

PH0006335

DB-72-000-149
HB no utm

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Town Hall Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Old Town Hall Historic District

2. LOCATION Cong. District #6, Michael J. Harrington

STREET AND NUMBER:
#215-231 Essex St., #121-145 Washington St., #6-34 Front St., Derby Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Salem

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025 COUNTY: Essex CODE: 009

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PUBLIC ACQUISITION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		
STATUS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Public and private

STREET AND NUMBER:
see above location

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Federal Street

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

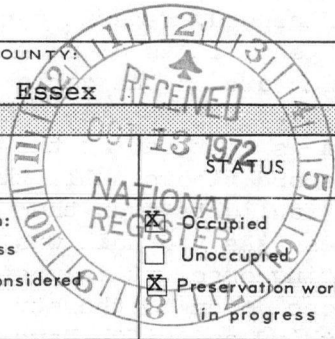
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Town Hall Historic District includes eleven brick buildings of the Federalist period (1780-1830) and seven which were built within the next fifty years. Together they represent the best remaining small area of early commercial buildings in downtown Salem. This compact area extends from the southeast corner of Washington and Essex Streets, along Essex Street to include the building east of Derby Square and both sides of the Square to Front Street including the buildings on either side of the southern end of Derby Square. The district also includes numbers 6 through 34 Front Street as well as 125 through 145 Washington Street.

The Old Town Hall was built in 1816 and is an excellent example of a Bulfinch-influenced, Federal period public building. Five bays wide and eleven bays deep, it is a brick structure with a pitched roof. The main facades, which are on the gable ends and face north and south, are pedimented, accented by a wooden cornice with modillions and ornamented by fanlights. A small cupola is centered on the ridgepole. A belt course runs between the first and second floors. All the doorways and windows have rounded tops, with simple fanlights over the first floor windows which are recessed in narrow arches. As the Hall was originally built to be a market house as well as meetinghouse, it is possible that these first floor recessed window areas were once open to the street. On the south facade three entrances in the first, third and fifth bays are reached by a flight of granite steps; at the north end the center entrance is at street level. Above both north and south central entrances are Palladian windows.

The large square brick building at 231 Essex Street (Low's Building) dominates the junction of Essex and Washington Streets. Three bays wide, the original Greek Revival structure (1826) faces on Essex Street and has a pitched roof. This facade has a large pediment with dentilled cornice; tall round-topped windows two stories in height rise from the second floor while the first floor has shop windows with a center entrance. In 1877 the west elevation was altered by the addition of Gothic style towers. This west facade, five bays wide, is three stories high with Gothic windows on the third floor and a canopied first floor center entrance. A new course of brick was laid over the old on the north facade and square granite blocks were set in an arched pattern above all the windows, both old and new.

The Hale Building at 221-225 Essex Street was built c. 1874 and is the only Salem example of a cast iron front. It is five stories high with a bracketed cornice and sides and rear of brick. The facade fenestration, seven bays wide, varies on each floor, the window sizes decreasing as they ascend and each level of windows headed in a different style.

The brick Naumkeag Bank at 217 Essex Street was built at the turn of the 19th century and is a fine example of Colonial Revival architecture. It is three stories high with a wooden cornice of modillions and dentils topped by a balustrade. Three bays wide on the facade and six on the east elevation, the building's center entrance is recessed and has Doric pilasters with a fanlight above. On the third floor, the round arches of the windows are emphasized by a similar arch of granite blocks set in the wall above them.

The row of three attached brick buildings at #7 - 9 Derby Square (c.1816) were built by Pickman and Derby. The structures are two stories high with pitched roofs, above which extends the party walls. There are two round windows in the gable end of the southern building. The original first floor windows and doors, arched and with fanlights, will be restored.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Old Town Hall Historic District, Salem

8. Significance (continued)

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

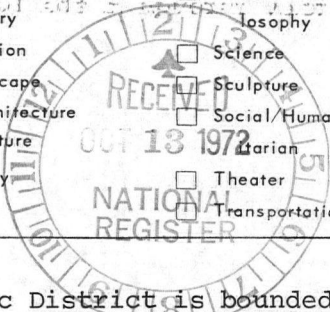
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1629, 1816, 1826, 1874

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

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

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

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

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

(continued)

UTM
205C19
E 344310
N 4709160

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Gazette newspaper, Salem, 1816

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

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

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

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		42° 31' 16"	70° 53' 43"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **c. 5 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Elizabeth R. Amadon, Regional Director

ORGANIZATION: **Massachusetts Historical Commission** DATE: **July 22, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Boston** STATE: **Massachusetts** CODE: **025**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u><i>John F. X. Davoren</i></u> JOHN F. X. DAVOREN</p> <p>Title: <u>Secretary of the Commonwealth</u> <u>Chairman of the Mass. Historical Commission</u></p> <p>Date: <u>October 4, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>Robert W. Utley</i></u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>12/4/72</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>William J. Bennett</i></u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>11.28.72</u></p>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



THE
Pewter Pot
MUFFIN HOUSE

WASHINGTON ST

Herz
Rental Service

DANIEL LOW & CO.

DANIEL LOW & CO.

WALK & BUY
AT
DANIEL LOW & CO.

#2 -
Old Town Hall Historic District, Salem

NPS Number Dec 4 1972

Title: Old Town Hall Historic District

Old Town Hall Historic District

#2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

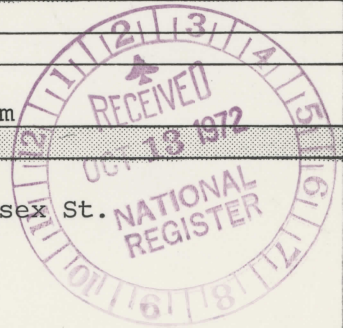
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Old Town Hall Historic District			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Town Hall Historic District			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: #215-231 Essex St., #121-145 Washington St., #6-34 Front St., Derby Square			
CITY OR TOWN: Salem			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Essex	CODE 009
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Salem Redevelopment Authority			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1972			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Salem Redevelopment Authority, 60 Washington St., Salem			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Low Building, southeast corner of Washington and Essex St.			





SALEM HARDWARE CO.

Subway
MARKET

COR

#8

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

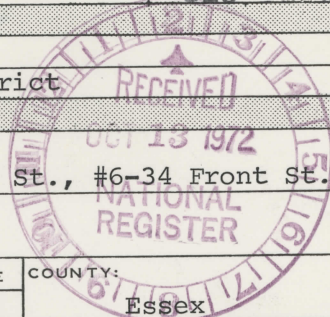
COMMON: Old Town Hall Historic District
AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Town Hall Historic District

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
#215-231 Essex St., #121-145 Washington St., #6-34 Front St., Derby Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Salem

STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Essex	CODE 009
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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Salem Redevelopment Authority

DATE OF PHOTO: 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT:
Salem Redevelopment Authority, 60 Washington St., Salem

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Old Town Hall in Derby Square looking north from Front Street

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

11 1972

#8 - Old Town Hall Historic District, Salem

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

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

1. NAME

COMMON: Old Town Hall Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Town Hall Historic District

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

#215-231 Essex St., #121-145 Washington St., #6-34 Front St., Derby Square

CITY OR TOWN:

Salem

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Essex

CODE

009

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

Supplementary map - Salem Redevelopment Authority

SCALE: 1" = 60'

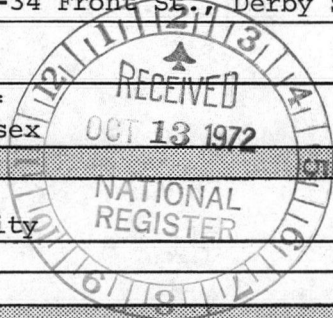
DATE: 1972

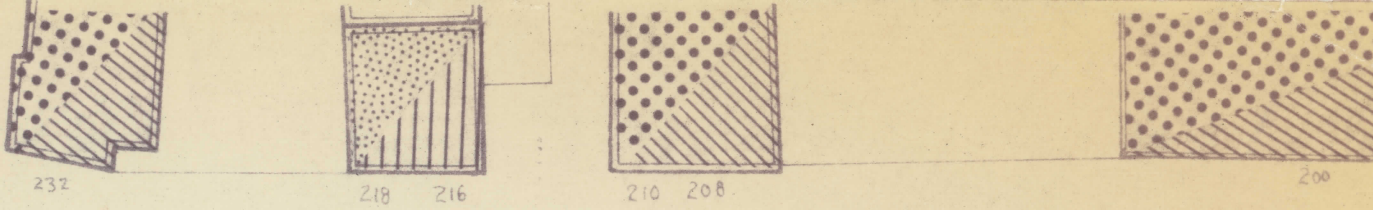
4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

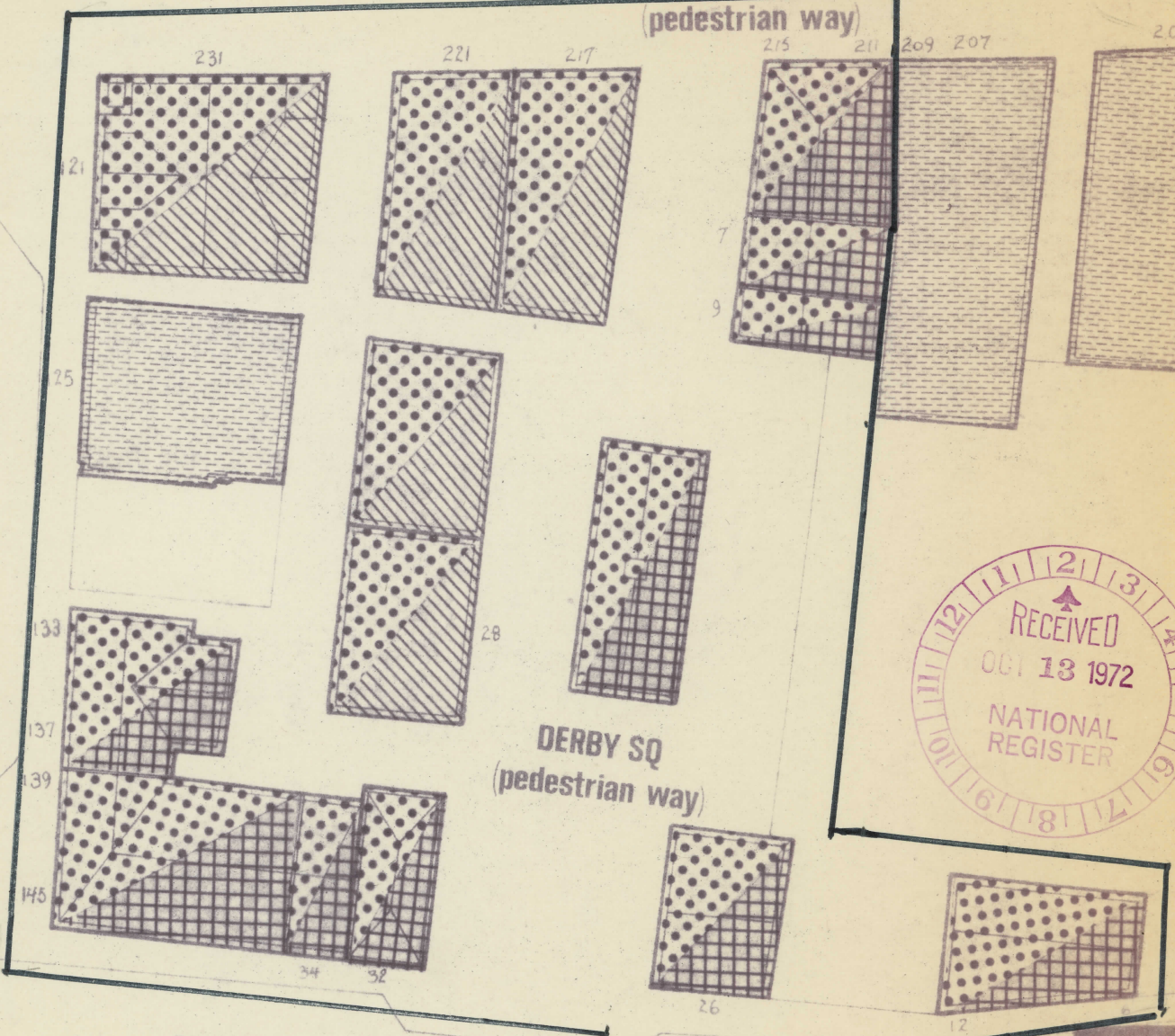
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





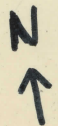
ESSEX ST
(pedestrian way)



DERBY SQ
(pedestrian way)

WASHINGTON ST

FRONT ST



PRINTED ON 920H CHARPRINT VELLUM

Old Town Hall Historic District
Salem, Mass.

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

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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Old Town Hall Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Town Hall Historic District

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

#215-231 Essex St., #121-145 Washington St., #6-34 Front St., Derby Square

CITY OR TOWN:

Salem

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Essex

CODE

009

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

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

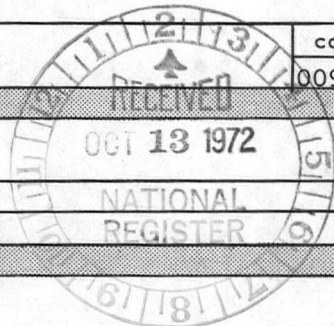
SCALE: 1: 24,000

DATE: 1956

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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



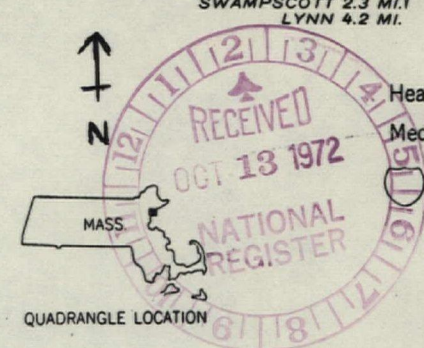
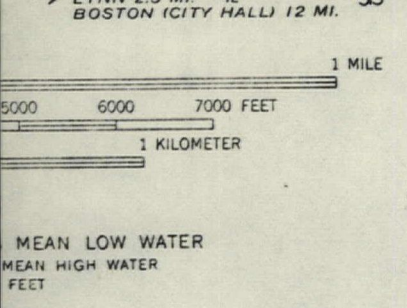
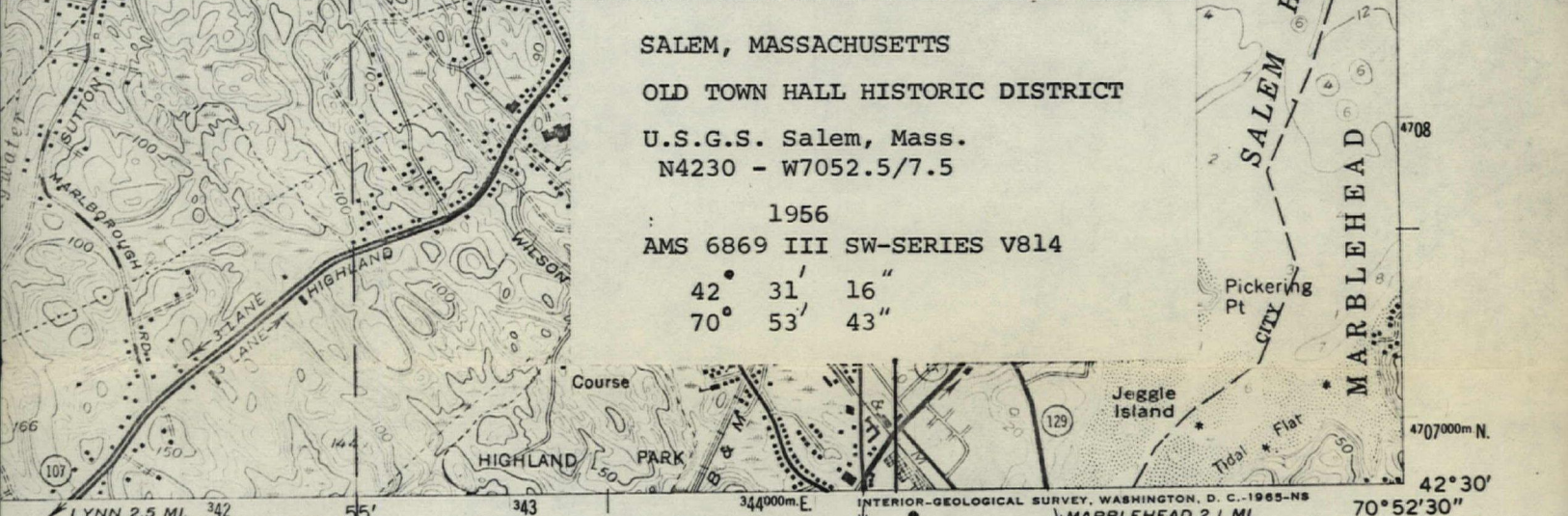


**SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
OLD TOWN HALL HISTORIC DISTRICT**

U.S.G.S. Salem, Mass.
N4230 - W7052.5/7.5

1956
AMS 6869 III SW-SERIES V814

42° 31' 16"
70° 53' 43"



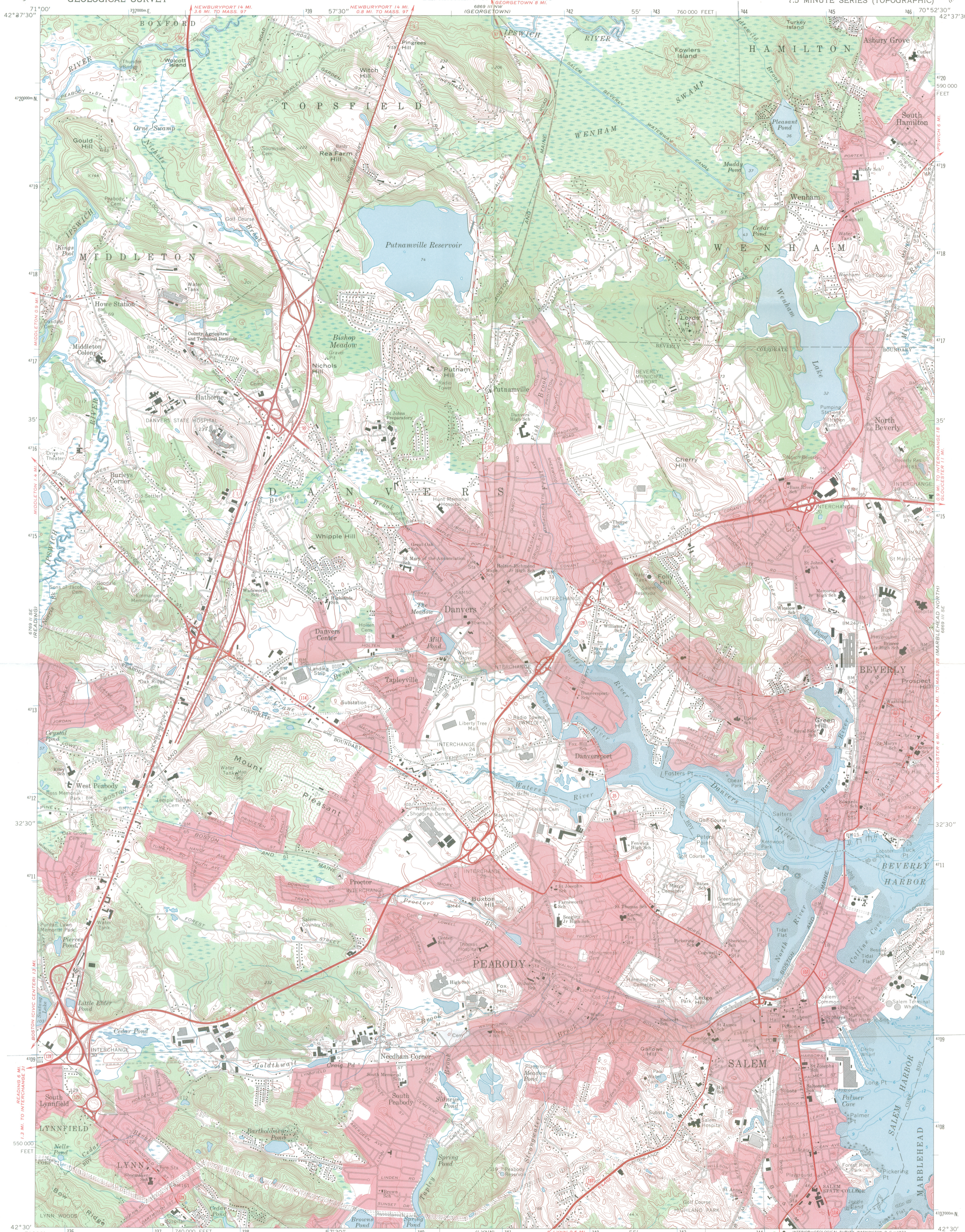
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	—————
Medium-duty	—————	Unimproved dirt	- - - - -
Interstate Route	⬢	U. S. Route	⬢
		State Route	○

SALEM, MASS.
N4230—W7052.5/7.5

BY STANDARDS
INGTON 25, D. C.
S AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

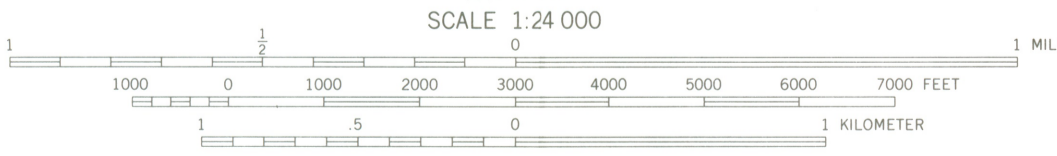
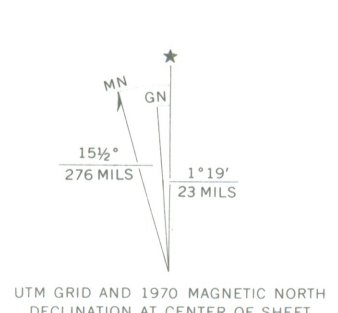
1956
AMS 6869 III SW-SERIES V814



Zone 19
E 344310
N 4709160

JTM
Zone 19
E 344310
N 4709160
WM
9-11-75

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1938. Topography by planimetric surveys 1942
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USCGS Charts 240 and
241 (1970). This information is not intended
for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Boundaries in tidal water areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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



SALEM, MASS.
N4230—W7052.5/7.5
1970
AMS 6869 III SW—SERIES V814



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

State House, Boston 02133

John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

~~The Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation~~

~~National Park Service~~

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

~~Washington, D. C. 20005~~

Attention: Mrs. Sally Marusin

Registration & Nominations Branch
National Register of Historic Places
Room 3207 A

1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Sirs,

Enclosed are National Register submissions for:

Old Town Hall Historic District, Salem, Massachusetts



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

Sincerely yours,

Richard W. Hale Jr

Richard W. Hale, Jr.

Acting Chairman

Massachusetts Historical Commission

RWH:aw

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered DEC 4 1972

Name

Location

Old Town Hall Historic District

Salem
Essex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Michael J. Harrington

Director, Northeast Region

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

PHR

NRowland:mm

12/4/72