

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

1 NAME East India Marine Hall; Peabody Academy of Science, Peabody Museum of Salem
HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 161 Essex Street (East India Square)

CITY, TOWN Salem VICINITY OF _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Sixth
STATE Massachusetts CODE 025 COUNTY Essex CODE 009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Board of Trustees, Peabody Museum of Salem

STREET & NUMBER 161 Essex Street, East India Square

CITY, TOWN Salem VICINITY OF Massachusetts 01970 STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Essex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Salem, Massachusetts STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

East India Marine Hall, erected in 1824-25, stands on the south side of Essex Street (now Essex Mall in this block), just west of Liberty Street. The unidentified architect created a handsome and dignified composition, constructed in granite on the narrow front and brick on the long sides and rear. The two-story, gable-roofed building measures approximately 45 by 100 feet,

The seven-bay facade is relatively unaltered. A thin belt course divides the two floors. The post-and-lintel arrangement on the lower level contains multi-pane windows in the first, third, fifth, and seventh bays. Similar windows replace original doors in the remaining three bays. Slender pilasters separate the tall, round-arched windows that line the second floor. The name of the structure is cut in a granite panel just below the cornice. A glazed bull's-eye is set in the pedimented gable.

The interior of the structure has seen changes in both plan and detail. Originally a central corridor and stairhall divided the ground floor along its longitudinal axis. Businesses rented the spaces on either side. The names of the first occupants, the Asiatic Bank and the Oriental Insurance Company, were cut in the belt course and are still visible. The East India Marine Society's great hall occupied the entire second floor.

In 1867-69 the Peabody Academy of Science carried out an extensive remodeling of the structure. The first floor was converted to large front and rear exhibit rooms separated by a corridor and stairhall running across the building along the narrow axis. The doors on the facade were closed off and new formal entrances were created at either side. One-story additions contained corridors linking these to the central hall. The great room on the second floor retained its basic shape but lost much original architectural detail. Many of these elements were restored in 1943, but the altered plan was left intact.

Beginning in the late 19th century extensive additions were made to East India Marine Hall to house the steadily growing collections and provide administrative and curatorial offices. These units have almost completely obscured the old block on the east and south (rear). The eastern entrance corridor was demolished in the construction of the latest addition. Dedicated in 1976, it is a massive wing containing exhibit areas, education and audio visual rooms, and a museum shop. (See accompanying floorplan).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1799; 1824; 1867

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Not Known

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Peabody Museum of Salem, founded in 1799 by the East India Marine Society, is the oldest continuously-operated museum in the United States. East India Marine Hall, dedicated in 1825, was the first structure built specifically for the organization.

Twenty-two Salem shipmasters met on August 31, 1799, and agreed to form the East India Marine Society. Membership was limited to captains and supercargoes who had sailed around the Cape of Good Hope or Cape Horn. The society listed three aims in its articles of October 14, 1799. The first goal was to aid the families of deceased members; the second, to collect information pertaining to navigation; the third, to create a museum. Special efforts were to be made to collect objects from the southwestern Pacific relating to Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia. On March 3, 1801, the organization was incorporated.

The society immediately became a vigorous one. During its first 12 years the group held annual celebrations which featured colorful parades through the streets of Salem and formal dinners. On the more serious side, the organization undertook to formalize the collection of navigational information by issuing blank forms for ships' journals; the first of these appear in 1801. On January 4, 1804, Nathaniel Bowditch became the society's Inspector of Journals; he held that office for 16 years and produced 12 volumes of journals, which included the histories of more than 100 voyages. The society's museum collections grew steadily in the early years. A catalogue prepared in 1821 listed 2,269 artifacts. Ten years later the collection had grown to 4,299 items. The society also supported scientific expeditions, among them the Wilkes Expedition.

The society moved several times before erecting its own building. It originally occupied space at the corner of Essex and Washing Streets, but the rapid accession of objects forced it to move to a bank building on Essex Street in 1804. Twenty years later the society built the East India Marine Hall and formally dedicated it on October 14, 1825, with the help of President John Quincy Adams and other prominent men.

The decades following the completion of the new building cut short the early promise of the Salem East India Marine Society. Salem's commerce had so declined by 1850 that the decreasing number of members began to consider selling museum items in order to raise necessary funds. At this juncture, George Peabody, a wealthy expatriate, saved the situation. Through his

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Junior League of Boston, Inc. Along the Coast of Essex County (Boston, 1970)
 Whitehill, Walter M. The East India Marine Society and the Peabody Museum
 of Salem: A Sesquicentennial history (Salem, 1949). Independent Historic
 Societies (Boston, 1962)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	119	31414	41810	4171010	21110	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C						D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the national historic landmark designation for the Peabody Museum of Salem is coterminous with the exterior line of the foundation of the museum complex, including the original building and additions. The latter units are made part of the designation because of their value as symbols of the museum's continuous operation and growth.

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

NHL Boundary Review Project (original inventory form by S. S. Bradford, 1965)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

National Register of Historic Places

December 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

440 G Street NW

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Washington D.C. 20243

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

10/12/83

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

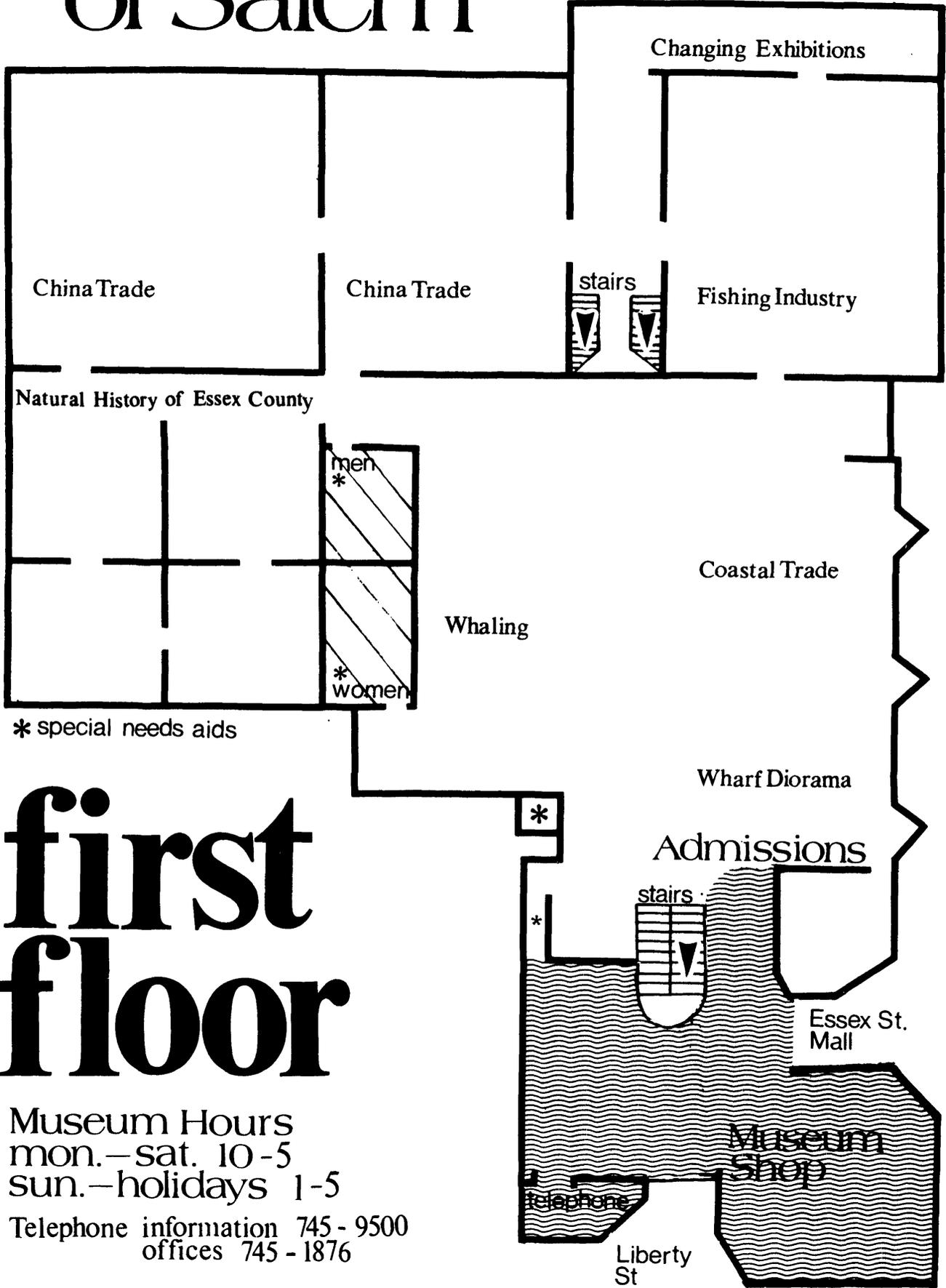
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generosity in 1867, a trust fund of \$140,000 enabled a body that became known as the Peabody Academy of Science (changed to the present name in 1915) to purchase the society's collections and hall. At about the same time, the new organization bought the ethnological and natural history collections of Salem's Essex Institute.

The Peabody Museum has carried on the educational purpose of the East India Marine Society. The permanent collections are divided into three areas: maritime history, including paintings, figureheads, navigating instruments, and China Trade items; ethnology of non-European peoples, with special emphasis on the Pacific and Far East; and natural history, including important specimens from all over the world and a comprehensive collection from Essex County, Massachusetts. The museum's research library contains 100,000 printed volumes; manuscript collections of log books, shipping accounts, and journals; as well as ships' plans, maps, and charts. In addition the museum preserves about one million photographs and negatives, some dating back to 1860.

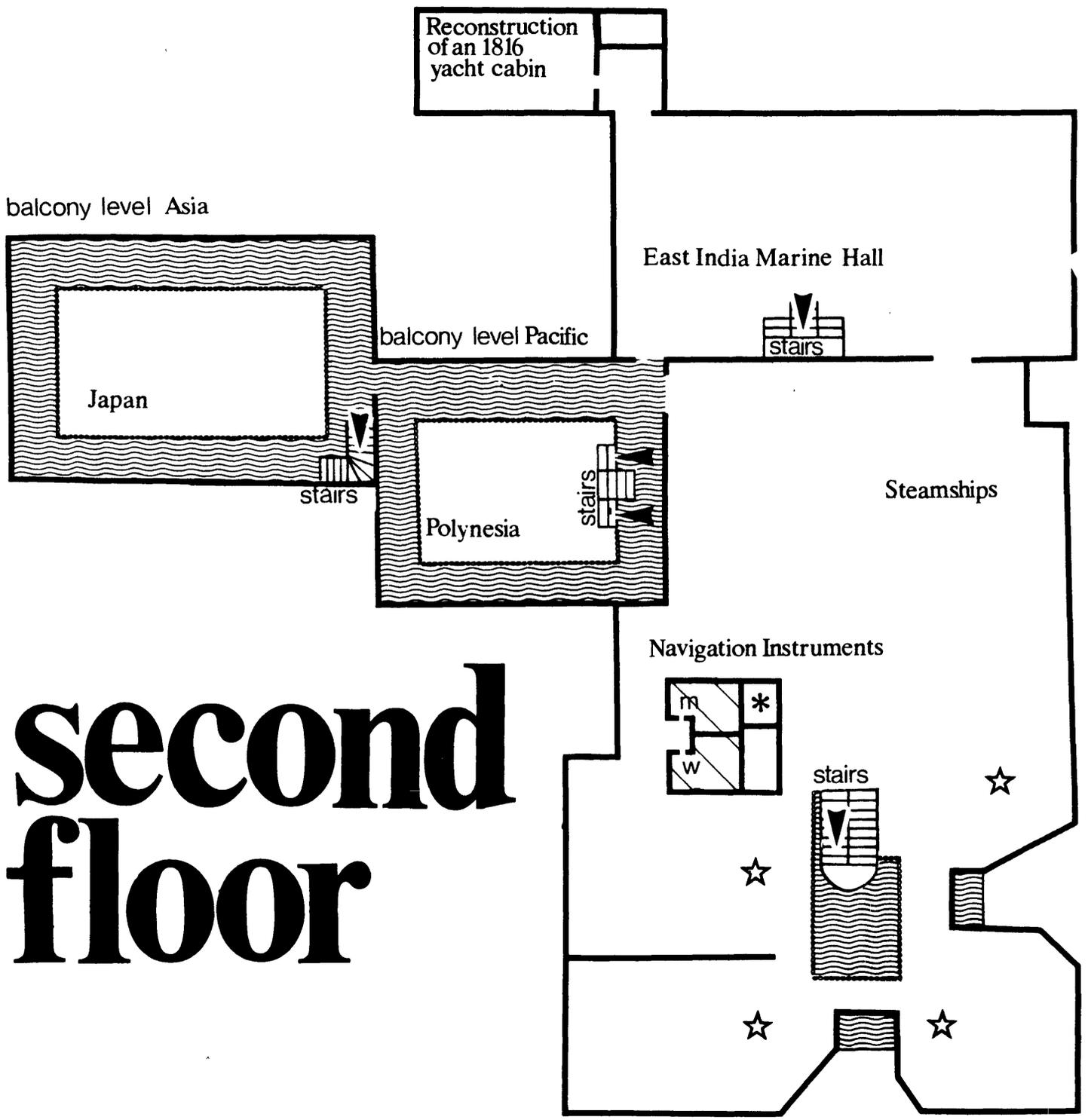
May 13

Peabody Museum of Salem



first floor

Museum Hours
 mon. - sat. 10 - 5
 sun. - holidays 1 - 5
 Telephone information 745 - 9500
 offices 745 - 1876



second floor

☆ Changing Exhibitions