**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.

**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

**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 1,198.5 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.
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
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.
DERBY WHARF LIGHT STATION
SALEM # 14

PHOTO #1 OF 1

Derby Wharf
Salem