

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 8 1980

DATE ENTERED

APR

2 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC First Parsonage for Second (East) Parish Church (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Apartment House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER 41 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Attleboro

VICINITY OF Tenth

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Bristol

CODE

005

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ 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 Vincent M. Germani, Atty

STREET &amp; NUMBER

50 Union Street

CITY, TOWN

Attleboro

VICINITY OF Massachusetts

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Bristol County Registry of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Taunton

STATE  
Massachusetts**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1972

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE  
Massachusetts

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT      ☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ GOOD            ☐ RUINS  
☒ FAIR             ☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on a restricted lot in the center of Attleboro, the East Parish Parsonage is a timber-frame building of simple Federalist design. The house consists of a main house, built in 1822, and a rear ell, probably built after 1835.

The main house has a rectangular floor plan and rises two-and-one-half stories from a foundation of hammered granite to a hipped roof. At the roof's center is a low monitor/cupola which is also enclosed by a hip roof. The house's facade is symmetrical, consisting of a center-entry flanked by two windows on each side at the first storey and five windows at the second storey. The facade (east) is trimmed by corner boards at each end and by a shallow moulded cornice at the roof line. The entry contains a panelled door (concealed by an aluminum storm door) set beneath an ornate Victorian hood. This hood consists of machine-cut brackets (pierced) supporting an entablature, modillioned cornice and half hip roof; these decorations are likely to have been added in the 1870s. The house's north and south elevations may originally have been identical, containing two windows symmetrically placed at each storey. This arrangement has been altered by the addition of a second storey entry and wooden stairway on the north elevation; on the south elevation a narrow extension of the rear ell blocks the first storey's western window. The main house's rear (west) elevation is asymmetrical, containing the rear ell on its southern half and a door and small 6/6 window on its northern half. Added to the north elevation is an exterior brick chimney, connected to the house by iron braces. Throughout the main house 2/1 sash has replaced original sash, except in the monitor/cupola. The monitor/cupola is framed by corner boards and a moulded cornice; fenestration consists of three symmetrically placed windows in both its east and west elevations, and of two symmetrically placed windows in its north and south elevations. Sash in the monitor/cupola is 3/3.

The rear ell has a rectangular floor plan and rises one storey from a rubble foundation to a pitched roof. The ell's major elevation (south) is asymmetrical containing an entry set slightly east of center; this entry is flanked by two windows on the east and three windows on the west. Between the two westernmost windows of this elevation is a vertical board which may correspond to a change in or addition to the structure. At the east end of this elevation, the last two windows are set beneath a half-hip roof which is connected to the south elevation of the main house. The west elevation of the rear ell is blank; the north elevation contains two windows, one of which is currently boarded over. Sash in the windows of the rear ell is 6/6, apparently original.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| 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 checked="" 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 1822 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The East Parish Parsonage possesses integrity of location, design materials and workmanship as well as historical associations with several of Attleboro's leading nineteenth-century citizens. Now the oldest house extant in Attleboro center, the Parsonage is the area's only remaining example of the city's previous development as a rural village. The house's rectangular plan, low hip roof and symmetrical facade preserve the essential features of the most popular Federalist-period house-type; while the house's monitor/cupola is a relatively rare feature, one which has some regional associations with southeastern and central Massachusetts.

The Parsonage was built in 1822 for the East (Second) Parish, although it was only occupied as a parsonage between 1822 and 1835. During this time, it served as the home of the Reverend John Ferguson, the parish's third pastor, who had been ordained in 1822. After 1835, the house passed through a succession of private owners, including Moses Wilmoth, Virgil Capron, Thomas French, Otis Capron and Joseph W. Capron (the son of Otis Capron); of these owners, Joseph Capron was the most prominent.

Born September 24, 1802, Capron served as Town Surveyor (1827) and as the assistant surveyor for laying out the course of the proposed Boston and Providence Railroad (1828). Subsequent public offices held by Capron include town Assessor, Overseer of the Poor, Bristol County Commissioner (3 terms), and Justice of the Peace (50 years). Capron also served as the president of both the Attleborough Mutual Fire Insurance Company and the Attleborough Gaslight Company, both of which were important to the town's commercial development. For more than fifty years Capron was president of the Attleborough Savings and Loan Association. During Capron's occupancy at 41 South Main Street, the house's cupola was used as a practice room for the Attleborough band and a barn on the lot (demolished) was used as a practice room for the boys' drum corps, which had been organized by Capron.

In the early twentieth century, part of the house's rear ell was used as a kindergarten by Miss Ethel Showmaker; subsequently the entire house came into use as classrooms for the Bristol County Commercial School. Later, the property was purchased by Seth R. Briggs who used it as an annex to the Briggs Hotel, next door. In 1945, the house was bought by Everett Perry who converted it to four apartments, its present use.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

John Daggett, A Sketch of the History of Attleborough Press of Samuel Usher, Boston, 1894.

Newspaper articles. The Attleboro Sun - 8/10/1943 and 3/23/1934, pg.8  
Vital Records of Attleborough Massachusetts to the Year 1850

UTM NOT VERIFIED

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Attleboro

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 310560 4645800

B               

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please refer to the attached map.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Brian Pfeiffer, Consultant

with

Elizabeth Phillips

Linda Stanley

Attleboro Historical Commission

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

August, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE

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

*Patricia R. Westbrook*

1/24/80

TITLE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4/2/80

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 4/2/80

Property

First Parsonage for Second East  
Parish Church

State

Ma - Bristol

Working Number

2-8-80 440

## TECHNICAL

Photos

1

Maps

2

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

This building is significant for its architecture and its association with some of the towns leading 19th cent. figures. Built in 1822 this 2 1/2 story frame building is a good example of the Federal style 5 bay house. A relatively rare feature is its original three bay monitor on the roof. A one story rear ell was added after 1835. The building served as a parsonage, a school, and a private residence at various times. Less than 1 acre.

accept  
Patrick Adams  
4/2/80

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

APR 2 1980

Federal Register Entry

2.3.81

Re-submit



*East*  
First Parsonage for Second Parish Church  
41 South Main Street  
Attleboro, Mass. *Bristol Co.*

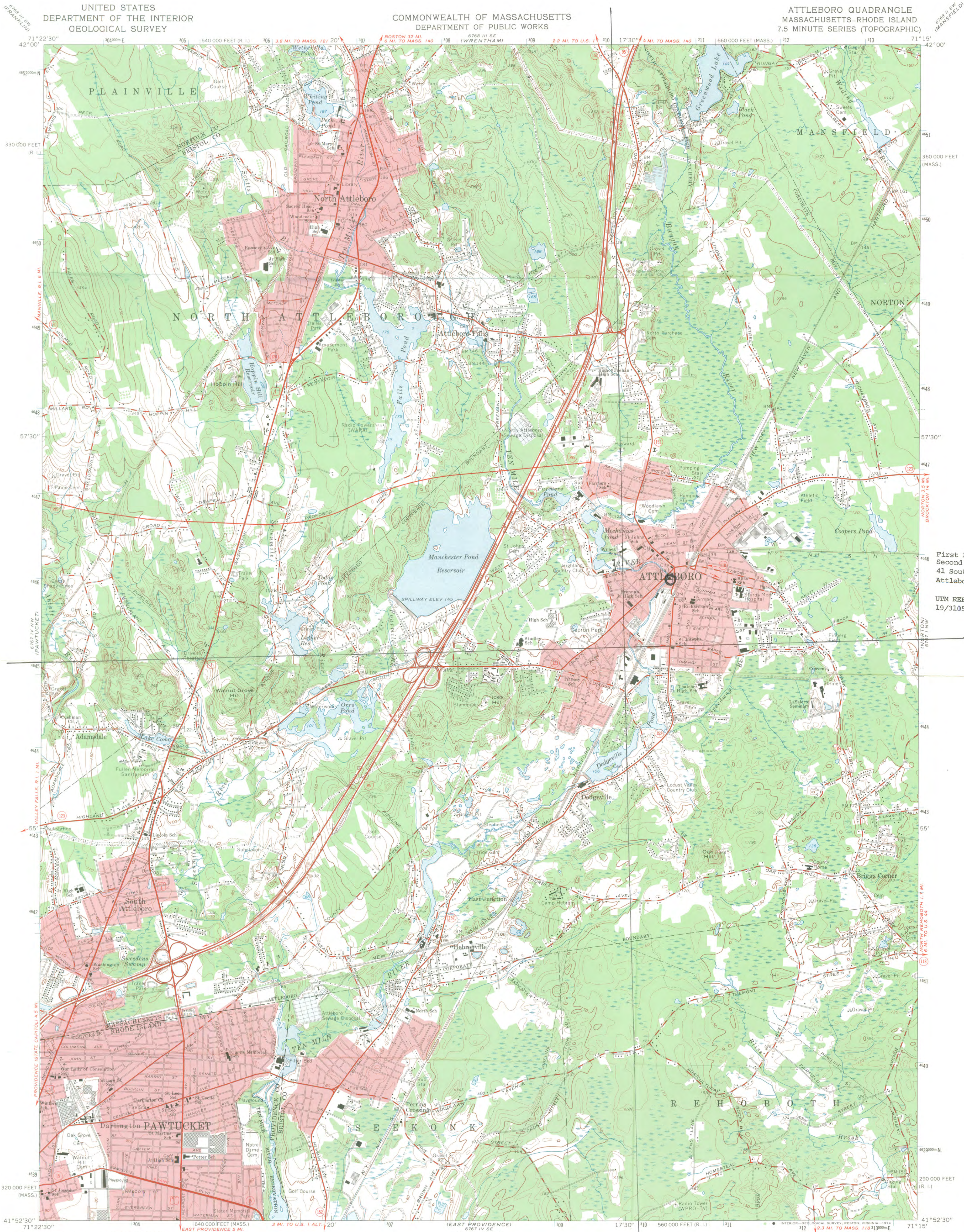
Elizabeth Phillips  
42 Union Street  
Attleboro, Mass.

1977

APR 2 1980

Photo #1 of 1  
Facade facing north west

FEB 8 1980



First Parsonage for the  
Second Parish Church  
41 South Main Street  
Attleboro, Mass.

UTM REFERENCES:  
19/310560/4645800

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1935 and 1938-1939  
Revised 1964  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

UTM GRID AND 1964 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24,000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

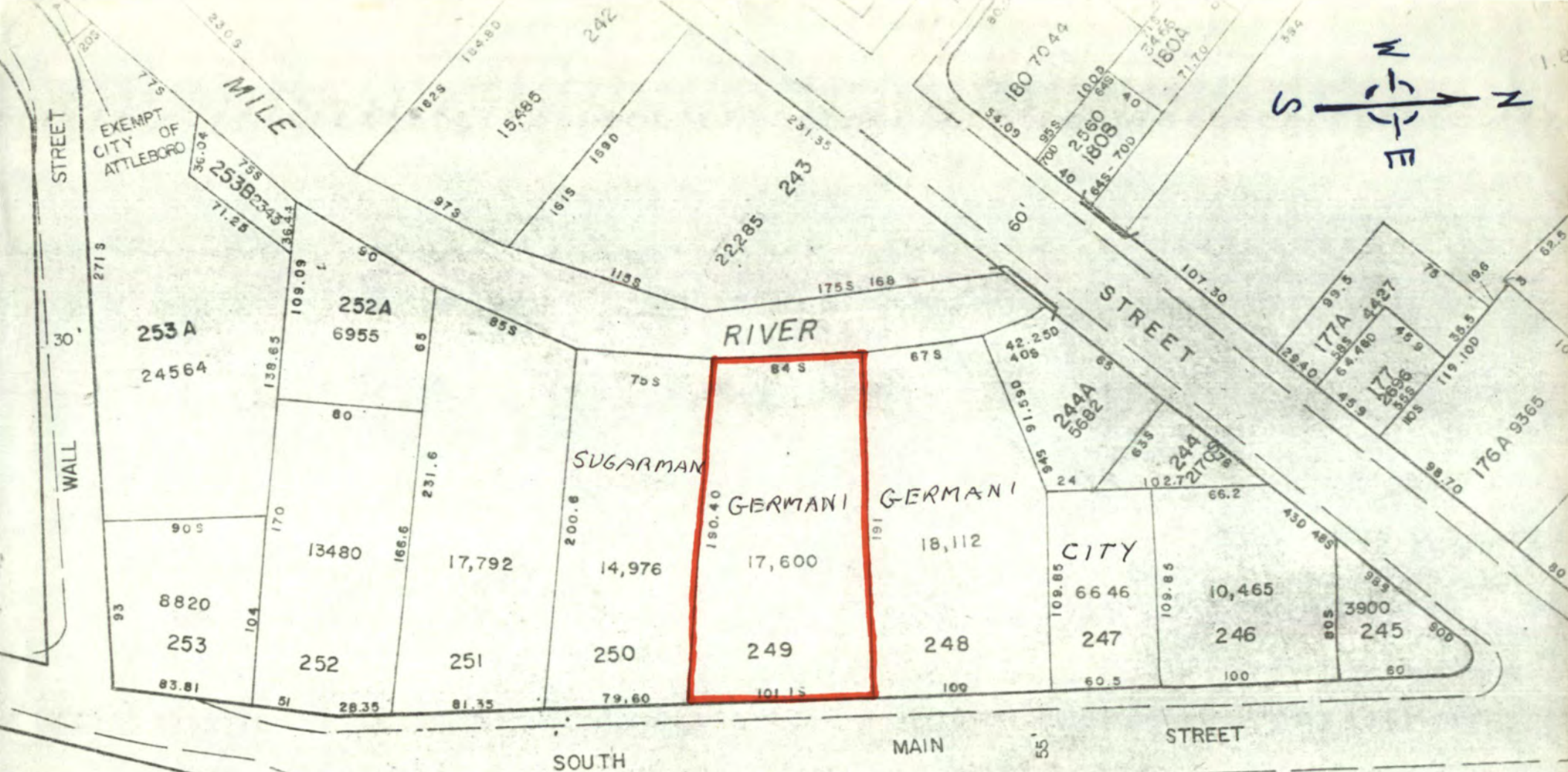
ATTLEBORO, MASS.—R. I.  
N4152.5—W7115.7.5

1964  
AMS 6767 IV NE—SERIES V814

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

FIRST PARSONAGE

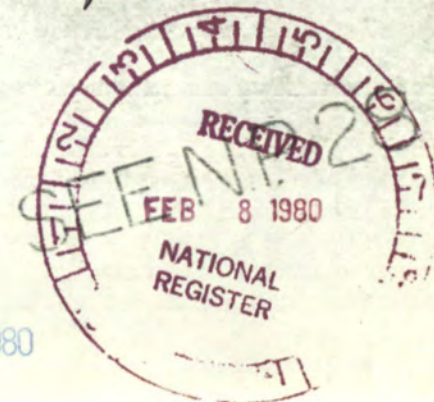




SEE NP 39

First Parsonage for the Second Parish Church  
 41 South Main Street  
 Attleboro, Mass.  
 Assessor's Map

PLAT-31



APR 2 1980

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered      APR 2 1980

Name

Location

Dorchester-Milton Lower Mills Industrial  
District

Boston and Milton  
Suffolk (also Norfolk County)

Elm Street Fire Station

Gardner  
Worcester County

Stoneholm

Sharon  
Norfolk County

First Parsonage for Second East Parish Church

Attleboro  
Bristol County

Lane, David, House

Bedford  
Middlesex County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Honorable Brian J. Donnelly  
Honorable Robert F. Drinan  
Honorable Margaret M. Heckler  
Honorable James M. Sahnnon

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski  
Executive Director, Massachusetts  
Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR      Byers/bjr      4/8/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.