

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Massachusetts	
COUNTY: Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 3	1972

1. NAME			
COMMON: Grace Episcopal Church			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
Congressional District 7			
STREET AND NUMBER: 160 High Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Medford			
STATE: Massachusetts		CODE 025	COUNTY: Middlesex



3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Site ☐ Object	☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Private ☐ Both	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☒ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Wardens and Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church			
STREET AND NUMBER: 160 High Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Medford		STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Southern District			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge		STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Plan for Historic Preservation			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Massachusetts Historical Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER: Archives Museum, State House			
CITY OR TOWN: Boston		STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mass.	COUNTY: Middlesex	FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER NOV 3 1972		DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Grace Episcopal Church, designed in 1867, was one of H.H. Richardson's earliest works. The church is located at 160 Highland Street in West Medford. Of all Richardson's churches, Grace Episcopal has the simplest plan. It consists of a nave, a low polygonal chancel and a tall bell tower. The east-west nave is covered by a steeply pitched ridge roof. The gray slate covering it is broken by three horizontal bands of red slate running the full length of the roof.

In describing Richardson's choice of materials, Professor Henry Russell Hitchcock comments:

The most characteristic thing is the walling of glacial boulders, suggested by Mrs. Brooks, one of the donors, who had used them for her barn. But Richardson would hardly have accepted the suggestion and profited from it had he not had a personal taste for the strong, the simple and the rough. The trim is of quarry-surfaced cut granite, heavy and massive enough to preserve the scale of the boulder walls and to frame solidly their rather shapeless patterns.

The west facade of the rectangular nave is the simplest in fenestration and detail. The motif of the gothic arch over the center door here is repeated in the larger gothic arch that frames the rose window set in the gable. This larger arch is made of cut granite set into the wall of glacial boulders around the rose window. A granite string course which crosses the facade at at eave level completes the frame below the window. Another string course continues around the entire building forming the sill under all the first storey windows. Buttresses up to the eaves appear on each corner of the west facade and at regular intervals along the north and south facades of the nave, creating four bays on each side. Three bays on each facade contain gothic windows framed in cut granite. On the north side, the second bay from the west is the location of the gothic entrance porch that serves as the main entrance to the church. Opposite this bay, on the south facade, is a similar doorway but additions to the church have obscured its original exterior appearance.

The polygonal chancel at the east end of the nave is not quite as wide as the nave wall to which it is attached. Its sides are separated by buttresses reaching to the eaves. The low string course mentioned previously runs across each side of the polygon. A pair of small gothic windows has been placed at the top of each of these sides. The whole chancel is covered by a high, pitched roof.

The bell tower, which is attached to the eastern-most portion of the northern facade of the nave, is the most prominent feature of the church. A pair of gothic windows is located on the first floor of each of the three exposed sides of the tower. They are situated between the corner buttresses of the tower and, like the other first storey windows, rest on a continuous sill formed by the low string course noted above. A large, louvered gothic window is set in each side of the belfry marking the location of the bells inside. The spire of the church, also of glacial boulders, is divided into stages by a band of quarry-surfaced cut granite. The lower stage has four

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER NOV 3	DATE 1972

(Number all entries)

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of Historic Assets, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
1970 state survey

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Archives Museum, State House
Boston, Massachusetts 025

7. Physical Description

sides with a narrow gothic dormer centered on each. Above the granite band, the spire is octagonal with four smaller dormers, one on each of its corner faces. In both belfry and spire, this tower bears a strong resemblance to that of Richard Upjohn's St. Paul's Church in Brookline. The main entrance porches on the two churches are also quite similar.

Much of the original interior of the Grace Episcopal Church has been preserved. The wooden arches, beams and rafters in the roof are all original as are the dark wooden pews. The pulpit, chancel interior and rose window are also the work of Richardson.

An addition was made to the church in 1882 on the south facade of the nave opposite the tower. The construction was done with glacial boulders and granite trim of a slightly darker shade than the original. The addition also differs from the original in the placement of the boulders. Early in the twentieth century another addition filled the remaining space south of the nave and west of the first addition, making the plan of the church almost square. The final addition was constructed in 1957. When completed it was as large as the first two and attached to their southern walls. The two latest additions are finished in a cream-colored stucco and covered with flat roofs.



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1868-72

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☒ Religion/Philosophy | ☐ Other (Specify) _____ |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | _____ |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | _____ |
| ☒ Architecture | ☐ Landscape Architecture | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Literature | ☐ Theater | _____ |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Military | ☐ Transportation | _____ |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Music | | |
| ☐ Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Grace Episcopal Church in Medford is the work of Henry Hobson Richardson, the first architect to work in a truly American idiom. The commission for the church was won in a competition; the building was designed in 1867 and constructed 1868-72.¹ This is the second church designed by Richardson and, since the demolition of the Church of the Unity in Springfield, Massachusetts, it is the oldest church by the architect surviving in the United States. In the belfry and spire of the tower and in the main entrance porch, the church bears a strong resemblance to Richard Upjohn's design for St. Paul's Church in Brookline, Massachusetts.

The most significant feature of the Grace Church is the walling of glacial boulders, which Richardson used here for the first time.

Several times in later life Richardson turned again to glacial boulders as walling materials; in the Ames Gate Lodge, the Gurney House, and the Paine House, all of the eighties. By that time his assurance had enormously increased as well as his command of scale, so that he used the glacial boulders with titanic boldness, almost as if he commanded the forces of nature. Yet, of these later examples, only the Ames Gate Lodge is more successful than this first use of the theme.

Three additions have been made to Richardson's original structure: the first in 1882, another early in this century and the final one in 1957.

¹Henry Russell Hitchcock, The Architecture of H.H. Richardson and His Times (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1966), p. 69.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Henry Russell Hitchcock. The Architecture of H.H. Richardson and His Times. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1966.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	42°	25'	12"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	71°	07'	00"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: about one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>Anne R. Wardwell, Survey Director</u>	
ORGANIZATION <u>Massachusetts Historical Commission</u>	DATE <u>3/2/72</u>
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>Archives Museum, State House</u>	
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Boston</u>	STATE <u>Massachusetts</u>
	CODE <u>025</u>

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

John F.X. Davoren
JOHN F.X. DAVOREN

Title Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission

Date 3/13/72

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

11/3/72

ATTEST:

William J. Bennett
Keeper of The National Register

Date

11/1/72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UTM REF
19/326850/4692210

Property

Grace Episcopal Church

Middlesex

State

Mass.

Working Number

7.16.76.3763

TECHNICAL

Photos

2

Maps

1

CONTROL

OK 7.20.76

HISTORIAN

accept
J. Grosvenor
7/28/76

NO STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT, UNLESS RENDER
INFERS SIGNIFICANCE DUE TO LAWRENCE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

NEED SKETCH MAP TO CLARIFY RELATIONSHIP OF BUILDINGS.
IS COMMERCIAL BLDG INCLUDED

with
Continuation
Sheet
No.
LEBOWITZ
10.12.76
accept

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

active
BRANCH CHIEF

accept
Cole
10.28.76

KEEPER

Wm
11/1/76

National Register Write-up

Send-back

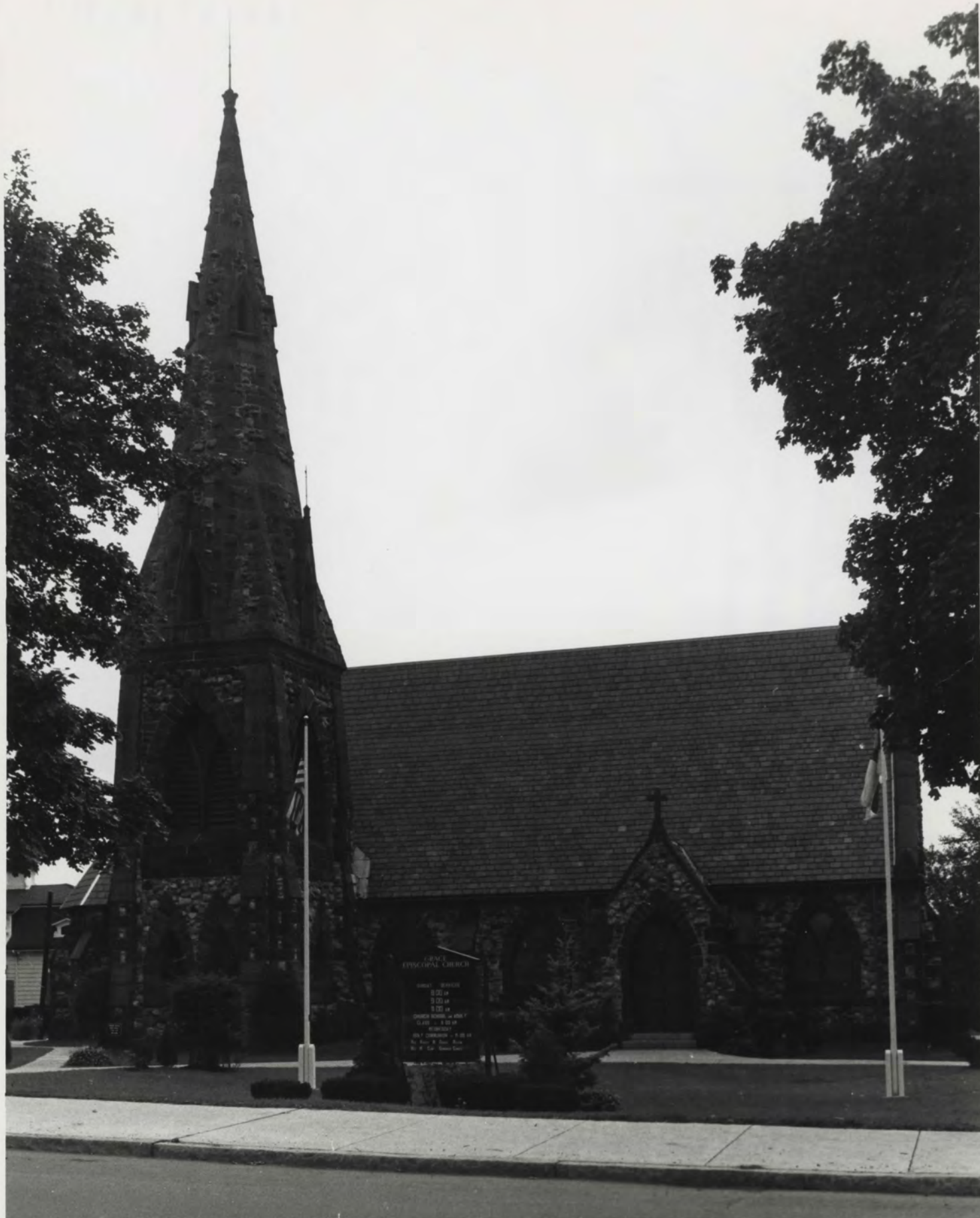
Entered NOV 7 1976

Federal Register Entry

12-7-76

Re-submit

INT:2106-74



GRACE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SUNDAY - 10:00 AM

8:00 AM

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

CHURCH SCHOOL - 9:00 AM

11:00 AM

WEDNESDAY

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM

9:00 PM - 10:00 PM

10:00 PM - 11:00 PM

11:00 PM - 12:00 AM

12:00 AM - 1:00 AM

1:00 AM - 2:00 AM

2:00 AM - 3:00 AM

3:00 AM - 4:00 AM

4:00 AM - 5:00 AM

NPS Number Nov. 3, 1972
Title: Grace Episcopal
Church
Loc. Middlesex Co., Mass.
Front facade from
north-northeast

Photo neg 70:2490

7 neg 70:2490
Front facade
Grace Episcopal Church

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

11/70-1317

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE

Massachusetts

COUNTY

Middlesex

FOR NPS USE ONLY

* ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

NOV 3 1972

1. NAME

COMMON: Grace Episcopal Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

160 High Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Medford

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Middlesex

CODE

017

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. BOSTON North, Massachusetts

SCALE: 1:24,000

DATE: 1956

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



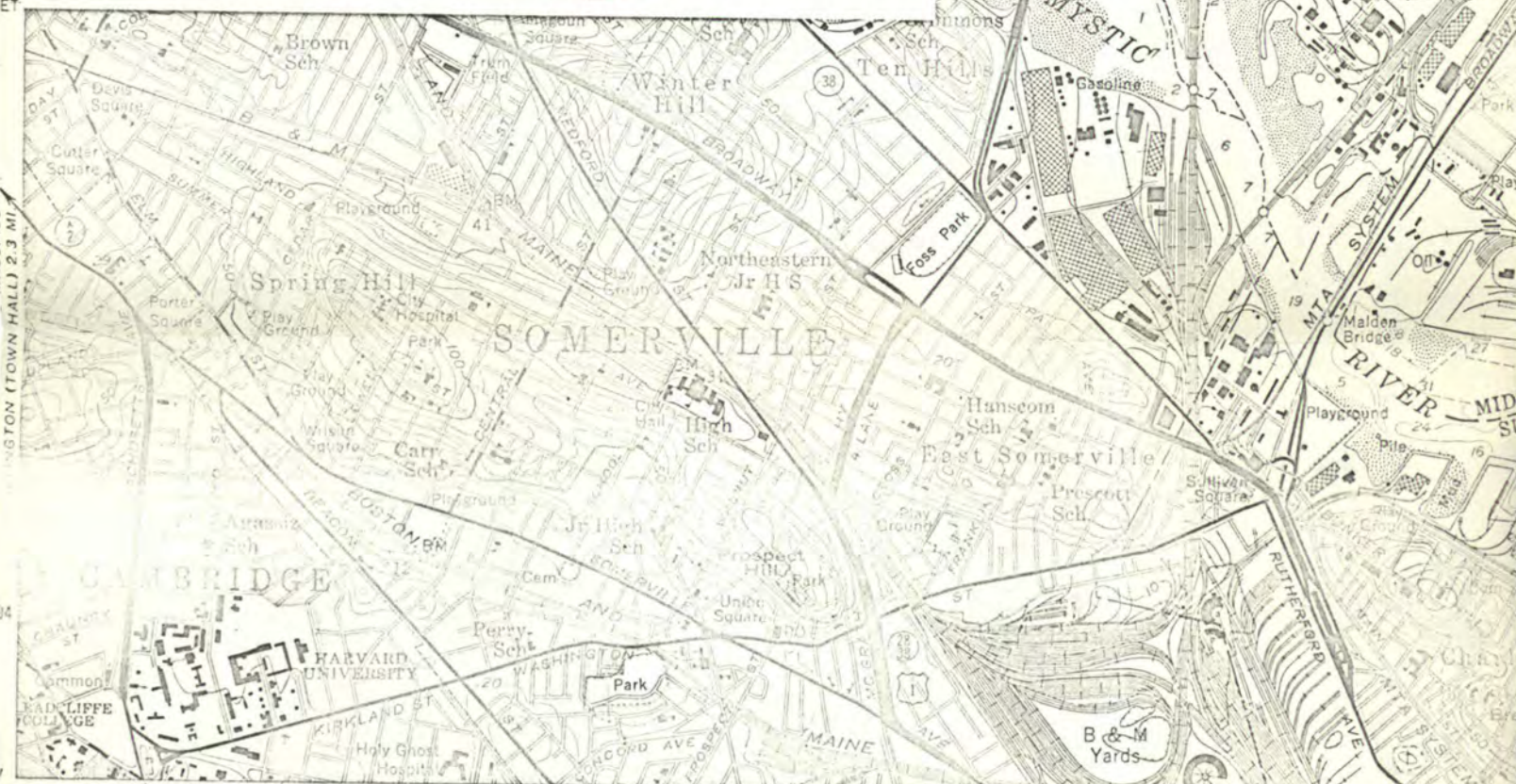
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Grace Episcopal Church

U.S.G.S. North Boston, Mass. - 1956

Scale 1:24,000



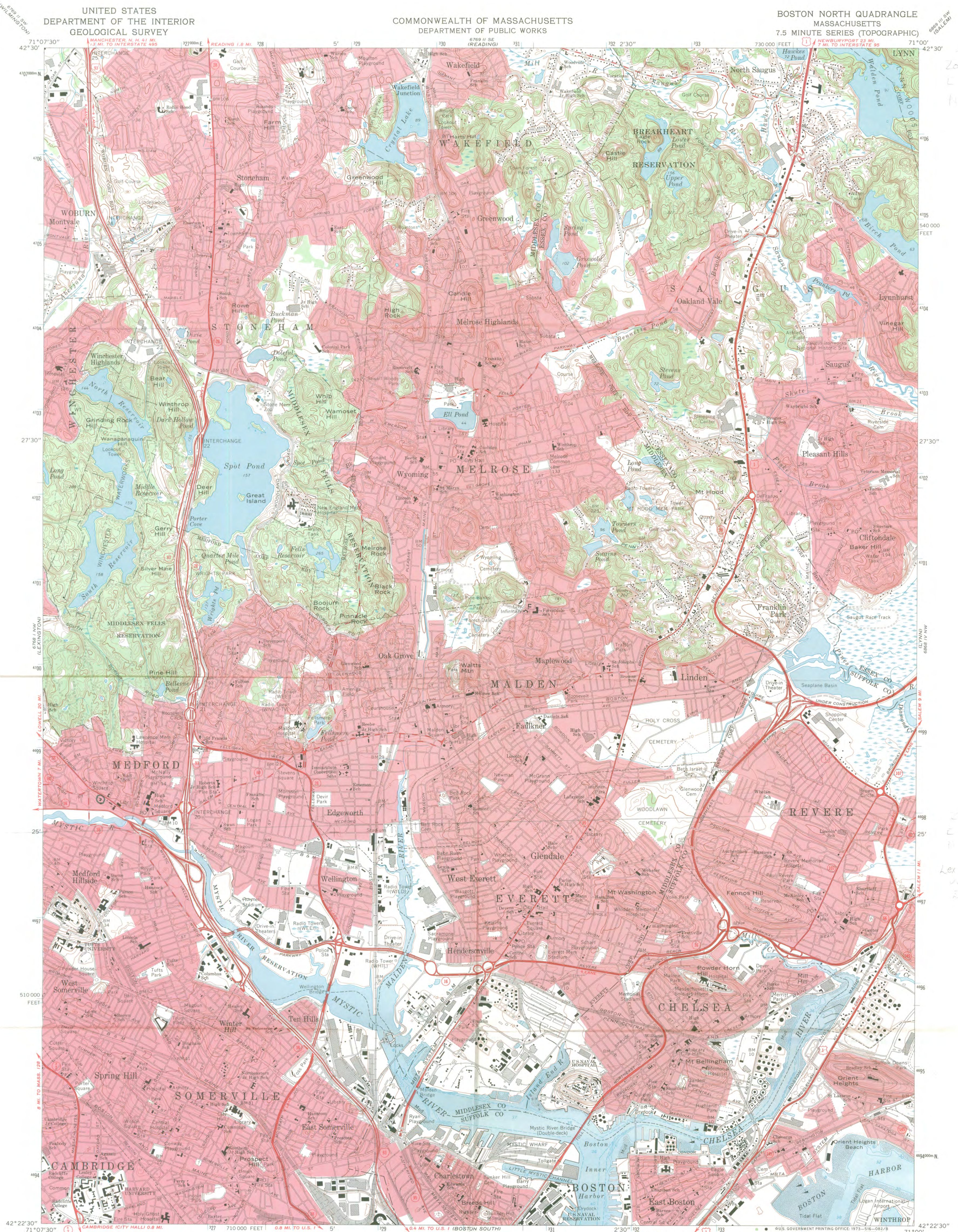
07°30' ② CAMBRIDGE (CITY HALL) 0.8 MI.
BOSTON (HARVARD BRIDGE) 2.2 MI.

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USC&GS, USCE, Mass. Harbor & Land Commission, and
Mass. Geodetic Survey.

Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Culture revised by





Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 248 (1971)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
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
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

BOSTON NORTH, MASS.
N4222.5—W7100/7.5

1971

AMS 6768 I NE—SERIES V814



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
State House, Boston 02133

John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth

March 20, 1972

Office of Archeology & Historic Preservation
National Park Service
801 Nineteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

CERTIFIED MAIL

Attention: Miss Mary C. Means

Enclosed are National Register submissions for:

1. Grace Episcopal Church, Medford, Massachusetts
2. Historic Boston Harbor, Boston, Massachusetts

These have been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and has been signed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, John F. X. Davoren, Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission and designated State Liaison Officer.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard W. Hale, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Richard W. Hale, Jr.
Acting Chairman
Massachusetts Historical Commission

RWH/akc
enclosures



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered NOV 3 1972

Name

Location

Grace Episcopal Church

Medford
Middlesex County

North Easton Historic District

Easton
Bristol County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy

Hon. Edward W. Brooke

Hon. Torbert H. MacDonald

Hon. Margaret M. Heckler

Director, Northeast Region

State Liaison Officer

Hon. John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

Chairman, Massachusetts Historical

40 Beacon Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Commission

PHR

NRowland:mm

11/6/72



Grace Episcopal Church

160 High Street
Medford, Mass. 02155

Parish Telephone
396-0362

The Reverend Robert M. Durkee
Rector

5 January 1973.

The National Historic Landmarks Program
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

gn 11/3/72

Gentlemen:

Recently, Grace Church, Medford was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as being the oldest existing church of the Architect Henry Richardson. We have had numerous visits from faculty and students of nearby universities and the Vestry is anxious to have the building identified as an Historic Landmark.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth has suggested that I write to your office to request the bronze plaque and certificate which would designate Grace Church as an Historic Landmark.

We are proud to be listed in the National Register and assume the responsibility for the heritage and distinction that has come to Grace Church.

Sincerely,

RMD:bm

5 March
2/14/73

FEB 14 1973

H34-PHR

The Reverend Robert M. Durkee
Rector
Grace Episcopal Church
160 High Street
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

Dear Reverend Durkee:

We are pleased to acknowledge your letter concerning Grace Church, Medford, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 3, 1972.

There are several means by which historic properties are entered in the National Register. Grace Church was nominated through a state nomination submitted to our office by the State Liaison Officer for historic preservation in Massachusetts, The Honorable John F. X. Davoren, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Chairman Massachusetts Historical Commission, 40 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02133.

Properties are also automatically listed in the National Register when they are designated National Historic Landmarks by the Secretary of the Interior upon the recommendation of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments. Only those properties listed in the National Register as National Historic Landmarks are eligible to receive bronze plaques upon request from the Department of the Interior. Although no plaques are available for properties nominated through the states, some states have established their own programs. For this reason you might wish to write The Honorable John F. X. Davoren for information pertinent to any such program in Massachusetts.

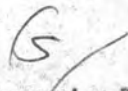
Enclosed are brochures which should clarify the difference between the National Historic Landmark and the National Register programs.

Ltr, to Reverend Robert M. Durkee, Medford, Mass. Subj: Grace
Episcopal Church

If after considering the criteria of national significance listed in the red brochure on National Historic Landmarks you feel that Grace Church meets the criteria you may wish to submit a request for its consideration as a National Historic Landmark to the Director, National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240, outlining as fully as possible historical or architectural information bearing on its significance.

We appreciate your interest in historic preservation and hope that you will let us know if we may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely yours,


Jerry L. Rogers
Chief of Registration
National Register

Enclosures

cc:

The Hon. John F.X. Davoren, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Chairman,
Massachusetts Historical Commission, 40 Beacon Street, Boston,
Massachusetts 02133 - w/cy inc
Director, Northeast Region - w/cy inc
LI - Mr. Winge
PHR - w/cy inc

FNP:Rosenberg:rls 2/13/73
S.A. Marcus

BASIC FILES RETAINED IN PHR

NOTIFICATION OF GRANT-IN-AID ACTION

Do Not
Use
This
Space

1. STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER

73070340

2. (Reserved for use by State central information reception agency)

3. GRANTOR: a. Federal agency

Department of the Interior

b. Organizational unit

National Park Service

c. Administering office - (1) Name

Division of Grants

(2) Address - Street or P.O. Box

18th and C Streets NW.

City

Washington

State

DC

Zip Code

20240

4. FEDERAL AGENCY GRANT IDENTIFIER: a. Code

25-74-00090-00

b. Title

Grace Episcopal Church Development

c. Purpose The Church, designed by H.H.Richardson in 1867, was constructed in 1868-72 & is the oldest surviving church by the architect in the U.S. Project work will include plastering, painting, varnishing and restoration of the pipe organ.

5. GRANTEE: a. Name

Massachusetts Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon, Exec. Dir., MA Historical Commission

b. Address - Street or P.O. Box

40 Beacon St.

City

Boston

State

MA

Zip Code

02108

6. GRANTEE TYPE (Check only the single most applicable box)

a. State

☒

b. Inter-state

☐

c. County

☐

d. City

☐

e. School district

☐

f. Special unit

☐

g. Community action

☐

h. Sponsored organization

☐

i. Other

☐

7. APPLICATION RECEIPT DATE

Year Month Day

75 02 28

8. ACTION DATE

Year Month Day

75 03 31

9. EFFECTIVE STARTING DATE

Year Month Day

75 03 31

10. ENDING DATE

Year Month Day

78 03 30

11. TYPE OF ACTION (Check as many boxes as apply to this action)

a. New grant

☒

b. Continuation grant

☐

c. Supplemental grant

☐

d. Change in existing grant

☐

(identify agency in item 16)

(1) Increase in duration

☐

(2) Decrease in duration

☐

(3) Cancellation

☐

(4) Increase(\$)

☐

(5) Decrease(\$)

☐

12. AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION

a. Federal - (1) basic

\$ 2,000

(2) Supplemental

\$

b. State

\$ 2,000*

c. Local

\$

d. Other

\$

13. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (if none, clarify in item 16)

a. Program Number

15.904

b. Supplemental Program Number

14. AUTHORIZATION

a. Federal Budget Accounts

10-58-1040-0-1-405

b. Public Laws

PL

Title

Sec.

89

665

PL

Title

Sec.

PL

Title

Sec.

c. U.S. Code

16 U.S.C. 470

15. FACILITY LOCATION: (For facility grant actions only)

a. City 160 High St., Medford

b. County

Middlesex

16. REMARKS

*Grace Episcopal Church