

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photos

15:8 roof structure
15:9 roof structure
15:18 exterior

Town Burlington 017Address 12 Lexington Street
(corner Lexington, Bedford Sts)

Historic Name Meeting House of Second
Parish in Woburn (now United Church
of Christ Congregational)

Use: Present ChurchOriginal Meetinghouse

DESCRIPTION

Date 1732Source Parish recordsFirst Period frame, Colonial

Style Revival exterior Greek Revival
also

Architect UnknownExterior Wall Fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings Assembly Hall/religious
school building - 20th c.

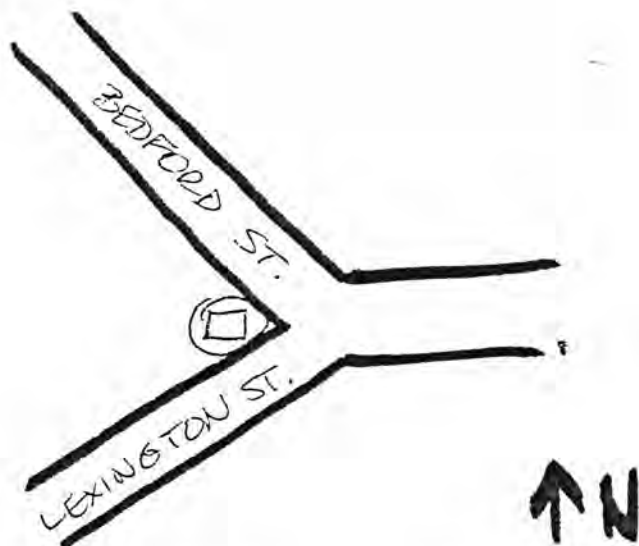
Major Alterations (with dates) Greek Revi-
val remodelling with steeple, 1844;
removal of steeple, reorientation of
entry at side, construction of bell
tower, 1885.

Condition GoodMoved No Date N/AAcreage less than one acre

Setting At triangle formed by two
major Burlington streets, in
suburban streetscape

Recorded by Anne GradyOrganization Boston UniversityDate June 1986

Sketch Map:



Z E N

JTM REFERENCE 19 / 329-300 / 4707-970JSGS QUADRANGLE WilmingtonSCALE 1:25,000

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: BURLINGTON	Form No: 95
Property Name: United Church of Christ	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below. *Meeting House of 2nd Parish*

SIGNIFICANCE

The United Church of Christ Congregational has integrity of location, design, materials and workmanship in its late First Period frame which embodies distinctive characteristics of form and construction under Criterion C. The Burlington Church is one of four First Period meeting houses known to survive in the survey area. The others are the Revere Masonic Temple, the North Lynnfield Meeting house and St. Michael's Church in Marblehead. The Burlington Church shares many framing features with the Revere and North Lynnfield buildings, but appears to have more elaborate axial bracing than the others. The United Church of Christ is a valuable resource in the little studied area of meeting house framing. The knowledge and skill required of First Period joiners to frame a meeting house represent in many ways the highest achievement of these craftsmen.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The United Church of Christ is six bays long and of rectangular plan. It has undergone several transformations since its original construction in 1732 as the meeting house of the Second Parish in Woburn.

A Greek Revival remodeling in 1844 entailed the addition of a steeple and entrance on the end. The entrance featured Doric columns in antis. Further remodeling in 1885 included the removal of the steeple and construction on the south side of the present entry pavilion with shorter bell tower.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

Very little of the original building survives except the basic shape, perhaps some wall materials behind the interior finish and the structural frame.

The framing of the roof visible in the attic is composed of cambered tie beams supported from the side posts by curved braces, double rafters with struts between them, king post, diagonal struts from the king posts and rafters, common purlins, and axial bracing. The axial bracing consists of horizontal beams running between king posts at the level of a collar purlin, diagonal braces rising from the horizontal beams to the king posts, and slim framing members just north of the king posts which are dovetail jointed down the center of the structure into successive tie beams.

The current ceiling is a dropped, coved ceiling. Evidence indicates, however, that originally the lower part of the tie beams, the side post and the curved braces were exposed. All have flat chamfers and are heavily whiter washed. Joist pockets located part way up the sides of the tie beams may indicate the level of an original plaster

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ceiling, for the joists would have provided a framework upon which to nail lath. The joist pockets (joists are now removed) on the east face of the tie beams are small and rectangular; on the west face they are long slots. Apparently this arrangement allowed joists to be slipped in place after the major framing was up.

Stud mortices in the next from the westernmost tie beam indicate the location of the original west end wall. The westernmost bay, with heavy framing to support a steeple, was added in 1844.

LATER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

Interior finishes date from 19th and 20th century remodelings. The pews with scrolled backs and carved trefoil trim were installed in the 1950's after they were removed from a church in Cambridge.

REFERENCES

Ed. Fogelburg - History of Burlington.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

c/24/80

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR
State _____

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

101. Jaquith, Abraham, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melara Byers 3/14/91
Attest _____
102. Mason, John, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melara Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____
103. Meeting House of the Second Parish in Woburn **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melara Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____
104. Noyes--Parris House **Substantive Review** Keeper Beth J. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____
105. Page, Christopher, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melara Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____
106. Putnam, Rev. Daniel, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melara Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____
107. Robbins, George, House **Substantive Review** Keeper Beth J. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____
108. Spaulding, Zeb, House **Substantive Review** Keeper Beth J. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____
109. Tenney Homestead **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melara Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____
110. Upham, Phineas, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melara Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Meeting House of the Second Parish in Woburn
NAME:

MULTIPLE First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 1/24/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/07/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/23/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/10/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000167

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3/9/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count ☐ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

☐ historic ☐ current

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification
☐ materials
☐ descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage ☐ verbal boundary description
☐ UTM's ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



SPEED
LIMIT
30

Burlington, MA
Meeting House

15-18

(United Church of Christ)

12 Lexington St.

1st Pond Bldg of E. Ma., TR

1985



15-8

Burlington MA

Meetinghouse Roof
(United Church of Christ)

12 Lexington St.

1st Period Building of E. May Jr

1985



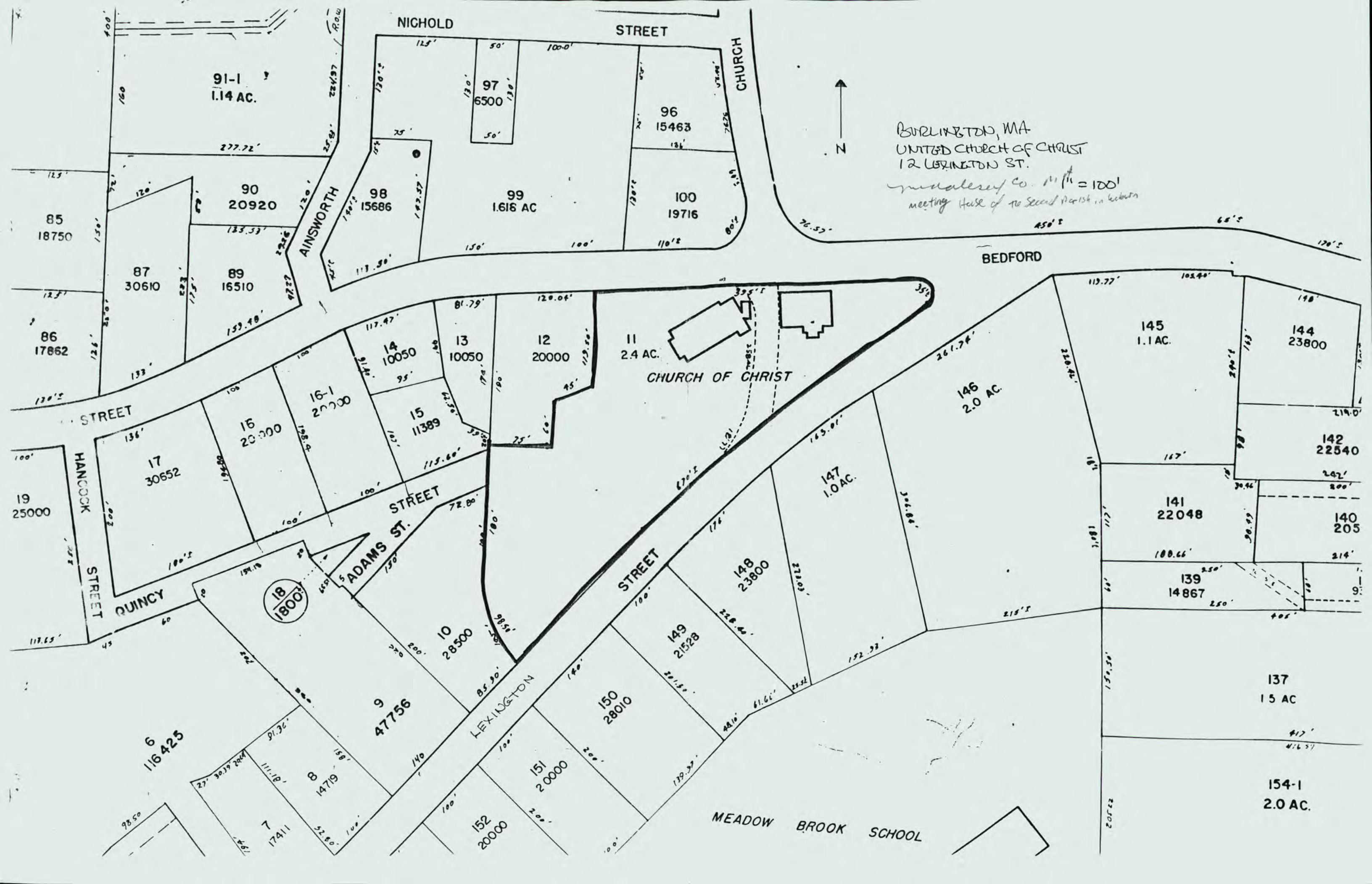
Burlington, MA 15-9

Meetinghouse roof
(United Church of Christ)

12 Lexington St.

1985

1st Period Building of E. May, TR



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281