

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
	80

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
 staple to left side of form

Photo number 3-33

Town Methuen ✓

Address 253 Lawrence Street ✓

Historic Name First Baptist Church ✓

Present Owner: First Baptist Church

Use: Present church

Original same

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1869

Source Methuen Historical Commission

Style Gothic Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) Spire on belfry removed, pre-1903

Moved no Date n/a

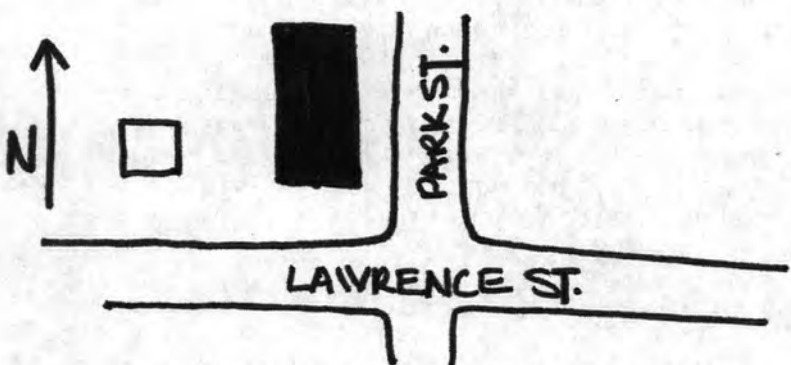
Approx. acreage one acre or less

Setting residential

UTM Reference: Lawrence Quad 1:25,000 19/321120/4732710

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Gail Hunton/Carole Zellie

Organization Landscape Research, Ltd.

Date May, 1978/May, 1983

Assessor's Data: Block 53, Lot 6

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

The First Baptist Church is among the best remaining examples of Gothic Revival architecture in Methuen. The clapboard-clad rectangular-plan church retains its paired lancet windows with label or lancet moldings, and bell tower with open belfry and slate covered roofs.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

The First Baptist Church possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship and meets criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The First Baptist Church was organized in 1815. Baptists in Methuen prior to this time attended the Baptist Church in Haverhill. In 1815 the first services were held in the Daniel Frye house. The current church structure replaced an earlier building constructed in 1816. The construction of the First Baptist Church coincided with the development of a significant residential and commercial center in the vicinity of Lawrence Street and Broadway.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Howe, Joseph. Historical Sketch of the Town of Methuen (1876).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 12/2/83
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 5

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Methuen Multiple Resource Area
State Essex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Cover — OK

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Barker, Stephen, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 1/20/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 2. Buswell, J. E., House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 1/20/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 3. Daddy Frye's Hill Cemetery | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 1/20/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 4. Dolan, Terence, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 1/20/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 5. Double-arch Sandstone Bridge | | Keeper | <u>for [Signature] 1/20/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 6. Emerson House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 1/20/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 7. Emerson, Capt. Oliver,
Homestead | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 1/20/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 8. Emmons, G. B., House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 1/20/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 9. First Baptist Church | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 1/20/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 10. Hardy, Urias, House | | Keeper | <u>for [Signature] 1/20/84</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |

Substantive Review

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

First Baptist Church (Methuen MRA)
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS

DEC - 7 1983

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85
Date Due: 1/5/84 - 1/21/84
Action: ACCEPT 1/20/84
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



3-47
First Baptist Church
Methuen MA, Ma

713A

WHITTIER

345.6

6-12
BOT

BLK
56

ST.

PARK

629.9

130.37

6,500

79.15

154.41

9

15,887

10

7,180

65.9

41.2

139.7

10,725

101

109

6



20,363

115.5

1C



64.5

110

110.01

1D

281.75

11,000

110

105.12

LAWRENCE

1B

12.3

38,560

369

80

42.4

62.7

17

10

4

1A

131

88

252.6

71,000

ST.

430

31.45

50

12

11

13

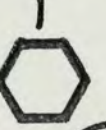
189

5

16,590

BLK
53

6



BLK

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000284