

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 7 1975

DATE ENTERED MAR 26 1976

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



Brockton City Hall

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

45 School Street

CITY, TOWN

Brockton

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

11th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE
025

COUNTY

Plymouth

CODE

023

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 City of Brockton

STREET & NUMBER

45 School Street

CITY, TOWN

Brockton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City Treasurer's Office

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall, 45 School Street

CITY, TOWN

Brockton

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1975

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

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 Brockton City Hall sits on a three-quarter acre triangular shaped block in downtown Brockton, and is bounded by School Street, East Elm Street and City Hall Square. It was built in 1892-94 to plans drawn by Wesley Lyng Minor.

The City Hall is constructed of yellow brick, with a high stone faced granite basement with battered walls, and terra cotta and brownstone decorative trim on the upper stories. The two and a half story building is symmetrical in plan along its east-west axis, but the elevations have irregular massing, and the roofline is broken. The long north and south elevations are eight bays wide, with four bays projecting in steps from the base wall. A shallow projecting pavilion on the three bay west elevation emphasizes the entrance, and a five story circular tower adorns the east elevation.

There are three doorways in the building, one each on the north, south, and west elevations. Each of the doorways is topped by a Romanesque round arch with elaborately carved voussoirs. Short clustered engaged columns with intricately carved capitals and entablature support the deeply recessed arches. The doorways are all set half in the high basement story and half in the first story. The top of the columns in the entranceway marks the division between these two stories, and this line is carried around the building by a round brownstone moulding, which rests on top of the granite foundation. Another belt course, consisting of a two foot high terra cotta panel decorated with stylized foliage extends around the building at the level of the springing point of the arches over the first floor windows. A thin string course encircles the building at the base of the windows of the second floor, identical to the one directly over the skew backed brick lintels of the second floor windows. A heavy modillioned cornice above a row of dentils forms a visual base for the hipped roof. There are three Richardsonian dormers with conical roofs, and a gable end facing outwards, on both the north and south elevations. The gables are decorated with clusters of long cylinders formed out of brick and have windows set in each of two quarter circular recessed panels in the gable end.

A massive five story tower with a steeply pitched hip roof rises from the north elevation. The tower is decorated with terra cotta panels and slender engaged columns and has round headed arched windows in the section which rises above the roofline of the building. A clock face graces three sides of the tower near the top, and the steeply pitched roof contains a round dormer topped by a cartouche in each side. A small platform on top of the tower holds meteorological instruments and serves as an observation point for the U.S. Weather Bureau.

A three and a half story circular tower is centered on the east elevation. It has alternating stories of arched windows and windows with flat lintels. A row of circular windows set between ornamental swags and garlands is located just below the cornice, and battlements encircle the top of the tower.

The interior of the City Hall contains some features of particular note. The grand corridor, running east and west on the axis of symmetry of the building, is 108 feet long, twenty-two feet wide and eighteen feet high. The corridor contains a series of fifteen paintings depicting scenes from the Civil War which were executed by Richard Holland and Mortimer Lamb in 1893 and are considered to be excellent examples of this kind of painting.

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 **1892-94**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Wesley Lyng Minor**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brockton City Hall, built in 1892, was the first permanent home of the Brockton City government. From the time the city was incorporated in 1821 until the construction of the present building, the city government moved from one rented site to another. Thus this building marks a time of significant commitment in Brockton's development. The City Hall is also significant as an architectural landmark in Brockton, and for the quality and quantity of its paintings of the Civil War.

When the city decided to build a permanent home for their governmental functions they hired a Brockton architect, Wesley Lyng Minor, to design the building. Minor was born in Louisiana in 1852 and moved to Brockton in 1882. He designed many of the finest homes in Brockton, mostly for the owners of the shoe factories which housed Brockton's main industry. The cornerstone for the building was laid on May 30, 1892, and the building was dedicated and opened on September 24, 1894. The opening of the building was celebrated with a huge parade, and the Honorable Frederick Greenhalge, Governor of Massachusetts, was the principal speaker. After the opening festivities the guests were taken by electric car to the dining hall at the Brockton Fair Grounds where a dinner for 250 people was held. The opening of this building, a massive, ornate structure, reflected the pride of the citizens of Brockton and the wealth the city had acquired through the shoe industry.

The City Hall is a distinct architectural landmark in Brockton. There are no other buildings in the city from that period built on the same scale and with such lavish attention to detail. The large Civil War paintings in the grand corridor, excellent examples of this genre of painting, add to the artistic significance of the building.

The City Hall is still an important part of Brockton's urban environment. The city government is actively interested in restoring the city hall, and has established the building as a priority for the revitalization of the downtown area. Brockton, like many other New England industrial towns, has lost most of its factories and has gone through an extended period of decline in the city center. The City Hall, an expression of the pride and wealth which Brockton once had, is an important focal point in the present effort to bring the city back to life and to help the city change to meet the needs of its present population.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kingman, Bradford, History of Brockton, 1656-1895, Syracuse, N.Y., D. Mason and Co.
1895
Brockton Enterprise, City Hall, 1894-95, Brockton, 1895

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3/4 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 333020 4660680
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

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

Christine Boulding, Assistant Survey Director, and Robert Kane

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

October 24, 1975

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 X

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

Elizabeth Reed Amador

TITLE Mass. State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

Oct. 29, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

3/26/96

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3-21-76

Acting

Property

Brockton City Hall

State

Mass.

Working Number

11. 7. 75 - 2001

Plymouth

TECHNICAL

Photos

2

Maps

1

CONTROL

OK ^{pl} 11. 7. 75

HISTORIAN

Accept

E. Smith

12-22-75

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPT

HAWKINS

12/18/75

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept

Cole

1/29/76

BRANCH CHIEF

accept

Thompson

3-4-76

KEEPER

Accept

Rettig (for Murtagh)

3-21-76

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered

MAR 26 1976

Federal Register Entry

5-4-76

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



SOUTH

DAVIDSON STUDIO, INC.
448 PEARL STREET
BROCKTON, MASS. 02401
TEL: 586-1124

H/

South

forade

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 3/26/76

Title: Brockton City Hall

Plymouth County, Ma

Loc. South elevation



NORTH

DAVIDSON STUDIO, INC.
448 PEARL STREET
BROCKTON, MASS. 02401
TEL: 586-1124

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 3/26/76

Title: Brockton City Hall

Plymouth County, Ma

Loc. North facade, east

elevation

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 7 1975

DATE ENTERED MAR 26 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Brockton City Hall

AND/OR COMMON
same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN
Brockton

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Plymouth

STATE
MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S., Brockton Mass. quadrangle

SCALE 1:24,000 DATE 1963

4 REQUIREMENTS

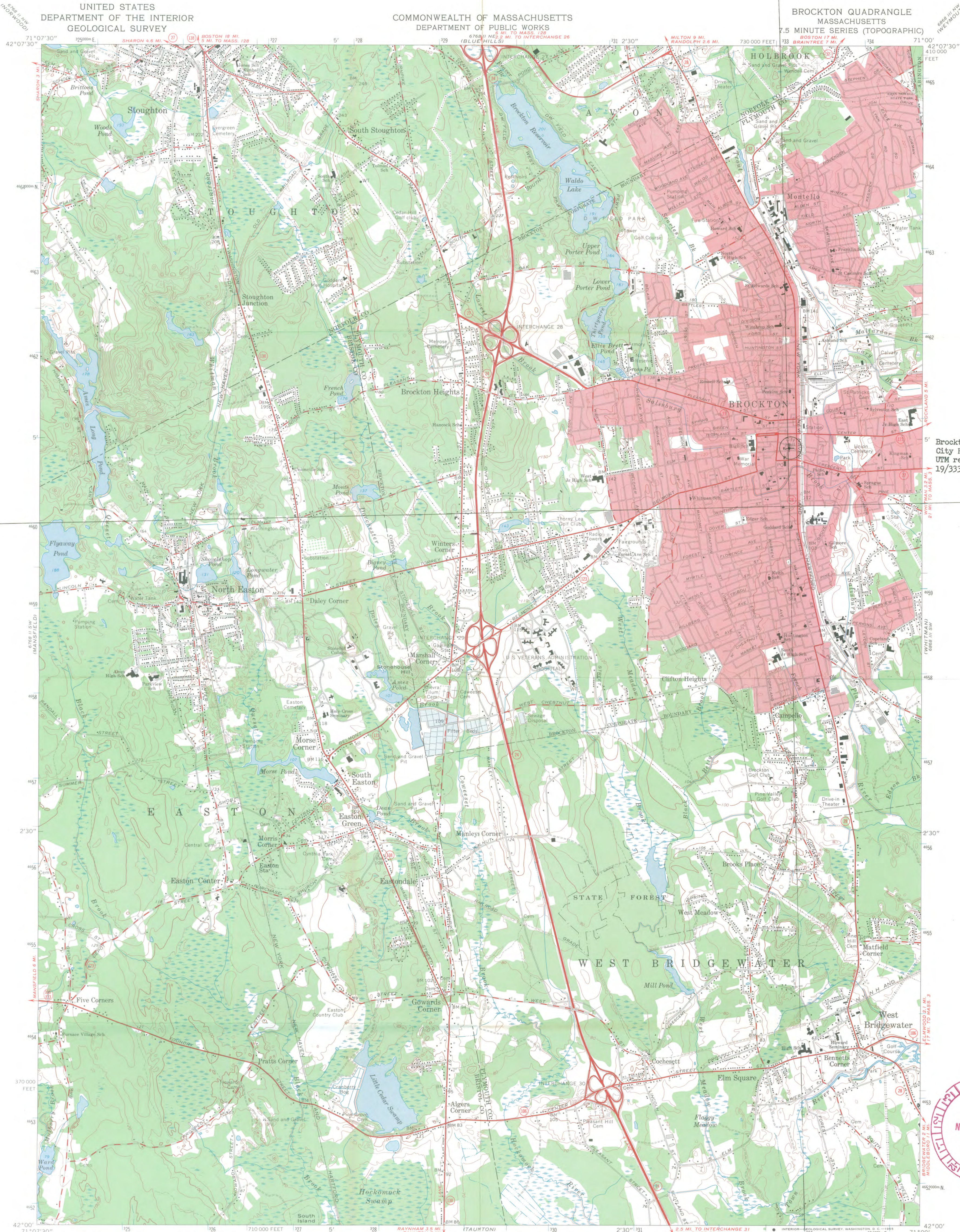
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

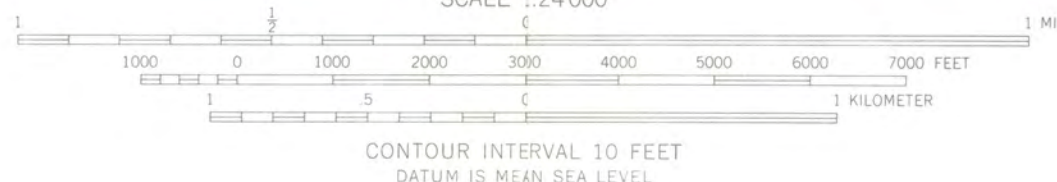
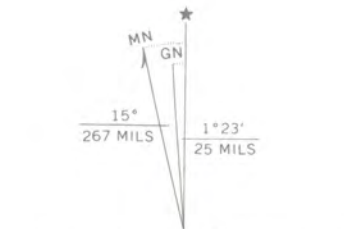
BROCKTON QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



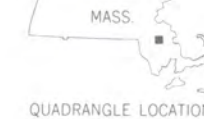
Brockton, Brockton
City Hall
UTM references:
19/333020/4660680



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
Topography by planimetric surveys 1936. Revised 1963
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
State Route ○

BROCKTON, MASS.
N4200—W7100/7.5

1963

AMS 6768 II SE—SERIES V814

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered MAR 26 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Dwight-Henderson House	Great Barrington Berkshire County
Bow Street Historic District	Somerville Middlesex County
Lee Lower Main Street Historic District	Lee Berkshire County
Haydenville Historic District	Haydenville, Town of Williamsburg Hampshire County
Brockton City Hall	Brockton Plymouth County
Bryant-Cushing House	Norwell Plymouth County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Silvio O. Conte
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Hon. James A. Burke

Regional Director, North Atlantic
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Brockton City Hall 2 OTHER NAMES: 3 date of entry: 3-26-76 4 county code: 023

5 LOCATION street & number: 45 School St. city / town: Brockton vicinity of: state: MA county: Plymouth 6 NPS REGION: North Atlantic

7 OWNER ☐ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☒ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name) 8 ADMINISTRATOR:

9 EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL 10 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☒ NO 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 11 12 SOURCE OF NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL if state who prepared form?

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☒ YES, NAME: 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☒ YES, NAME: 15 ACREAGE: .15 16 LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION ☐

16 CONDITION ☐ deteriorated ☒ altered ☒ original site ☐ excellent ☐ ruins ☐ unaltered ☐ moved ☒ good ☐ unexposed ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown ☐ fair ☐ unexcavated ☐ 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 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☒ no

22 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☒ POLITICS / GOVT.-21 ☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☒ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY) ☒ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25 ☒ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20 23 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐

24 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CITY HALL CURRENTLY: CITY HALL 25 dates of initial construction: 1892-1894 major alterations: historic events: 26 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

27 architectural style(s): 28 architect: Wesley Lyng Minor 29 master builder: 30 engineer:

31 landscape architect / garden designer: 32 interior decorator: 33 artists: Richard Holland, Mortimer Lamb 34 artisan: 35 builder/contractor:

36 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: Wesley Lyng Minor (b. 1852, Louisiana), moved to Brockton in 1882 and designed many of the finest homes in Brockton. Richard Holland and Mortimer Lamb, painters of series of large pictures in Hall's grand corridor which depict scenes of the Civil War (1893) EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:

37 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP Brick, rock-faced stone foundation; 2 1/2 stories plus attic over raised basement, irregular, truncated hipped ~~or~~ gabled roof with ~~boxed~~ dormers and skylights, interior clustered ~~or~~ paneled chimneys with corbeled caps, front center entrance in compound round-arched portal in base of 5-story clock tower, with ~~tourelles and modified pyramidal roof~~ end entrances in projecting gabled bays, 5-story round side tower, with ~~5th-story round~~ round-arched openings, decorated belt courses; alterations; interior features 19th c. murals depicting Civil War scenes. Eclectic with Richardsonian Romanesque elements. First permanent home of Brockton's city government after its 1821 incorporation.