

FORM B - BUILDING

In Area no.	Form no.
26	462

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

1. Town Salem

Address 15 Summer Street

Name John P. Peabody House

Present use Offices

Present owner Bay Realty Trust  
Thomas W. Burke, Tr.  
5324M Camelot Dr.

3. Description: Fairfield, Ohio 45014

Date 1867-68

Source Tax records

Style Colonial Revival

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Wood

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features slate gambrel roof with  
triangular and segmental pedimented dormers  
entry with sidelights and fan

Altered No Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved No Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 8,160 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 71 ft.

Approximate distance of building from street  
12 ft.

6. Recorded by A. Crump

Organization Salem Redevelopment Authority

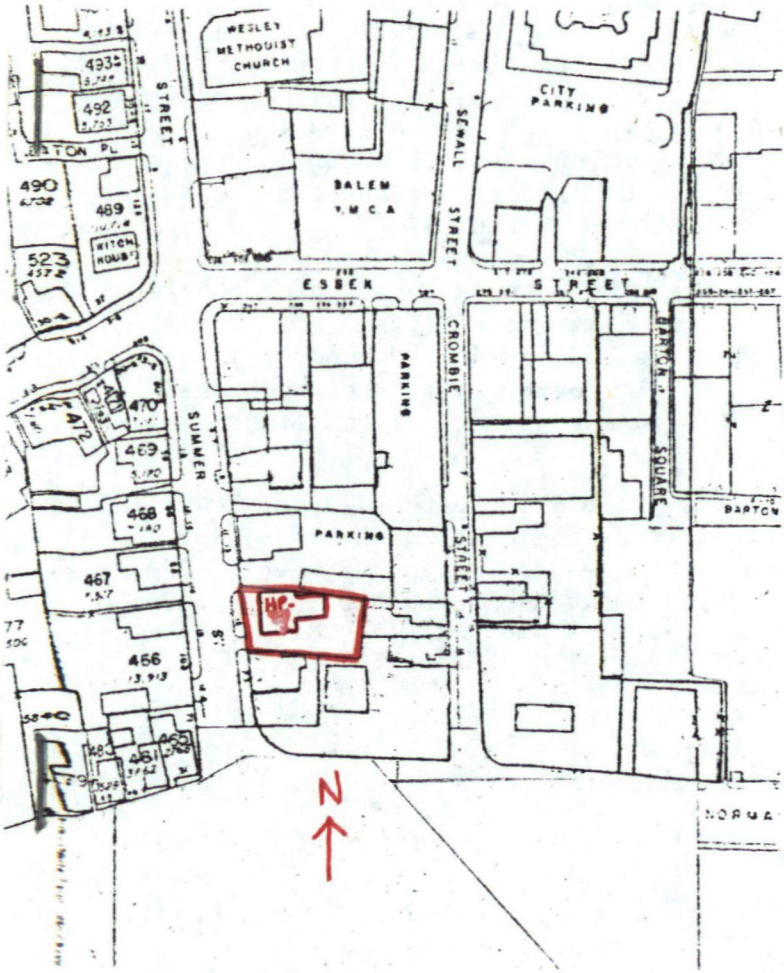
Date November 1979

UTM Reference: 19/344030/4709080

Assessor's Number: 26-462

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")  
Staple to left side of form  
Photo number \_\_\_\_\_

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location  
in relation to nearest cross streets and  
other buildings. Indicate north.



7. Original owner (if known) John P. Peabody

Original use Residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>x</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The residence built by Salem merchant John P. Peabody at 15 Summer Street in 1868 prefigures the emergence of the Colonial Revival style as a popular expression of patriotism in conjunction with the nation's Centennial celebration.

A grey slate gambrel roof dominates the composition of the two-story, three-bay facade. The central emphasis created by the fanlit doorway, framed by a square portico, is reinforced by the rhythmic bay configuration of the central second story window, and by the interruption of the pattern of the pedimented dormers with a single segmental pediment at the center. While the stylistic character of the building is primarily Colonial Revival, the contrast of the shiplap facade with clapboard side walls in conjunction with a broken pitch roof belies its derivation from the prevalent Mansard idiom. The generous setback from the street is unusual for its downtown location, and serves as an effective transition to the predominantly residential neighborhood across Summer Street.

John P. Peabody was a prosperous dry goods merchant whose business was prominently located in the center of Town House Square. He was also the publisher of Peabody's Fireside Favorite, a literary monthly. Peabody's social standing, combined with the presence of distinguished Colonial prototypes in the immediate vicinity, create a comprehensible context for the appearance of this stylistic expression well in advance of its popularization.

This Colonial Revival structure is one of a series of similar period and style buildings just east of the downtown area. The style was more predominant in the adjoining neighborhoods on Beckford St., Broad St., and Cambridge and Chestnut Streets. Possessing integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and setting, the Peabody House meets criteria B and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

City Directories  
Essex County Registry of Deeds

*Commerce  
Literature*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

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3 0 3

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Downtown Salem Multiple Resource Area  
State Massachusetts

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |     |                           |                                     |               |                                 |
|-----|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 1.  | Bowker Place              | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | Melous Byers 7/29/83            |
|     |                           |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |
| 2.  | Federal Street District   | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | Melous Byers 9/16/83            |
|     |                           |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |
| 3.  | First Universalist Church | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | Melous Byers 7/29/83            |
|     |                           |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |
| 4.  | Monroe, Bessie, House     | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | Melous Byers 7/29/83            |
|     |                           |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |
| 5.  | Downtown Salem District   | Substantive Review                  | for<br>Keeper | accept Patrick Andrews 10/18/83 |
|     |                           |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |
| 6.  | Peabody, John.P., House   | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | Melous Byers 7/29/83            |
|     |                           |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |
| 7.  | Salem Laundry             | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | Melous Byers 7/29/83            |
|     |                           |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |
| 8.  | Shepard Block             | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | Melous Byers 7/29/83            |
|     |                           |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |
| 9.  | Wesley Methodist Church   | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | Melous Byers 7/29/83            |
|     |                           |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |
| 10. | Crombie Street District   | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | Melous Byers 9/16/83            |
|     |                           |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |



Downtown Salem MRA, Ma  
Peabody, John P., House  
15 Summer St.

NOV 1979

Orange Prints

by Berkey

NOV 1979

1-21

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000277