

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **AUG 7 1985**  
date entered **SEP 5 1985**

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

**1. Name**

historic Sutton Block (preferred)

and or common Colonial Building

**2. Location**

street & number 76-78 Main Street

NA not for publication

city, town Peabody

NA vicinity of

state Massachusetts

code 025

county Essex

code 009

**3. Classification**

**Category**

- district
- building(s)
- structure
- site
- object

**Ownership**

- public
- private
- both
- Public Acquisition**
- in process
- NA being considered

**Status**

- occupied
- unoccupied
- work in progress
- Accessible**
- yes: restricted
- yes: unrestricted
- no

**Present Use**

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military
- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name John A. Karahalidis and Arthur Athas

street & number 76-78 Main Street

city, town Peabody

NA vicinity of

state MA 01960

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. South Essex Registry of Deeds

street & number 32 Federal Street

city, town Salem

state MA 01970

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1977 Inventory # 293  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town 80 Boylston Street, Boston

state MA

## 7. Description

Sutton Block, Peabody, MA

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Sutton Block is located at 76-78 Main Street on the corner of Main and Wallis Streets. The building is a three-story Italianate commercial block. Trapezoidal in plan, the Sutton Block fills its entire lot, with its south elevation on Main Street and its north and east elevations on Wallis Street. The building's west elevation is a party wall, now partly visible as a result of the demolition of the adjacent building. The building is constructed of red brick laid in stretcher bond and the facades are trimmed with brownstone and granite. The building is crowned by an elaborate wood cornice, but the original hip roof has been removed and replaced with a flat roof.

At the ground level of the Main Street or south facade, an entrance at the west corner of the facade retains its original rock-faced granite piers. A mid-twentieth century storefront, constructed of metal panels and aluminum, consists of two recessed central doorways flanked by glass display windows. At the second- and third-story levels, the Main Street facade is six bays wide with evenly-spaced segmentally-arched window openings. The windows throughout the building have 6/1 sash framed by brownstone sills and segmentally-arched lintels with central keystones.

On the first story of the east elevation, a portion of the Main Street storefront wraps around the southern corner of the facade, while beyond this are three full-sized segmentally-arched windows. There is a single half-window at basement level. Above the first story, the east elevation is distinguished by a slightly more elaborate fenestration pattern. The four second- and third-story segmentally-arched windows are recessed within two-story brick segmental arched piers. A two-story iron fire escape runs at an angle along the facade. The cornice on the east elevation is also slightly more elaborate than that on the Main Street facade; paired brackets are located on each of the four piers. A pair of brick chimneys rise above the roof-line.

The sloping ground on the west side of the building makes the basement story asymmetrical on this rear or west elevation. Reading from the east, the first story consists of a segmentally-arched window, a narrow, segmentally-arched doorway, a square entrance, a second segmentally-arched window, and a small window to the west of the doorways. The upper levels are more regular, with five symmetrically-arranged segmentally-arched windows at the first, second and third levels. The cornice duplicates that on the south facade.

# 8. Significance

Sutton Block, Peabody, MA

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1859 Builder/Architect unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Sutton Block retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Erected in 1859, the building has historical associations with Ebenezer Sutton, a leading nineteenth-century industrialist in the woolen industry. Built by Sutton along a residential section of Main Street, this commercial block foreshadowed the later nineteenth-century expansion of Peabody's commercial center. The Sutton Block is architecturally significant as Peabody's only Italianate commercial block. Thus, the Sutton Block meets criteria A and C for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, with significance at the local level.

Born in 1803, Ebenezer Sutton was the son of William Sutton, a Peabody wool manufacturer who served as a State Representative and the first president of the South Danvers Bank. When William Sutton died in 1832, his woolen factories in South Danvers (now Peabody) and in North Andover were inherited by Ebenezer Sutton and his brother General William Sutton. Four years later, Ebenezer bought his brother's interest in the North Andover woolen mills. Sutton appears to have made an astute decision, and to have operated the mills successfully, for in 1851 he was listed in Rich Men of Massachusetts with a fortune worth \$500,000. Besides his business interests, Sutton was a Colonel in the Essex Regiment and a director of the Eastern Railroad. Sutton died in 1864. Sutton's influence in Peabody continued after his death, for in 1866 his wife Eliza Sutton donated the Eben Dale Sutton Reference Library, located within the Peabody Institute, as a memorial to her son.

In the mid-nineteenth century, the Main Street of South Danvers was almost completely residential. Ebenezer Sutton himself had built his residence at 55-59 Main Street in 1854. (This large brick Italianate estate still stands, although it is obscured by a twentieth-century commercial addition.) The Sutton Block, built only five years later, was one of the earliest commercial buildings constructed along Main Street, and one of only a few strictly commercial buildings built along the street in the latter half of the nineteenth century. In the same period, a number of stores were also opened on the ground floor of buildings that had previously been single-family residences (for example, the John Upton House at 60 Main Street). Still, Main Street remained primarily residential through the 1910s. By that time, commercial uses extended between the corner of Park Street on one side, and the corner of Wallis Street, the location of the Sutton Block, on the other side.

(Continued)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bastille-Neiley, "Downtown Peabody Historical Survey of Structures," City of Peabody, 1980, pp. 112-114m 197-203, 216-219.  
"Peabody Correspondence," Salem Evening News, January 1-May 1, 1907.  
John A. Wells, The Peabody Story, Essex Institute Salem, MA: 1973.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre--2116 square feet

Quadrangle name Salem

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A 

1	9	3	4	1	8	5	0	4	7	0	9	6	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The property nominated includes the entire lot of the Sutton Block, 76-78 Main Street, Peabody, bounded as follows: north by Wallis Street, east by Wallis Street, south by Main Street, west by property of Frederick M. Warner. See the enclosed assessors map.

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

state NA code county code

state code county code

**11. Form Prepared By** Julie P. Johnson, Intern

name/title Mary Kate Sampson with Peabody Historical Commission Community Development Dept., Peabody

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date May, 1984

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

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

## 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 & Supv, MHC date July 19, 1985

For NPS use only

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

for Melissa Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 9-5-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Sutton Block  
76 - 78 Main Street  
Map 85  
Parcel 71, Peabody Assessors Map  
Peabody, MA  
Scale: 1" = 80'



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Sutton Block, 76-78 Main

Continuation sheet Street, Peabody, Mass

Item number 8

Page 1

With the exception of the ground floor storefront and the replacement of the original hipped roof, the Sutton Block retains its original exterior appearance with brownstone trim and an elaborate bracketed wood cornice. The building is important in Peabody's architectural history because it is the only commercial Italianate building in the city. In addition, it is significant because it was newly built for commercial use rather than converted from an older residential building, as were many of Peabody's commercial buildings of the period.

The Sutton Block originally housed commercial space on the first two levels. The earliest tenants of the building are not known. During the 1880s and 1890s, the ground-floor store was occupied by N. W. Edison, selling "groceries and provisions." Mayhew S. Clark and Edward Giddings, local carpenters, were the building's owners in 1897. In 1907, Thomas O'Shea, a leading leather manufacturer and the largest property owner in Peabody in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century, purchased the building. The ground-floor tenant at this time was M. O'Keefe, a grocer, whose business remained in the building until the late 1920s. Though the building was vacant in the 1930s, the commercial space has been continuously occupied since the 1940s. The current ground-floor tenant is the Peabody Music Box, while one of the owners, Alan J. Karahalís, has his law offices on the second floor.

The third floor of the Sutton Block was built as a meeting hall. Sutton Hall has important associations with the development of several of Peabody's social, religious and civic organizations. The room served as the town's principal dance hall during the nineteenth century. In addition, the hall served as a meeting place for the Knights of Pythias from 1890 to 1918, the Jewish Folk School and the W. P. A. office in the 1940s, and the Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall and Peabody Club in the 1950s. The hall is now vacant.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrange 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: \_\_\_\_\_

REF #  
85002012

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Sutton Block  
Essex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

AUG 7 1985

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fed. Reg. Date: 5-4-86  
Date Due: 9/15/85 — 9/21/85  
Action:  ACCEPT 9-5-85  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

- 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
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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



PEABODY  
Music Box  
Instruments - Sales - Lessons

ALAN J. KARAHALIS  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

75  
ALAN J. KARAHALIS  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
531-5702

NO PARKING

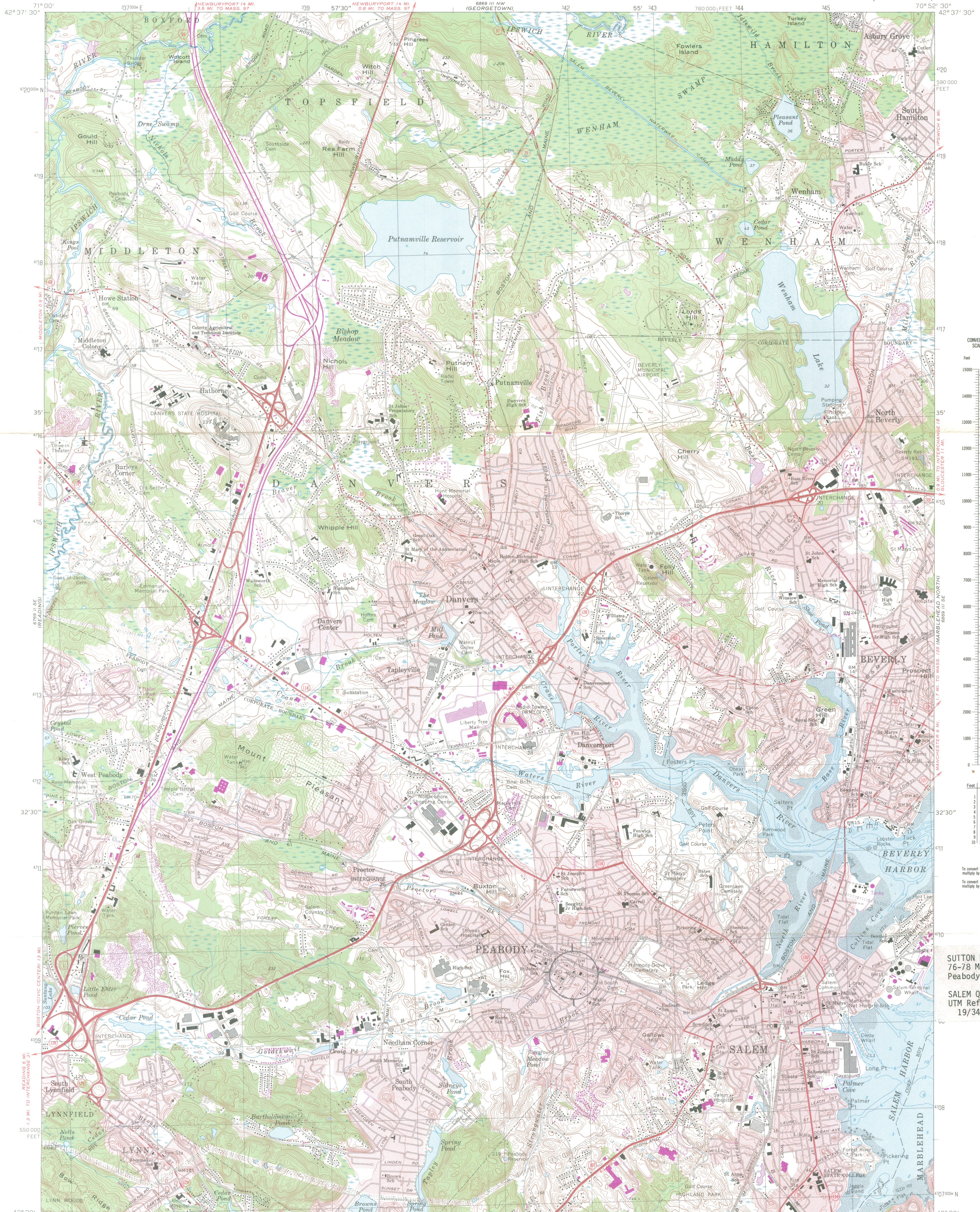
ion

TOP  
SUCTION

Sutton Block  
76-78 Main Street  
Peabody, MA.

Julie P. Johnson, April 1984  
Community Development Department, Peabody

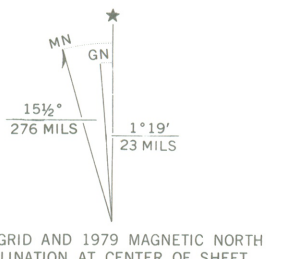
Photo #1 of 1  
Main Steet, looking west



SUTTON BLOCK  
76-78 Main Street  
Peabody, Massachusetts

SALEM QUADRANGLE  
UTM Reference:  
19/341850/4709660

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, 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 USC&GS 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,  
zone 19  
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied  
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



SCALE 1:25 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE  
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  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface  
Secondary highway, hard surface  
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface  
Unimproved road

Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route



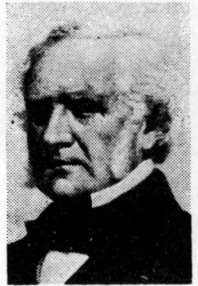
SALEM, MASS.  
N4230—W7052.5/7.5  
1970  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 6869 III SW—SERIES V814

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



# Peabody Historical Commission

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, CITY HALL  
PEABODY, MASS. 01960



GEORGE PEABODY

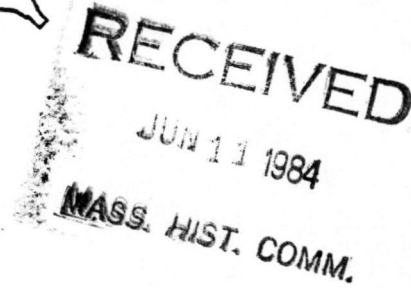
RICHARD D. HIGGINS  
CHAIRMAN

ROBERT QUINN  
RUTH HILL

~~XEROX COPY~~ Mary Leary

RUTH O'KEEFE  
FRANCES RIGOL

~~XEROX COPY~~ Rosa Drysdale



May 25, 1984

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Office of The Secretary of State  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Massachusetts Historical Commission:

The members of the Peabody Historical Commission have reviewed and approved the attached applications for nomination of the Sutton Block and the John Upton House, Daniel Dodge House, and E. S. Upton House to the National Register of Historic places.

After careful study and consideration of these historic commercial properties by the Peabody Historical Commission, the application was prepared by the City of Peabody's Community Development Department.

The Commission feels strongly that the Sutton Block and the Upton and Dodge Houses deserve the recognition and protection afforded by placement on the National Register of Historic Places. We look forward to a review by the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Sincerely,

*Richard D. Higgins*  
Richard D. Higgins  
Chairman  
PEABODY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



## 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*

July 18, 1985

Ms. Carol Shull  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of Interior  
18th and C Streets NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Hutchins, Oliver House, 79 Elm Street,  
Chelmsford, Massachusetts

Converse Memorial Building, 36 Salem Street,  
Malden, Massachusetts

Sutton Block, 76-78 Main Street,  
Peabody, Massachusetts.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Zimmerman".

Sarah Zimmerman  
Registration Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

SZ/1s

AUG 7 1985