury's first specialized industry.

Although the shipbuilding industry was primarily located along the area bordering the Merrimack River (and south of the nominated district), it created an increased demand for wood and iron products, thereby bringing prosperity to the district. One shipyard, that of Richard Currier, was located on the Powow at the southern edge of the district and was in operation from about 1750 to 1810. (There are no surface remains of this industry today, nor of the 19th-century textile mills subsequently built on that site.) The construction of large ships dwindled soon after the first years of the 19th century, but the building of small boats flourished. Today small boats are still built at the Lowell Boat Shop (in the Point Shore area), which was started by Simeon Lowell in 1793.

1812-1853

In 1812, four Amesbury townsmen--Ezra Worthen, Jacob Kent, Paul Moody, and Thomas Boardman--established the first full-scale textile mill in the area (no longer extant). Located on the Amesbury side of the Powow, the mill was the home of the Amesbury Wool and Cotton Company. The corporate style of organization and management of this mill served as a model for the later textile manufacturing operations in Waltham and Lowell. Shortly after the first Amesbury Mill was established, Moody went to Waltham, where he served as master mechanic for Francis Cabot Lowell's Boston Manufacturing Company for eleven years. He then took his expertise to the Lowell Machine Shop.

In the 1820s, a milltown of factories and related buildings began to evolve in the area northwest of present-day Market Square and the Powow River. With the success of the Amesbury Wool and Cotton Company, other entrepreneurs established textile concerns nearby: Joshua Aubin and Amos and Abbot Lawrence (later closely associated with the development of Lawrence, Massachusetts) formed the Amesbury Flannel Manufacturing Company in 1821. In 1825, the Salisbury Woolen Manufacturing Company went into business. The oldest remaining mill building, Mill #2 (#101), a classic five-story brick textile mill, was built in that year by the Salisbury concern. Mill #12 (ca. 1825, #100) and the Counting House (ca. 1828, #37) soon followed. Both are of similar brick construction.

By the 1830s and 1840s, development close to the textile mills clearly began to reflect the mills' burgeoning activity. Market Square had previously incorporated a small village of residences, Morrill's Tavern (an 18th century landmark no longer standing), livery stable, and blacksmith shop. The presence of centralized industry spurred the construction of a modest number of Greek Revival-style residences. Side-hall houses at 39 and 41 Market Street (both ca. 1850; #56, #55) and 5 School Street (ca. 1850, #25), inhabited by livery-stable owners and bookkeepers, typify the district's middle-class structures. In the 1840s and 1850s, the Salisbury Manufacturing Company began to construct workers'

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Historic District Item number 8 Page 2

housing to accommodate Irish immigrants, but none of these tenements, built between Friend and Main Streets south of the Millyard, remain. Double houses, such as that at 9-11 Mill Street (ca. 1840) represent early 19th-century mill housing that still survive in the district.

While the textile mills initially encouraged centrally located housing, they soon invited commercial development as well. The conversion of many houses to stores in the 1860s reflects this change. Although many of these houses are no longer standing, structures such as that at 27 Elm Street (ca. 1850, #62) illustrate residences to which storefronts have been added. As the industry expanded and prosperity spread, residential space in the center of town became undesirable because of the noise and pollution generated by the textile mills. Thus there was room for commercial expansion around the mills, with extensive and diverse local retailing of manufactured products.

1854-1916

The mills were the site of one of the nation's first strikes by a large unified labor force, the Derby Strike of 1852. So named because of the new regulations established by Salisbury Manufacturing Company agent J. P. Derby, the Derby Strike lasted for several months, with neither side wavering. Many of the striking workers left the mills, and the corporation turned to newly arrived immigrants as a labor source.

In 1854, Amesbury's three textile concerns were incorporated as the Salisbury Manufacturing Company, later reorganized simply as the Salisbury Mills. The Salisbury Mills became one of the largest woolen goods producers in a single plant in the United States. With the coming of the Civil War, and the demand for woolen cloth that the war created, Amesbury's textile industry expanded enormously.

This wealth and activity resulted in the addition of new mill structures, both within and outside the Millyard area. Amesbury's mid-19th century mill buildings are for the most part long brick structures, of several stories in height, and displaying Greek Revival and Italianate detailing. Commercial structures financed by the mills, and a number of community and organizational buildings either supported or built outright by the textile company, were also constructed in this period.

Under the management of Marquis de LaFayette Steere, agent for Salisbury Mills from 1858-1883, the company extended its local real estate holdings, constructing two- and three-story brick commercial blocks. The buildings displayed Italianate detailing, including segmental-arch windows, corbelled friezes, and period storefront configurations. 25-27 Main Street (#35), built ca. 1860, and 19-23 Main Street (#36), built in 1863 to house stores and a post office, typify the structures financed by the mills for commercial purposes. The mills provided for other community needs by building the town's first library structure at 27 Friend Street (#32) in 1869, influencing the siting of the Mills District School on School Street (#27) in the earlier 19th century, and supporting the Congregational Church, 135 Main Street (ca. 1828, #21).

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In the mid 19th century, Amesbury entrepreneurs, capitalizing on the success of the mills, built other structures in the district. The Excelsior Block at 14-24 Market Street (#42), built in 1860, is recognized as the first commercial building in Amesbury to share common construction methods with the town's industrial architecture. The building was the first of a number of large commercial blocks, built partially for investment, that offered rental office space in central Amesbury locations. The Bartlett Block, 2 Market Street (#39), was another privately financed building of the period (ca. 1870) offering these amenities. It has been substantially altered and no longer retains integrity.

Among the growing number of powerful local businessmen who were also investors, speculators, and real estate developers was John Rowell, a prosperous jeweler. Rowell financed the Italianate-style Rowell Block at 11-15 Elm Street in 1874 (#60). Similarly, Amesbury realtor and banker Jonathan B. Webster built the town's first "fireproof" building, the Webster Block, at 61-67 Main Street in 1875 (#13).

One of Amesbury's most influential entrepreneurs was Seth Clark. Formerly a tannery owner, Clark became a carriage manufacturer in the 1860s, investing in several tenements and commercial blocks. Two that survive are located at 44 Friend Street, and 69-75 Main Street (ca. 1870, #6; ca. 1860, #14). Both have received extensive alterations. Clark's brothers, Thomas and Joseph, owned residences neighboring his opulent mansard-roofed mansion at 51-53 Market Street (1854, #53). Together with Thomas Jefferson Clark's ca. 1872 eclectic Victorian house (#52) at 55 Market Street and Joseph Clark's Federal-period house with ca. 1860s Greek Revival alterations (#54) at 47-49 Market Street, the three comprise an area known as "Clarksville."

After the Civil War, textile production slumped. Amesbury's industrialists turned their attention to the carriage-making industry, which had begun as a minor manufactory in town as early as 1800. In 1859, Jacob Huntington began a small-scale business venture, manufacturing inexpensive carriages for popular consumption. After visiting Cincinnati in 1855 to view assembly-line techniques, Huntington returned to Amesbury and introduced new factory methods to mass-produce carriages and components. By 1881, twenty-three manufacturers of diverse carriage types were in operation in a complex of mills, renamed "Carriage Hill" and located south of Market Square.

Carriage-industry money was responsible for the construction of many new buildings in the commercial district, nearly all of which exhibit characteristics of the Italianate style. On a small scale, buildings such as 48-50 Main Street (ca. 1880, #83), built by businessman Gustavus Cammett, and the neighboring 52-54 Main Street (ca. 1880, #84) represent the investment of individual speculators, while more ambitious construction was undertaken in the Opera House (1887) and the Bahan Block (1888), two major multistory and multipurpose buildings that were both destroyed by fire in 1899. The Wilman Block of 1899 (#19), built on the site of the Bahan Block, echoes the former building's impressive scale, style, and prominence.

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A number of buildings intended for leisuretime activities were built in the district in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The result of increased prosperity and shorter workhours for factory workers, this new construction included the Opera House (1887; no longer extant), which housed not only an auditorium and stage, but also stores and offices. A new YMCA was built on High Street in 1894 (#70), and Amesbury's first movie house, a Neoclassical building called the Crown Theater, opened in 1912 (#18). Two commercial buildings provided further space for social functions--the Italianate-style Webster Block (#85), built in 1880, housed the Grand Army of the Republic, while the Oddfellows' quarters were in the Union Block (#70), built ca. 1884 in the Italianate style. (The Union Block was substantially altered in the 1960s, when its third story was removed.) Civic construction, too, flourished at the end of the century, including the Post Office (#89), built in 1905 and the design of architect James Knox Taylor.

The first decade of the 20th century marked another transition in Amesbury's industrial base--the phasing out of carriage production and the natural introduction of automobile body manufacturing. Some former carriage factories were simply converted to auto manufacturing. In 1912, the textile mills closed permanently. The last of the textile concerns, Hamilton Woolen Company, sold its mill buildings to the Merrimack Valley Power and Building Company and its non-industrial real estate holdings to a partnership of local businessmen known as the Amesbury Associates, for \$100,000. The automobile body industry now dominated the town's economy, an economy governed by individual commercial ownership rather than a single industrial concern.

Individually and collectively, Amesbury's businessmen erected several new commercial blocks in the district, including the Fuller Building, 45 Main Street, built in 1902 (#11), and the Solari Block, 8-12 Market Street, built in 1904 (#40), two Renaissance Revival-style buildings. The two-story Associates Block (#74), built on Market Square in 1916, featured Chicago-style windows and brick flat arches with radiating voussiors. It was the only new construction sponsored by the Amesbury Associates, who otherwise concentrated their efforts on remodeling existing older structures to meet increased demand for retail and commercial space.

The new industry also brought with it the development of several multifamily workers' housing units in the district, intended for the growing labor force. Buildings such as the Rand-Adams Block, 104-114 Main Street (ca. 1900, #90), 83-87 Main Street (ca. 1912, #16), and 80-88 Main Street (ca. 1910, #88) were similarly designed three-story tenement blocks with ground-floor storefronts and two stories of apartments above. The Rand-Adams Block has fine Neoclassical detailing in its cornice and frieze, but the other two are now unadorned.

Amesbury's auto industry declined during the Depression, and both new construction and remodeling projects slowed in the district. The entire community went into a period of economic stagnation that has only begun a gradual reversal in recent years. The former

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textile mills are now either used for other small-scale industrial purposes or stand vacant. Commercial storefronts remain, but most residences have been broken up into apartments. The community today displays a commitment to revitalizing the District for both commercial and residential use and has already participated in a facade rehabilitation program with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Archaeological Significance

The district's size, its large amount of open space, and its previous history of land use all contribute to its potential archaeological significance.

While there was at one time a high potential for prehistoric sites along the Powow River, the likelihood of survivals is low due to extensive disturbances in the area. One site has been reported within a half mile of the district.

The potential for historic archaeological resources in the district is high, particularly in the back and side lots along Main and Market Streets. Possible historic features include: 17th and 18th century trash pits, privies, and wells, as well as evidence of earlier structures; building-related construction and alteration features in all standing structures, especially residential, as well as features relating to human occupation; and potential for remains of technological structures relating to the first mills.

The survival of these archaeological resources may have a significant impact upon the understanding the social, cultural, and economic processes that have created this district.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Amesbury and Salisbury Mills Village Historic
District
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAR 6 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 4/4/85 - 4/20/85
Action: ACCEPT
RETURN 3-21-85
REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☒ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- ☒ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Please provide scale for sketch maps.

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed *Dr. Byers* Date *3/21/85* Phone: _____

Ref ID
85001121

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Amesbury and Salisbury Mills Village Historic District
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 3/6/85
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86
Date Due: 6/1/85
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 5-16-85
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- ☒ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Entered in
National Register

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below _____

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*) _____

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other _____

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____

date _____

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other _____

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



PROPERTY NAME: WILMAN BLOCK

STREET ADDRESS: 103-115 MAIN ST.

COMMUNITY: AMESBURY, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: SCOTT ACKERLY

DATE: NOV. 1982

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: AMESBURY TOWN HALL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 1 OF 17

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW: MAIN ST. FACADE FROM
SOUTHWEST



FULLERS MENS WEAR

Colonial
Gift Card Shopper

TAILOR
SHOP

STANLEY'S
TAPER JACKET

LETTER
COPIES & PRINTS

PROPERTY NAME: WEBSTER, DONDERO + FULLER
BLOCKS (1. to 4.)

STREET ADDRESS: 61-67, 49-57, + 45 MAIN ST.

COMMUNITY: AMESBURY, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: SCOTT ACKERLY

DATE: NOV. 1982

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: AMESBURY TOWN HALL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 2 OF 17

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW: MAIN ST. FACADES
FROM NORTHEAST



Bend

BOYLE DRUG

R. G. WATKINS - SONS

NORMAN'S

Cocktails Restaurant

Dining Room

KEEP RIGHT

PROPERTY NAME: MILL #9 AND OTHER BUILDINGS

STREET ADDRESS: 25-27, 19-23, 17 MAIN ST.;
1-13 MARKET SQ. (l.to r.)

COMMUNITY: AMESBURY, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: SCOTT ACKERLY

DATE: NOV. 1982

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: AMESBURY TOWN HALL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 3 OF 17

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW: EAST SIDE OF
MARKET SQ.



PROPERTY NAME: MILL # 11, MILL # 9

STREET ADDRESS: MILLYARD

COMMUNITY: AMESBURY, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: SCOTT ACKERLY

DATE: NOV. 1982

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: AMESBURY TOWN HALL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 4 OF 17

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW: NORTHEAST CORNER OF
MILLYARD FROM
SOUTHWEST



PROPERTY NAME: MILL #2

STREET ADDRESS: MILLYARD

COMMUNITY: AMESBURY, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: SCOTT ACKERLY

DATE: NOV. 1982

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: AMESBURY TOWN HALL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 5 OF 17

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW: SOUTHERN FACADE FROM
SOUTHEAST



PROPERTY NAME: MILL # 14

STREET ADDRESS: MILLYARD

COMMUNITY: AMESBURY, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: SCOTT ACKERLY

DATE: NOV. 1982

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: AMESBURY TOWN HALL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 6 OF 17

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW: HIGH ST. FACADE
FROM EAST



PROPERTY NAME: MILL #1

STREET ADDRESS: MILLYARD

COMMUNITY: AMESBURY, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: SCOTT ACKERLY

DATE: NOV. 1982

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: AMESBURY TOWN HALL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 7 OF 17

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW: POND ST. BRIDGE, MILL #1,
AND CRIB DAM FROM
SOUTHEAST



PROPERTY NAME: MILL # 12, MILL # 15, MILL # 2 (1.00 r)

STREET ADDRESS: MILLYARD

COMMUNITY: AMESBURY, MA

PHOTOGRAPHER: SCOTT ACKERLY

DATE: NOV. 1982

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: AMESBURY TOWN HALL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 8 OF 17

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW: CENTER OF MILLYARD
FROM EASTERN SIDE



PROPERTY NAME: SOLARI BLOCK, EXCELSIOR BLOCK

STREET ADDRESS: 8-12, 14-24 MARKET ST.

COMMUNITY: AMESBURY, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: SCOTT ACKERLY

DATE: NOV. 1982

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: AMESBURY TOWN HALL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 9 OF 17

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW: WEST SIDE OF MARKET
ST. FROM MARKET SQUARE



PROPERTY NAME: CLARK HOUSES

STREET ADDRESS: 47-49, 51-53, 55 MARKET ST.

COMMUNITY: AMESBURY, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: SCOTT ACKERLY

DATE: NOV. 1982

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: AMESBURY TOWN HALL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 10 OF 17

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW: EAST SIDE OF MARKET
ST. FROM CLARK ST. TO
GALE'S CT.



PROPERTY NAME: MARKET ST. BAPTIST CHURCH
PROVIDENT INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS
NORTHEAST NATIONAL BANK

STREET ADDRESS: 33, 5, 1, MARKET ST.

COMMUNITY: AMESBURY, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: SCOTT ACKERLY

DATE: AUG. 1982

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 11 OF 17

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW: EAST SIDE OF MARKET
ST. FROM MARKET
SQUARE



PROPERTY NAME: Rowell Block

STREET ADDRESS: 11-15 Elm St.

COMMUNITY: Amesbury, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Scott Ackerly

DATE: Jan 1983

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: AMESBURY TOWN HALL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 12 OF 17

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW: Rowell Block
FROM MARKET SQ.



PROPERTY NAME: MILL # 4

STREET ADDRESS: WATER ST.

COMMUNITY: AMESBURY, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: SCOTT ACKERLY

DATE: NOV. 1982

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: AMESBURY TOWN HALL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 13 OF 17

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW: EAST FACADE OF MILL
#4 AND EAST SIDE OF
WATER ST. TOWARD
MARKET SQ.



PROPERTY NAME: ASSOCIATES BLOCK

STREET ADDRESS: 2-8 1/2 MAIN ST.

COMMUNITY: AMESBURY, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: SCOTT ACKERLY

DATE: NOV. 1982

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: AMESBURY TOWN HALL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 14 OF 17

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW: SOUTHEAST SIDE OF
MARKET SQ. TOWARD
ELM AND WATER STREETS



GENERAL VIEW OF MARKET SQUARE

COMMUNITY: AMESBURY, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: SCOTT ACKERLY

DATE: NOV. 1982

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: AMESBURY TOWN HALL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 15 OF 17

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW: SOUTHWEST SIDE OF
MARKET SQ. TOWARD
MAIN ST.



PROPERTY NAME: —

STREET ADDRESS: 44-46, 48-50, 52-54, 56-62 MAIN ST.

COMMUNITY: AMESBURY, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: SCOTT ACKERLY

DATE: JAN., 1983

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: AMESBURY TOWN HALL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 16 OF 17

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW: EAST SIDE OF MAIN
ST. FROM MILL ST.



PROPERTY NAME: OLD POST OFFICE

STREET ADDRESS: 100 MAIN ST.

COMMUNITY: AMESBURY, MA.

PHOTOGRAPHER: SCOTT ACKERLY

DATE: NOV. 1982

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: AMESBURY TOWN HALL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 17 OF 17

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW: POST OFFICE FROM
NORTHWEST

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



AMESBURY AND SALISBURY MILLS VILLAGE
Amesbury, Mass.
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

UTM: A-19 342420 4746480
B-19 342340 4746400
C-19 342200 4746380
D-19 342120 4746420
E-19 342000 4746560
F-19 342020 4746700
G-19 342300 4746880
H-19 342400 4746860

NEWBURYPORT WEST QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS-NEW HAMPSHIRE
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW/4 EXETER 15 QUADRANGLE
PORTSMOUTH, N.H. 15 MI. 6 MI. TO N.H. 101C 346



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey

Topography by planetable surveys 1942. Revised from

aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1968

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,

mainland zone, and New Hampshire coordinate system

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,

zone 19

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where

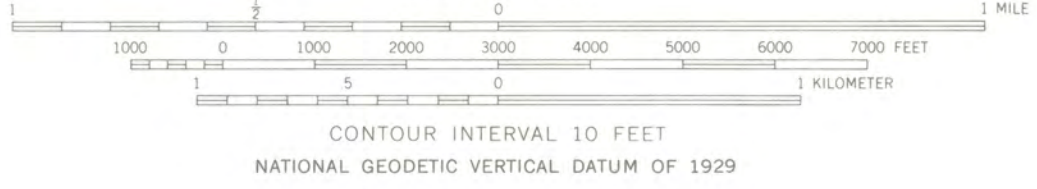
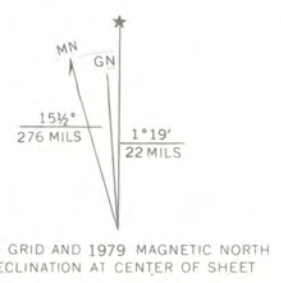
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of

Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other

source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

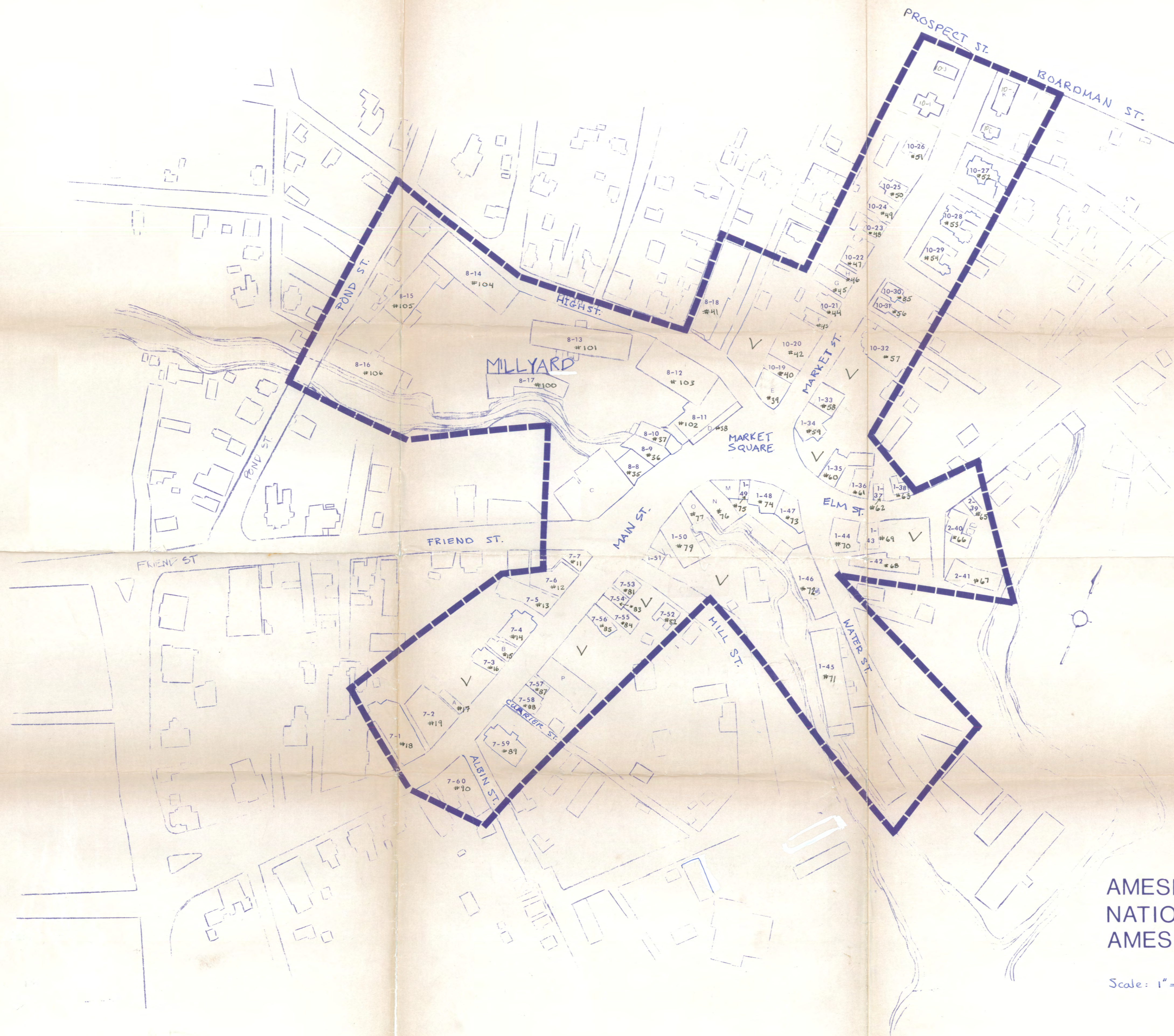


ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

NEWBURYPORT WEST, MASS.—N. H.
SW/4 EXETER 15 QUADRANGLE
N4245—W7052.5/7.5
1968
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6869 IV SW—SERIES V814



AMESBURY AND SALISBURY MILLS
NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
AMESBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 1984

Scale: 1" = 75'



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Valerie A. Talmage

Executive Director

State Historic Preservation Officer

April 5, 1985

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

- ✓ Swampscott Fish House: Hamphrey Street, Swampscott, Mass
- ✓ Amendments to the Northampton Downtown Historic District: Bridge and Market Streets, Northampton, Mass

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

- ✓ Also enclosed are three properties in the Taunton MRA, returned to our office on March 3, 1985, for the lack of USGS maps. Since you already have a USGS map on file for the Taunton MRA, I enclose xerox copies of maps with each property clearly marked. These can be easily transferred to a USGS map.

- ✓ Also enclosed is the nomination for Amesbury and Salisbury Mills Village, Amesbury, Mass. This was returned to us for lack of a scale on the sketch map. A scale is now added to the map.

Sincerely,

Sally Zimmerman
Sally Zimmerman
Director, Preservation Planner
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

SZ/1k

Rec'd 4/7/85



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 85001121 Date Listed: 6/1/1985

Amesbury and Salisbury Mills Village Historic District Essex MA
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

3/14/2005
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

When the Amesbury and Salisbury Mills Village Historic District was listed in the National Register, the building at 115 Main Street, Amesbury, MA (named the Crown Theater in the nomination; now called the Strand Theater) was listed as a contributing property. A "Historic Preservation Certification Application -- Part 1" has been submitted to the NPS with a request that the building be certified as contributing to the historic district. The MA SHPO recommends that the building be certified as contributing while the Heritage Preservation Services Division of the NPS recommend that the building be listed as non-contributing.

The National Register nomination form for the district categorized the building at 115 Main Street as contributing to the district's historic significance because at the time of the nomination it was mistakenly believed that the facade of this early 20th century building dated from within the district's defined period of significance. It has now been documented that the facade dates from a 1947 remodeling which drastically altered the appearance of the theater. The period of significance for the district extends only to 1916. The theater, which was closed in 1958, was converted to commercial purposes and no theater space remains in the interior. (continued)



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

2

NRIS Reference Number: 85001121 Date Listed: 6/1/1985

Amesbury and Salisbury Mills Village Historic District Essex MA
Property Name: County: State:

Based on the drastic alterations to the building which date from after the district's defined period of significance, the Strand Theater at 115 Main Street, Amesbury, MA, does not contribute to the significance of Amesbury and Salisbury Mills Village Historic District. The nomination form for this historic district is officially amended to change the status of 115 Main Street to non-contributing.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

H30(2255)

February 15, 2005

Memorandum

To: Keeper, National Register of Historic Places

From: Jo Ellen Hensley *JEH*
Technical Preservation Services Branch, Heritage Preservation Services Division

Subject: Request for National Register Review of Historic Preservation Certification Application

A Historic Preservation Certification Application--Part 1 for the Strand Theater Building, 115 Main Street, Amesbury, MA in the Amesbury And Salisbury Mills Historic District was recently submitted to this office through the MA State Historic Preservation Office. The owner requests certification of the building. However, based on our evaluation, the National Register documentation contains a faulty evaluation of this property.

We believe this building does not contribute to the significance of the Amesbury And Salisbury Mills Historic District. Since the SHPO has no plans at the present time to revise the National Register documentation, our office requests a Supplementary Listing Record be issued, revising the National Register nomination and listing this building as a non-contributing structure. We will then be able to act on the owner's application for certification of significance.

Enclosed please find copies of the Part 1 application, State Review Sheet, and all photographic documentation. Thank you.

Attachments

cc: MA SHPO



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30(2255)

February 15, 2005

Mr. Richard A. Fournier, CPA
MASS Realty Trust
5 East Main Street, Suite 5
Merrimac, MA 01860

PROPERTY: Crown Theater Site (Strand Theater Building), 115 Main Street, Amesbury, MA
PROJECT NUMBER: (15620)
TAXPAYER ID NUMBER: 04-6815195

Dear Mr. Fournier:

The National Park Service has reviewed the Historic Preservation Certification Application -- Part 1 for the property cited above and has found that the property does not contribute to the significance of the Amesbury and Salisbury Mills Historic District. This property, therefore, does not qualify as a "certified historic structure" for purposes of the Tax Reform Act of 1986, and thus does not qualify for the historic preservation provisions of the Act that apply to "certified historic structures."

As described in your application, the original Crown Theater constructed in 1912 was remodeled as the Strand Theater in 1919. At that time the one-story building appears to have had a low hipped roof and a central theater entrance with a projecting marquee supported by cast iron columns. This entrance was flanked by two storefronts with multi-light transoms and recessed entries. In 1947, the Strand Theater was drastically remodeled leaving no evidence of the former façade. The façade was completely removed. The entrance was shifted to the side marked by a two-story section with a "Neoclassical" pedimented gable supported by paired pilasters and a new storefront was constructed to the right. Even the aluminum storefront system does not date to 1947. It was replaced later as part of improvements made in 1983. Since 1958, when the theater closed, the building has not been used as a theater. It has been used solely for commercial purposes and no theater space remains on the interior.

The period of significance identified in the National Register Nomination is 1641-1916. The Strand Theater as it now stands has an appearance that dates from well outside the period of significance for the district. Therefore, the building does not contribute to the historic district.

We have enclosed a copy of Department of the Interior regulations that outline in section 67.10 the process for appealing this decision. Should you wish to enter an appeal, please comment by letter to the Chief Appeals Officer, Cultural Resources, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Org. 2270, Washington, D.C. 20240. A copy of this decision will be forwarded to the Internal Revenue Service.

If you have any questions about the review of your application, please contact Jo Ellen Hensley of our office at (202) 354-2026.

Sincerely,

for Rebecca A. Shiffa
for Sharon C. Park, FAIA, Chief
Technical Preservation Services

Enclosure.

cc: IRS
MA SHPO
David Michael Lieb, 77 Webb Street, Salem, MA 01970

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Historic Preservation Certification Application
State Historic Preservation Office Review & Recommendation Sheet
Significance--Part 1

Project number: 15620

NUMBER
1

Crown Theater
(Property)
115 Main Street Amherst, MA 01913
Amherst and Salisbury Mills Historic District
(Historic District)

☒ NR District ☐ Certified State or Local district

Date application received by State 12/10/04
Date(s) additional information requested by State 12/14/04
Date complete information received by State: 12/30/04
Date of transmittal to NPS: 1/27/05
Property visited by State staff? ☐ yes, ☐ no

Preliminary done

SHPO REVIEW SUMMARY

- ☒ Fully reviewed by SHPO
☒ No outstanding concerns
☒ Owner informed of SHPO recommendation
☐ In-depth NPS review requested
☐ Recommendation different from applicant's request

NUMBER
2

STATE RECOMMENDATION:

Ryan Marley, who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, has reviewed this application.

- ☒ The property is included within the boundaries of a registered historic district, contributes to the significance of the district, and is a "certified historic structure" for the purpose of rehabilitation.
☐ The property is included within the boundaries of a registered historic district, contributes to the significance of the district, and is a "certified historic structure" for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code.
☐ The property does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.
☐ Insufficient documentation has been provided to evaluate the structure.
☐ This application is being forwarded without recommendation

Preliminary determinations:

- ☐ The property appears to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will be nominated individually.
☐ The property does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will not be nominated
☐ The property appears to contribute to the significance of a:
☐ potential historic district that appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely be nominated
☐ registered historic district but is outside the period(s) or areas of significance as documented in the National Register nomination or district documentation on file with the NPS and nomination will be amended
☐ The property is located in a proposed historic district and:
☐ The property does not appear to contribute to the significance of the proposed historic district
☐ The proposed historic district does not appear to meet the NR criteria for Evaluation and will not be nominated

1/27/05
Date

Brona Surin
State Official Signature

☐ Extensive loss or deterioration of historic fabric☐ Moved property☐ Substantial alterations over time☐ State recommendation inconsistent with NR documentation☐ Significance less than 50 years old☐ Functionally related complex or multiple buildings within an individual nomination☐ Obscured or covered elevation(s)☐ OtherNUMBER
4

Complete items below as appropriate:

(1) 1641-1916 is the period(s) of significance of the district.(2) The property is mentioned in the NR or state or local district documentation, Section 7, Page 4.

(3) For preliminary determinations, the status of the nomination for the property/historic district:

☐ Nomination has already been submitted to State Review Board, and will be forwarded to the NPS within _____ months. Draft nomination is enclosed.☐ Nomination was submitted to NPS on _____☐ Nomination process will likely be completed within thirty months.☐ Other, explain: _____(4) ☐ The property is located in a registered district but its current condition is inconsistent with the determination of its contribution to the district as stated in the nomination. Supplemental Listing Record requested.NUMBER
5

Describe problematic issues or other concerns.

☒ See attachments: ☒ photographs ☒ maps ☐ other: _____

NPS COMMENTS:

The Theater has been highly altered after the H.D. period of significance. Does not contribute.

Date

2/15/05

National Park Service Reviewer

J. Ellen Hunsley

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION APPLICATION
PART 1 - EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

NPS Office Use Only

NRIS No:

NPS Office Use Only

Project No:

JAN 31 2005

15620

Instructions: Read the instructions carefully before completing application. No certifications will be made unless a completed application form has been received. Type or print clearly in black ink. If additional space is needed, use continuation sheets or attach blank sheets.

1. Name of Property: Crown Theater Site (Strand Theater Building)

Address of Property: Street 115 Main Street

City Amesbury

County Essex

State MA

Zip 01913

Name of historic district: Amesbury and Salisbury Mills Historic District

☐ National Register district

☒ certified state or local district

☐ potential district

2. Check nature of request:

☒ certification that the building contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district (or National Register property) for the purpose of rehabilitation.

☐ certification that the structure or building, and where appropriate, the land area on which such structure or building is located contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes

☐ certification that the building does not contribute to the significance of the above-named historic district.

☐ preliminary determination for individual listing in the National Register.

☐ preliminary determination that a building located within a potential historic district contributes to the significance of the district.

☐ preliminary determination that a building outside the period or area of significance contributes to the significance of the district.

3. Project contact:

Name David Michael Lieb, AIA LIEBSTUDIOS: architecture

Street 77 Webb Street

City Salem

State MA

Zip 01970

Daytime Telephone Number 978-745-9541

4. Owner:

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is, to the best of my knowledge, correct, and that I own the property described above. I understand that falsification of factual representations in this application is subject to criminal sanctions of up to \$10,000 in fines or imprisonment for up to five years pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1001.

Name Richard A. Fournier, CPA

Signature [Signature]

Date 12/29/04

Organization MASS Realty Trust

Social Security or Taxpayer Identification Number 04-6815195

Street 5 East Main Street, Suite 5

City Merrimac

State MA

Zip 01860

Daytime Telephone Number (978) 346-4591

NPS Office Use Only

The National Park Service has reviewed the "Historic Certification Application - Part 1" for the above-named property and hereby determines that the property:

☐ contributes to the significance of the above-named district (or National Register property) and is a "certified historic structure" for the purpose of rehabilitation.

☐ contributes to the significance of the above-named district and is a "certified historic structure" for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes in accordance with the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980.

☒ does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.

Preliminary determinations:

☐ appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer according to the procedures set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

☐ does not appear to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely not be listed in the National Register.

☐ appears to contribute to the significance of a potential historic district, which will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

☐ appears to contribute to the significance of a registered historic district but is outside the period or area of significance as documented in the National Register nomination or district documentation on file with the NPS.

☐ does not appear to qualify as a certified historic structure.

2/15/2005
Date

[Signature]
National Park Service Authorized Signature

NPS / TPS
National Park Service Office/Telephone No.

See Attachments

See Letter

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION APPLICATION –

PART 1

Crown Theater Site (Strand Theater Building)

Property Name

115 Main Street Amesbury, MA

Property Address

NPS Office Use Only

Project Number:

5. Description of physical appearance:

The existing Crown Theater (Strand Theater Building) lies within the registered Amesbury and Salisbury Mills Historic District and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (refer to MHC letter dated June 30, 2004 copy attached).

The one-story, shed roofed, wood, brick veneer, and vinyl sided building, rectangular in shape, was constructed in 1912. The building displays the façade structure from the 1947 façade renovation that features a shed roofed, Neo-Colonial tower with dentilated pediment and simple articulated frieze, non-structural, non-decorative painted wood pilasters, theater marquee of painted aluminum and acrylic marquee sign board with interior illumination boxes. The marquee has steel "eye" hooks at the parapet where cables would have tied back to the theater façade frieze. The storefront at the tower entry is aluminum, non-insulated. The tower entry is clad in a metal and masonite paneling system. The 1947 entry red ruby colored terrazzo sloped flooring remains and is in fair condition. The building's storefront is a single-story consisting of brick veneer base, non-insulated/non-thermal break glass and aluminum storefront window system. The storefront façade above the window system is comprised of wood stile and rail detail and a decorative mansard roof at the parapet clad in wood shakes, neither system original to the 1947 renovation but rather part of façade improvements believed to have been undertaken in 1983.

Overall the façade is in physical disrepair with water penetrating the façade envelope through rotted wood non-structural elements, the marquee causing interior damage to the interior illuminated light boxes, and at the storefront where condensation and resulting mildew and rotting are observed. The marquee has been modified and re-clad since 1947. The tower's historic decorative pediment trim, ruby red terrazzo entry flooring and theater marquee remain as the primary architectural elements having historical significance to the building and the Amesbury and Salisbury Historic District.

The tenant 1 space accessed at the tower entry is now used as a gymnastics studio and houses the space formerly used as the theater auditorium. At the rear of the building interior (space used as gymnastics tenant's offices and storage) parts of tin ceiling systems and velvet clad acoustical panels are observed, now covered by gypsum wallboard and acoustical tile ceiling systems. The tenant 2 retain space was constructed within the theater building envelope and accessed from street level by three steps.

Date of Construction: 1912

Source of Date: Kathleen O'Brien Notebook

Date(s) of Alteration(s): 1919, 1947, 1961, 1978

Has building been moved? ☐ yes ☒ no If so, when?

6. Statement of significance: In 1887, the Amesbury Opera House was built on the site and at that time served as one of the largest non-industrial buildings in the Town. The four-story structure combined stores and offices in addition to an auditorium and stage suitable for full-scale theatrical productions. On March 18, 1899, a fire destroyed the Amesbury Opera House along with the adjacent Bahan and Bartlett-Bagley Block. Across Main Street the Rand-Adams Block and the St. James Episcopal Church were also destroyed. The other surrounding buildings were re-built, however, the Amesbury Opera House was not.

The lot stood vacant until 1912, when the Crown Theater was built by Forrest G. Kimball. The theater was successful in its early years due to the increasing local automobile body industry, presenting films and vaudeville acts. (refer to Photo A)

In 1920 the theater underwent the first of several renovations, re-opening as the Strand Theater (to which the building now holds as its name), displaying a detailed stucco façade with simple, rectangular marquis supported by cast iron columns that extended out over the sidewalk. The theater entry and ticket booth was centered between two mercantile storefronts with large, glazed windows, grilled transoms above, that sat on a 2' high stucco base, and two sets of awnings (first above the entire storefront, the second below the transom windows and above the storefront windows). The roof had a low pitch with an approx. 18" overhang, with Italianate detailing and angles at the overhang, and elegant Italianate detailing at the main façade with contrasting stucco colors. Upon observing the existing building we were able to identify tin crown moldings and decorative fabric and molding panels used for acoustical treatments consistent with the 1920 renovation. (refer to Photo B)

In 1947, the theater again closed for renovations. The detailed Italianate façade that patrons had come to know as the Strand was removed and replaced with what has been described as a "modern façade." The theater was also described as "one of the nicest theaters on the Northshore." It is believed, that the façade as it exists today contains elements of the 1947 renovation including a neoclassical tower and modern aluminum and glass storefront system. The theater entry was moved from the center of the building to the left side (when facing the structure), with a new entry and terrazzo floors installed.

In 1958, the Strand Theater closed, ending 71 years of the site housing community entertainment businesses. In 1961, the Strand Theater building was purchased and converted to the Kyanize hardware company by Frank N. Cynewski. In 1974, the business was sold to Walter Jardis who ran the business with his son until the current owner purchased the property in 1983. Since 1983, the building has housed various mercantile shops and businesses. (refer to Photo C and Photo D) 2004 (refer to Photo E) for existing building. The existing structure in 2004 remains as an architectural icon of the c. 1940's transition of many pre-war and post-war "Main Streets" in the United States. The age of the building allows many existing town residents to recall the wonder of the Strand Theater's "modern showplace" and the building stands as an integral reminder of the importance of the community showhouse to many small industrial towns in the Northeast and across the country. Maintaining the tower historic decorative dentiling, terrazzo entry flooring, and restoration of the marquee are integral in supporting the building's significance.

7. Photographs and maps.

Attach photographs and maps to application

Continuation sheets attached: ☒ yes ☐ no

5. DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

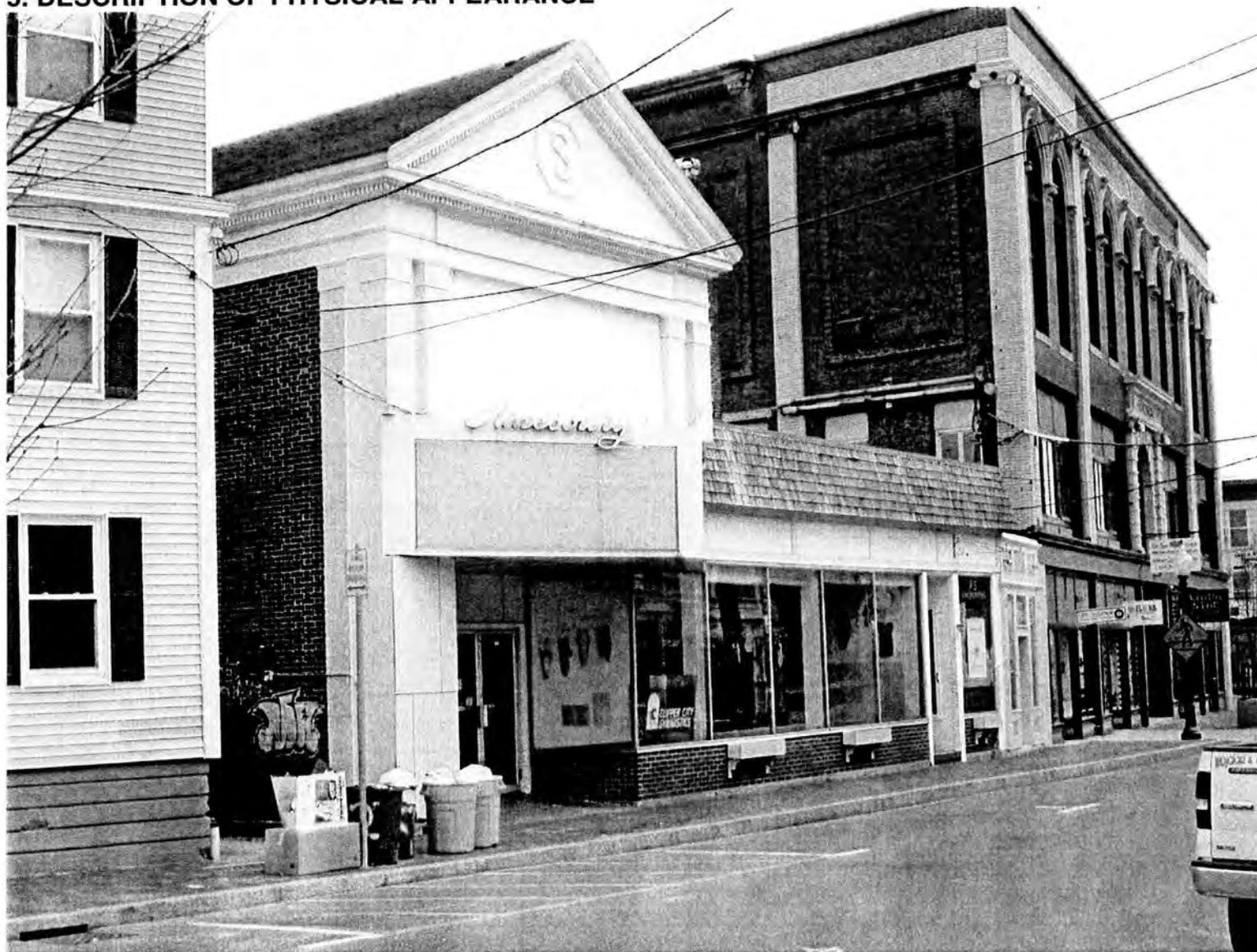
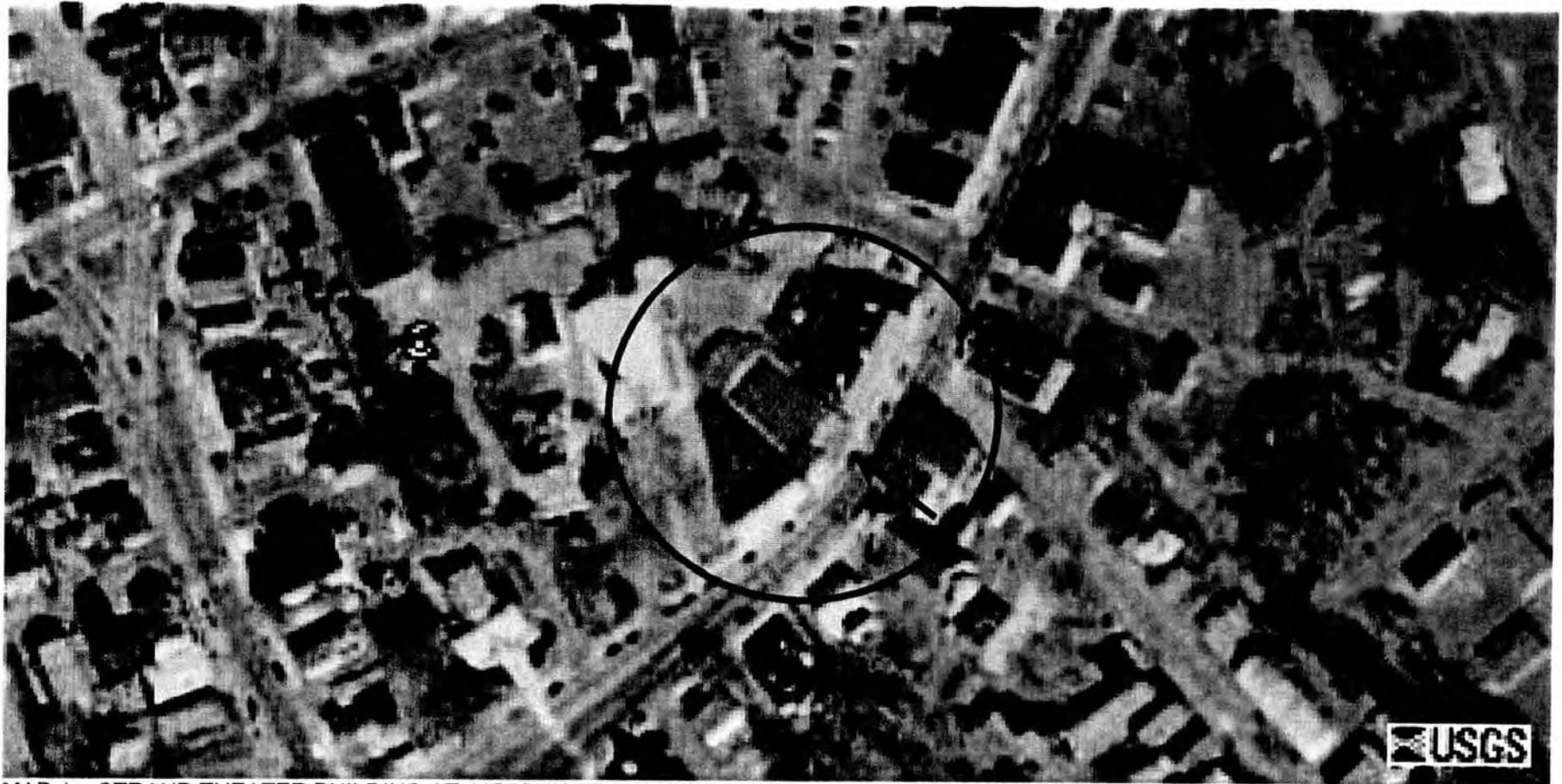
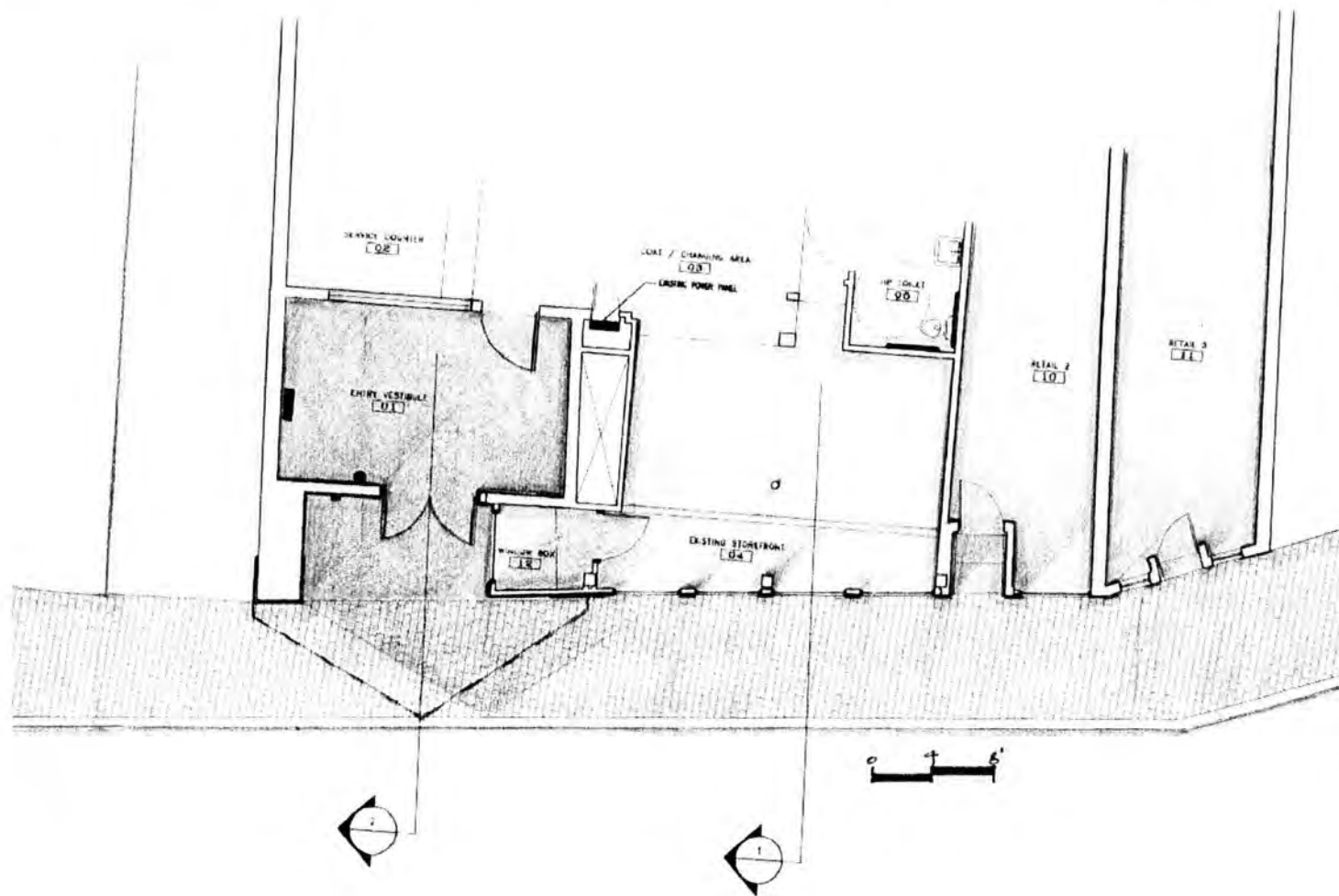


PHOTO 1 – STRAND THEATER BUILDING – PERSPECTIVE VIEW 2004



MAP 1 - STRAND THEATER BUILDING AT 115 MAIN STREET (RED MARKER INDICATES LOCATION OF TOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS).

Crown Theater (Strand Theater Building), 115 Main Street, Amesbury, MA Part 1 – Historic Preservation Certification Application



MAP 2 - STRAND THEATER BUILDING AT 115 MAIN STREET

6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE



MAIN STREET, AMESBURY, MASS.
PHOTO A – C. 1912 CROWN THEATER BUILT BY FORREST G. KIMBALL ON SITE OF THE AMESBURY OPERA HOUSE – PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE AMESBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY RESEARCH DESK (THEATER'S ARCHWAY VISIBLE AT LEFT).

Crown Theater (Strand Theater Building), 115 Main Street, Amesbury, MA Part 1 – Historic Preservation Certification Application



Delivered by Miller's Photo Agency

Strand Theater, Amesbury, Mass.

Nov. 1919

PHOTO B- C. 1919 RENOVATION OF CROWN THEATER INTO THE STRAND THEATER. ITALIANATE FAÇADE AND STUCCO DETAILING VISIBLE. CAST IRON MARQUEE AND TENANT STOREFRONTS VISIBLE. PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE AMESBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY RESEARCH DESK.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H32(2280)

MAR 14 2005

Memorandum

To: Chief, Heritage Preservation Services Division, WASO

From: *for* Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, WASO *Patrick Andrews*

Subject: Request for National Register Review of Historic Preservation Certification
Application: Strand Theater Building, 115 Main Street, Amesbury, Massachusetts
(Project Number 15620)

Thank you for your request that we review the status of the Strand Theater Building, 115 Main Street, Amesbury, Massachusetts (Project Number 15620) as it relates to the significance of the Amesbury and Salisbury Mills Village Historic District. The Amesbury and Salisbury Mills Village Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 16, 1985. The National Register nomination form for the district categorized the Strand Theater building (called the Crown theater in the nomination form) at 115 Main Street as contributing to the significance of the historic district. We have reviewed the documentation included in the "Historic Preservation Certification Application -- Part 1" for this building and we concur in the recommendation of your office that the Strand Theater building does not contribute to the district's significance. A Supplementary Listing Record (copy enclosed) has been issued officially amending the nomination to change the status of the Strand Theater building to non-contributing.

We are returning the original file documentation you submitted for our review.

Enclosure