

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Stacy Boulevard N/A not for publication

city or town Gloucester N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code 025 county Essex code 009 zip code 01930

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith B. McDonough
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

3/15/96
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
 - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
 - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ☐ removed from the National Register
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Patrick Andrews

Date of Action

5/7/96

Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial

Name of Property

Essex County, MA

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☒ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

_____ buildings
_____ sites
_____ structures
_____ objects
_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Gloucester Multiple Property Submission (Maritime Context)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Work of Art

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Work of Art

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

walls _____

roof _____

other Metal: Bronze _____

Stone: Granite _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets.

Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial
Name of Property

Essex County, MA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

MARITIME HISTORY

ART

Period of Significance

1923 - 1945

Significant Dates

1923; 1925

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Leonard F. Craske

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial
Name of Property

Essex County, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19	362900	4718660		3.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
2.			4.			
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC, with Barbara Erkkila, Gloucester Historical Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January 1996

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Gloucester

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial
Gloucester (Essex County)
Massachusetts

Section number 7 Page 1

7. DESCRIPTION

The Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial occupies a prominent location on the south side of Stacy Boulevard at the edge of Gloucester Harbor. The memorial is situated in the center of the long, narrow 1.5 acre Stacy Esplanade. A concrete walkway with inserts of grass and benches for seating exists on either side. The memorial consists of an eight-foot-tall statue of a man atop a granite base. It is the work of the English sculptor Leonard F. Craske (1882-1950) and was cast by the Gorham Company of Providence, Rhode Island, in 1925.

The statue is a naturalistically rendered figure of a fisherman clad in oilskins standing braced at the wheel on the sloping deck of his ship. It is sited so that the fisherman, grasping the ship's wheel, looks intently out to sea, over the harbor. Cast in bronze, the statue has lost its original patina almost completely and is now covered with a thin layer of green corrosion, with islands of black-brown corrosion. The spokes of the wheel and bronze deck are worn smooth from handling and climbing, as the statue is only minimally removed from the public by a low chain fence.

The fisherman's figure rises above a green granite base weighing a half ton. A panel, slightly recessed, on the front (harbor, or south) side of the base, is designed with a frame of rock-faced granite to match the block. It holds an inscription taken from the 107th Psalm:

THEY THAT GO
DOWN TO THE SEA
IN SHIPS

. . .

1623 - 1923

The inscription is in three-inch-high bronze letters, while the panel background is hand worked with an 8-cut bushing hammer. On the north, street side, a horizontal panel reads: "MEMORIAL TO THE GLOUCESTER FISHERMAN, August 23, 1923."

The area around the statue's base was originally grassed over, but recently, after years of wear by tourists and local residents alike, it has been paved. Some 1,800 antique granite blocks form a twenty-course circle around the statue, extending sixty feet in diameter. Fifteen sections of granite form a continuous low bench encircling the statue base, while sixteen black iron stanchions resembling anchor shafts support an iron chain railing and separate the

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MassachusettsSection number 7, 8 Page 2, 1

memorial somewhat from public access. Discreet signage requests that the public keep off the monument.

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the property, it is possible that sites are present. One prehistoric site is recorded in the general area (within one mile). The physical characteristics of the property and the surrounding area, a level to moderately sloping terrace bordering Gloucester Harbor indicate locational criteria favorable for prehistoric site locations. In general, however, the small size of the parcel (less than one acre) and construction of Stacy Boulevard, the seawall and paved area around the statue base indicates a low potential for either prehistoric or historic survivals.

(end of Section 7)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial was installed in 1925 to celebrate the lives of the more than 10,000 men lost at sea in the first three centuries of Gloucester's history. It is an important symbol of the city's maritime heritage and perhaps the city's most important work of public art. The Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meets Criteria A and C of the National Register on the local and state levels.

Gloucester's population has always had close associations with the sea. While many Gloucester residents have earned their livelihood from the ocean, many, too, have lost their lives to it. In one disastrous year--1879--249 fishermen and twenty-nine vessels were lost. A memorial statue commemorating these losses was proposed as early as 1906, by Annisquam artist Eric Pape. In June 1909, Gloucester held its first fisherman's memorial service. It was conducted at the Blynman Bridge, only a half mile from the site of the present statue. During an August 1912 ceremony, Mary Brooks' song "Scatter Flowers on the Waves" was sung, and the Girl Scouts tossed wreaths and bouquets on the outgoing tide, a custom now observed every Memorial Day at the Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial.

The statue is the work of Leonard F. Craske, who in 1923 won a competition sponsored by the Gloucester Tercentenary Permanent Memorial Association. Craske was born in a London suburb in 1882 and was educated at London University. He later became a student of

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial
Gloucester (Essex County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 8 Page 2

anatomy at St. Thomas Hospital, London. He studied art and sculpture under Paul R. Montford and drawing under Sir Francis Dicksee. While an assistant to Montford, Craske exhibited at the Royal Academy.

In his youth, Craske worked as an actor as well as an artist. He first came to the United States with a traveling acting troupe, arriving in Boston in 1914. He appeared with the English Company at the Copley Theater in Boston during the First World War before turning his attention to sculpture and photography. He soon joined other artists summering on Cape Ann, and he became a member of the Gloucester Society of Artists at Eastern Point. Throughout his career in New England, he maintained studios both on St. Botolph Street in Boston and on Gloucester's Rocky Neck.

In preparing for the competition to secure the commission for the Fisherman's Memorial, Craske spent many hours aboard fishing schooners. Craske sketched and photographed while on board, and working fishermen later posed for the sculptor. His model was approved August 17, 1922.

The Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial is generally acknowledged as Craske's finest work. Other examples of his artistry include: war memorials in Lawrence and Amesbury; the bronze plaque in Cambridge marking the location of the Washington Elm, the site where General Washington took command of the Continental Army; *The Joy of Life*, a cupid-like figure at the Kaufman Estate in Peterborough, New Hampshire; a portrait bust of Gloucester hero Howard Blackburn; and the model for a proposed, but never executed, statue honoring The Fisherman's Wife.

Stacy Boulevard, originally Western Parkway, was reworked in the 1920s as part of a civic improvements movement. Parks Commissioner George O. Stacy was responsible for the construction of a scenic boulevard overlooking the harbor; in order to create the broad boulevard, a dozen buildings were relocated and a new seawall constructed. Upon its completion, and with the death of the commissioner shortly thereafter, the roadway was renamed Stacy Boulevard.

The Fisherman's Memorial was unveiled August 22, 1925, but backdated on its base to 1923 in order to associate it with the tercentenary of the city's settlement. The cost of the statue was \$10,000, with \$5,000 provided by the city and the remaining \$5,000 by public subscription. The granite base contains a sealed time capsule containing forty-three items, including books, papers, stamps, and coins.

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Continuation Sheet**

Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial
Gloucester (Essex County)
Massachusetts

Section number 8, 9, 10 Page 3, 1, 1

Featured on picture postcards and calendars, as well as boxes of frozen fish, the Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial is viewed by thousands of visitors annually. The statue has in many ways become Gloucester's symbol, commemorating the city's link to the sea.

(end of Section 8)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Boston Globe, August 30, 1950, Leonard Craske dies.

Cape Ann Historical Association: Art Scrapbooks #12, Leonard Craske, also foundry report dated 1927.

Gloucester Daily Times: January 8, 1906, statue proposed; June 13, 1909, memorial service; August 18, 1912, special music; August 17, 1922, Craske model approved; April 23, 1923, Dedication; Preparation of the site, cornerstone, actual raising of statue, August 13, 20, 22, 23, 1925; October 18, 1954, Erkkila: Stacy Boulevard; September 17, 1960. Bollmon article; August 11, 1973, Louis Blend, photographer; Blend retires, July 1, 1974; August 31, 1974, Erkkila: Paving around the statue; June 16, 1975, Blend dies; April 14, 1983, Erkkila: First Man at the Wheel; May 25, 1983, Erkkila: Statue design and story.

Thomas, Gordon: Fast and Able, p. 145, Schooner REX.

(end of Section 9)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial is situated on lot #72 on the City of Gloucester Assessor's sheets #2 and #3.

Boundary Justification

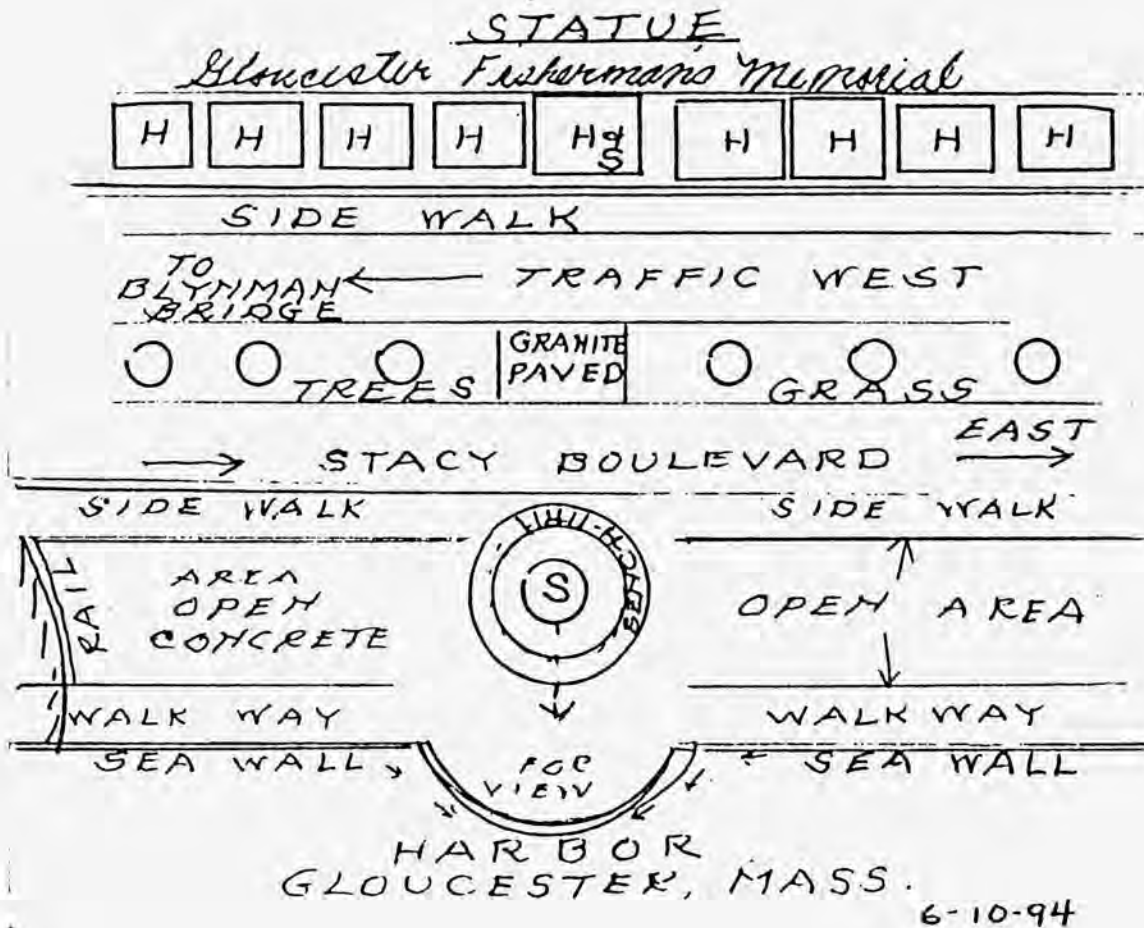
The entire lot is that historically associated with the nominated memorial.

(end of Section 10)

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 96000473 Date Listed: 5/7/96

Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial Essex MA
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name _____

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

5/31/96
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The Period of Significance for this property is amended to begin in 1925 (the year that the monument was constructed), rather than 1923 as noted in the nomination form. The form is also amended to check Criteria Consideration F since this is a commemorative property.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial
NAME:

MULTIPLE Gloucester MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Essex

DATE RECEIVED: 3/25/96 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/09/96
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/25/96 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/09/96
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 96000473

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: Y PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Historically significant public work of art commemorating
Gloucester's maritime history*

RECOM./CRITERIA accept A

REVIEWER Patrick Andrews

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 5/7/96

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

404



THEY THAT GO
DOWN TO THE SEA
IN SHIPS
1623 - 1923

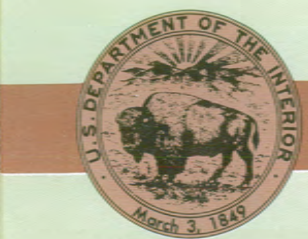
*The Fisherman's Memorial
Gloucester, Massachusetts
Essex County*

Photo by

BARBARA H. ERKKILA
31 Prospect Street
Gloucester, MA 01930-5896

1994

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



1984

Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 13267 (1981), 13278, 13279 (1983), and 13281 (1982). This information is not intended for navigational purposes.

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19: Universal Transverse Mercator

10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone

1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south and 42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3.0 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS
DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE
OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.7 METER
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5617
3	9.8425
4	13.1234
5	16.4042
6	19.6850
7	22.9659
8	26.2467
9	29.5276
10	32.8084

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

	1	2	3
4	5		
6	7	8	

1 Ipswich

2 Rockport

3 Salem

4

5 Lynn

6

7

8

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road, trail
Route marker: Interstate: U. S.; State
Railroad: standard gauge; narrow gauge
Bridge; drawbridge
Footbridge; overpass; underpass
Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
House; barn; church; school; large structures shown
Boundary
National, with monument
State
County, parish
Civil township, precinct, district
Unincorporated city, village, town
National or State reservation; small park
Land grant with monument; found section corner
U. S. public lands survey: range, township; section
Range, township, section line; location approximate
Fence or rail line
Power transmission line, located tower
Water with lock
Canal; grain
Canal; picnic area; U. S. location monument
Windmill; water well; spring
Clash; prospect; pit or cave
Contour: hydrologic station; intertidal station; elevation
Contour: area; intermediate; supplementary; spot depression
Distorted surface: strip mine, lake, sand
Topographic contours: intertidal
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
Ridge, large and small; hills, large and small
Submerged marsh, swamp
Land subject to controlled movement; woodflood
Scrub; mangrove
Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request.



Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial
Stacy Boulevard
Gloucester (Essex County) Massachusetts



Gloucester Fishermen's Memorial
Stacy Boulevard
Gloucester (Essex County) Massachusetts

SCALE 1" = 40'

FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY

RECEIVED

NOV 24 1995

MASS. HIST. COMM.

85
12