

FORM A - AREA SURVEY

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

Form numbers in this area HP-29 to HP-36	Area no. B
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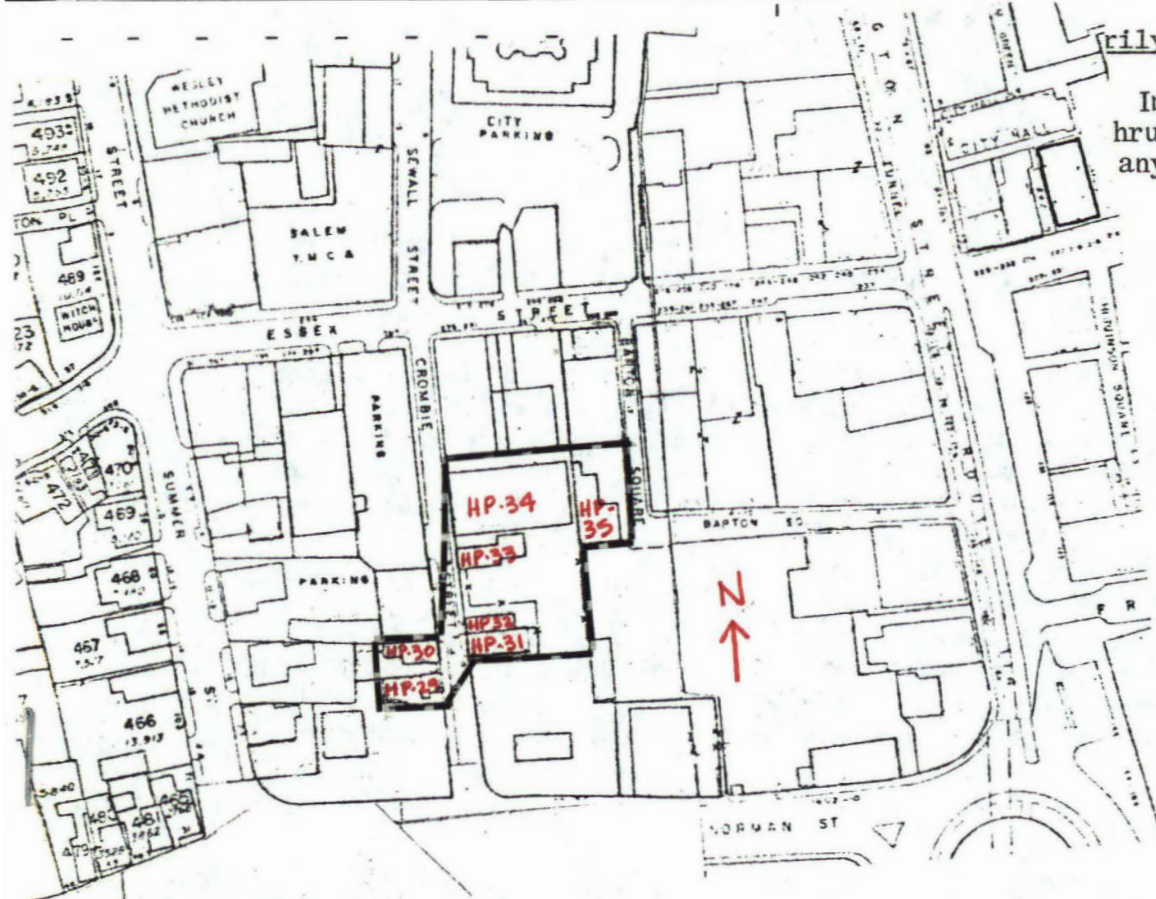


1. Town Salem
 Name of area (if any) Crombie Street district
7-15 and 16-18 Crombie St. and
13 Barton St.
 3. General date or period early 19th century

4. Is area uniform (explain):
 in style? compatible mix
 in condition? generally good
 in type of ownership? private

residential

Indicate any historic
ruin F, using corres-
ponding and indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by A. Crump
 Organization Salem Redevelopment Authority
 Date November 1979

(over)

UTM Reference: 19/344110/4709120

Acres: .77 acres

7. Historical data. Explain the historical/architectural importance of this area.

The Crombie Street District is composed of the eight remaining buildings of this downtown residential enclave. The district includes a cross-section of residential buildings from various periods of development, along with a church building originally built as a theater. The boundaries include the six buildings that face Crombie Street and the two buildings at the west end of Barton Square, adjacent to Crombie Street on the west.

Crombie Street was laid out in 1805 by Benjamin Crombie, proprietor of a tavern called the Sign of the Ship, that stood on Essex Street east of his new street. Between 1805 and 1815, Crombie sold four house lots behind his tavern, as well as narrow strips of frontage on the street to three other landholders to the west. Only two of the houses standing today were built before Crombie sold the remaining property in 1819, but the district is shown intact on the 1851 map of the city.

As the only surviving downtown residential group from the early 19th century, the houses on Crombie Street provide important information about the character of the city at that time. All the buildings directly abut the sidewalk, suggesting high density, but placement on the lots is irregular, creating a rural atmosphere. Wood is the dominant material, although the church (HP-34) and the Bowker House (HP-33) are brick, as is the Prince House (HP-36), which predates Crombie's activity.

While architectural quality within the district is variable, three buildings clustered at its north end are all individually noteworthy. The Crombie Street Church (HP-34), built as a theater in 1828, is the architectural highlight of the district. The monumental relieving arches of the facade define its composition and suggest the Federal style, but the panelled detailing of the broad piers separating these arches, along with the pair of quadrant windows in the gable and wide corner pilasters, introduce a newer Greek Revival influence.

Neighboring the church stands the substantial Bowker House (HP-33), built in the Federal style around 1810, and modernized by overlaid brownstone trimmings in 1860. The hybrid design is very successful, reinforcing the central importance of this house to the district. The Pierson House (HP-35), facing Barton Square, is an unusually graceful vernacular Italianate residence, typical of the houses that lined Barton Square in the mid-19th century.

HP-29: 18 Crombie Street (c. 1770; moved to site 1830)

The origins of this two-story, gambrel-roofed Georgian house are unknown, but it was moved onto this site in 1830 by James Bott. The end wall faces the

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

City of Salem tax records

Essex County Registry of Deeds

McIntyre, H.: Map of the City of Salem, 1851.

Pickman, Benjamin: "Account of Houses and Other Buildings in Salem in 1793",

Essex Institute Historical Collections, vol. VI, p. 93.

Salem Historic District Study Committee: Report, 1968.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Crombie Street ITEM NUMBER B PAGE 16

street, and contains three six-over-six windows, vertically aligned and centered on the wood-shingled wall. A narrow, simple framed doorway which crowds the right corner was probably added when the house was moved. A massive central chimney is readily visible from the street. A small ell with a shallow pitched roof extends to the left, set back fifteen feet from the front wall.

HP-30: 16 Crombie Street (1831)

This two-story, wood-frame vernacular Federal house is oriented to the left side of its lot, with its gable end on the street. The street elevation is very simple, with two windows on each floor level and a single gable window. The moderately projecting cornice returns above plain corner boards. The side elevation is symmetrically composed, with the classically framed entrance in the center of its five bays. Two gabled dormers face this side. Its modest architectural character is appropriate to the social and economic standing of the original owner, a painter and glazier named Samuel Ferguson.

HP-31: 15 Crombie Street (c. 1810)

This pleasant wood-frame Federal house was built by Joshua Loring, a chaise-maker. Two-and-one-half stories high, with a shallow hip roof, it faces end on the street, with its five-bay symmetrical facade on the south side of the lot. The delicate, classically detailed doorway at the center of the facade is the building's major decorative element; the overall composition demonstrates the restraint typical of the style. A rear ell, originally set back from the major wall plane of the facade, is now concealed by an open staircase and porch structure added when the building was converted to multifamily use.

HP-32: 13 Crombie Street (c. 1830)

The modest classical detailing around the doorways is the strongest stylistic element on this two-story, wood-frame house. The gable end faces the street, with two entrances located on the north side. The end wall is framed by a sheer cornice and simple corner boards, with two windows on each floor and a single window in the gable. The side elevation creates the illusion of bilateral symmetry, although the elements are not as precisely aligned. The two doorways, one flush and the other contained in a small gabled projection, are balanced by pairs of vertically aligned windows. The building crowds its southern lot line, creating a generous side yard toward the north.

HP-33: 9 Crombie Street (c. 1810, c. 1860)

This two-and-one-half-story, red brick house was built before 1811 in the Federal style, and updated about 1860 with Italianate details. The sheer mass of the building, its shallow hipped roof and shortened attic windows are readily recognizable as characteristic of Federal architecture. The building sits with its end wall facing the street, and the entrance at the center of

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CONTINUATION SHEET Crombie Street ITEM NUMBER B PAGE 17

the five-bay side elevation. Brownstone lintels, a bracketed cornice, and a heavy entry hood are the Italianate elements added in mid-century. Built by Benjamin Crombie, the developer of the street, the building was soon tenanted and later purchased by Joel Bowker, one of Salem's leading merchants and entrepreneurs. Among his many accomplishments is the credit for introducing anthracite coal to Salem.

HP-34: Crombie Street Church (1828)

This handsome red brick building was built as a theater in 1828 by J.W. Barton, proprietor of the adjacent tavern. When the theater failed after a promising beginning, it was converted to a church in 1832. Its monumental facade is divided into three bays by relieving arches with broad piers articulated as panelled pilasters. The gable contains two demi-lunettes flanking a date stone. The arches contain arched windows at the second floor level, and a doorway in each end bay framed by a heavy wood entablature and pilasters. The transition from the Federal style to the Greek Revival is evident in the combination of strength and refinement exhibited in the design. The breadth of the monumental arcade and the doorways tempers the fundamental elegance of the facade.

HP-35: 13 Barton Square (1846)

This elegant Italianate house is representative of the original residential character of Barton Square, which has now been eroded except along its western edge. Built in 1846 by Dr. E.B. Peirson, the house exhibits the full expression of this vernacular style. A full bracketed cornice separates the gable from the two main stories. Twin arched gable windows, beneath a small continuous label molding, face Barton Square, while three bays of windows punctuate the flush board siding. An open porch supported by pierced posts extends along the south side at the first floor level. A two-story, cross-gabled ell on the north side is set well back from the front wall, and contains the entrance, sheltered by a second porch.

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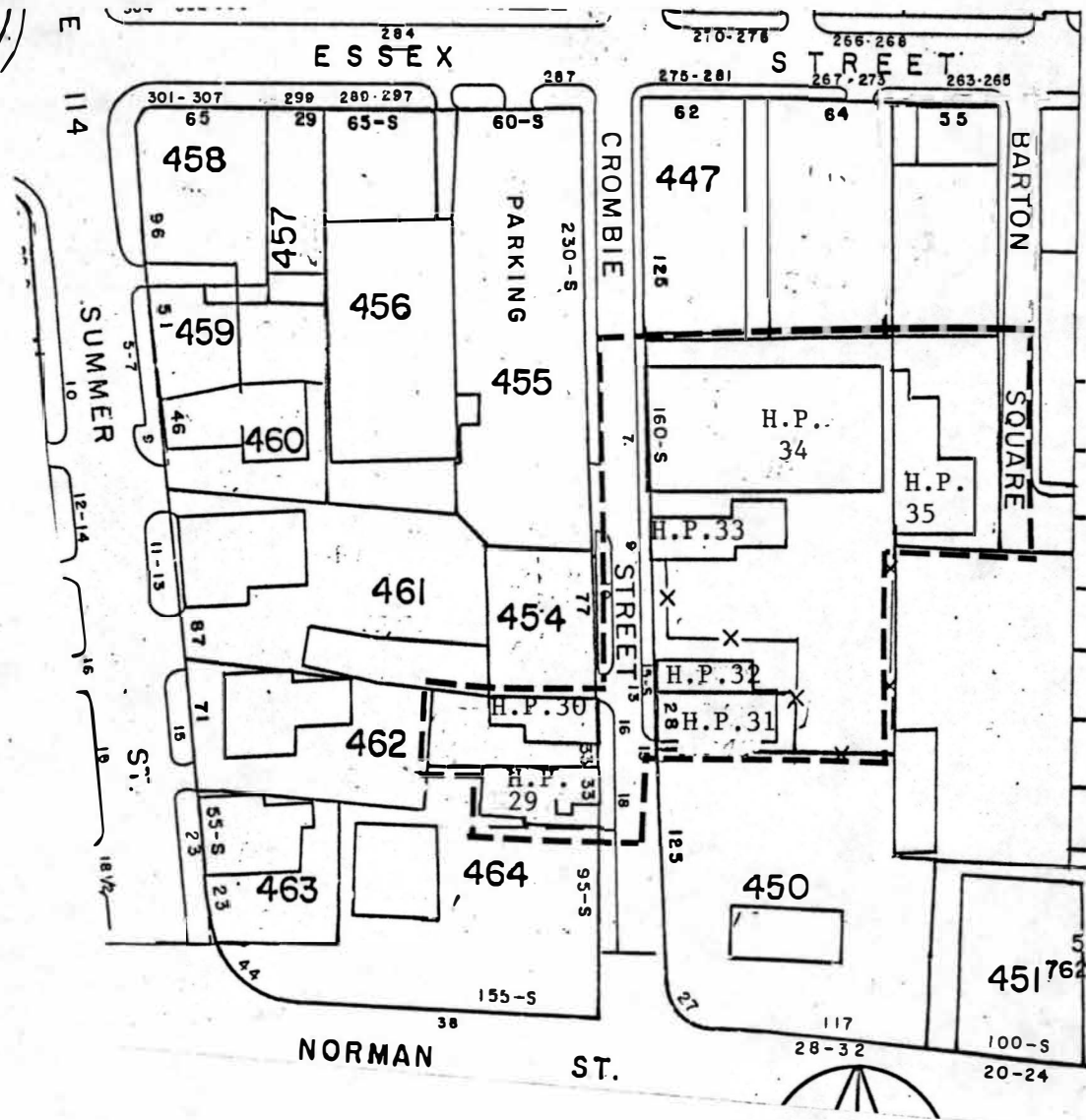
CONTINUATION SHEET Crombie Street ITEM NUMBER B PAGE 18

Crombie Street National Register District

Ownership Data & Importance Rating

<u>Property Address (SAM#)</u>	<u>Importance Rating*</u>	<u>Ownership</u>
7 Crombie Street (26-448)	1	Crombie Street Congregational Church 7 Crombie Street Salem, Mass. 01970
9 Crombie Street (26-448)	1	Crombie St. Congregational Church see above
13 Crombie Street (26-139)	1	Crombie St. Congregational Church see above
15 Crombie Street (26-449)	1	Crombie Street Realty Trust Norma A. Smigowski et ali, Trs. 15 Crombie Street Salem, Mass. 01970
16 Crombie Street (26-453)	1	Joanna M. & Mary W. Cass 16 Crombie Street Salem, Mass. 01970
18 Crombie Street (26-452)	1	Frances H. Wendt 18 Crombie Street Salem, Mass. 01970
13 Barton Square (35-6)	1	Doering Trust 2 Oliver Street Salem, Mass. 01970

- *Key:
1. Central importance to district
 2. Contributing to character of district
 3. Intrusion on character of district



SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS: CROMBIE STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

1"=100'

- HP 29
18 Crombie Street
- HP 30
16 Crombie Street
- HP 31
15 Crombie Street
- HP 32
13 Crombie Street
- HP 33
9 Crombie Street
- HP 34
7 Crombie Street
- HP 35
13 Barton Square



1. Looking northeast at 13 Crombie (foreground), 9 Crombie and the Crombie Street Church. (Photograph: Allison M. Crump, 1979)

Crombie Street District, Salem (Essex Co.), MA



2. [no caption. Crombie Street looking south from Crombie Street Church (foreground) toward 9, 13 and 15 Crombie Street, 1979]

Crombie Street District, Salem (Essex Co.), MA



3. 18 Crombie Street [HP-29]



4. 16 Crombie Street [HP-30] with 18 Crombie at right]

Crombie Street District, Salem (Essex Co.), MA



5. 15 Crombie Street [HP-31]



6. 13 Crombie Street [HP-32]

Crombie Street District, Salem (Essex Co.), MA



7-9 Crombie Street [HP-33]



8. Crombie Street Church, 7 Crombie Street [HP-34]

Crombie Street District, Salem (Essex Co.), MA



9. 13 Barton Square [HP-35]



10. [no caption. Frye Building, 263-265 Essex St [HP-36; SAL.1471]
Not in district

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 2

12-8-3
5 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
National Register | for
Keeper | <u>Alma Byers</u> 7/29/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 2. | Federal Street District | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | <u>Alma Byers</u> 9/16/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 3. | First Universalist Church | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | <u>Alma Byers</u> 7/29/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 4. | Monroe, Bessie, House | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | <u>Alma Byers</u> 7/29/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 5. | Downtown Salem District | Substantive Review | for
Keeper | <u>accept Patrick Andrews</u> 10/10/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 6. | Peabody, John.P., House | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | <u>Alma Byers</u> 7/29/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 7. | Salem Laundry | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | <u>Alma Byers</u> 7/29/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 8. | Shepard Block | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | <u>Alma Byers</u> 7/29/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 9. | Wesley Methodist Church | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | <u>Alma Byers</u> 7/29/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 10. | Crombie Street District | Entered in the
National Register | for
Keeper | <u>Alma Byers</u> 9/16/83 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |