

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 30 1978

DATE ENTERED

NOV 27 1978

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 Chatham Railroad Depot

AND/OR COMMON Chatham Railroad Museum

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 153 Depot Road

CITY, TOWN

Chatham

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

12th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Barnstable

CODE

001 ✓

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 ☒ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Town of Chatham

STREET & NUMBER

Selectmen's Office, Town Office Building, Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Chatham

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02633

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry of Deeds, Barnstable County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Barnstable Complex, Route 6A

CITY, TOWN

Barnstable

STATE

Massachusetts 02630

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth #75

DATE

1977

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chatham Railroad Depot is located on Depot Road on the outskirts of Chatham. The building sits on its original site and is presently surrounded by contemporary structures. A low hedge separates the ¼ acre of property from the street.

The Queen Anne/Stick Style depot was constructed in 1887. It is a 1½ story, gable roof, rectangular structure with a hexagonal tower rising from the north (rear) elevation. The symmetrical building is painted yellow with maroon trim. A molded stringcourse ties the window cornices together and defines the difference in exterior sheathing. The lower portion of the building is clapboards; the upper is flat boards. The overhanging eaves are supported by large brackets, which are flanked by a boss creating an unusual and ornamental entablature. The roof is covered with cedar shingles. Fenestration is 2/2 framed by wide, flat architraves.

The south facade has a centrally located, one-story projection with a shed roof. This small section has four windows and is flanked by a five panel entrance door to either side on the main body of the building. These doors are headed by single light transoms. A single window stands at either end of the facade.

The east and west elevations each have a double window on the first story and a small triple arched window in the gable.

The north (rear) elevation is identical to the facade with the addition of the central tower. The ground level of the tower is a three-sided bay. Four windows occupy the bay, each with a molded panel below. These windows are headed by the Chatham Depot sign. The portion of the tower rising from the building roof is divided into four sections. The first is sheathed in a clapboard-diapered shingle-clapboard pattern. The second section is defined by a slight overhand and has small single and double segmentally arched windows crowned by a diapered shingle pattern. The third section is the tower entablature, identical to the building entablature, which carries the fourth section, the roof. The peak of the hexagonal roof is topped by a pinnacle.

The tower was slightly altered in 1900. Ornamentation over the window cornices was removed, as were small coffered panels beneath the sills. This decoration was replaced by the diapered shingles. The building colors are not original. The depot complex originally included a passenger station, freight house, engine house, car house, and tool shed. Only the passenger station remains, and now houses the Chatham Railroad Museum.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION
—1400-1499	—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE
—1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	—MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
—1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	☒ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☒ COMMERCE	—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	☒ TRANSPORTATION
—1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)
		—INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1887

BUILDER/ARCHITECT David Howes, Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chatham Railroad Depot is significant as the only remaining railroad station on Cape Cod in its original condition, and as a good example of late 19th century Queen Anne/Stick Style architecture.

The depot was constructed by David Howes, builder, for the Chatham Railroad Company and Old Colony Railroad Company in 1887. The establishment of a rail line to Chatham increased both the infant tourist trade and the amount of commercial goods shipped to and from the town. The railroad contributed largely to the gradual shift in Chatham's economy from one dependent on salt water trades and agriculture to one dependent on tourism and construction.

Despite numerous attempts to attract a railroad to Chatham prior to 1887, no company was willing to underwrite a small branch line to only one town. The Chatham Railroad Co. was organized by several citizens with the support of town officials in the winter of 1886-87. The main purpose of the organization was to raise funds to build a line connecting with the main line of the Old Colony Railroad that ran through Harwich center. The company was open to anyone who wished to buy shares in it. The majority of shareholders were a few individuals; the town of Chatham was the largest single shareholder. The Chatham Railroad Co. purchased land for the line, but the actual railroad was built by the Old Colony Co. between May and November 1887. The line opened for business in November 1887 and ran a distance of seven miles. The Chatham Railroad Co. owned the depot and railyard with a repair shop, turntable and watertower. They also owned a small station at South Chatham, but they never owned any rolling stock; they rented the land from the Old Colony Co. which provided all services. When the Old Colony was absorbed by the New York, New Haven and Hartford, it retained the same arrangement with the Chatham Co.

The New Haven Co. discontinued the Chatham line passenger service in the 1920's, and the freight service in the 1930's as no longer profitable. The Chatham company itself went bankrupt in 1937, proving a total loss to its shareholders. The rails were sold as scrap iron to Japan, much to the consternation of the townspeople. The remaining buildings were sold to private individuals who either had them torn down or converted for storage purposes. The old railroad yard is now occupied by the fire station and elementary school.

There was a town movement to have the depot destroyed in 1957-58, but it was purchased by Mrs. Phyllis Graves Cox in 1959 with the provision that it be maintained as a museum and not torn down. The Chatham Railroad Museum was opened in July 1960. It retains the original dispatching and ticket office, pictures and memorabilia. A 52-year old caboose was given by the New York Central Railroad in 1962. It stands directly behind the building. The museum is supported by donations and by funds from the Town of Chatham.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Henderson, Eleanor, A Short History of Transportation in Chatham, Chatham Historical Society, Chatham Press.
interview with William R. Main, Chairman, Railroad Museum Committee, June, 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY $\frac{1}{4}$ acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9
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4	1	9	9	1	0
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4	6	1	5	1	1	0
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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	Blaine Mallory and Joseph Orfant, National Register Editor Clair Baisly, Thomas Buckley, Mary James, Chatham Historical Commission		
ORGANIZATION	Massachusetts Historical Commission	DATE	March 14, 1978
STREET & NUMBER	294 Washington Street	TELEPHONE	617-727-8470
CITY OR TOWN	Boston	STATE	Massachusetts 02108

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 L. Weslowski

TITLE Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission

DATE 6/24/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

William Lebovich
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/27/78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

Nov 24, 1978

Property Chatham Railroad Depot

State Mass.

Working Number 63078.3524

TECHNICAL

Photos 3

Maps 1

CONTROL

OK pl
2.5.78

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURALLY SIGNIFICANT AS A WELL-PRESERVED CAPE COD DEPOT IN AN ADAPTATION OF THE QUEEN ANNE STYLE. THOUGH NO LONGER SURROUNDED BY FUNCTIONAL OUTBUILDINGS, THIS BUILDING VISUALLY DISPLAYS ORNAMENTAL MERIT AND RETAINS A HIGH DEGREE OF INTEGRITY DUE TO ITS RECYCLED USE AS A MUSEUM.

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory X

Review 11/6/78

Structure possesses integrity of site and usage. Regionally significant in context of transportation.

accept

John Jackson

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

ONLY REMAINING RAILROAD DEPOT ON CAPE COD IN ORIGINAL CONDITION. MOVED BUT ARCHITECTURALLY SIGNIFICANT.

ACCEPT

Mr. Douglas

11/17/78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Regimen
11/27/78

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

NOV 27 1978

Federal Register Entry

Re-submit

INT:2106-74



Chatham Railroad Depot
Chatham, Massachusetts
1977

Clair Baisly

Chatham Historical Commission

Chatham, Mass.

#1

South facade and east elevation

NOV 27 1978

JUN 30 1978

Chatham
77
Clair Baisly
Chatham Hist Comm

#1 enlargement
front facing south
Depot Road



Chatham Railroad Depot
Chatham, Massachusetts
1977

JUN 30 1978

Clair Baisly
Chatham Historical Commission
Chatham, Mass.

#2

South facade and west elevation

NOV 27 1978

repainting but with
new roof



Chatham Railroad Depot
Chatham, Massachusetts
1977

JUN 30 1978

Clair Baisly

Chatham Historical Commission

Chatham, Mass.

#3

North (rear) elevation showing tower.

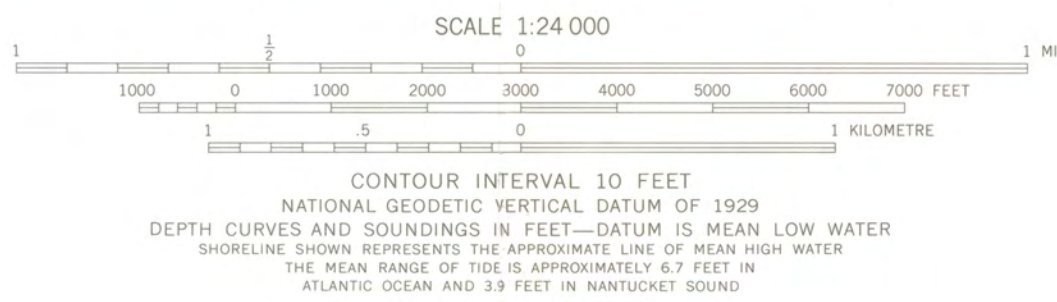
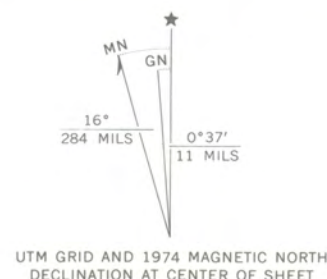
NOV 27 1978

repainting - No changes
made



Chatham Railroad Depot
Chatham, Massachusetts
UTM Coordinates:
19/419 910/4615 110

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1939. Topography by planimetric surveys 1940. Revised
from aerial photographs taken 1973. Field checked 1974
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS 257 (1972) and
270 (1971). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, Light-duty road, hard or
hard surface improved surface
Secondary highway, Unimproved road
hard surface
Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

CHATHAM, MASS.
N4137.5-W6952.5/7.5

1974

AMS 7067 III NW-SERIES V814

NOV 27 1978

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered NOV 27 1978

Name

Chatham Railroad Depot

Location

Chatham
Barnstable County

Also Notified

Honorable Edward W. Brooke
Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Gerry E. Studds

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

NA' IONA . REGIS' ER DATA SHEE' '

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Chatham Railroad Depot		② OTHER NAMES: Chatham Railroad Museum		③ date of entry: NOV 27 1978	④ county code: 01
⑤ LOCATION street & number 153 Depot Rd.		city / town Chatham	vicinity of MA	state MA	county Barnstable
⑦ OWNER ☐ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☒ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)		⑥ NPS REGION: NA			
⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:		⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL ⑩ FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT 12th ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL			
⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		⑮ ACREAGE MA Hist. Comm. ☐ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION	
⑯ CONDITION ☐ excellent ☐ good ☐ fair ☐ deteriorated ☐ ruins ☐ unexposed ☐ unexcavated ☐ altered ☐ unaltered ☐ reconstructed ☐ excavated		⑰ features: ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9			
⑱ ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown		⑲ ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☐ NO		⑳ SAVED? ☐ YES ☐ NO	
㉑ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE : ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☐ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY) ☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20 ☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25		㉒ CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐			
㉓ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:		㉔ dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:		㉕ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION	
㉖ architectural style(s):		㉗ architect:		㉘ master builder:	
㉙ landscape architect / garden designer:		㉚ interior decorator:		㉛ artist:	
㉜ artisan:		㉝ builder/contractor:			
㉞ NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:					

NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP