

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.

Form no.

500
N-8-39

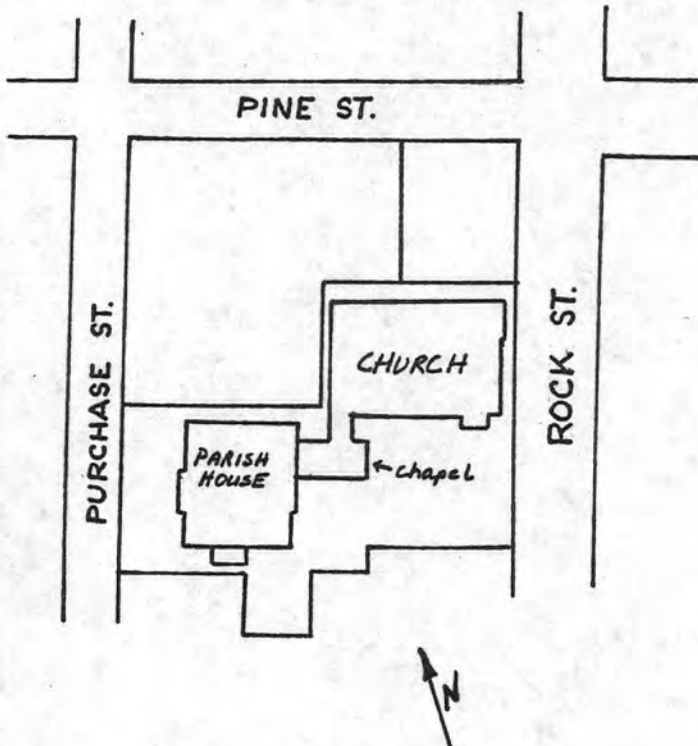
2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")

Staple to left side of form

Photo number Christ ch. 4 # 194

PSNR-1-31

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



1. Town Fall River, Mass.

Address 160 Rock St.

Name Church of the Ascension

Present use church

Present owner Church of the Ascension

3. Description: Lge. masonry church

Date 1875, 1910, 1964

Source Atlas, Fall River Herald New

Style Victorian Gothic

Architect Covel & Baker (builders)

Exterior wall fabric granite, red brick & Scotch stone trim.

Outbuildings (describe) parish house (1910)
See 147 Purchase Street.

Other features buttressed sq. corner tow w/ crenellated cap & small stone pinnacles at each corner. Brick-faced buttresses, pointed arch windows.

Additions: parish house 1910
chapel Dates: 1964

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size: 19,256 sq. ft.

One acre or less x _____ Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage _____

Approximate distance of building from street _____

6. Recorded by P. Giza

Organization FROHP

Date 2/18/81

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Church of the Ascension

Original use church

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	<u>x</u>
Architectural	<u>x</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	<u>x</u>	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Parish History: The Church of the Ascension was founded on July 15, 1836; it is the oldest Episcopal parish in the city. The first church service was held in the Unitarian House of Worship in 1835. The first meeting to form a parish was held July 11, 1836 and on July 15, 1836, plans were concluded. For the rest of 1836, services were held in Pocasset Hall. With a growing congregation, the parish moved to the Town Hall on Central Street in 1837 and continued there until 1840, when it purchased the First Baptist Church on So. Main St.; it burned in 1850. A new building was erected on the same site in 1852. By 1872, the church was deemed too small and was sold. From 1872 to 1875, services were held in the Music Hall.

The present building was dedicated on Nov. 29, 1875. Built of Fall River granite with red brick trim. Granite was chosen as the first church burned. Part of the high construction cost was covered by generous cash gifts by wealthy persons in England. The masonry contract was given to Covell & Baker of Fall River for \$39,250. Some of the masonry work was done by John J. Highlands. A Boston contractor had sent in bids, but, because Fall River granite was specified, the contract was given to Covell & Baker.

The Church of the Ascension is a distinguished Victorian Gothic structure with a buttressed square tower with a crenellated cap and stone corner pinnacles. The tight massing, necessitated by its urban location, is relieved by the addition of a side garden, attached chapel, and handsome brick and shingle parish house. The most striking feature of the building is its marked contrast in texture achieved by the use of Fall River granite for the body, accented with red brick and Scotch stone trim. The architect is not known. Located on lower Rock Street, a street of churches, (CONTINUED)

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Atlas 1895: Shown

1883: Shown

1871: Not shown

Fall River Herald News July 13, 1979

June 9, 1942

Feb. 21, 1937

Annals of the Church of the Ascension, Margaret Russell (Durfee)

Bldg. Dept: Church of the Ascension, Oct. 8, 1964, Permit#242, Rock St.

Addition for chapel, \$15,000 R.H. Hadfield.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Fall River, Mass.

Form No:

500

11-8-59

Property Name:

Church of the
Ascension

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

No. 9 (continued)

its high quality of design and workmanship, as well as its significant historical association, contribute to make it meet Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 1/5/83

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 10

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Fall River Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Chace Mills

Substantive Review

Keeper

2/16/83 *Ann M. Byers*

Attest

22. Chace, A. B., Rowhouses

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 *Ann M. Byers*

Attest

23. Chace's, Oliver, Thread Mill

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 *Ann M. Byers*

Attest

24. Charlton Mill

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 *Ann M. Byers*

Attest

25. Chase-Hyde Farm

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 *Ann M. Byers*

Attest

26. Children's Home

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 *Ann M. Byers*

Attest

27. Church of the Ascension

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 *Ann M. Byers*

Attest

28. Collins, William, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 *Ann M. Byers*

Attest

29. Connell, William M., School

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 *Ann M. Byers*

Attest

30. Cornell Mills

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

2/16/83 *Ann M. Byers*

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Church of the Ascension (Fall River MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 115/83-15

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84

Date Due: 2/3/83 - 2/19/83

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2/16/83

Entered in the ☐ RETURN

National Register ☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ 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
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ date _____

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

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT 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: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Fall River MRT, Ma

Church of the Ascension
160 Rock St.
PSNR



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
160 ROCK ST
FALL RIVER, ^{MA} MA

PAMELA SHIELDS (1982)

FALL RIVER OFFICE OF HIST, PRES.
1 GOVERNMENT CENTER
FALL RIVER, MA 02722
(PSNR 1-31)

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION - FRONT AND
SIDE FACADE, LOOKING NORTHWEST

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000279