

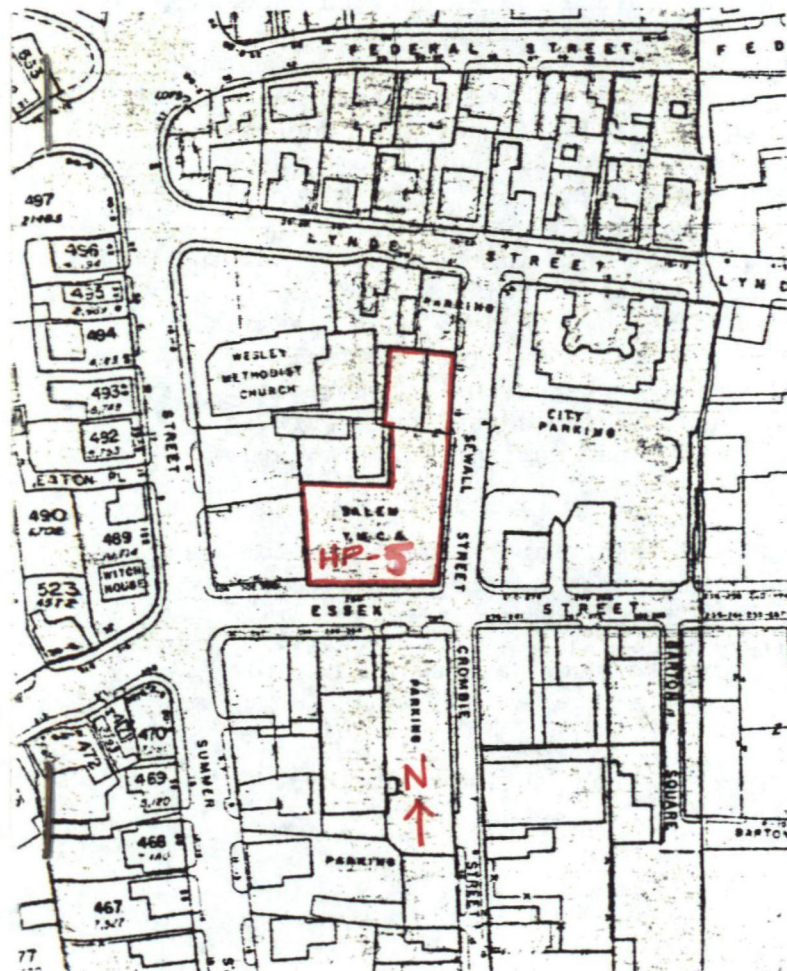
FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
26	438

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.



1. Town Salem ✓

Address 284-296 Essex Street ✓

Name YMCA ✓

Present use Institutional

Present owner Salem YMCA
288 Essex Street
Salem, Mass. 01970

3. Description:

Date 1898

Source Newspapers

Style Classical Revival

Architect Walter J. Paine

Exterior wall fabric Brick & Limestone

Outbuildings (describe) N/A

Other features monumental entry, pilastered
facade, frieze with swags

Altered removal of rooftop
trellis Date 1950s

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size: 35,985 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 185 ft.

Approximate distance of building from street

Adjacent

6. Recorded by A. Crump/A. Van Ingen

Organization SRA/Historic Salem Inc.

Date November 1979

UTM References: 19/344040/4709210

Assessor's Number: 26-438

7. Original owner (if known) YMCA

Original use Institutional

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

The Salem Y.M.C.A. is the finest local example of the Classical Revival style popular in the late 19th century. Walter J. Paine of Beverly designed the new facility at 284-296 Essex Street in 1898, incorporating commercial space and a theater with the recreational and residential facilities of the Y.

The ground floor of the three-story building is articulated as an English basement, containing storefronts and the elaborate center frontispiece marking the main entrance to the Y.M.C.A. Each bay is defined by an interruption of the wall plane. The center bay is flanked by two-story brick pilasters above the entrance, and the second and sixth bays break forward to match the projection of the frontispiece. The basement and classically-detailed trim are limestone. Although the rooftop loggia has been removed, the building retains a strong sense of the original design.

Judging from those examples of his work that were published in the prestigious periodical, American Architect and Building News, Walter J. Paine worked comfortably in a variety of styles. Two contemporary church designs were devoid of classical influence, but fully expressed the Shingle Style and the Romanesque Revival. This eclecticism was typical of the late 19th century, when architects frequently pursued several stylistic directions simultaneously. Paine's published work is uniformly competent and sophisticated, creating a logical context for his capable treatment of the Y.M.C.A.

The monumental presence of the Y.M.C.A. acts as an anchor for the western end of Essex Street, Salem's major commercial corridor. Its architectural importance is representative of the Y.M.C.A.'s prominent role in the community at the time of construction, and the building remains a significant element in the fabric of downtown Salem. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

(Continued)

Salem Evening News, April 11, 1898, February 3, 1899, and February 20, 1899.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Salem	Form No: 438
Property Name: YMCA	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

9. Historical Significance (Continued)

The YMCA was organized in Salem in 1858 and was originally housed in rented space at the old Custon House on Central Street. The first building purchased by the YMCA was at 20 Central Street in 1884. Twenty years later, the present location on Essex Street was constructed and opened for use. The original rooftop granite portico/trellis structure was removed in the late 1950s due to structural problems. The brick addition at the rear of the building was constructed at this time to house the present indoor pool.

In 1979-1980, the YMCA Trustees, realizing that the facility would have to be upgraded to increase the declining membership due to the growth of private health clubs, sold a portion of the second and third floors to the Salem Housing Authority, in order to raise the necessary capital for the improvements.

The Housing Authority renovated the two floors which formerly contained rental rooms, into fourteen units of elderly housing. With its own capital, and with grants from the Department of Interior's UPARR Program and the Salem Redevelopment Authority, the YMCA in undergoing more than a half million dollars of upgrading.

The YMCA building possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and association. It meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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

Page 2 of 2

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Downtown Salem Multiple Resource Area

State Massachusetts

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 11. | West Cogswell House | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | <u>Alvina Byers</u> | <u>7/29/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ | _____ |
| 12. | YMCA | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | <u>Alvina Byers</u> | <u>7/29/83</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ | _____ |
| 13. | | | Keeper | _____ | _____ |
| | | | Attest | _____ | _____ |
| 14. | | | Keeper | _____ | _____ |
| | | | Attest | _____ | _____ |
| 15. | | | Keeper | _____ | _____ |
| | | | Attest | _____ | _____ |
| 16. | | | Keeper | _____ | _____ |
| | | | Attest | _____ | _____ |
| 17. | | | Keeper | _____ | _____ |
| | | | Attest | _____ | _____ |
| 18. | | | Keeper | _____ | _____ |
| | | | Attest | _____ | _____ |
| 19. | | | Keeper | _____ | _____ |
| | | | Attest | _____ | _____ |
| 20. | | | Keeper | _____ | _____ |
| | | | Attest | _____ | _____ |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Y M C A (Downtown Salem MRA)
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUN 14 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.2.84
Date Due: 7/14/83 - 7/29/83
Action: ACCEPT 7/29/83
 RETURN
 REJECT

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

Entered in the National Register

Federal Agency: _____

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
<input 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

- 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 _____

USIT 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: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



WALSH
RETIRES

HEALTH FOODS

GENERAL OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Downtown Salem MAA, Ma

YMCA

284-290 Essex St

NOV 1979



by Berkey

1-31

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000277