

Pelham, Salem landmarks make National Register

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The National Park Service has added the Salem Historic District and the Pelham Historical Society building to its National Register of Historic Places.

A spokesman for the park service confirmed the listings yesterday.

"It's fantastic news," said Salem Historic District commissioner Kathryn Burke, a resident of the neighborhood.

The district includes properties along Main Street, School Street and Lawrence Road.

"It's a small district that goes back to the mid-1700s," Burke said.

The district includes not only homes preserved from the colonial era, but also places that were shops and a barn.

"We try to maintain the authenticity of the buildings in the district," Burke said.

Specifically mentioned in the application were three key properties: the old town hall, now the Salem Historic District Museum; School House No. 5 on School Street; and the Alice Hall Library building.

The Pelham Historical Society building at 5 Main St. was the old town library.

Last week, William T. "Spike" Hayes, president of the society, said the building was built by Civil War veterans as a memorial to their war.

"The building has an

interesting history," Hayes said Friday.

George M. Cole & Company of Lawrence constructed the building for about \$4,000. It still has the original slate roof, brick walls, granite foundation and woodwork, inside and out.

"That building has been there 115 years," said retired Judge J. Albert Lynch, a founder of the Pelham Historical Society. "Did you see the woodwork inside? Why can't they do that today?"

Lynch said marble plaques inside the building list Pelham residents who served in the nation's wars.

The park service adds properties to the list that have significant historic, architectural or archeological value for the nation.

Listings do not put any restrictions on property owners nor guarantee public access, according to the park service.

But it makes properties part of a national database for research, documents their significance, and makes them eligible for preservation-related grants and tax credits.