

LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

LIGHTHOUSE INFORMATION FORM

NUMBER 14

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

See Derby Waterfront District  
NR 5/17/76

PHOTOGRAPH KEY

Leslie Fox - MHC - 1981

1. Light at end of Derby Wharf

HISTORIC NAME: Derby Wharf Light Station

TOWN: Salem

LOCATION: Derby Wharf (in Salem Maritime  
National Historic Site)

COUNTY: Essex CODE: 009

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6th

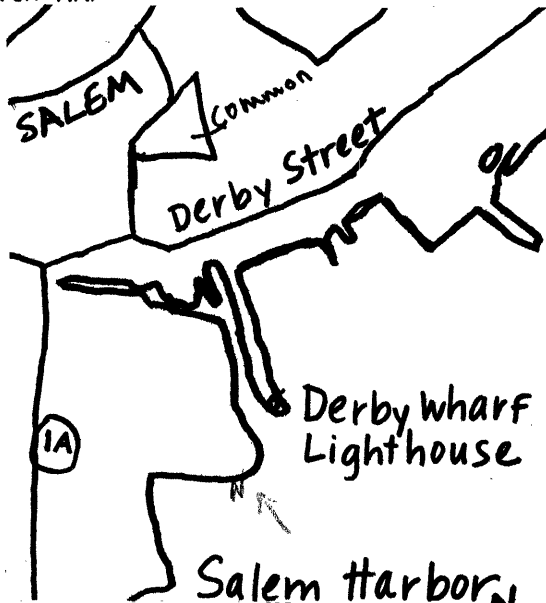
LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Essex County Registry of Deeds  
Book 813, p. 77 Derby Wharf  
Corporation to U.S.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Please refer to the attached site  
plan.

SKETCH MAP



LAT./LONG.: 42° 31'7"/70° 53'4"

UTM COORDINATE: 19/345/200/4708/400

USGS QUADRANGLE: BOSTON, MA; NH; CT; RI; ME

SCALE: 1: 250,000

ACREAGE: less than one acre

OWNER(S): National Park Service

Department of the Interior

STATUS: Unmanned/Active

RECORDED BY: Leslie Fox/N.L. Salzman

ORGANIZATION: MHC

DATE: August 1981

Derby Wharf Light Station (in Salem Maritime National Historic Site), Salem

SITE DESCRIPTION: Derby Wharf Light Station is located on the very end of Derby Wharf on the west side of Salem Harbor. The wharf is presently clear of all but one other building. Directly across from the Light Station is the commercial/historic Pickering Wharf Shopping Center. The lighthouse occupies 1198.5 feet of Derby Wharf and has a right of way for access. At the foot of Derby Wharf is the Salem Custom House. Derby Wharf was once the busiest section of the port. The Light Station is included in the Salem Maritime National Historic Site.

MAJOR ELEMENTS: The 12' square white brick tower stands 25' above the high waterline.

- Door - located on the west side, it is a single steel door with a vandal-proof lock.
- Windows - None - the structure's walls are solid; no features other than the door.
- Lens Room - The lens room is octagonal with a double course of windows. The exterior appears original, with iron walls below the windows and an iron segmented roof and ventilation ball at the top.
- Balcony - The simple iron railing and balusters are similar to those at the Hospital Point Light in Beverly (#21). A half door leads to the interior from the balcony. The hoods on the rectangular air vents seem to have been removed.

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P.13

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY:

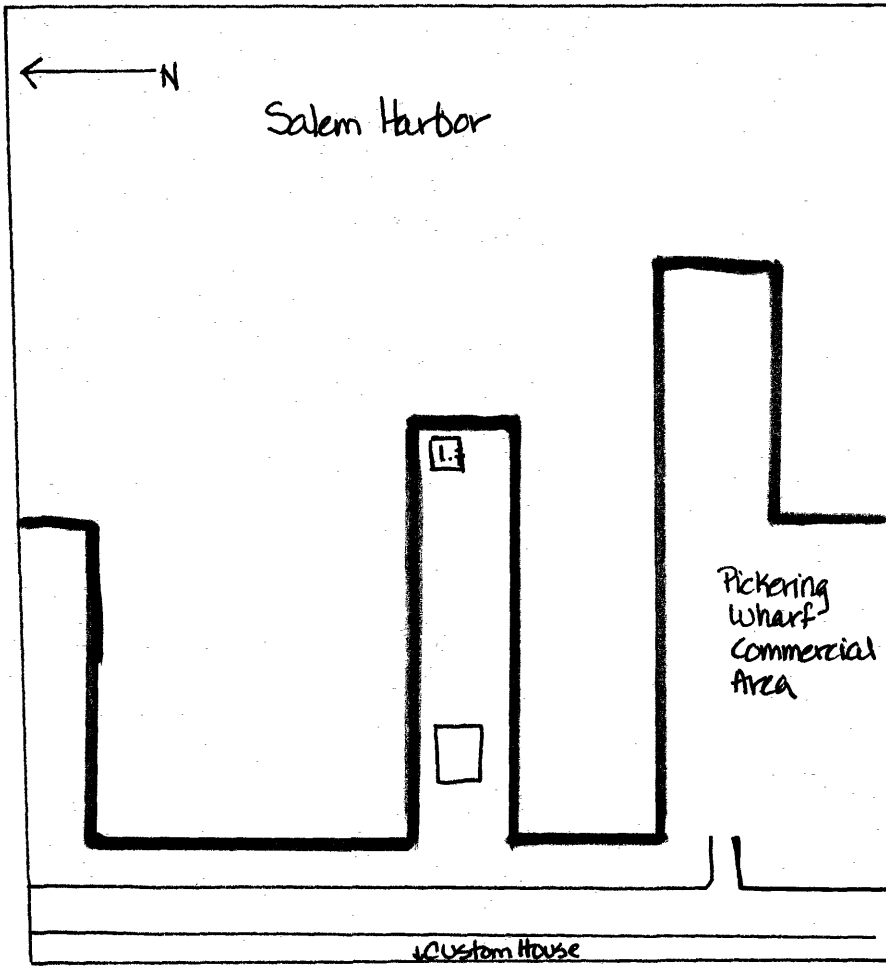
- 1870 - Lighthouse constructed for \$3000.
- 1919 - The lighthouse list records the visibility from sea at 9 miles,  
with the candlepower at 130
- 1966 - became part of the Salem Maritime Historic Site
- 1976 - became part of the Derby Waterfront local Historic District
- 1983 - light relit; uses solar power and has a 6 second FLR signal

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LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Derby Wharf Light Station possesses integrity of location, design, materials and workmanship as well as associations with the development of aids to navigation in Massachusetts. Constructed in 1877, it is one of only five square plan lights in the state and is part of an existing waterfront historic district. It meets criteria A and C of the NRHP on the state level as well as survey criteria 4c,5a.

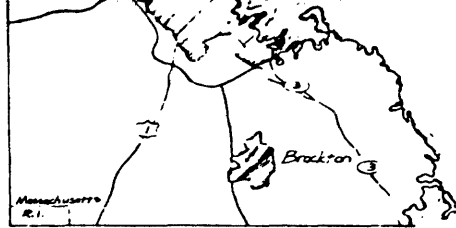
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THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION



Derby Wharf Light

1. Tower

Salem Maritime National Historic Site

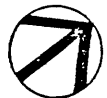


LIGHTHOUSES OF MASSACHUSETTS THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION

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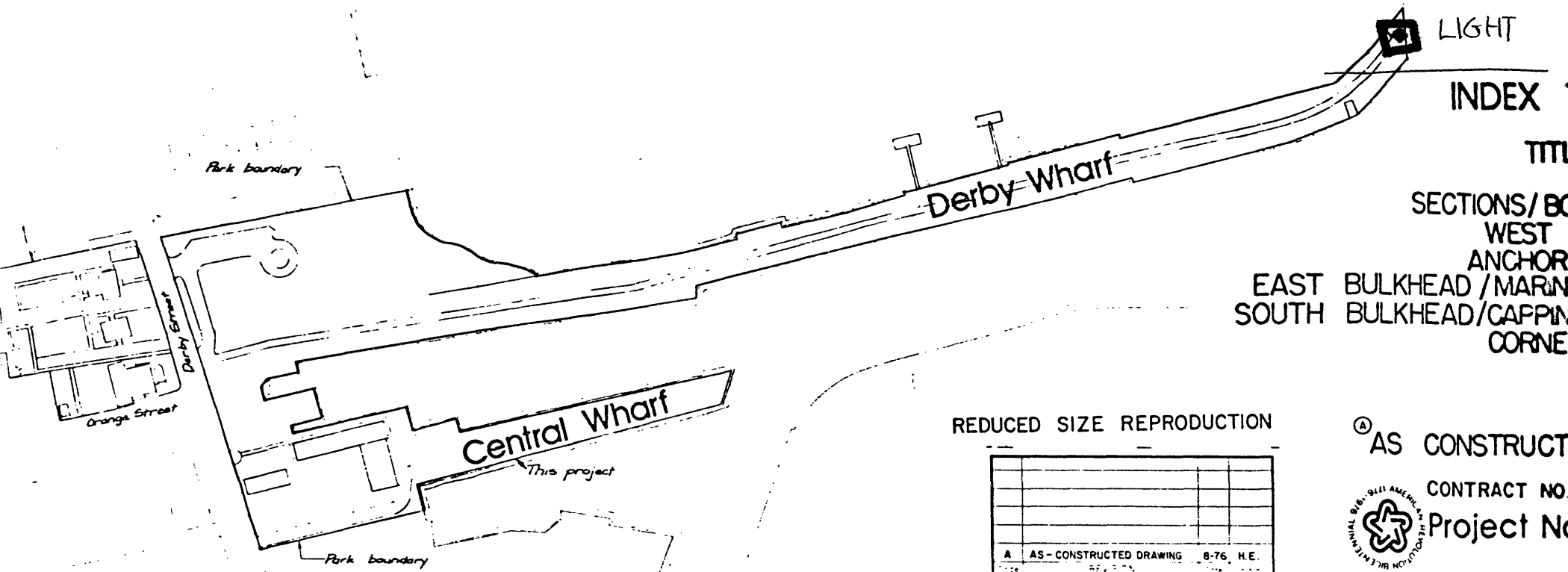
Map

Scale: 1" = 1000'  
0 1000 2000 3000



Massachusetts Location Map

Scale: 1" = 10 miles  
0 10 20 30



INDEX 1

TITLE

SECTIONS/BOD

WEST

ANCHOR

EAST BULKHEAD / MARINE

SOUTH BULKHEAD / CAPPIN

CORNER

REDUCED SIZE REPRODUCTION

AS CONSTRUCT

CONTRACT NO.

Project No



Scale: 1" = 100'  
0 100 200 300



Maritime N.H.S.

This drawing has been prepared in compliance with the Historic Structures Report

Approved by: Jerry D. Weger  
N.A. Regional Dir. 5-31-74  
Shirley D. Woodford 10-27-74  
Manager, DSC Date

Historic Preservation Team

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DENVER SERVICE CENTER

PREPARED  
C. Cooper  
DESIGNED  
A. W. Cooper  
DRAWN  
Smith  
CHECKED  
10-74  
DATE

Wharf floor location on Central Wharf of Salem, Massachusetts  
North Atlantic Region

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DERBY WHARF LIGHT STATION  
SALEM # 14

PHOTO #1 of 1

Derby Wharf  
Salem