



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

other names/site number The Mission at Grove Hall, St. Mark's Mission, St. Mark's Chapel

2. Location

street & number 73 Columbia Road not for publication

city or town Boston (Dorchester) vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Suffolk code 025 zip code 02121

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brona Simon July 20, 2012
Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, State Historic Preservation Officer, MHC Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Patrick Andrus Date of Action 7/3/2014

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Suffolk, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

RELIGION: church-related residence

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

RELIGION: church-related residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Late Gothic Revival

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN

MOVEMENTS: Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Granite

walls WOOD

roof ASPHALT

other GLASS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Name of Property

Suffolk, MA

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

RELIGION

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1898-1964

Significant Dates

1898 (Lot purchased & services begun on site)

1904 (Chapel built)

1909 (Parish house and rectory both begun)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Sylvester, Edmund Quincy

Bigelow, Kennard and Company

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Boston Landmarks Commission

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Suffolk, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References See continuation sheet.
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19	328410	4685653	3.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2.			4.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Timothy T. Orwig, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 2012 / revised May 2014

street & number 220 Morrissey Blvd telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name St. Mark's Episcopal Church

street & number 73 Columbia Road telephone 508-865-6274

city or town Dorchester (Boston) state MA zip code 02121

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Boston (Dorchester), Suffolk County, MA

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Summary Paragraph

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, comprised of three one- to two-story buildings built between 1904 and 1910, is a remarkable shingled ecclesiastical complex, little changed since its construction. The end-gabled chapel (1904) is the oldest of the buildings and is Late Gothic Revival style with elements of Craftsman. The chapel retains most of its early interior elements, including a wooden-railed brass pulpit from the Boston firm Bigelow, Kennard & Co. The parish house and rectory, both begun in 1909, have the appearance of Craftsman style. Owned and maintained by the same parish that built it, St. Mark's Episcopal Church is in good condition and is only slightly altered since its period of significance (1904-1962).

Location and Setting

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is located on the southeast side of Columbia Road, a busy four-lane boulevard in Dorchester, a formerly independent town annexed to Boston in 1870. St. Mark's occupies the central portion of a block bounded by Columbia Road, Seaver Street, Glenarm Street, and Powellton Road. Columbia Road is an important crosstown connector, linking Blue Hill Avenue and Franklin Park to Dorchester Bay and Boston Harbor. St. Mark's is located approximately four blocks east of Blue Hill Avenue, a major north-south arterial from the southern suburbs to downtown Boston, and a traditional dividing line between Dorchester and Roxbury. Roxbury, to the west, is another former suburban town, which was annexed to Boston in 1868. West of Blue Hill Avenue, Columbia Road becomes Circuit Drive, the main road through Franklin Park. Franklin Park (NR Dist., 1971) is the largest park in Boston, home to the Franklin Park Zoo, and the largest jewel in the Emerald Necklace (NRDIS, 1971), a continuous chain of six parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted between 1878 and 1896, which connect through the Commonwealth Avenue Mall (NRDIS, 1973) to the Public Garden and Boston Common (both NRDIS, 1972).

Several blocks north of St. Mark's, at the intersection of Blue Hill Avenue and Washington Street, is the commercial center of the neighborhood, which is known as Grove Hall. Blue Hill Avenue, Washington Street, and—to a lesser extent—Columbia Road, are characterized by brick apartment blocks built in the first half of the 20th century. The neighborhood topography is gently rolling, with neighborhoods to the east named after hills: Mt. Bowdoin, Meeting House Hill, and Savin Hill. The block between Seaver Street and Powellton Road contains primarily larger, late 19th-century, two-family houses. The houses immediately adjacent to either side of St. Mark's Episcopal Church along Columbia Road are both two-family houses with prominent Second Empire stylistic elements. The Columbia Road landscape in this block is characterized by mature deciduous trees and grassy lawns, with younger trees planted in the narrow, grassy median. The National Register boundary for this property corresponds to two interlocked lots, usually addressed together as 73 Columbia Road.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is a complex of three shingled one- to two-story buildings, all designed by architect Edmund Q. Sylvester, and axially aligned on a long rectangular lot (**Photograph 1**). The oldest of these buildings is the chapel (1904), on the northeast corner of the lot. (Because Columbia Road travels from the southwest to the northeast, this lot does not align with compass directions. To simplify this narrative, Columbia Road will be considered to be an east-west street due north of the lot.) The parish house (1909) is directly behind (south of) the chapel, hugging the southwest corner of the lot. The rectory (1909) is northeast of the parish house and southeast of the chapel. The parish house occupies the site of a large end-gabled cottage, built by 1874 and demolished by 1909, which St. Mark's adapted for its first worship space when it bought the site in 1898. The chapel and the rectory occupy the sites Sylvester originally assigned the church

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and rectory in a 1903 site plan for the complex, although Sylvester's initial intention was to have all three buildings as elements of a single interconnected complex. The only vehicular access to the lot is a short paved driveway at the northwest corner of the lot, which ends alongside the northwest corner of the chapel. The southeast corner of the lot is a paved basketball court, heavily shaded by mature trees. The northeast corner of the lot is grassy open lawn. The entire lot is surrounded by a chain-link fence. A tall wooden pole in the center of the lot holds a yard light.

The **Chapel** is a 1½-story, wood-framed structure, set on a brick foundation, with a steeply pitched roof covered in asphalt shingles (last replaced in 2009). A short wooden cross sits atop the gable end almost like a gothic pinnacle (**Photograph 2**). A granite cornerstone in the northwest corner of the foundation is inscribed "A.D. 1904," and is topped with an inscribed Greek cross. A narrow-board beltcourse, which ties the sills of the windows with the railings of the front steps, encircles the chapel on its shingled front and sides. The most prominent decorative element on the exterior is the projecting entry porch with half-timbering in its gable, a Late-Gothic/Tudor Revival element. The sides of the porch feature openwork decorative trusses with pointed arches. The sides and the end gable of the porch project significantly beyond the building wall, and the rafters underneath are exposed. The double-front wooden doors are painted red, as is customary for Episcopal churches. The doors themselves have horizontal, rectangular inset panels in the top and bottom, with a raised "X" formed by the center inset panels. The doors open into a small wainscoted narthex (vestibule), illuminated by simple windows set with opalescent glass on each side wall. The front steps are brick, with contemporary wrought-iron railings on either side. The floor of the front porch is narrow boarding. Above the entry porch, in the gable of the nave (hall), is another pair of windows set with opalescent glass, lighting the clerestory. Both pairs of windows display the same repeating pattern of opalescent glass—larger octagonal lights joined at their corners by smaller diamond-shaped lights.

The long western elevation of the chapel consists of four paired windows set between the roof and the beltcourse. Three triangular roof dormers provide clerestory light into the sanctuary. While the side windows use the same pattern of opalescent glass as the windows in the northern end, the roof dormers have simpler diamond panes. At the southern end of the chapel wall is another double door (currently not used), each door with paired vertical inset panels topped by a large opalescent window. A two-tread, open-riser step maintains egress in the case of emergency.

Directly in front of church are three signs of relatively recent vintage (See **Photograph 2**). As mid-century pictures of the church could not be located, it is not clear whether they are new signs or newer replacements for old signs. The **Pole Sign** is located between the driveway and the front walk of the church. A single hollow steel pole with a scroll-bracket yardarm, it holds a metal panel sign likely dating from the 1970s. This standard denominational sign displays the shield of the church, with the legends "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" and "St. Mark's Church/Anglican." On the other side of the front walk is a large **Box Sign**, a locking box with a glass front that allows for changing messages with movable plastic letters. Dating from the 1980s, the box sign is supported by two square posts. It has a white triangular pediment at the top of the box, which includes the name of the church topped by a small Roman cross. A third **Post Sign** is a single, flat-framed signboard on two posts, also likely dating from the 1980s, which has deteriorated significantly. It is empty, except for a small plastic sign stapled to the bottom of it, advertising the group that meets in the parish house's upper hall. These three signs count as three noncontributing objects.

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The eastern elevation of the chapel has three distinct units. Two triangular roof dormers provide clerestory light into the sanctuary (**Photograph 3**). The northern half of this elevation has three paired windows set between the roofline and the beltcourse, with a single window next to the side entrance. The side door is set in a short cross-gabled wing, which extends eastward from the southern end of this elevation. It has a lower ridgeline and a chimney for the building's furnace. Craftsman details can be seen in the slight kick to the roof edges on this cross-gabled wing, and the shed roof of the side porch. An access ramp for the disabled has been added recently at the side door. The gable end of this cross gable is unadorned, except for decorative exposed rafters supporting the overhanging roof, and three windows: two at the ground level and a narrow clerestory window.

To the rear of the chapel is a gabled extension at least partially added on in 1916. Like the rest of the chapel, it also has a brick foundation (**Photograph 4**). It is unclear how much of this extension was part of the original build, as much of it appears in Sylvester's 1904 sketch. This extension has a lower ridgeline than the rest of the nave, and yet is slightly wider, due to a substantial flair and kick in the roofline on both sides, which makes the lower half of the roof on either side almost like a shed extension. Both the eastern and western slopes of this roof have gabled roof dormers, each holding a pair of square opalescent windows. A shed porch extends eastward over a rear entrance that provides access to the chapel's vestry (robing room) from the parish house and rectory. This rear door is also painted red, and opens onto a narrow step with another contemporary wrought-iron railing. The paired windows in this eastern elevation of the extension are fitted with squares of semi-transparent colored glass set in leaded mullions, as are the windows of the cross-gable. The western elevation of this extension is blank with no doors or windows, but the southern (rear) wall has a single large round window in the gabled end, fitted with stained glass.

The interior of the chapel is primarily the large open nave, where the roof is supported by a series of modified king-post trusses (**Photograph 5**). The crème-colored plaster walls contrast with the dark stained and varnished woodwork of the open rafters, paired window frames, railed wainscoting, pews, and wooden floors. A single center aisle provides the only circulation from the small narthex to the chancel of the church. The narthex and the nave are joined by a pair of dark-varnished, panel double doors. The primary decoration for the pews is a four-lobed incised foil design in the top of their Gothic-arched shaped aisle ends. Each pew has wide book racks and padded kneelers. The light coming through the opalescent glass windows into the sanctuary is soft and muted. The light fixtures appear to be original, and include Gothic-style wheel chandeliers over the center aisle, which hang from pendants on the king posts. The Arts and Crafts-style wall fixtures have three pendant flower-bud light sockets on a horizontal pipe bar, topped on their ends with saucer and bud finials, possibly indicating an initial combination of gas and electric lighting. Large floor grates along the center aisle provide air circulation from the basement furnace.

The chancel is raised two to three steps above the floor of the church, with the large stand-alone central altar the main focus. To the east of the altar is the sculptural brass and wood pulpit (1910; Bigelow, Kennard & Co.). Between the pulpit and side wall is a walkway to the side hall beyond (**Photograph 6**). To the west of the altar, in front of the unused double doors, are the eagle lectern and the movable ecclesiastical furniture: 4 padded Gothic chairs and kneelers. The rear chancel extension is separated from the rest of the chancel by a tall, wide Gothic central arch, with a second low, rounded arch opening into the western aisle. In the rear chancel extension, the wainscoting rises to the top of the doorways. The extension holds choir pews to the east and a space for the parish musicians to the west of a center organ. The rear wall of

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the chancel extension is dominated by a tall, carved Gothic reredos, which proclaims in tall letters across its top, "Reverend Frank Dorr Budlong Rector 1907-1920." Above it in the gable peak is a round stained-glass window, depicting Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, surrounded by a design with vines and Gothic quatrefoils. The window does not appear to be signed and the maker is not known; a small brass plaque at its base reads, "To the Glory of God from the Members of St. Mark's Sunday School."

The combination sacristy and vestry (robing room) is in the eastern end of the rear (southern) extension. It has both built-in and stand-alone cabinets. The room directly to its north in the cross-gabled wing serves for circulation and storage. The church has a full basement with a poured concrete floor. The basement walls are unfinished, clearly defining the transition between the above-ground brick foundation and the below-ground stone foundation. The furnace unit is in the center of the basement, with a few built-in storage cabinets in the center, but otherwise the basement is mostly empty.

Like the chapel, the **Parish House** also has a modified "L" shape, with the long center hall and a shorter eastern cross-gabled extension. While the chapel has a simple covering of coursed wooden shingles, both the parish house and rectory are covered with shingles placed in alternating wide and narrow bands. The two-story parish house has a granite-block foundation and an asphalt-shingled roof. The northern façade of the end-gabled parish house is dominated by a projecting triangular gable with an oversized bracketed pediment, from which is suspended a five-bay oriel window (**Photograph 7**). The oriel windows have a single sill, which extends past the ends of the window under shingled panels and is supported by end brackets. An end-gabled entry porch with decorative open-work trusses, and exposed rafters and rafter tails provide shelter for the double-door entrance. These doors, also painted red, have inset vertical panels topped with paired lights. An access ramp for the disabled allows entry into the front hall of the parish house.

Triangular roof dormers on the eastern and western sides of the roof light the upper-story hall. The western wall of the parish house parallels, and is just a few feet away from, the lot's chain-link fence. A side door at ground level allows limited access into the kitchen for the lower hall. Otherwise, the western elevation is characterized by smaller, double-hung windows that light the upper and lower halls. The projecting roof has a row of elaborated rafter ends. The rear elevation of the parish house is also just a few feet from the chain-link fence, and much of this limited space is taken up by a rear fire escape (**Photograph 8**). A shed roof projects over a rear exit door. The eastern elevation of the cross-gabled wing of the parish house is dominated by a projecting triangular gable with an oversized bracketed pediment, similar to that on the northern façade. Below it is a similar band of five windows, although they are flush with the wall rather than projecting as an oriel (**Photograph 9**). The northern flank of this side gable sweeps down two stories towards the front, ending in a shed porch supported by a decorative truss over the door to the side staircase. Another shed porch supported by brackets attaches to the southern part of the eastern end of the cross gable. A basement bulkhead is directly south of that. Near the southeast corner of the parish house is a simple modular **Frame Shed** (ca. 1990s, noncontributing) for the storage of lawnmowers and other outside equipment.

The parish house has two long meeting halls, accessed by broad formal staircases in its northern end and a narrower staircase in the northeastern corner of the cross-gabled wing. The northern end staircase is spacious, with central landings and a double set of side staircases. The hallway retains its original wainscoting with plaster walls above. The top landing is lit by the five-bay oriel, which consists of a pair of double-hung sash, one on either side of a central, fixed-casement window with diamond-shaped panes of colored glass. From this northern end staircase, double doors let into halls on both levels. The lower hall serves as a fellowship space for St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The floor is sunken to the half-

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basement level, providing a high-ceilinged space accessed from the north, east, and south by short flights of down steps (**Photograph 10**). Apart from closets, storage, and the furnace room, the only other significant room on this low basement level is the parish kitchen at the northwest corner, which also has an exterior door to the west. The lower hall has wainscoting below, while all of the wall and ceiling surfaces above are covered in complex patterns of pressed tin, possibly introduced to the space after the 1912 fire. A row of steel posts down the center of the space supports a center longitudinal beam. The lower hall is currently lit by banks of fluorescent lights, while at least one former gaslight pipe remains on a side wall by a staircase. To the south of the lower hall, up a taller flight of steps, is a large Sunday School room.

The upper hall of the parish house has a high ceiling with modified king-post trusses like those in the chapel. The hall is lit by the side windows, clerestory dormers, and hanging fluorescent fixtures. The trusses, wainscoting, and flooring are finished in varnished wood, while the ceiling between trusses is painted white. The plastered northern end of the hall has three segmental-arched openings, for an alcove, the main staircase, and storage area. An intermediate door provides access to a small attic (**Photograph 11**). The southern wall of this hall is also plastered, with a central proscenium arch that opens onto a narrow raised stage. The cross-gable eastern wing of the parish house contains the smaller staircase, restrooms, and two floors of offices for church usage, including a business office below and a rector's office and anteroom above, accessed through the upper hall.

Like the parish house, the rectory is a two-story building on a granite foundation, covered in coursed wooden shingles, and roofed with asphalt shingles (**Photograph 12**). Like the other two buildings, it is end-gabled with its façade toward Columbia Road. The building is a simple rectangle, apart from its one-story, open-front porch, which runs almost the length of its northern end. A Craftsman-style touch on the porch is its simplified Doric pillars, which flare out slightly towards the bottom. They are joined together by simple rectangular-boarded balustrades. The main decorative element on the western elevation of the rectory, emphasizing its link with the chapel and parish house across the walk, is a projecting oriel window with a band of three windows. Like the parish house oriel, this oriel has a single oversized sill, which extends past the ends of the window under shingled side panels. This oriel, however, is supported by four oversized brackets. Other than this oriel, window placement in the rectory is determined by the arrangement of the interior spaces. The southwestern corner of the rectory has an open inset porch, with segmentally arched openings for the door and rear wall (**Photograph 13**). A chain-link fence separates the rear rectory walk from the basketball court to the south. The eastern wall of the rectory has two doors that open onto a narrow walk just a few feet from the property line chain-link fence. One door opens into the full basement, while the southernmost door is a rear door to the kitchen (**Photograph 14**). The roof of the rectory is much less steeply pitched than the roofs of its neighbors, and the overhanging eaves are boxed.

The front door of the rectory is painted red, like that of the other buildings at St. Mark's. It opens into a spacious hallway with an open staircase to the second floor with handsome wooden balustrades. The western side of the house has a living room and dining room that look out onto the other buildings in the St. Mark's complex, and share a small central fireplace on their eastern wall. The kitchen is in the southeastern corner of the downstairs level. Besides the bedrooms, the upstairs has a small study with built-in bookcases in the northeastern corner, and a nicely finished linen closet with built-in drawers. The rectory has a walk-up, low-ceilinged unfinished attic, lit by windows in each end gable.

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Few changes have occurred to these buildings since 1904-1916, the years that saw their construction, addition, and rebuilding after the parish house fire. The single most visible change is the addition of access ramps for the disabled to the chapel and to the parish house. The parish house and the rectory windows have been fitted with combination aluminum screens. Most of the rooms in the rectory have drop ceilings. The upper hall of the parish house is well-maintained and is currently rented out to another congregation from the neighborhood.

Condition

Generally, St. Mark's Episcopal Church is in good condition. Water infiltration is a problem in the basement of the chapel. The rectory has not been occupied for several years, and needs repairs to its roof.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are currently known on the church property, sites may have been present. One ancient find spot site is recorded in the general area (within one mile). The nominated property is located at a topographic low between the hills of Franklin Park to the west, and Mt. Bowdoin to the east. Soils are level within the property, and the surrounding area is heavily developed by residential structures. The nearest source of fresh water may now be obscured by development in this densely settled area; however, a spring is indicated on the eastern side of Mt. Bowdoin approximately 2,000 feet from the property. One find spot, located 1.22 miles northeast of the property, exists in a similar environment, including a low spot between hills, a long distance from fresh water, and within a developed area. Disturbances to the ground surface within the property are extensive including the three extant structures, the earlier cottage and carriage barn, and the unpaved road down the eastern length of the lot (Figure 3). Given the above information, a low potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources on the property.

A moderate to high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the St. Mark's property. The first structure on the property, a cottage, was constructed sometime between 1870 and 1874. A later attached carriage barn was also located in the rear of the property, and dates to between 1882 and 1884. Currently, the parish lies within most of the footprint of the cottage; however a portion of the northern half of the cottage once lay between the current parish and church. In addition, the entirety of the carriage barn was located in what is now an undeveloped area behind the rectory. These two areas have potential for structural evidence including foundations, cellar holes, and cultural deposits relating to both the cottage and carriage barn. These deposits may contain domestic refuse and related features (trash pits, privies, wells) from the cottage's first use as a private home. The potential carriage barn deposits would provide information related to the use and construction of the structure. Later deposits relating to the period when the cottage was used for church services and a meeting space for its members between 1898 and 1904 would provide a comparison between the earlier domestic use of the property and its communal use as a religious center. Undeveloped areas in the rear of the property may also contain early 20th-century domestic deposits relating to the occupation of the later parish and rectory. There is no record of a burial ground within the church grounds.

(end)

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Summary Statement

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is a complex of three shingled buildings in the Dorchester section of Boston, Massachusetts that together fulfil National Register Criteria A and C, and Consideration A, on the local level. Built between 1904 and 1910 by a mission parish in a working-class neighborhood, St. Mark's reflects the planning efforts of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts as well as the efforts of Episcopalian residents of the newly developing Dorchester neighborhoods of Mt. Bowdoin and Grove Hall to establish a church in their community. The financial means of this working community were limited, and while funding enabled the construction of the church building itself, the three-building complex, with its parish house and rectory, was completed only with the assistance of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts' Bishop's Re-Enforcement [sic] Fund. The fund was a program established specifically to assist financially struggling missions and parishes in Boston and throughout the Commonwealth. St. Mark's history chronicles the story of a neighborhood's investment in, and development of, an ecclesiastical institution. St. Mark's is one of only a handful of these mission church complexes still surviving in Eastern Massachusetts. The church's construction and history also reflects the evolution of the Grove Hall area of Dorchester during the 20th century from one whose residents were predominantly those of European ancestry, to a more diverse population of African and African-Caribbean descent. All three buildings at St. Mark's Episcopal Church were designed by the same architect, Edmund Q. Sylvester, with elaborated rafter-ends and other details that suggest both Late Gothic Revival and Craftsman styles. Based in Boston, Sylvester was known for his work for the Episcopal Church. Owned by its congregation and used for religious purposes, the property derives its primary significance from its architectural and historical importance. St. Mark's Episcopal Church is generally in good condition, is only slightly altered since its period of significance (from 1898, when St. Mark's Mission acquired the property, to 1964, the 50-year cutoff for significance for National Register purposes). It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and fulfils National Register Criteria A and C, and Consideration A, at the local level, with significance in the areas of community planning and development, religion, and architecture.

The Setting: The Dorchester Section of Boston

Dorchester was incorporated as an independent municipality in 1630, named after the English town of Dorchester in Dorset, from which many of the first inhabitants came. Historically, Dorchester was a very large town, and included parts of present-day Milton to the east, Dedham to the west, and territory as far south as Foxboro, Raynham, and Wrentham. Annexed to Boston in 1870, Dorchester remains Boston's largest and most populous section. Dorchester faces Dorchester Bay on the east, and is bounded on its north and west by other sections of the city: South Boston, Roxbury, and Mattapan. To the south and southeast, the Neponset River separates it from the municipalities of Quincy and Milton. Due to boundary changes while Dorchester and Roxbury were independent towns, and shifting neighborhoods since, the dividing line between the sections of Roxbury and Dorchester is unclear, although St. Mark's Episcopal Church itself is generally considered to be in Dorchester. The Dorchester section is defined by its arterial streets and the smaller commercial and cultural neighborhoods that grew up at their intersections, each neighborhood with its own defining characteristics.

In June of 1630, a boat from the ship *Mary and John* landed at Columbia Point and disembarked a group of Englishmen. The first settlement began that year at what is today the intersection of Columbia Road with Massachusetts Avenue (Edward Everett Square today). Formed in 1630, Dorchester's First Parish Church is the oldest continuing religious institution in present-day Boston, and, in 1633, Dorchester held what is considered to be the first New England town meeting. In 1639, Dorchester established Mather School, the first public elementary school in the United States. Dorchester Heights (later part of South Boston) was the site of an important battle in 1776, which hastened the British

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evacuation from Boston. The James Blake House (ca. 1661; NR 1974), farther down on Columbia Road (though not on its original site), is the oldest frame dwelling in today's Boston (Dorchester Athenaeum). Dorchester remained a primarily rural town until the 19th century, when its farms began to give way to country estates for the Boston elite and, eventually, streetcar suburban development.

However, Dorchester also has a long history of business and development, beginning along the Neponset River where it empties into Dorchester Bay. Shipbuilding was underway at the mouth of the river by 1640, while the first gristmill was built along its banks even earlier, in 1634. Dorchester mills produced everything from nails and gunpowder to crackers, paper, and playing cards. Its most noted early industry began in 1765 when James Hannon, an Irish chocolate maker, and

his financial backer Dr. James Baker, introduced chocolate production to the United States. They imported chocolate beans from the West Indies and began refining them into chocolate. Their factory in the Lower Mills neighborhood, the country's first chocolate factory, became known as the Walter Baker Chocolate Factory (NR Dist. 1980), and produced chocolate for two centuries until its close in 1965.

The establishment of stations along the Old Colony Railroad line from Boston to Plymouth in 1845, and numerous horsecar and streetcar lines thereafter, tied Dorchester closely to Boston as a commuting suburb. Prominent residents included the Fitzgerald and Kennedy families, African-American activist William Monroe Trotter, Martin Luther King, Jr. (while a student at Boston University), and suffragist Lucy Stone. In January of 1870, when its population was still only 12,000, Dorchester was officially annexed to Boston. A period of incredible growth followed, and by 1920 the Dorchester section's population had soared to 150,000.

For more than a century, Dorchester has been a working-class section settled by many immigrant groups, particularly families from Ireland, Poland, Southeast Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Cape Verde, and Africa. African-Americans from the American South settled here in great numbers after the Civil War and particularly during the African-American Great Migration period (1910-1970). By the middle of the 20th century, redlining, blockbusting, and other discriminatory practices accelerated the outmigration of Jewish Americans and other groups from Dorchester neighborhoods, and also impoverished the African Americans who resettled there. More recently, artists, young professionals, and gay men and lesbians have moved to Dorchester. All of these groups continue to be represented in Dorchester, making Dorchester today a diverse and vibrant section. In the 2000 census, the population of Dorchester was 92,115, with its primary ethnic groups 36% African American or Black, 32% White non-Hispanic, 12% Hispanic or Latino, and 11% Asian or Pacific Islander.

Historic Context

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is significant for its association with Dorchester's history and that of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts as the neighborhood evolved in the 19th and early 20th centuries. In particular, St. Mark's epitomizes planning efforts by the Episcopal Diocese, through its Bishop's Re-Enforcement Fund, to support and develop mission and parish complexes during a period of extraordinary population growth and movement in metropolitan Boston and in other urban areas. Targetted neighborhoods were generally working class and needier ones, and St. Mark's was one of the first missions for the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts..

Grove Hall and Columbia Road

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is a landmark in the neighborhood known as Grove Hall, a neighborhood in northwest Dorchester that extends into Roxbury, bordered by Franklin Park on the southwest and the Dorchester neighborhoods of

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Upham's Corner to the northeast and Mount Bowdoin to the east. It takes its name from the early 19th century "Grove Hall" estate of T. K. Jones (a China-Trade merchant), which was located at the corner of Blue Hill Avenue and Washington Street. The neighborhood is distinguished primarily by the large early 20th-century apartment blocks that line its streets—Blue Hill Avenue and Washington Street—and, to a lesser extent, Columbia Road, which bisects it. The neighborhood also includes a significant stock of wood-frame 19th-century residential buildings along the crossroads on either side of Columbia Road.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church fronts on Columbia Road, a street whose changes influenced the history of the church. Columbia Road is an important artery that connects Franklin Park to Dorchester Bay. Its eastern end was known by the Colonial era, in part, as Boston Street. The remainder of the street was laid out to Franklin Park by 1840. It appeared on an 1851 Dorchester map as Columbia Street. Parts of Boston Street, Columbia Street, and several other streets were combined and renamed Columbia Road in 1897 (*Record* 122-123). The 1874 map shows the Grove Hall stretch of Columbia Street winding through a neighborhood mostly of large estates, although subdivision had already begun.

The largest and most famous estate in the neighborhood was that of Marshall Pinckney Wilder (1798-1886), directly across Columbia Street from the site of the church. In 1832 Wilder purchased a thirteen-acre farm from the family of Gov. Increase Sumner and renamed it "Hawthorne Grove." The farm occupied a triangle of land today defined by Washington Street, Normandy Street, and Columbia Road. Wilder was a wealthy Boston cotton and drygoods merchant, who became known as a horticulturist. His estate included orchards, gardens, and greenhouses, where Wilder experimented with fruit variation and hybridizing camellias. He corresponded with the horticulturist and landscape architect A. J. Downing (Downing dedicated a book on the propagation of fruit to him). Wilder served as president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and helped found the Massachusetts State Agricultural College (Heath). The 1874 map also shows that two smaller country estates—owned by Samuel Atherton and A. N. Burbank—fronted on Washington Street south of Columbia Street (extending to Erie Avenue).

But the Mt. Bowdoin railroad station at Washington Street and Erie Avenue (established by 1882) was a sign of changes to come, as its proximity to Boston made the area prime for residential development. This branch of the New York & New England Rail Road made a commute to downtown Boston easy. West of the Atherton and Burbank estates' frontage on Washington Street, the land between Columbia Street and Erie Avenue was, by 1874, already laid out in a series of ladder-like side streets from Merrill to Michigan, ready for the coming wave of development. This neighborhood had been platted, but only a handful of actual houses had yet been built. By 1884, a second link with Boston was established through the Highland Street railroad station at Grove Hall (corner of Blue Hill Avenue and Geneva Avenue). By 1889 the West End Street Railway had stops at both Grove Hall and the Franklin Park Station, newly built at the corner of Columbia Road and Blue Hill Avenue.

The new transit links also made pleasure excursions from Boston to the country possible, including a vanished amusement park known as Oakland Garden. The 1882 map shows several changes in the ladder streets between Columbia Street and Erie Avenue. The land along both sides of New Seaver Street, extending to the Atherton estate and Merrill Street, had been subdivided and partially built up. However, the adjacent subdivided land to the west, along Rosalind and Oakland streets, was still unbuilt and instead converted into Oakland Garden. Oakland Garden was a popular regional amusement park: "Evening performances included mini-theatricals, operettas, and concerts, while circuses and sideshows amused local children during the day" (Sammarco, *Images* 21). Special horse-drawn omnibuses operated from the Highland Railroad to Oakland Garden. By the 1884 map, Oakland and Rosalind Streets had been erased, and Oakland Garden appeared on the map as a single lot. Oakland Garden continued to be depicted on the 1889 map, but had disappeared by 1894.

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The 1884 map shows residential development accelerating in the neighborhood, carving up the estates. Within the two years since the 1882 map, Seaver Street was laid out and opened across the end of the Wilder estate from Blue Hill Avenue to Columbia Street, and Glenarm Street first appeared, bisecting the Atherton estate from New Seaver Street to Washington Street. By 1894, the large lot where Oakland Garden had stood was now the property of Franklin Park Land & Improvement Co., which had again subdivided the lot, replacing the former Oakland and Rosalind Streets with the Wolcott and Hewins streets of today. By the 1898 map, Columbia Street has been renamed Columbia Road and acquired its present-day parkway form with grassy center median. The site of Oakland Garden has been built over, and the remaining pieces of the Wilder and Burbank estates platted into small lots. From 1874 through 1904, all of the development along Columbia Road, from Blue Hill Avenue to Washington Street (and beyond to Geneva Avenue), was wood-frame, with the singular exception of a three-unit masonry building at the southeast corner of the intersection with Hewins Street, which had been built prior to 1874 (in 2012 a vacant lot).

As part of the wider movement to establish parkways throughout Greater Boston, Columbia Road was reconfigured as a parkway in 1897. While planning Boston's park system in the early 1880s, Frederick Law Olmsted had proposed that Columbia Road serve as one of the eastern links in the Emerald Necklace ("Columbia Road"). A decade later, in 1893, Charles Eliot and Sylvester Baxter were able to establish the Metropolitan Park Commission (Metropolitan Park System). Eventually known as the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), it inaugurated a regional parkway system, in which certain important roadways were established or remade as parks with roads through them. Although Columbia Road was never technically an MDC parkway, it was redesigned in 1897 to reflect Olmsted's and Eliot's parkway planning principles.

A *Boston Globe* article in 1897 proclaimed, "On Monday next the Board of Street Commissioners will lay out Columbia Road from Franklin park to Marine park. This will complete the magnificent chain of parkways which now encircles the city" ("Completing Chain"). Columbia Road was widened significantly; while the initial plan was to extend it to 80 or 90 feet, the final decision widened it to 110 feet. "Columbia road is at present a narrow county highway. . . . It will be a magnificent boulevard, and over the greatest portion of it the electric cars will run" ("Completing Chain"). Writing in *American Architect and Building News* in 1898, MDC parkway planner Sylvester Baxter celebrated the new roadway:

Traversing Franklin Park, the same parkway route continues as Columbia Road and Dorchesterway to the shore at Dorchester Bay, one of the most beautiful sections of Boston Bay. Columbia Road is a formal parkway, with a central turfed space and planted strip reserved for electric cars, separating a wide pleasure-road on one side and a narrow traffic-road on the other. . . . Besides the parkways pure and simple, Boston has a system of great avenues that have been planned with reference to both ordinary traffic and pleasure purposes. . . . To [that] same system of boulevards belong Columbia Road and Blue Hill Avenue, already considered in connection with the more strictly parkway routes. Metropolitan Boston has thus a remarkable series of great pleasureways radiating on all sides from the more densely populated centre. (Baxter)

The new parkway made land along Columbia Road a prime location to plant a new church dependent on continuing residential development. Though the Columbia Road parkway was reduced to a narrow grass median in the 1950s, its outlines are still clear in these low-numbered blocks near Franklin Park.

Grove Hall—especially the section along Blue Hill Avenue—boomed in the first half of the 20th century as the center of Boston's Jewish community. The twin-towered Adath Jeshurun Synagogue (1906; NR 1999) on the Roxbury side of Blue Hill Avenue is a surviving landmark of this era. In 1910, the density of development along Columbia Road increased,

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with the addition of a large masonry house at Columbia Road and Blue Hill Avenue. By 1918, several large masonry buildings had sprung up along Washington at Columbia, on the site of the former Atherton estate. By 1933, masonry buildings predominated along Blue Hill Avenue, Washington Street, and Columbia Road between Washington Street and Geneva. These masonry apartment blocks are the most singular defining element of Grove Hall today (Gordon).

From the Mission at Grove Hall to St. Mark's Episcopal Church

St. Mark's Episcopal Church began on this site as a mission chapel, and its history typifies that of modest Episcopal parishes in Boston and other urban areas of Massachusetts. Like many other mission chapels, St. Mark's was intended to grow into a grander church complex; instead, due in part to social and economic factors, the mission chapel remained, joined by a parish house and rectory on a modest scale that together served a vibrant and growing parish.

St. Mark's traces its origins to an 1887 fire that destroyed its mother church, St. Mary's Episcopal Church. St. Mary's was gathered in 1843 and founded in 1847, the first Episcopal church in Dorchester (Duffy 207). In 1849, St. Mary's laid the cornerstone for a large stone church building at the corner of Bowdoin and Topliff streets. After the 1887 fire, the parish built a second St. Mary's farther north, on Cushing Avenue at Upham's Corner (NR 1998). St. Mary's helped found three other Episcopal churches in Dorchester: All Saints (1874; NR 1980), St. Anne's (1876; now closed); and St. Mark's.

In 1887 the St. Mary's parishioners in the growing Grove Hall and Mt. Bowdoin neighborhoods were not satisfied with the new location, and a dozen women began meeting separately in the Mount Bowdoin Library (razed; then at Washington and Eldon streets). They formed a Women's Guild in 1888, and began holding services with guest ministers and lay readers. Later that same year, they began meeting regularly in Wetherell Hall (also razed) on Washington Street. The mission hired its first full-time minister, the Rev. Henry Martyn Saville, in 1897. Known informally as "the mission at Grove Hall," the congregation grew until "the little mission chapel is crowded and there is good promise for the future. . . . A committee was chosen to select a suitable piece of land for a church in the immediate neighborhood of Mt. Bowdoin" (*Church Militant* April 1898: 13). Formally organized in 1898 and named St. Mark's Mission, the group purchased a cottage on the newly widened and rechristened Columbia Road parkway that same year.

The lot that St. Mark's Episcopal Mission bought on Columbia Road had been laid out in 1870 by H. H. Moses, and sold in 1871 by Simeon & Margaret Britton to Gustavus A. Lauriat (Deeds). A large wood-framed cottage was built there prior to 1874 (according to the 1874 map). The Boston city directories list Lauriat as a goldbeater from 1842 to 1883; in 1874 his shop is listed at 33 Hawkins Street, and his house is on Columbia Road near Washington. The cottage was located towards the back of the lot, in the southwest corner, far from the street (where the Parish House stands today). Between the 1882 and 1884 maps, G. A. Lauriat attached a large connected carriage barn to his house, on the rear of the lot in the southeast corner. Gustavus Lauriat died in 1886, and the ownership of the house passed to his widow Martha and son Louis. The 1889 map verified that the ownership of this house had changed to Louis Lauriat. In November of that same year, the Lauriat's sold the house for \$1,000 to John Stults and Julius Adams, trustees for the estate which held the Lauriat's mortgage. Edwin S. Davis, a grain dealer on Blue Hill Avenue, owned the former Lauriat house for most of the next decade, according to the 1894 and 1898 maps, but did not live there. On October 25, 1898, Davis sold the lot and its cottage to William H. Cundy (the treasurer of St. Mark's Mission) and others who were acting as trustees.

The diocesan newspaper celebrated the new start: "The mission has fortunately just secured a large and excellent lot on the new boulevard, Columbia Road near the corner of Seaver St., just above Washington St., Dorchester, for \$8,000, at forty cents a foot. . . . The mission is blessed with earnest members and active workers ensuring its ultimate attainment of a church and parish-hood, and a permanent place in this fast-growing city district of Mt. Bowdoin" (*Church Militant*,

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October 1898: 12). The *Boston Globe* described how the three main rooms downstairs in the house would be combined: "A cottage standing on the premises was fortunately so situated as to make it advisable to alter the lower room into a hall, which has been done. This hall will accommodate . . . 150 persons and here it is proposed to hold services until such time as the new church can be built ("On Its Own"). An early postcard image (postmarked 1908) of the chapel, taken before the demolition of the cottage behind it, shows the cottage as an end-gabled house with an open side porch, prominent gabled side dormers, and a Mansard-roofed rear addition (See Fig. 3). St. Mark's Mission took possession in December of 1898. Its fundraising campaign was confident that they would begin building in 1899 (*Church Militant*, November 1898: 16), but it would take six years of planning and fundraising before the chapel cornerstone was laid in 1904. Having received permission from the Bishop and the Diocesan Standing Committee, the members of St. Mark's voted to change from mission to parish status on 15 January 1906 (*Church Militant*, February 1906: 9).

Building St. Mark's Episcopal Church

By late in 1902, St. Mark's had grown to 400 members—150 of them communicants—and had raised the last of the money necessary to pay off the mortgage on its property (*Church Militant*, December 1898: 15). It immediately began planning its new building. In 1903 St. Mark's published an impressive set of sketches by architect Edmund Q. Sylvester for a new English Gothic revival complex, which included an interconnected church, parish house, and rectory (Fig. 1). But the earlier delays in fundraising affected the designs, and Sylvester presented the parish with numerous options for staging and substitutions:

The buildings are all planned so as to be built separately. . . . The present intention is to build the first four bays of the nave, together, with the lower part of the tower, at the cost of some \$10,000. This will give a seating capacity of over two hundred, which will fill the needs of the Parish for some years. The other buildings will be added from time to time, as the parish grows and the means allow. . . . The church will be very simple in design, built of granite (or red brick with stone trimmings). . . . The other buildings will have the first story built of stone (or brick), and the second story of plaster. . . . The limit for the cost of the church is to be \$25,000; and the other buildings will cost some \$20,000 more. (*Church Militant* April 1903: 11)

The site plan Sylvester drew up also shows that St. Mark's hoped that Merrill Street would be extended from Glenarm through the neighboring properties on its east to Columbia Road, to align with Pinckney Road (currently named Pasadena Road). St. Mark's would then have an impressive corner lot on the new boulevard. But Merrill was never extended. Possibly because the boulevard blocked cross-traffic at the Merrill-Pinckney intersection, there was no longer a compelling reason to extend it.

In 1904, the church made another public appeal for funds to build, having scaled its plans back to a "modest chapel." Edmund Sylvester presented St. Mark's with another craftily staged building plan:

The architect has drawn plans for a simple wooden chapel on good lines with twice the seating capacity of the present hall, and what is more with an open roof and good ventilation. Later on this building can be moved back, raised and permanently used as the upper story or "hall" of the parish home. . . . It will be built upon part of the permanent foundation of the church so that the corner stone may be laid, we hope, St. Mark's day, April 25th, this year. (*Church Militant*, March 1904: 9)

Sylvester's accompanying sketch shows St. Mark's almost exactly as it was built and stands today (Fig. 2). But the Chapel was never moved and replaced by a church, as Sylvester proposed.

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The successful appeal sold donors not just on the prospects of the mission, but on its neighborhood:

St. Mark's mission is situated in one of the pleasantest parts of Dorchester, on the boulevard, Columbia Road, near Franklin Park and three minutes from Grove Hall, which is quite a business centre. . . . The houses in the immediate neighborhood are many of them substantial and attractive, with more or less grounds around them. The side streets have been thickly built up during the last few years with a good class of 'two family' houses and the majority of people in the region—and there are plenty of them—are neither rich nor poor. (*Church Militant*, March 1904: 9)

The article also—quite accurately—predicted the future of the neighborhood:

In the not far future the neighborhood around St. Mark's will doubtless change somewhat. Large estates will, in all probability, be cut up and single houses give place to brick blocks and apartment houses; and as these changes come, we want St. Mark's to be on the spot . . . and worthy of the location and its possibilities. (*Church Militant*, March 1904: 9)

On St. Mark's Day, 1904, the chapel cornerstone was laid, at a service that closed with the singing of "The Church's One Foundation" (*Church Militant*, May 1904: 19; "Laid Corner Stone").

The chapel was finished by the fall, and the first service held on September 18, 1904 (Fig. 3). The chapel cost \$7000 to \$10,000 to build. "The building is finished in weathered oak, being 38 feet wide and 55 feet long. The walls are of plaster, tinted with crème yellow, and the edifice has opalescent windows" ("First Service"). The 1904 Bromley map of Dorchester confirms that, since 1899, the church had been built and the carriage barn taken down. By 1906, St. Mark's had gained parish status and paid down all but \$2,500 of its debt "without fairs or entertainments" (*Church Militant*, February 1906: 9). Having completed the Chapel, the Rev. Saville left in 1907. His successor was the Rev. Frank Budlong, who served for several decades. By 1910 and the Bromley map, St. Mark's Episcopal Church had finished its complex, but not in the way Sylvester had initially envisioned, or even according to his revised plans.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church continued to raise funds, but the money was slow in coming in, and the final funding push came from the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. Recognizing that resources were not equally distributed across the diocese, and that working-class parishes were struggling under burdens not faced by well-off parishes, diocesan leaders intervened. William Lawrence (1850-1941) served as Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts for 34 years, from 1893 to 1927. In 1907, a lay group started the Bishop's Reenforcement [*sic*] Funds, in honor of the fifteenth year of service by Bishop Lawrence. The Diocese directed the funding, it vowed, not to prop up "weak" parishes, but to grow parishes like St. Mark's:

. . . For the reenforcement of parishes and missions that have a future. It is for parishes and missions in towns and cities where most of the people are of limited means; or in places where because of the great increase in population of wage-earners there are opened large opportunities for usefulness, but small capital. . . . Thus the different parts of the Diocese are bound together in mutual service. (*Church Militant*, December 1909: 5)

The Diocese focused on two goals: rectories (houses for priests and their families) and a "more efficient plant." It chose about a dozen parishes to fund, including St. Mark's, which it termed as being "In the Heart of the City," but also included

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parishes in industrial cities such as Fall River (St. Stephen's, later merged), Somerville (St. Thomas, no longer extant), and Haverhill (St. John's, later merged with Trinity Church, 1943, original building no longer extant). St. Mark's was the earliest example in Boston. Other parishes included St. Bartholomew's in Cambridge, St. Augustine's in Lawrence, and All Saints in Attleborough. None of the buildings from these other parishes still remain. *The Church Militant* noted that, regarding St. Mark's, "The present church building . . . is too small and should be enlarged. And a parish house and rectory are greatly needed" (*Church Militant*, December 1909: 8). The Re-Enforcement Fund pledged to give a quarter of the expected cost of \$18,000. In some cases older rectories were to be enlarged or renovated; in others they were built new. The Fund distributed its income as direct gifts, as matching grants, or as seed money that would be repaid by the parish either upon the retirement of the mortgage or as future gifts were received. The complex at St. Marks was conceived as a direct gift. As many of the parishes so gifted were mission churches or secondary Episcopal parishes in certain communities, such as Somerville, Haverhill, and Fall River, it is not surprising that few recipients of the Fund are still active today. St. Mark's is one of only a few Reenforcement-funded parishes still in operation.

In 1909, St. Mark's began building the parish house first, and the rectory soon after. Sylvester gave up his earlier plan for a grand interconnected masonry complex, designing instead individual frame buildings situated towards the rear of the lot, presumably so that the chapel could be expanded at a later date. The *Church Militant* published Sylvester's sketches for each, since they showed what could be accomplished for a modest budget outlay (Figs. 4 & 5). By January of 1910, it reported that "a fine parish house has been built, and the foundations of the [St. Mark's] Rectory are being laid" (*Church Militant*, January 1910: 13). The parish house was capable of seating 250 in its hall, and cost \$13,000 to build ("Leads Pupils"). By March of 1909, the rectory was under construction, although it, too, was shingled, rather than stucco, as Sylvester's sketch would seem to suggest he had intended. "It is of wood, the exterior finish being of shingles. The house contains a hall, eight rooms and a bath room. It is heated by furnace, and lighted by gas and electricity. It will cost somewhat less than \$7,000" (*Church Militant*, March 1910: 10). Through the Bishop's fund, the Diocese had helped erect or rehabilitate four rectories in eastern Massachusetts during the years 1907 to 1909, including St. Mark's (the others, in Haverhill, Watertown, and Cambridgeport, are no longer standing), and in the 1910 article alluded to plans for three others (not presently identified); still, a dozen additional rectories were badly needed.

By April of 1910, the parish house was "in almost daily use" and the rectory was almost finished. Several parishioners made gifts to improve the chapel, including the impressive pulpit, a memorial by the family of Amos Lawrence Swindlehurst: "The pulpit is of heavy brass and oak, dignified and attractive, and was furnished by Bigelow, Kennard and Company of Boston, at a cost of \$500" (*Church Militant* April 1910: 18). By June of 1910, the rectory was finished and the rector and his family had settled in. The Bishop's fund supplied, as promised, \$4,500 of the total expenditure of \$18,000 for the two buildings (*Church Militant*, January 1911: 13; Duffy).

Parish History since Construction

The parish records are not accessible, but other sources provide general outlines of parish history since construction of the three buildings that together comprise St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The parish faced another challenge in 1912, when a fire badly damaged the parish house. The fire began during Sunday School, in an overheated furnace at the back of the parish house. Everyone escaped, although the sexton's quarters there were destroyed. The *Boston Globe* celebrated the orderly evacuation of the 200 students and the prompt response of the firemen. But everyone agreed that the city needed to place a fire callbox nearer than Blue Hill Avenue, where several schoolboys had to run to summon help. The fire breached both the rear (south) exterior wall and the roof before firemen arrived ("Leads Pupils"). Although the Rev.

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Budlong had initially estimated fire damage at \$5000, the final estimate was \$8,578, with only \$532.23 in insurance coverage. Reportedly in rebuilding, "some changes will be made which experience proved to be advisable" (*Church Militant* March 1912: 9). The changes were likely made all to the interior or southern wall, as the parish house appears to be little changed from its original sketch.

The only other significant change to the building complex is an extension made to the rear of the chapel, undertaken in 1916, according to building permits. The addition was made primarily to accommodate a new organ, and apparently designed by Sylvester as well (Duffy 206). In 1918, the brass eagle lectern was presented to the church, as a memorial honoring Sarah Elizabeth Budlong, the deceased wife of Rector Frank Budlong (*Church Militant*, April 1918: 14). The 1918 Bromley map shows the addition to the rear of the church, and the rectory set off as a separate lot. It is unclear why the rectory was made a separate lot. The rectory lot has no street access. Although the 1933 Bromley map shows the lot once again undivided, the lot continues to be a separate property today. During the following decades, small-scale changes were made to the interior, including a prayer shrine in the chapel, dedicated in 1944, and a memorial room in the parish house, financed in 1946 to honor two parishioners killed in World War II. Little evidence of their nature remains today.

The decades after WWII brought social change to the Grove Hall neighborhood, as the racial makeup of the neighborhood and of the parish changed. A snapshot published in 1951 shows a group of parishioners redecorating the church—none are African-American (*Church Militant* May 1951: 13). A 1980s Diocesan history, presumably written by a member of St. Mark's, is forthright in its discussions of the changes at St. Mark's:

From 1883 to about 1956 St. Mark's was a largely white church, most of its parishioners having been born in the United States. The demographics of the neighborhood began to change after World War II, however, resulting in an increase in the population of minorities, particularly in the 1960s, when blacks and immigrants moved into Dorchester as whites relocated to the suburbs. This change was reflected in the congregation of St. Mark's, which is today predominantly black with a few white members, a reversal of its original racial composition. The present congregation of St. Mark's is quite diverse in its cultural, economic, educational, and professional backgrounds . . . an interesting mosaic of cultures from all over the world, from just around the corner, to Africa, to Central America, and to the Caribbean. (Duffy 206)

Among the members of St. Mark's in 1984 was John D. O'Bryant (1931-1992), the first black person to be elected to the Boston School Committee ("John D. O'Bryant").

In 2012, the parish continues to be highly diverse, with members from many countries, particularly those that have been members of the British Empire and raised in various branches of the Church of England. Likewise, few physical changes have been made to the property since the period of significance, apart from the signboards from the 1970s through the 1990s at the front of the property, and a utility shed at the rear. Currently another congregation rents out the upper hall in the parish house. The parish has had only part-time rectors recently, and no minister has lived in the rectory for a decade or more. The parishioners are renovating the rectory and working to upgrade some of its mechanical systems.

Architecture

The buildings of the St. Mark's Episcopal Church complex are significant architecturally as well as historically as the best surviving example of the type of mission church complex funded by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts' Bishop's Re-Enforcement Fund. The buildings are an interesting mix of two styles popular in the first decade of the 20th century:

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Late Gothic Revival and Craftsman. The chapel is more clearly Gothic and the rectory Craftsman, with the parish house a hybrid of the two styles. The buildings are also important examples of the architectural and ecclesiastical work of architect Edmund Q. Sylvester, and the Boston craft firm Bigelow, Kennard & Company. The complex is the only identified example designed by Sylvester of this type of mission church built through the fund.

Sylvester's initial drawings for the church complex were clearly, as characterized by the Diocesan newspaper, "adapted from English Gothic architecture" (*Church Militant*, April 1903: 11). This Late Gothic Revival was a popular stylistic choice for Episcopal churches, as they traced their heritage back to the Church of England. With each scaling-down of the designs, however, the buildings acquired more of the character of the Craftsman style of architecture popular with middle-class Americans. The 1912 *Boston Globe* article describing the fire at the parish house, searching for a way to describe the building, termed it as "of the Queen Anne style" ("Leads Pupils"). The term "Craftsman" is a later characterization for some of the stylistic motifs evident in the architecture of these buildings. What both styles have in common is a preoccupation with exposed half-timbering and rafter ends, and Arts and Crafts-influenced detailing.

Edmund Quincy Sylvester, Architect

The architect for all three of the contributing buildings at St. Mark's Church was Edmund Quincy Sylvester (1869-1942). Sylvester specialized in institutional and ecclesiastical work, particularly for the Episcopal Church. Christened Edmund Quincy Sylvester, Jr., the architect was born in Hanover, Massachusetts, the son of prominent businessman Edmund Quincy Sylvester (1827-1898). The family traced its origins to Richard Sylvester, who settled in Weymouth in 1633 and moved to Scituate in 1642 (Dwellely 394-395). In 1858 the architect's father married Mary Salmond (1832-1864) and had three children. After Mary's early death, he married her sister Eliza Salmond (b. 1844); they had five more children, of which Edmund Quincy Sylvester, Jr., was the oldest surviving (Dwellely 400, 402). Edmund Q. Sylvester, Sr., headed the Samuel Salmond & Son tack factory of Hanover and Norwell from the death of his father-in-law in 1859 until his own death. He was also instrumental in financing and building what became the Hanover branch of the Old Colony Railroad (Dwellely 175-179).

Edmund Q. Sylvester, Jr., was educated at St. Paul's School in Concord, NH, and studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Class of 1892), in the nation's first university program in architecture (Withey & Withey 587-588; "E.Q. Sylvester"). According to MassCOPAR, Sylvester was active in Boston from 1901 to 1942. He opened an office in Boston at 31 Beacon St. (1905 & 1915 city directories) and later moved to 8 Beacon St. (1926, 1935). He became a member of the Boston chapter of the A.I.A. in 1908. In 1902, he published an article detailing "The Development of a Country House" in *House Beautiful*, illustrating his ideas with drawings of "Meadow-View," an otherwise unidentified house in Hanover. Two of these illustrations were republished in a popular decorating text of 1907, Isabel Bevier's *The House: Its Plan, Decoration[,] and Care*.

Like many Boston architects of his era, Sylvester was adept in many styles, particularly Colonial Revival. Sylvester designed the Colonial Revival-style Fay School Dining Hall and Dormitory (1926) in Southborough, MA ("Fay School"), the Spanish Mission-style St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (1912) in Belmont, MA (Duffy 139), and the Gothic-Revival Christ Episcopal Church (1912) in Plymouth, MA (Duffy 524). Sylvester signed on as member of the prominent committee to save Park Street Church from destruction, likely partially as a favor to the committee chairman, fellow Hanoverian Dr. L. Vernon Briggs (Committee 34).

Perhaps because of his inherited wealth and Episcopal ties, Sylvester often designed churches for smaller rural or working-class Episcopal parishes, commissions unlikely to pay well. For example, Sylvester designed a small brick

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church in the Roxbury section of Boston that combined two African-American Episcopal mission churches into the Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin. Built in 1908 at 29-31 Lenox Street, it continues today as an Episcopal church serving a diverse neighborhood in Roxbury and the South End of Boston (*Church Militant* 11 (April 1908) pg. 9; Duffy 180-184; parish website). Sylvester designed the oldest part of Christ Episcopal Church (1914) in Needham Heights, MA, now the chapel wing to a larger, later church ("Christ Church").

Several of Sylvester's designs were for churches in New Hampshire; he published plans for Saint Barnabas Church in Berlin, and St. Andrew's Church and Rectory in Manchester (*Cyclopedia; The Architectural Review*). Sylvester designed the Lower School Study (1916; renamed Nash House) for his alma mater, St. Paul's School in Concord (Stern). For a friend, Sylvester donated the plans for the shingled St. Cuthbert's Chapel (1899) on MacMahon Island, Georgetown, Maine (Diocese of Maine). The interiors of this church have been attributed to Ralph Adams Cram and the carving to Kirchmayer ("Dixon's Paint").

The Sylvester family supported many Hanover institutions, especially the family's Episcopal parish, part of which was designed by Sylvester, and to which the family donated memorials including the chancel window and parish clock (*Church Militant*, October 1942: 16; Briggs). Edmund Q. Sylvester, Jr., was also the architect for Hanover's red-brick, Georgian Revival-style, John Curtis Free Library (1907). Sylvester continues to be remembered in Hanover for a singular act of generosity. In 1926, when a contentious Town Meeting was refusing to fund a needed high school for Hanover, Sylvester stood up and pledged \$50,000. Sylvester's half-brother Samuel pledged another \$10,000, and a third townspeople offered 20 acres of land. The new high school was named in Sylvester's honor. In 2012, the Edmund Q. Sylvester School continues to serve Hanover as an elementary school, part of the Center/Sylvester School complex (Barker-Kemp; "About Center/Sylvester Elementary").

Bigelow, Kennard & Company

The distinctive wood-railed brass pulpit installed in the chapel of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in 1910, came from Bigelow, Kennard & Company, a prominent Boston retailer known for fine silver and metalwork, which it manufactured itself or obtained from other craftworkers and companies. Many of its pieces were architectural in nature, such as the pulpit at St. Mark's. In the 1904 *Year Book of the Boston Architectural Club*, the company advertised itself as "goldsmiths, silversmiths, & importers, designers and makers of fine hall and mantel clocks. Bronzes from the foundries of Barbedienne, Colin & others. Makers of electric & gas lighting fixtures[,] Experts in indirect & subdued lighting effects."

The company began as jewelers specializing in making and importing fine watches. John Bigelow (1802-1878) of Westminister, Massachusetts, founded Bigelow Brothers in Boston in 1830, with his brothers Abraham and Alanson (Howe, 275-276; "John Bigelow" 277). In 1847 the company became Bigelow Brothers and Kennard, and eventually Bigelow, Kennard and Co. Their partner Martin Parry Kennard (1818-18) was a native of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, who became a clerk in Boston. Kennard was a partner in the firm until 1878 (Denehy 223-224). He was joined by his brother O. P. Kennard, and his nephew William Henry Kennard (William Henry Kennard). Bigelow, Kennard & Co. became known for the high quality of its products, especially Arts-and-Crafts-inspired items. It was a primary Boston retailer of Grueby Pottery. It is not clear whether Bigelow, Kennard & Co. made the pulpit or acquired it through one of their partner artisans.

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Deeds (listed chronologically)

Accessed through the City of Boston. Deeds, mortgages, and other papers concerning 73 Columbia Road. on file in the office of the Boston Landmarks Commission. Most of these files document various mortgages for St. Mark's Episcopal Church; only the most important are listed below.

- Louis A. Lauriat and Martha H. Lauriat to John V. N. Stults and Julius Adams. Mortgage quitclaim. 1889. Book 20940, Page 325.
- Edwin S. Davis and William H. Thayer to William H. Cundy and William W. Bartlett. 1898. Book 2562, Page 403.

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Maps, Photographs, and Plans (listed chronologically)

All of the maps listed below have been digitized and are accessible online in 2012 through the Maps link on the website of the local historical society, the Dorchester Athenaeum: <http://www.dorchesteratheneum.org/index.php>.

Griffith M. Hopkins. Atlas of Boston. 1874. Vol. 3, Plate P: North Part of Ward 16, Dorchester.

City of Boston. Engineering Dept. Map of Dorchester. 1880.

Griffith M. Hopkins. Atlas of Boston. 1882. Plate 29: Dorchester, City of Boston, Ward 24.

Bromley. 1884 Plate F.

Bromley. 1889 Plate 13.

Bromley. 1894 Plate 14.

Bromley. 1898 Plate 14.

Richards. 1899 Plate 4.

Bromley. 1904 Plate 14.

Postcard [of St. Mark's Episcopal Church]. Postmarked Dorchester Center 6 May 1908.

<http://www.dorchesteratheneum.org/image.php?id=4260&slide=St.Mark&ko=0>. Accessed 21 January 2012.

Bromley. 1910 Plate 14.

Bromley. 1918 Plate 14.

Bromley. 1933 Plate 14.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL FOR ST. MARK'S CHURCH:

Architectural Drawings for St. Mark's Chapel and Parish House located at the Dorchester Historical Society

List compiled by Earl Taylor, May 2012

blueprint	10 light electric chandelier
blueprint	wall sconce - three bulbs
linen	Chapel detail of exterior and interior finish for St. Mark's Mission
thick paper	Chapel detail of stairs
linen	Church first floor plan
linen	Church elevations rear & front
linen	Church elevation north
linen	Church elevation south
linen	north elevation
linen	east elevation
linen	addition to Chapel basement plan
linen	addition to Chapel first floor plan
linen	Church longitudinal section on centre line & cross section
thin paper	Plan and elevation of chancel
thin paper	detail of Chancel arch

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linen	Parish House section through side wall, through front porch, half elevation
thin paper	Parish House stairs to Guild Room 10/8/09
thin paper	Parish House elevation & section of stairs
thin paper	Parish House drawing of toilet room 10/8/09
thin paper	Parish House location of gas and electric outlets cellar & foundation plan
thin paper	first floor plan electric outlets
thin paper	second floor plan
thin paper	south elevation of framing
linen	lot survey by Frank E. Sherry December 1903
thin paper	framing plan
thin paper	roof framing plan
thin paper	elevation framing rear and front
thin paper	elevation framing north
blueprint	plan of lower hall with kitchen, dining room, women's coat room
blueprint	plan of Parish House E.Q. Sylvester
blueprint	plan of Parish Hall with stage
thin paper	change in stairs first floor plan
thin paper	south and north chimneys 10/12/09
thin paper	revised plan of furnace room
thin paper	detail and full size sections of doors 10/11/09
thin paper	elevation front end of Parish Hall
thin paper	elevation of glass doors and window between Guild Room and Hall

(end)

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10. Boundary Description

The National Register boundary for this property corresponds to the legal boundary of two interconnected lots, City of Boston Assessor's Parcel ID numbers 1400975000 (chapel and parish house) and 1400976000 (Rectory), 71-73 Columbia Road. However, the legal and mailing address for the entire complex is 73 Columbia Road. While Parcel 1400976000 has been considered a separate lot legally for nearly a century, it has no street access. The online Assessor's map shows the chapel and parish house as 71 Columbia Road and the rectory as 73 Columbia Road. Moreover, the address 71 Columbia does not exist in the Assessor's database, nor on the Parcel information sheet for the chapel and parish house, which are listed simply as "Columbia Road." Furthermore, the numerals "73" have been affixed to the front of both the chapel and the rectory by the parish. Together, the two lots represent a single lot laid out in 1870, purchased as such by St. Mark's Episcopal mission in 1898, and used for church purposes since that time.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel associated with St. Mark's Episcopal Church since it was purchased by St. Mark's Mission in 1898. Episcopal Church services have been offered continuously on this property since 1898.

(end)

Site Data Sheet

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Dorchester (Boston), Suffolk County, Massachusetts

Structure/Landscape/Feature	Date of Construction	Type of Resource	Contributing or Non (NC)	Direction from St. Mark's Chapel	Architect or Designer (if known)
St. Mark's Chapel	1904, 1916 (addition)	Building	Contributing		Edmund Q. Sylvester Edmund Q. Sylvester
Parish House	1909, 1912 (fire repair)	Building	Contributing	SE	Edmund Q. Sylvester Edmund Q. Sylvester
Rectory	1909-1910	Building	Contributing	E	Edmund Q. Sylvester
Frame Shed	1990s	Building	NC	SE	
Pole and Box Signs	1970s-1990s	Object	NC	N	
Total: 5 3 contributing buildings, 1 noncontributing structure, and 1 noncontributing object.					

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Site Sketch Map

Map adapted by Timothy Orwig from "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map 1950," courtesy of Boston Landmarks Commission. Circled numbers with arrows indicate the position of photographer and direction of view in the photographs. This detail map is not to scale.



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Additional Documentation—Photographs

Name of Property:	St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Address, City, Vicinity:	73 Columbia Road, Dorchester (Boston)
County:	Suffolk
State:	MA
Name of Photographer:	Timothy T. Orwig
Date of Photographs:	August 2011
Location of Original Digital Files:	409 Common St., Walpole, MA 02081
Number of Photographs:	14

Because Columbia Road travels from the southwest to the northeast, this lot does not clearly align with compass directions. To simplify these descriptions, Columbia Road has been considered to be an east-west street due north of the lot.

Photo #1.

Left to right, the porch of the rectory, the side door of the parish house (far to the rear), and the chapel, camera facing southwest.

Photo #2.

Chapel north façade (left) and west elevation (right), camera facing southeast. Note the box sign (left) and pole sign.

Photo #3.

Chapel east elevation with original side wing (left), camera facing southwest.

Photo #4.

Chapel east elevation, towards the rear, with the south elevation (left), rear addition (center left; note change in roof height), and original side wing (center right), camera facing northwest.

Photo #5.

Chapel interior, camera facing south.

Photo #6.

Chapel interior showing pulpit by Bigelow, Kennard & Co., camera facing southeast.

Photo #7.

Parish house north façade, with rear of rectory to the left, camera facing southeast.

Photo #8.

Parish house rear (south) elevation, with rear fence to the left, camera facing west.

Photo #9.

Parish House east elevation (southern half), with the frame shed to the left, camera facing southwest.

Photo #10.

Parish house interior, bottom floor, camera facing north.

Photo #11.

Parish house interior, top floor, camera facing northwest.

Photo #12.

Rectory north façade (left) and west elevation (right), camera facing southeast.

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Photo #13.

Rectory west elevation (left) and south elevation (right), camera facing northeast.

Photo #14.

Rectory east elevation (right) and side door, camera facing south. Note the front porch post, shingle, and trim details.

Additional Documentation—Figures

Figure 1: "St. Mark's, Dorchester." Initial sketches & site plan by Edmund Q. Sylvester. *Church Militant*, April 1903: 11.

Figure 2: "Laid Corner Stone of a New Church." *Boston Daily Globe*, 26 April 1904. ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

Figure 3: Postcard [of St. Mark's Episcopal Church]. Postmarked Dorchester Center 6 May 1908. Dorchester Atheneum.

Figure 4: "Parish House, St. Mark's Church, Dorchester." Edmund Q. Sylvester. *Church Militant*, December 1909: 10.

Figure 5: "The New Rectory of St. Mark's Church, Dorchester." Edmund Q. Sylvester. *Church Militant*, March 1910: 10.

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Additional Documentation—Historic Images (arranged chronologically)

Figure 1: "St. Mark's, Dorchester." Initial sketches & site plan by Edmund Q. Sylvester. *Church Militant*, April 1903: 11.

[April, 1903.]

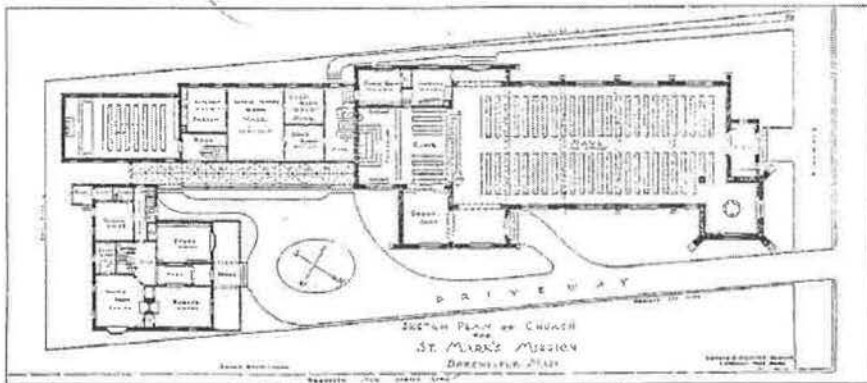
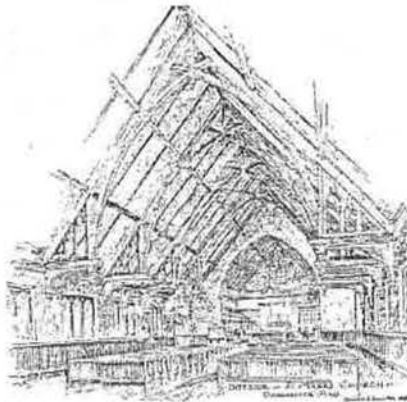
THE CHURCH MILITANT.

11



St. Mark's, Dorchester.

The accompanying illustrations show the proposed plans for a new church for St. Marks' Mission, Dorchester. The buildings are all planned so as to be built separately, but when finished will form one complete unit. The present intention is to build the first four bays of the nave, together with the lower part of the tower, at the cost of some \$10,000. This will give a seating capacity of over two hundred, which will fill the needs of the Parish for some years. The other buildings will be added from time to time as the Parish grows and the means allow, until at least the plans are completed, as shown by the sketches. The Church will be very simple in design, built of granite (or red brick with stone trimmings) and adapted from the English Gothic architecture. When completed the nave will be 78 ft. wide by 88 ft. long, and will seat 400. The other buildings will have the first story built of stone (or brick), and the second story of plaster, and will follow the English examples in detail. The limit for the cost of the church is to be \$25,000; and the other buildings will cost some \$50,000 more.



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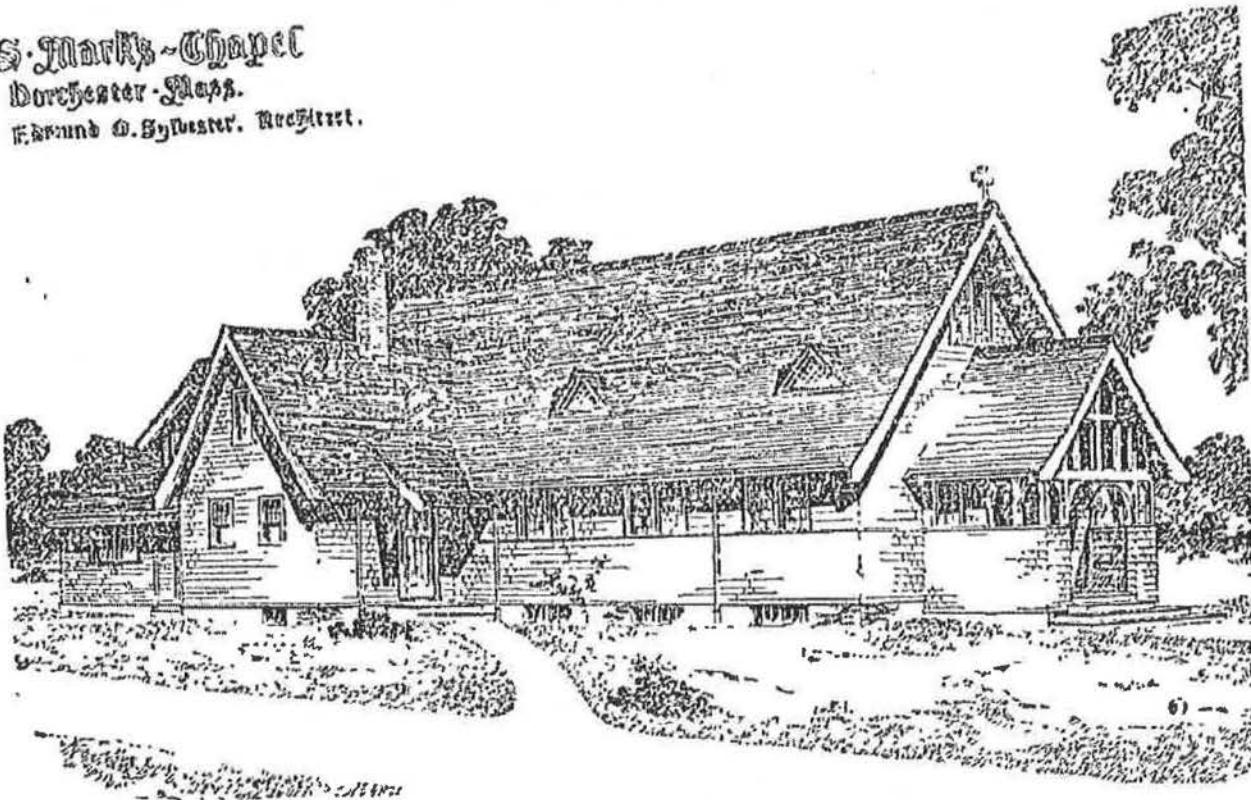
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Figure 2: "Laid Corner Stone of a New Church." *Boston Daily Globe*, 26 April 1904. ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

S. Mark's - Chapel
Dorchester - Mass.
Edmund O. Bywater. Architect.



CHAPEL TO BE REARED ON SITE FOR ST MARK'S CHURCH, DORCHESTER, THE CORNERSTONE WHICH WAS LAID YESTERDAY,

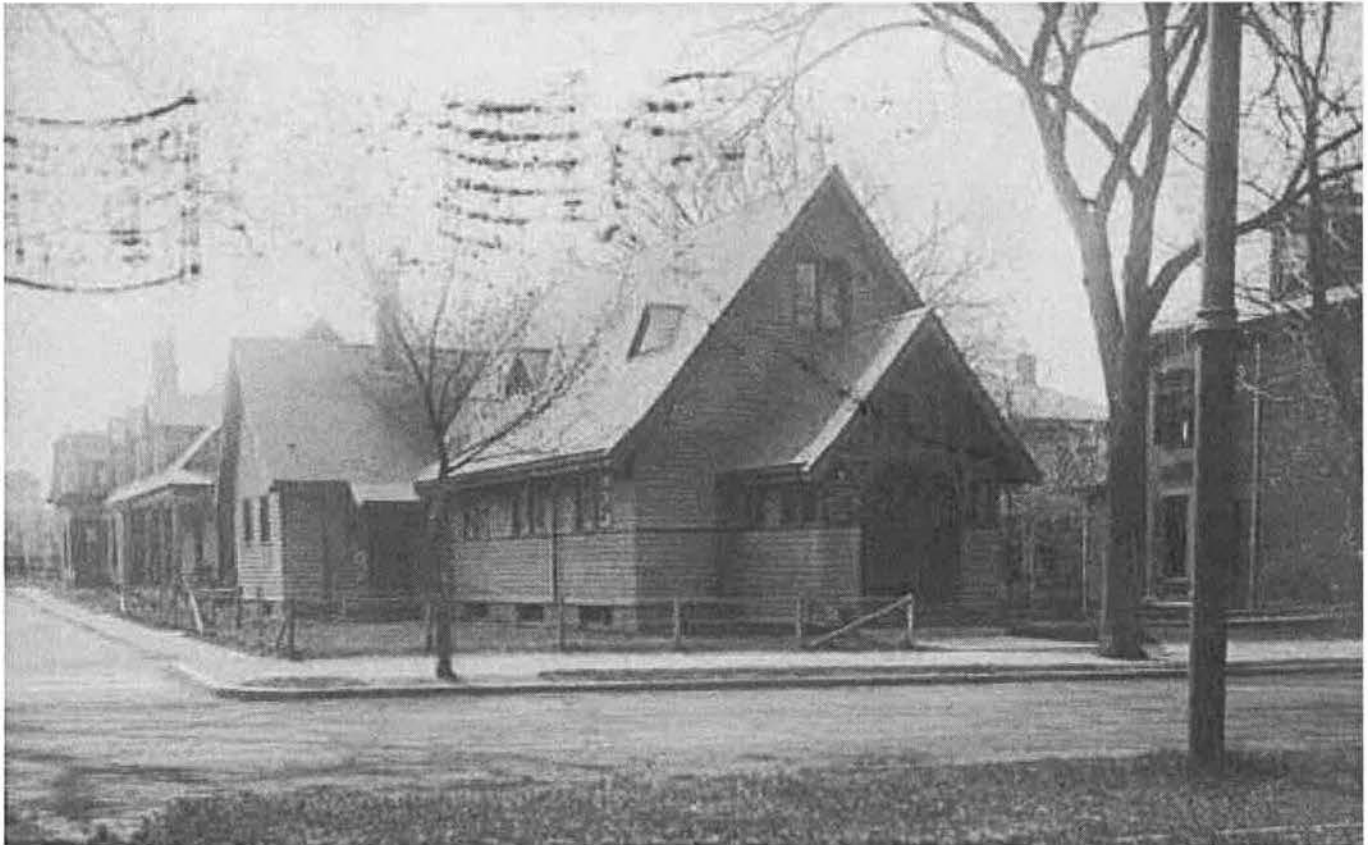
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Figure 3: Postcard [of St. Mark's Episcopal Church]. Postmarked: Dorchester Center, 6 May 1908.
<http://www.dorchesteratheneum.org/image.php?id=4260&slide=St. Mark&ko=0>. Accessed 21 January 2012



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Figure 4: "Parish House, St. Mark's Church, Dorchester." Edmund Q. Sylvester. *Church Militant*, December 1909: 10.



PARISH HOUSE, ST. MARK'S CHURCH, Dorchester.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Boston (Dorchester), Suffolk County, MA

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Figure 5: "The New Rectory of St. Mark's Church, Dorchester." Edmund Q. Sylvester. *Church Militant*, March 1910: 10.



RECTORY FOR ST. MARK'S PARISH
DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
EDMUND Q. SYLVESTER, ARCHITECT, BURLINGTON, VT.

THE NEW RECTORY OF ST. MARK'S CHURCH, Dorchester.

St Mark's Episcopal Church



Property Information

Parcel ID 1400975000,1400976000
Owner ST MARKS PARISH OF DOR
Address 73 COLUMBIA RD
Property Type 0985
Building Value \$1,884,600.00
Land Value \$ 498,400.00
Total Value \$2,383,000.00
Lot Size 20647 sq ft
Land Use Exempt



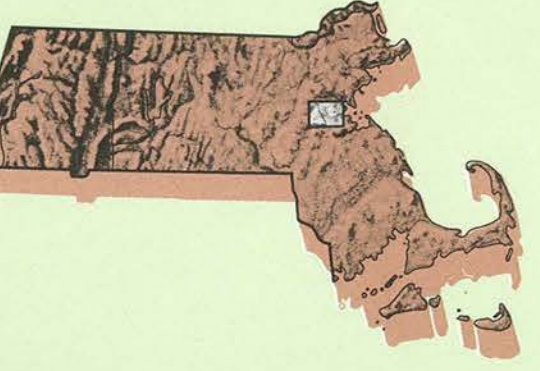
**MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY
NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT**

The City of Boston makes no claims, no representations, and no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the validity (expressed or implied), the reliability, or the accuracy of the GIS data and GIS data products furnished by the City, including the implied validity of any uses of such data. The use of this data, in any such manner, shall not supercede any federal, state or local laws or regulations.



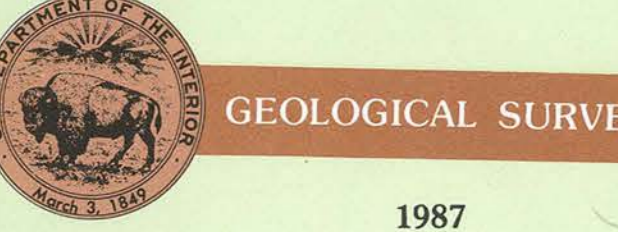
Boston South MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



1987

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works
 Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1978. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1987
 Supersedes Newton and Boston South 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1970
 Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 13270 (1982) and 13272 (1980). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
 Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 18
 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone
 1927 North American Datum
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONVERSION TABLE

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5616
3	9.8424
4	13.1232
5	16.4040
6	19.6848
7	22.9656
8	26.2464
9	29.5272
10	32.8080

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
 To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

DECLINATION DIAGRAM

ADJOINING MAPS

1	2	3
1 Maynard	2 Boston North	3 Lynn
4 Framingham	5 Needham	6 Medford
7 Norwood	8 Weymouth	

ISBN 0-607-00135-6
 9 780607 001356

Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface	
Secondary highway, hard surface	
Light-duty road, hard or approved surface	
Unimproved road; trail	
Route marker: interstate, U. S. State	
Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage	
Bridge: standard; narrow	
Footbridge; overpass; underpass	
Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown	
House; barn; church; school; large structure	
Boundary	
National, with monument	
State	
County, parish	
Civil township, precinct, district	
Incorporated city, village, town	
National or State reservation; small park	
Land grant with monument; found section corner	
U. S. public lands survey: range, township; section	
Range, township; section line: location approximate	
Fence or field line	
Power transmission line, located tower	
Dam; dam with lock	
Cemetery; grave	
Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument	
Windmill; water well; spring	
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave	
Contour: horizontal contour; vertical contour; spot elevation	
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	
Distorted surface: strip mine; levee; sand	
Soundings: depth curve	
Personal lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	
Submerged marsh; marsh; swamp	
Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland	
Scrub; mangrove	
Orchard; vineyard	

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Dorchester, Boston, MA
 Zone 19, E 285300, N 4685440







THE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WELCOMES YOU

ST. MARK'S CHURCH
ANGLICAN













FELLOWSHIP ROOM













National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Suffolk

DATE RECEIVED: 5/19/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/05/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000783

DETAILED EVALUATION:

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Aic

REVIEWER Patrick Andrus

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 7/3/2014

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

RECEIVED BF

MAY 11 2012

MASS. HIST. COMM



**Boston
Landmarks
Commission**

**City of Boston
The Environment
Department**

Boston City Hall/ Room 805
Boston, Massachusetts 02201
617/635-3850
www.cityofboston.gov/landmarks

Susan D. Pranger, Chair
Cyrus Field, Vice-Chair
John Amodeo
David Berarducci
John Freeman
Susan Goganian
Thomas Herman
Kirsten Hoffman
Thomas Hotaling
Adam Hundley
Diana Parcon
Lynn Smiledge
Yanni Tsipis
Charles Vasiliades
Richard Yeager
Ellen J. Lipsey, Exec. Director

May 9, 2012

Ms. Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Re: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 73 Columbia Road, Dorchester
National Register of Historic Places Nomination

Dear Ms. Simon:

The Boston Landmarks Commission is very pleased to support the listing of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 73 Columbia Road, Dorchester, in the National Register of Historic Places. The BLC unanimously voted to support this listing at its May 8, 2012 public meeting.

Thank you for providing the BLC with the opportunity to support this deserving nomination. BLC staff looks forward to the Massachusetts Historical Commission's review of this nomination at its June 13, 2012 quarterly meeting.

Sincerely,

Emily Wolf
Architectural Historian/Assistant Survey Director

Cc: Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC
Timothy Orwig, preservation consultant
Rev. James K. Githitu, St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Mary-dith Tuitt (*via email*)

VOTE TO SUPPORT THE LISTING OF ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 73 COLUMBIA ROAD,
DORCHESTER, IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

MOTION: D. Parcon **SECOND:** J. Freeman
IN FAVOR: C. Vasiliades, J. Freeman, S. Pranger, C. Field, L. Smiledge, D. Berarducci, D. Parcon, S. Goganian, J. Amodeo. **OPPOSED:** none.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

July 20, 2012

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 73 Columbia Road, Boston (Suffolk), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property in the Certified Local Government community of Boston were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60 to 90 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

One letter of support has been received.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Timothy Orwig, consultant
Rev. James Githitu, St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Emily Wolf, Boston CLG coordinator
Thomas Menino, Mayor, City of Boston
Susan Pranger, Boston Landmarks Commission

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



783

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

other names/site number The Mission at Grove Hall, St. Mark's Mission, St. Mark's Chapel

2. Location

street & number 73 Columbia Road not for publication

city or town Boston (Dorchester) vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Suffolk code 025 zip code 02121

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that the property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, State Historic Preservation Officer, MHC
Massachusetts Historical Commission

July 20, 2012
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Suffolk, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	3	objects
3	4	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- RELIGION: religious facility
- RELIGION: church-related residence
-
-
-
-
-
-

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- RELIGION: religious facility
- RELIGION: church-related residence
-
-
-
-
-
-

Returned

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH-CENTURY REVIVALS:
- Late Gothic Revival
- LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH-CENTURY AMERICAN
- MOVEMENTS: Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation STONE: Granite
- walls WOOD
- roof ASPHALT
- other GLASS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Boston (Dorchester), Suffolk County, MA

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and rectory in a 1903 site plan for the complex, although Sylvester's initial intention was to have all three buildings as elements of a single interconnected complex. The only vehicular access to the lot is a short paved driveway at the northwest corner of the lot, which ends alongside the northwest corner of the chapel. The southeast corner of the lot is a paved basketball court, heavily shaded by mature trees. The northeast corner of the lot is grassy open lawn. The entire lot is surrounded by a chain-link fence. A tall wooden pole in the center of the lot holds a yard light.

The **Chapel** is a 1½-story, wood-framed structure, set on a brick foundation, with a steeply pitched roof covered in asphalt shingles (last replaced in 2009). A short wooden cross sits atop the gable end almost like a gothic pinnacle (**Photograph 2**). A granite cornerstone in the northwest corner of the foundation is inscribed "A.D. 1904," and is topped with an inscribed Greek cross. A narrow-board beltcourse, which ties the sills of the windows with the railings of the front steps, encircles the chapel on its shingled front and sides. The most prominent decorative element on the exterior is the projecting entry porch with half-timbering in its gable, a Late-Gothic/Tudor Revival element. The sides of the porch feature openwork decorative trusses with pointed arches. The sides and the end gable of the porch project significantly beyond the building wall, and the rafters underneath are exposed. The double-front wooden doors are painted red, as is customary for Episcopal churches. The doors themselves have horizontal, rectangular inset panels in the top and bottom, with a raised "X" formed by the center inset panels. The doors open into a small wainscoted narthex (vestibule), illuminated by simple windows set with opalescent glass on each side wall. The front steps are brick, with contemporary wrought-iron railings on either side. The floor of the front porch is narrow boarding. Above the entry porch, in the gable of the nave (hall), is another pair of windows set with opalescent glass, lighting the clerestory. Both pairs of windows display the same repeating pattern of opalescent glass—larger octagonal lights joined at their corners by smaller diamond-shaped lights.

The long western elevation of the chapel consists of four paired windows set between the roof and the beltcourse. Three triangular roof dormers provide clerestory light into the sanctuary. While the side windows use the same pattern of opalescent glass as the windows in the northern end, the roof dormers have simpler diamond panes. At the southern end of the chapel wall is another double door (currently not used), each door with paired vertical inset panels topped by a large opalescent window. A two-tread, open-riser step maintains egress in the case of emergency.

Directly in front of church are three signs of relatively recent vintage (See **Photograph 2**). As mid-century pictures of the church could not be located, it is not clear whether they are new signs or newer replacements for old signs. The **Pole Sign** is located between the driveway and the front walk of the church. A single hollow steel pole with a scroll-bracket yardarm, it holds a metal panel sign likely dating from the 1970s. This standard denominational sign displays the shield of the church, with the legends "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" and "St. Mark's Church/Anglican." On the other side of the front walk is a large **Box Sign**, a locking box with a glass front that allows for changing messages with movable plastic letters. Dating from the 1980s, the box sign is supported by two square posts. It has a white triangular pediment at the top of the box, which includes the name of the church topped by a small Roman cross. A third **Post Sign** is a single, flat-framed signboard on two posts, also likely dating from the 1980s, which has deteriorated significantly. It is empty, except for a small plastic sign stapled to the bottom of it, advertising the group that meets in the parish house's upper hall. These three signs count as three noncontributing objects.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Boston (Dorchester), Suffolk County, MA

Section number 7 Page 3

The eastern elevation of the chapel has three distinct units. Two triangular roof dormers provide clerestory light into the sanctuary (**Photograph 3**). The northern half of this elevation has three paired windows set between the roofline and the beltcourse, with a single window next to the side entrance. The side door is set in a short cross-gabled wing, which extends eastward from the southern end of this elevation. It has a lower-ridgeline and a chimney for the building's furnace. Craftsman details can be seen in the slight kick to the roof edges on this cross-gabled wing, and the shed roof of the side porch. An access ramp for the disabled has been added recently at the side door. The gable end of this cross gable is unadorned, except for decorative exposed rafters supporting the overhanging roof, and three windows: two at the ground level and a narrow clerestory window.

To the rear of the chapel is a gabled extension at least partially added on in 1916. Like the rest of the chapel, it also has a brick foundation (**Photograph 4**). It is unclear how much of this extension was part of the original build, as much of it appears in Sylvester's 1904 sketch. This extension has a lower ridgeline than the rest of the nave, and yet is slightly wider, due to a substantial flair and kick in the roofline on both sides, which makes the lower half of the roof on either side almost like a shed extension. Both the eastern and western slopes of this roof have gabled roof dormers, each holding a pair of square opalescent windows. A shed porch extends eastward over a rear entrance that provides access to the chapel's vestry (robing room) from the parish house and rectory. This rear door is also painted red, and opens onto a narrow step with another contemporary wrought-iron railing. The paired windows in this eastern elevation of the extension are fitted with squares of semi-transparent colored glass set in leaded mullions, as are the windows of the cross-gable. The western elevation of this extension is blank with no doors or windows, but the southern (rear) wall has a single large round window in the gabled end, fitted with stained glass.

The interior of the chapel is primarily the large open nave, where the roof is supported by a series of modified king-post trusses (**Photograph 5**). The crème-colored plaster walls contrast with the dark stained and varnished woodwork of the open rafters, paired window frames, railed wainscoting, pews, and wooden floors. A single center aisle provides the only circulation from the small narthex to the chancel of the church. The narthex and the nave are joined by a pair of dark-varnished, panel double doors. The primary decoration for the pews is a four-lobed incised foil design in the top of their Gothic-arched shaped aisle ends. Each pew has wide book racks and padded kneelers. The light coming through the opalescent glass windows into the sanctuary is soft and muted. The light fixtures appear to be original, and include Gothic-style wheel chandeliers over the center aisle, which hang from pendants on the king posts. The Arts and Crafts-style wall fixtures have three pendant flower-bud light sockets on a horizontal pipe bar, topped on their ends with saucer and bud finials, possibly indicating an initial combination of gas and electric lighting. Large floor grates along the center aisle provide air circulation from the basement furnace.

The chancel is raised two to three steps above the floor of the church, with the large stand-alone central altar the main focus. To the east of the altar is the sculptural brass and wood pulpit (1910; Bigelow, Kennard & Co.). Between the pulpit and side wall is a walkway to the side hall beyond (**Photograph 6**). To the west of the altar, in front of the unused double doors, are the eagle lectern and the movable ecclesiastical furniture: 4 padded Gothic chairs and kneelers. The rear chancel extension is separated from the rest of the chancel by a tall, wide Gothic central arch, with a second low, rounded arch opening into the western aisle. In the rear chancel extension, the wainscoting rises to the top of the doorways. The extension holds choir pews to the east and a space for the parish musicians to the west of a center organ. The rear wall of

(continued)

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church
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the chancel extension is dominated by a tall, carved Gothic reredos, which proclaims in tall letters across its top, "Reverend Frank Dorr Budlong Rector 1907-1920." Above it in the gable peak is a round stained-glass window, depicting Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, surrounded by a design with vines and Gothic quatrefoils. The window does not appear to be signed and the maker is not known; a small brass plaque at its base reads, "To the Glory of God from the Members of St. Mark's Sunday School."

The combination sacristy and vestry (robing room) is in the eastern end of the rear (southern) extension. It has both built-in and stand-alone cabinets. The room directly to its north in the cross-gabled wing serves for circulation and storage. The church has a full basement with a poured concrete floor. The basement walls are unfinished, clearly defining the transition between the above-ground brick foundation and the below-ground stone foundation. The furnace unit is in the center of the basement, with a few built-in storage cabinets in the center, but otherwise the basement is mostly empty.

Like the chapel, the **Parish House** also has a modified "L" shape, with the long center hall and a shorter eastern cross-gabled extension. While the chapel has a simple covering of coursed wooden shingles, both the parish house and rectory are covered with shingles placed in alternating wide and narrow bands. The two-story parish house has a granite-block foundation and an asphalt-shingled roof. The northern façade of the end-gabled parish house is dominated by a projecting triangular gable with an oversized bracketed pediment, from which is suspended a five-bay oriel window (**Photograph 7**). The oriel windows have a single sill, which extends past the ends of the window under shingled panels and is supported by end brackets. An end-gabled entry porch with decorative open-work trusses, and exposed rafters and rafter tails provide shelter for the double-door entrance. These doors, also painted red, have inset vertical panels topped with paired lights. An access ramp for the disabled allows entry into the front hall of the parish house.

Triangular roof dormers on the eastern and western sides of the roof light the upper-story hall. The western wall of the parish house parallels, and is just a few feet away from, the lot's chain-link fence. A side door at ground level allows limited access into the kitchen for the lower hall. Otherwise, the western elevation is characterized by smaller, double-hung windows that light the upper and lower halls. The projecting roof has a row of elaborated rafter ends. The rear elevation of the parish house is also just a few feet from the chain-link fence, and much of this limited space is taken up by a rear fire escape (**Photograph 8**). A shed roof projects over a rear exit door. The eastern elevation of the cross-gabled wing of the parish house is dominated by a projecting triangular gable with an oversized bracketed pediment, similar to that on the northern façade. Below it is a similar band of five windows, although they are flush with the wall rather than projecting as an oriel (**Photograph 9**). The northern flank of this side gable sweeps down two stories towards the front, ending in a shed porch supported by a decorative truss over the door to the side staircase. Another shed porch supported by brackets attaches to the southern part of the eastern end of the cross gable. A basement bulkhead is directly south of that. Near the southeast corner of the parish house is a simple modular **Frame Shed** (ca. 1990s, noncontributing) for the storage of lawnmowers and other outside equipment.

The parish house has two long meeting halls, accessed by broad formal staircases in its northern end and a narrower staircase in the northeastern corner of the cross-gabled wing. The northern end staircase is spacious, with central landings and a double set of side staircases. The hallway retains its original wainscoting with plaster walls above. The top landing is lit by the five-bay oriel, which consists of a pair of double-hung sash, one on either side of a central, fixed-casement window with diamond-shaped panes of colored glass. From this northern end staircase, double doors let into halls on both levels. The lower hall serves as a fellowship space for St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The floor is sunken to the half-

(continued)

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basement level, providing a high-ceilinged space accessed from the north, east, and south by short flights of down steps (**Photograph 10**). Apart from closets, storage, and the furnace room, the only other significant room on this low basement level is the parish kitchen at the northwest corner, which also has an exterior door to the west. The lower hall has wainscoting below, while all of the wall and ceiling surfaces above are covered in complex patterns of pressed tin, possibly introduced to the space after the 1912 fire. A row of steel posts down the center of the space supports a center longitudinal beam. The lower hall is currently lit by banks of fluorescent lights, while at least one former gaslight pipe remains on a side wall by a staircase. To the south of the lower hall, up a taller flight of steps, is a large Sunday School room.

The upper hall of the parish house has a high ceiling with modified king-post trusses like those in the chapel. The hall is lit by the side windows, clerestory dormers, and hanging fluorescent fixtures. The trusses, wainscoting, and flooring are finished in varnished wood, while the ceiling between trusses is painted white. The plastered northern end of the hall has three segmental-arched openings, for an alcove, the main staircase, and storage area. An intermediate door provides access to a small attic (**Photograph 11**). The southern wall of this hall is also plastered, with a central proscenium arch that opens onto a narrow raised stage. The cross-gable eastern wing of the parish house contains the smaller staircase, restrooms, and two floors of offices for church usage, including a business office below and a rector's office and anteroom above, accessed through the upper hall.

Like the parish house, the rectory is a two-story building on a granite foundation, covered in coursed wooden shingles, and roofed with asphalt shingles (**Photograph 12**). Like the other two buildings, it is end-gabled with its façade toward Columbia Road. The building is a simple rectangle, apart from its one-story, open-front porch, which runs almost the length of its northern end. A Craftsman-style touch on the porch is its simplified Doric pillars, which flare out slightly towards the bottom. They are joined together by simple rectangular-boarded balustrades. The main decorative element on the western elevation of the rectory, emphasizing its link with the chapel and parish house across the walk, is a projecting oriel window with a band of three windows. Like the parish house oriel, this oriel has a single oversized sill, which extends past the ends of the window under shingled side panels. This oriel, however, is supported by four oversized brackets. Other than this oriel, window placement in the rectory is determined by the arrangement of the interior spaces. The southwestern corner of the rectory has an open inset porch, with segmentally arched openings for the door and rear wall (**Photograph 13**). A chain-link fence separates the rear rectory walk from the basketball court to the south. The eastern wall of the rectory has two doors that open onto a narrow walk just a few feet from the property line chain-link fence. One door opens into the full basement, while the southernmost door is a rear door to the kitchen (**Photograph 14**). The roof of the rectory is much less steeply pitched than the roofs of its neighbors, and the overhanging eaves are boxed.

The front door of the rectory is painted red, like that of the other buildings at St. Mark's. It opens into a spacious hallway with an open staircase to the second floor with handsome wooden balustrades. The western side of the house has a living room and dining room that look out onto the other buildings in the St. Mark's complex, and share a small central fireplace on their eastern wall. The kitchen is in the southeastern corner of the downstairs level. Besides the bedrooms, the upstairs has a small study with built-in bookcases in the northeastern corner, and a nicely finished linen closet with built-in drawers. The rectory has a walk-up, low-ceilinged unfinished attic, lit by windows in each end gable.

(continued)

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Few changes have occurred to these buildings since 1904-1916, the years that saw their construction, addition, and rebuilding after the parish house fire. The single most visible change is the addition of access ramps for the disabled to the chapel and to the parish house. The parish house and the rectory windows have been fitted with combination aluminum screens. Most of the rooms in the rectory have drop ceilings. The upper hall of the parish house is well-maintained and is currently rented out to another congregation from the neighborhood.

Condition

Generally, St. Mark's Episcopal Church is in good condition. Water infiltration is a problem in the basement of the chapel. The rectory has not been occupied for several years, and needs repairs to its roof.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are currently known on the church property, sites may have been present. One ancient find spot site is recorded in the general area (within one mile). The nominated property is located at a topographic low between the hills of Franklin Park to the west, and Mt. Bowdoin to the east. Soils are level within the property, and the surrounding area is heavily developed by residential structures. The nearest source of fresh water may now be obscured by development in this densely settled area; however, a spring is indicated on the eastern side of Mt. Bowdoin approximately 2,000 feet from the property. One find spot, located 1.22 miles northeast of the property, exists in a similar environment, including a low spot between hills, a long distance from fresh water, and within a developed area. Disturbances to the ground surface within the property are extensive including the three extant structures, the earlier cottage and carriage barn, and the unpaved road down the eastern length of the lot (Figure 3). Given the above information, a low potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources on the property.

A moderate to high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the St. Mark's property. The first structure on the property, a cottage, was constructed sometime between 1870 and 1874. A later attached carriage barn was also located in the rear of the property, and dates to between 1882 and 1884. Currently, the parish lies within most of the footprint of the cottage; however a portion of the northern half of the cottage once lay between the current parish and church. In addition, the entirety of the carriage barn was located in what is now an undeveloped area behind the rectory. These two areas have potential for structural evidence including foundations, cellar holes, and cultural deposits relating to both the cottage and carriage barn. These deposits may contain domestic refuse and related features (trash pits, privies, wells) from the cottage's first use as a private home. The potential carriage barn deposits would provide information related to the use and construction of the structure. Later deposits relating to the period when the cottage was used for church services and a meeting space for its members between 1898 and 1904 would provide a comparison between the earlier domestic use of the property and its communal use as a religious center. Undeveloped areas in the rear of the property may also contain early 20th-century domestic deposits relating to the occupation of the later parish and rectory. There is no record of a burial ground within the church grounds.

(end)

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Suffolk, MA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

RELIGION

Period of Significance

1898-1962

Significant Dates

1898 (Lot purchased & services begun on site)

1904 (Chapel built)

1909 (Parish house and rectory both begun)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Sylvester, Edmund Quincy

Bigelow, Kennard and Company

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Boston Landmarks Commission

Returned

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Suffolk, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References See continuation sheet.
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19	328410	4685653	3.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2.			4.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Timothy T. Orwig, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 2012

street & number 220 Morrissey Blvd telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name St. Mark's Episcopal Church

street & number 73 Columbia Road telephone 508-865-6274

city or town Dorchester (Boston) state MA zip code 02121

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Boston (Dorchester), Suffolk County, MA

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary Paragraph

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, comprised of three one- to two-story buildings built between 1904 and 1910, is a remarkable shingled ecclesiastical complex, little changed since its construction. The end-gabled chapel (1904) is the oldest of the buildings and is Late Gothic Revival style with elements of Craftsman. The chapel retains most of its early interior elements, including a wooden-railed brass pulpit from the Boston firm Bigelow, Kennard & Co. The parish house and rectory, both begun in 1909, have the appearance of Craftsman style. Owned and maintained by the same parish that built it, St. Mark's Episcopal Church is in good condition and is only slightly altered since its period of significance (1904-1962).

Location and Setting

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is located on the southeast side of Columbia Road, a busy four-lane boulevard in Dorchester, a formerly independent town annexed to Boston in 1870. St. Mark's occupies the central portion of a block bounded by Columbia Road, Seaver Street, Glenarm Street, and Powellton Road. Columbia Road is an important crosstown connector, linking Blue Hill Avenue and Franklin Park to Dorchester Bay and Boston Harbor. St. Mark's is located approximately four blocks east of Blue Hill Avenue, a major north-south arterial from the southern suburbs to downtown Boston, and a traditional dividing line between Dorchester and Roxbury. Roxbury, to the west, is another former suburban town, which was annexed to Boston in 1868. West of Blue Hill Avenue, Columbia Road becomes Circuit Drive, the main road through Franklin Park. Franklin Park (NR Dist., 1971) is the largest park in Boston, home to the Franklin Park Zoo, and the largest jewel in the Emerald Necklace (NRDIS, 1971), a continuous chain of six parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted between 1878 and 1896, which connect through the Commonwealth Avenue Mall (NRDIS, 1973) to the Public Garden and Boston Common (both NRDIS, 1972).

Several blocks north of St. Mark's, at the intersection of Blue Hill Avenue and Washington Street, is the commercial center of the neighborhood, which is known as Grove Hall. Blue Hill Avenue, Washington Street, and—to a lesser extent—Columbia Road, are characterized by brick apartment blocks built in the first half of the 20th century. The neighborhood topography is gently rolling, with neighborhoods to the east named after hills: Mt. Bowdoin, Meeting House Hill, and Savin Hill. The block between Seaver Street and Powellton Road contains primarily larger, late 19th-century, two-family houses. The houses immediately adjacent to either side of St. Mark's Episcopal Church along Columbia Road are both two-family houses with prominent Second Empire stylistic elements. The Columbia Road landscape in this block is characterized by mature deciduous trees and grassy lawns, with younger trees planted in the narrow, grassy median. The National Register boundary for this property corresponds to two interlocked lots, usually addressed together as 73 Columbia Road.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is a complex of three shingled one- to two-story buildings, all designed by architect Edmund Q. Sylvester, and axially aligned on a long rectangular lot (**Photograph 1**). The oldest of these buildings is the chapel (1904), on the northeast corner of the lot. (Because Columbia Road travels from the southwest to the northeast, this lot does not align with compass directions. To simplify this narrative, Columbia Road will be considered to be an east-west street due north of the lot.) The parish house (1909) is directly behind (south of) the chapel, hugging the southwest corner of the lot. The rectory (1909) is northeast of the parish house and southeast of the chapel. The parish house occupies the site of a large end-gabled cottage, built by 1874 and demolished by 1909, which St. Mark's adapted for its first worship space when it bought the site in 1898. The chapel and the rectory occupy the sites Sylvester originally assigned the church

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Boston (Dorchester), Suffolk County, MA

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary Statement

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, a complex of three shingled buildings in the Dorchester section of Boston, Massachusetts, meets National Register Criterion A at the local level for its importance to the history of community planning and development. Built between 1904 and 1910 by a mission parish in a working-class neighborhood, St. Mark's chronicles the story of a neighborhood's investment in, and development of, an ecclesiastical institution. The buildings meet National Register Criterion C at the local level for their importance to Boston's architecture. All three buildings at St. Mark's Episcopal Church were designed by the same architect, Edmund Q. Sylvester, with elaborated rafter-ends and other details that suggest both Late Gothic Revival and Craftsman styles. Owned by its congregation and used for religious purposes, the property is nominated under Criteria Consideration A, although it derives its primary significance from its architectural and historical importance. St. Mark's Episcopal Church is generally in good condition, is only slightly altered since its period of significance (1904-1962), and has historic integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Setting: The Dorchester Section of Boston

Dorchester was incorporated as an independent municipality in 1630, named after the English town of Dorchester in Dorset, from which many of the first inhabitants came. Historically, Dorchester was a very large town, and included parts of present-day Milton to the east, Dedham to the west, and territory as far south as Foxboro, Raynham, and Wrentham. Annexed to Boston in 1870, Dorchester remains Boston's largest and most populous section. Dorchester faces Dorchester Bay on the east, and is bounded on its north and west by other sections of the city: South Boston, Roxbury, and Mattapan. To the south and southeast, the Neponset River separates it from the municipalities of Quincy and Milton. Due to boundary changes while Dorchester and Roxbury were independent towns, and shifting neighborhoods since, the dividing line between the sections of Roxbury and Dorchester is unclear, although St. Mark's Episcopal Church itself is generally considered to be in Dorchester. The Dorchester section is defined by its arterial streets and the smaller commercial and cultural neighborhoods that grew up at their intersections, each neighborhood with its own defining characteristics.

In June of 1630, a boat from the ship *Mary and John* landed at Columbia Point and disembarked a group of Englishmen. The first settlement began that year at what is today the intersection of Columbia Road with Massachusetts Avenue (Edward Everett Square today). Formed in 1630, Dorchester's First Parish Church is the oldest continuing religious institution in present-day Boston, and, in 1633, Dorchester held what is considered to be the first New England town meeting. In 1639, Dorchester established Mather School, the first public elementary school in the United States. Dorchester Heights (later part of South Boston) was the site of an important battle in 1776, which hastened the British evacuation from Boston. The James Blake House (ca. 1661; NR 1974), farther down on Columbia Road (though not on its original site), is the oldest frame dwelling in today's Boston (Dorchester Athenaeum). Dorchester remained a primarily rural town until the 19th century, when its farms began to give way to country estates for the Boston elite and, eventually, streetcar suburban development.

However, Dorchester also has a long history of business and development, beginning along the Neponset River where it empties into Dorchester Bay. Shipbuilding was underway at the mouth of the river by 1640, while the first gristmill was built along its banks even earlier, in 1634. Dorchester mills produced everything from nails and gunpowder to crackers, paper, and playing cards. Its most noted early industry began in 1765 when James Hannon, an Irish chocolate maker, and

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church
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his financial backer Dr. James Baker, introduced chocolate production to the United States. They imported chocolate beans from the West Indies and began refining them into chocolate. Their factory in the Lower Mills neighborhood, the country's first chocolate factory, became known as the Walter Baker Chocolate Factory (NR Dist. 1980), and produced chocolate for two centuries until its close in 1965.

The establishment of stations along the Old Colony Railroad line from Boston to Plymouth in 1845, and numerous horsecar and streetcar lines thereafter, tied Dorchester closely to Boston as a commuting suburb. Prominent residents included the Fitzgerald and Kennedy families, African-American activist William Monroe Trotter, Martin Luther King, Jr. (while a student at Boston University), and suffragist Lucy Stone. In January of 1870, when its population was still only 12,000, Dorchester was officially annexed to Boston. A period of incredible growth followed, and by 1920 the Dorchester section's population had soared to 150,000.

For more than a century, Dorchester has been a working-class section settled by many immigrant groups, particularly families from Ireland, Poland, Southeast Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Cape Verde, and Africa. African-Americans from the American South settled here in great numbers after the Civil War and particularly during the African-American Great Migration period (1910-1970). By the middle of the 20th century, redlining, blockbusting, and other discriminatory practices accelerated the outmigration of Jewish Americans and other groups from Dorchester neighborhoods, and also impoverished the African Americans who resettled there. More recently, artists, young professionals, and gay men and lesbians have moved to Dorchester. All of these groups continue to be represented in Dorchester, making Dorchester today a diverse and vibrant section. In the 2000 census, the population of Dorchester was 92,115, with its primary ethnic groups 36% African American or Black, 32% White non-Hispanic, 12% Hispanic or Latino, and 11% Asian or Pacific Islander.

Criterion A: Community Planning & Development

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is significant for its association with two interwoven elements of Dorchester history—community planning and development—as they evolved in the 19th and early 20th centuries. In some ways, the establishment and evolution of St. Mark's Episcopal Church epitomizes the development of the area.

Community Planning & Development: Grove Hall and Columbia Road

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is a landmark in the neighborhood known as Grove Hall, a neighborhood in northwest Dorchester which extends into Roxbury, bordered by Franklin Park on the southwest and the Dorchester neighborhoods of Upham's Corner to the northeast and Mount Bowdoin to the east. It takes its name from the early 19th century "Grove Hall" estate of T. K. Jones (a China-Trade merchant), which was located at the corner of Blue Hill Avenue and Washington Street. The neighborhood is distinguished primarily by the large early 20th-century apartment blocks that line its streets—Blue Hill Avenue and Washington Street—and, to a lesser extent, Columbia Road, which bisects it. The neighborhood also includes a significant stock of wood-frame 19th-century residential buildings along the crossroads on either side of Columbia Road.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church fronts on Columbia Road, a street whose changes influenced the history of the church. Columbia Road is an important artery that connects Franklin Park to Dorchester Bay. Its eastern end was known by the Colonial era, in part, as Boston Street. The remainder of the street was laid out to Franklin Park by 1840. It appeared on an 1851 Dorchester map as Columbia Street. Parts of Boston Street, Columbia Street, and several other streets were

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combined and renamed Columbia Road in 1897 (*Record* 122-123). The 1874 map shows the Grove Hall stretch of Columbia Street winding through a neighborhood mostly of large estates, although subdivision had already begun.

The largest and most famous estate in the neighborhood was that of Marshall Pinckney Wilder (1798-1886), directly across Columbia Street from the site of the church. In 1832 Wilder purchased a thirteen-acre farm from the family of Gov. Increase Sumner and renamed it "Hawthorne Grove." The farm occupied a triangle of land today defined by Washington Street, Normandy Street, and Columbia Road. Wilder was a wealthy Boston cotton and drygoods merchant, who became known as a horticulturist. His estate included orchards, gardens, and greenhouses, where Wilder experimented with fruit variation and hybridizing camellias. He corresponded with the horticulturist and landscape architect A. J. Downing (Downing dedicated a book on the propagation of fruit to him). Wilder served as president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and helped found the Massachusetts State Agricultural College (Heath). The 1874 map also shows that two smaller country estates—owned by Samuel Atherton and A. N. Burbank—fronted on Washington Street south of Columbia Street (extending to Erie Avenue).

But the Mt. Bowdoin railroad station at Washington Street and Erie Avenue (established by 1882) was a sign of changes to come, as its proximity to Boston made the area prime for residential development. This branch of the New York & New England Rail Road made a commute to downtown Boston easy. West of the Atherton and Burbank estates' frontage on Washington Street, the land between Columbia Street and Erie Avenue was, by 1874, already laid out in a series of ladder-like side streets from Merrill to Michigan, ready for the coming wave of development. This neighborhood had been platted, but only a handful of actual houses had yet been built. By 1884, a second link with Boston was established through the Highland Street railroad station at Grove Hall (corner of Blue Hill Avenue and Geneva Avenue). By 1889 the West End Street Railway had stops at both Grove Hall and the Franklin Park Station, newly built at the corner of Columbia Road and Blue Hill Avenue.

The new transit links also made pleasure excursions from Boston to the country possible, including a vanished amusement park known as Oakland Garden. The 1882 map shows several changes in the ladder streets between Columbia Street and Erie Avenue. The land along both sides of New Seaver Street, extending to the Atherton estate and Merrill Street, had been subdivided and partially built up. However, the adjacent subdivided land to the west, along Rosalind and Oakland streets, was still unbuilt and instead converted into Oakland Garden. Oakland Garden was a popular regional amusement park: "Evening performances included mini-theatricals, operettas, and concerts, while circuses and sideshows amused local children during the day" (Sammarco, *Images* 21). Special horse-drawn omnibuses operated from the Highland Railroad to Oakland Garden. By the 1884 map, Oakland and Rosalind Streets had been erased, and Oakland Garden appeared on the map as a single lot. Oakland Garden continued to be depicted on the 1889 map, but had disappeared by 1894.

The 1884 map shows residential development accelerating in the neighborhood, carving up the estates. Within the two years since the 1882 map, Seaver Street was laid out and opened across the end of the Wilder estate from Blue Hill Avenue to Columbia Street, and Glenarm Street first appeared, bisecting the Atherton estate from New Seaver Street to Washington Street. By 1894, the large lot where Oakland Garden had stood was now the property of Franklin Park Land & Improvement Co., which had again subdivided the lot, replacing the former Oakland and Rosalind Streets with the Wolcott and Hewins streets of today. By the 1898 map, Columbia Street has been renamed Columbia Road and acquired its present-day parkway form with grassy center median. The site of Oakland Garden has been built over, and the

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remaining pieces of the Wilder and Burbank estates platted into small lots. From 1874 through 1904, all of the development along Columbia Road, from Blue Hill Avenue to Washington Street (and beyond to Geneva Avenue), was wood-frame, with the singular exception of a three-unit masonry building at the southeast corner of the intersection with Hewins Street, which had been built prior to 1874 (in 2012 a vacant lot).

As part of the wider movement to establish parkways throughout Greater Boston, Columbia Road was reconfigured as a parkway in 1897. While planning Boston's park system in the early 1880s, Frederick Law Olmsted had proposed that Columbia Road serve as one of the eastern links in the Emerald Necklace ("Columbia Road"). A decade later, in 1893, Charles Eliot and Sylvester Baxter were able to establish the Metropolitan Park Commission (Metropolitan Park System). Eventually known as the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), it inaugurated a regional parkway system, in which certain important roadways were established or remade as parks with roads through them. Although Columbia Road was never technically an MDC parkway, it was redesigned in 1897 to reflect Olmsted's and Eliot's parkway planning principles.

A *Boston Globe* article in 1897 proclaimed, "On Monday next the Board of Street Commissioners will lay out Columbia Road from Franklin park to Marine park. This will complete the magnificent chain of parkways which now encircles the city" ("Completing Chain"). Columbia Road was widened significantly; while the initial plan was to extend it to 80 or 90 feet, the final decision widened it to 110 feet. "Columbia Road is at present a narrow county highway. . . . It will be a magnificent boulevard, and over the greatest portion of it the electric cars will run" ("Completing Chain"). Writing in *American Architect and Building News* in 1898, MDC parkway planner Sylvester Baxter celebrated the new roadway:

Traversing Franklin Park, the same parkway route continues as Columbia Road and Dorchesterway to the shore at Dorchester Bay, one of the most beautiful sections of Boston Bay. Columbia Road is a formal parkway, with a central turfed space and planted strip reserved for electric cars, separating a wide pleasure-road on one side and a narrow traffic-road on the other. . . . Besides the parkways pure and simple, Boston has a system of great avenues that have been planned with reference to both ordinary traffic and pleasure purposes. . . . To [that] same system of boulevards belong Columbia Road and Blue Hill Avenue, already considered in connection with the more strictly parkway routes. Metropolitan Boston has thus a remarkable series of great pleasureways radiating on all sides from the more densely populated centre. (Baxter)

The new parkway made land along Columbia Road a prime location to plant a new church dependent on continuing residential development. Though the Columbia Road parkway was reduced to a narrow grass median in the 1950s, its outlines are still clear in these low-numbered blocks near Franklin Park.

Grove Hall—especially the section along Blue Hill Avenue—boomed in the first half of the 20th century as the center of Boston's Jewish community. The twin-towered Adath Jeshurun Synagogue (1906; NR 1999) on the Roxbury side of Blue Hill Avenue is a surviving landmark of this era. In 1910, the density of development along Columbia Road increased, with the addition of a large masonry house at Columbia Road and Blue Hill Avenue. By 1918, several large masonry buildings had sprung up along Washington at Columbia, on the site of the former Atherton estate. By 1933, masonry buildings predominated along Blue Hill Avenue, Washington Street, and Columbia Road between Washington Street and Geneva. These masonry apartment blocks are the most singular defining element of Grove Hall today (Gordon).

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From the Mission at Grove Hall to St. Mark's Episcopal Church

St. Mark's Episcopal Church traces its origins to an 1887 fire that destroyed its mother church, St. Mary's Episcopal Church. St. Mary's was gathered in 1843 and founded in 1847, the first Episcopal church in Dorchester (Duffy 207). In 1849, St. Mary's laid the cornerstone for a large stone church building at the corner of Bowdoin and Topliff streets. After the 1887 fire, the parish built a second St. Mary's farther north, on Cushing Avenue at Upham's Corner (NR 1998). St. Mary's helped found three other Episcopal churches in Dorchester: All Saints (1874; NR 1980), St. Anne's (1876; now closed); and St. Mark's.

In 1887 the St. Mary's parishioners in the Grove Hall and Mt. Bowdoin neighborhoods were not satisfied with the new location, and a dozen women began meeting separately in the Mount Bowdoin Library (razed; then at Washington and Eldon streets). They formed a Women's Guild in 1888, and began holding services with guest ministers and lay readers. Later that same year, they began meeting regularly in Wetherell Hall (also razed) on Washington Street. The mission hired its first full-time minister, the Rev. Henry Martyn Saville, in 1897. Known informally as "the mission at Grove Hall," the congregation grew until "the little mission chapel is crowded and there is good promise for the future. . . . A committee was chosen to select a suitable piece of land for a church in the immediate neighborhood of Mt. Bowdoin" (*Church Militant* April 1898: 13). Formally organized in 1898 and named St. Mark's Mission, the group purchased a cottage on the newly widened and rechristened Columbia Road parkway that same year.

The lot that St. Mark's Episcopal Mission bought on Columbia Road had been laid out in 1870 by H. H. Moses, and sold in 1871 by Simeon & Margaret Britton to Gustavus A. Lauriat (Deeds). A large wood-framed cottage was built there prior to 1874 (according to the 1874 map). The Boston city directories list Lauriat as a goldbeater from 1842 to 1883; in 1874 his shop is listed at 33 Hawkins Street, and his house is on Columbia Road near Washington. The cottage was located towards the back of the lot, in the southwest corner, far from the street (where the Parish House stands today). Between the 1882 and 1884 maps, G. A. Lauriat attached a large connected carriage barn to his house, on the rear of the lot in the southeast corner. Gustavus Lauriat died in 1886, and the ownership of the house passed to his widow Martha and son Louis. The 1889 map verified that the ownership of this house had changed to Louis Lauriat. In November of that same year, the Lauriat's sold the house for \$1,000 to John Stults and Julius Adams, trustees for the estate which held the Lauriat's mortgage. Edwin S. Davis, a grain dealer on Blue Hill Avenue, owned the former Lauriat house for most of the next decade, according to the 1894 and 1898 maps, but did not live there. On 25 October 1898, Davis sold the lot and its cottage to William H. Cundy (the treasurer of St. Mark's Mission) and others who were acting as trustees.

The diocesan newspaper celebrated the new start: "The mission has fortunately just secured a large and excellent lot on the new boulevard, Columbia Road near the corner of Seaver St., just above Washington St., Dorchester, for \$8,000, at forty cents a foot. . . . The mission is blessed with earnest members and active workers ensuring its ultimate attainment of a church and parish-hood, and a permanent place in this fast-growing city district of Mt. Bowdoin" (*Church Militant*, October 1898: 12). The *Boston Globe* described how the three main rooms downstairs in the house would be combined: "A cottage standing on the premises was fortunately so situated as to make it advisable to alter the lower room into a hall, which has been done. This hall will accommodate . . . 150 persons and here it is proposed to hold services until such time as the new church can be built ("On Its Own"). An early postcard image (postmarked 1908) of the chapel, taken before the demolition of the cottage behind it, shows the cottage as an end-gabled house with an open side porch, prominent gabled side dormers, and a Mansard-roofed rear addition (See Fig. 3). St. Mark's Mission took possession in December of

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1898. Its fundraising campaign was confident that they would begin building in 1899 (*Church Militant*, November 1898: 16), but it would take six years of planning and fundraising before the chapel cornerstone was laid in 1904. Having received permission from the Bishop and the Diocesan Standing Committee, the members of St. Mark's voted to change from mission to parish status on 15 January 1906 (*Church Militant*, February 1906: 9).

Building St. Mark's Episcopal Church

By late in 1902, St. Mark's had grown to 400 members—150 of them communicants—and had raised the last of the money necessary to pay off the mortgage on its property (*Church Militant*, December 1898: 15). It immediately began planning its new building. In 1903 St. Mark's published an impressive set of sketches by architect Edmund Q. Sylvester for a new English Gothic revival complex, which included an interconnected church, parish house, and rectory (Fig. 1). But the earlier delays in fundraising affected the designs, and Sylvester presented the parish with numerous options for staging and substitutions:

The buildings are all planned so as to be built separately. . . . The present intention is to build the first four bays of the nave, together, with the lower part of the tower, at the cost of some \$10,000. This will give a seating capacity of over two hundred, which will fill the needs of the Parish for some years. The other buildings will be added from time to time, as the parish grows and the means allow. . . . The church will be very simple in design, built of granite (or red brick with stone trimmings). . . . The other buildings will have the first story built of stone (or brick), and the second story of plaster. . . . The limit for the cost of the church is to be \$25,000; and the other buildings will cost some \$20,000 more. (*Church Militant*, April 1903: 11)

The site plan Sylvester drew up also shows that St. Mark's hoped that Merrill Street would be extended from Glenarm through the neighboring properties on its east to Columbia Road, to align with Pinckney Road (currently named Pasadena Road). St. Mark's would then have an impressive corner lot on the new boulevard. But Merrill was never extended. Possibly because the boulevard blocked cross-traffic at the Merrill-Pinckney intersection, there was no longer a compelling reason to extend it.

In 1904, the church made another public appeal for funds to build, having scaled its plans back to a "modest chapel." Edmund Sylvester presented St. Mark's with another craftily staged building plan:

The architect has drawn plans for a simple wooden chapel on good lines with twice the seating capacity of the present hall, and what is more with an open roof and good ventilation. Later on this building can be moved back, raised and permanently used as the upper story or "hall" of the parish home. . . . It will be built upon part of the permanent foundation of the church so that the corner stone may be laid, we hope, St. Mark's day, April 25th, this year. (*Church Militant*, March 1904: 9)

Sylvester's accompanying sketch shows St. Mark's almost exactly as it was built and stands today (Fig. 2). But the Chapel was never moved and replaced by a church, as Sylvester proposed.

The successful appeal sold donors not just on the prospects of the mission, but on its neighborhood:

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St. Mark's mission is situated in one of the pleasantest parts of Dorchester, on the boulevard, Columbia Road, near Franklin Park and three minutes from Grove Hall, which is quite a business centre. . . . The houses in the immediate neighborhood are many of them substantial and attractive, with more or less grounds around them. The side streets have been thickly built up during the last few years with a good class of 'two family' houses and the majority of people in the region—and there are plenty of them—are neither rich nor poor. (*Church Militant*, March 1904: 9)

The article also—quite accurately—predicted the future of the neighborhood:

In the not far future the neighborhood around St. Mark's will doubtless change somewhat. Large estates will, in all probability, be cut up and single houses give place to brick blocks and apartment houses; and as these changes come, we want St. Mark's to be on the spot . . . and worthy of the location and its possibilities. (*Church Militant*, March 1904: 9)

On St. Mark's Day, 1904, the chapel cornerstone was laid, at a service that closed with the singing of "The Church's One Foundation" (*Church Militant*, May 1904: 19; "Laid Corner Stone").

The chapel was finished by the fall, and the first service held on September 18, 1904 (Fig. 3). The chapel cost \$7000 to \$10,000 to build. "The building is finished in weathered oak, being 38 feet wide and 55 feet long. The walls are of plaster, tinted with crème yellow, and the edifice has opalescent windows" ("First Service"). The 1904 Bromley map of Dorchester confirms that, since 1899, the church had been built on the carriage barn taken down. By 1906, St. Mark's had gained parish status and paid down all but \$2,500 of its debt "without fairs or entertainments" (*Church Militant*, February 1906: 9). Having completed the Chapel, the Rev. Saville left in 1907. His successor was the Rev. Frank Budlong, who served for several decades. By 1910 and the Bromley map, St. Mark's Episcopal Church had finished its complex, but not in the way Sylvester had initially envisioned, or even according to his revised plans.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church continued to raise funds, but the money was slow in coming in, and the final funding push came from the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. Recognizing that resources were not equally distributed across the diocese, and that working-class parishes were struggling under burdens not faced by well-off parishes, diocesan leaders intervened. William Lawrence (1850-1941) served as Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts for 34 years, from 1893 to 1927. In 1907, a lay group started the Bishop's Reenforcement [*sic*] Funds, in honor of the fifteenth year of service by Bishop Lawrence. The Diocese directed the funding, it vowed, not to prop up "weak" parishes, but to grow parishes like St. Mark's:

. . . For the reenforcement of parishes and missions that have a future. It is for parishes and missions in towns and cities where most of the people are of limited means; or in places where because of the great increase in population of wage-earners there are opened large opportunities for usefulness, but small capital. . . . Thus the different parts of the Diocese are bound together in mutual service. (*Church Militant*, December 1909: 5)

The Diocese focused on two goals: rectories (houses for priests and their families) and a "more efficient plant." It chose about a dozen parishes to fund, including St. Mark's, which it termed as being "In the Heart of the City. The present

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church building . . . is too small and should be enlarged. And a parish house and rectory are greatly needed" (*Church Militant*, December 1909: 8). The Reenforcement Fund pledged to give a quarter of the expected cost of \$18,000. In some cases older rectories were to be enlarged or renovated; in others they were built new.

In 1909, St. Mark's began building the parish house first, and the rectory soon after. Sylvester gave up his earlier plan for a grand interconnected masonry complex, designing instead individual frame buildings situated towards the rear of the lot, presumably so that the chapel could be expanded at a later date. The *Church Militant* published Sylvester's sketches for each, since they showed what could be accomplished for a modest budget outlay (Figs. 4 & 5). By January of 1910, it reported that "a fine parish house has been built, and the foundations of the Rectory are being laid" (*Church Militant*, January 1910: 13). The parish house was capable of seating 250 in its hall, and cost \$13,000 to build ("Leads Pupils"). By March of 1909, the rectory was under construction, although it, too, was shingled, rather than stucco, as Sylvester's sketch would seem to suggest he had intended. "It is of wood, the exterior finish being of shingles. The house contains a hall, eight rooms and a bath room. It is heated by furnace, and lighted by gas and electricity. It will cost somewhat less than \$7,000" (*Church Militant*, March 1910: 10). Through the Bishop's fund, the Diocese had helped erect or rehabilitate four rectories in eastern Massachusetts, and had plans for three more in hand; still, a dozen additional rectories were badly needed.

By April of 1910, the parish house was "in almost daily use" and the rectory was almost finished. Several parishioners made gifts to improve the chapel, including the impressive pulpit, a memorial by the family of Amos Lawrence Swindlehurst: "The pulpit is of heavy brass and oak, dignified and attractive, and was furnished by Bigelow, Kennard and Company of Boston, at a cost of \$500" (*Church Militant* April 1910: 18). By June of 1910, the rectory was finished and the rector and his family had settled in. The Bishop's fund supplied, as promised, \$4,500 of the total expenditure of \$18,000 for the two buildings (*Church Militant*, January 1911: 13; Duffy).

Parish History since Construction

The parish records are not accessible, but other sources provide general outlines of parish history since construction of the three buildings that together comprise St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The parish faced another challenge in 1912, when a fire badly damaged the parish house. The fire began during Sunday School, in an overheated furnace at the back of the parish house. Everyone escaped, although the sexton's quarters there were destroyed. The *Boston Globe* celebrated the orderly evacuation of the 200 students and the prompt response of the firemen. But everyone agreed that the city needed to place a fire callbox nearer than Blue Hill Avenue, where several schoolboys had to run to summon help. The fire breached both the rear (south) exterior wall and the roof before firemen arrived ("Leads Pupils"). Although the Rev. Budlong had initially estimated fire damage at \$5000, the final estimate was \$8,578, with only \$532.23 in insurance coverage. Reportedly in rebuilding, "some changes will be made which experience proved to be advisable" (*Church Militant* March 1912: 9). The changes were likely made all to the interior or southern wall, as the parish house appears to be little changed from its original sketch.

The only other significant change to the building complex is an extension made to the rear of the chapel, undertaken in 1916, according to building permits. The addition was made primarily to accommodate a new organ, and apparently designed by Sylvester as well (Duffy 206). In 1918, the brass eagle lectern was presented to the church, as a memorial honoring Sarah Elizabeth Budlong, the deceased wife of Rector Frank Budlong (*Church Militant*, April 1918: 14). The 1918 Bromley map shows the addition to the rear of the church, and the rectory set off as a separate lot. It is unclear why

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the rectory was made a separate lot. The rectory lot has no street access. Although the 1933 Bromley map shows the lot once again undivided, the lot continues to be a separate property today. During the following decades, small-scale changes were made to the interior, including a prayer shrine in the chapel, dedicated in 1944, and a memorial room in the parish house, financed in 1946 to honor two parishioners killed in World War II. Little evidence of their nature remains today.

The decades after WWII brought social change to the Grove Hall neighborhood, as the racial makeup of the neighborhood and of the parish changed. A snapshot published in 1951 shows a group of parishioners redecorating the church—none are African-American (*Church Militant* May 1951: 13). A 1980s Diocesan history, presumably written by a member of St. Mark's, is forthright in its discussions of the changes at St. Mark's:

From 1883 to about 1956 St. Mark's was a largely white church, most of its parishioners having been born in the United States. The demographics of the neighborhood began to change after World War II, however, resulting in an increase in the population of minorities, particularly in the 1960s, when blacks and immigrants moved into Dorchester as whites relocated to the suburbs. This change was reflected in the congregation of St. Mark's, which is today predominantly black with a few white members, a reversal of its original racial composition. The present congregation of St. Mark's is quite diverse in its cultural, economic, educational, and professional backgrounds . . . an interesting mosaic of cultures from all over the world, from just around the corner, to Africa, to Central America, and to the Caribbean. (Duffy 206)

Among the members of St. Mark's in 1984 was John D. O'Bryan (1931-1992), the first black person to be elected to the Boston School Committee ("John D. O'Bryan").

In 2012, the parish continues to be highly diverse, with members from many countries, particularly those that have been members of the British Empire and raised in various branches of the Church of England. Likewise, few physical changes have been made to the property since the period of significance, apart from the signboards from the 1970s through the 1990s at the front of the property, and a utility shed at the rear. Currently another congregation rents out the upper hall in the parish house. The parish has had only part-time rectors recently, and no minister has lived in the rectory for a decade or more. The parishioners are renovating the rectory and working to upgrade some of its mechanical systems.

Criterion C: Architecture

The buildings of the St. Mark's Episcopal Church complex are an interesting mix of two styles popular in the first decade of the 20th century: Late Gothic Revival and Craftsman. The chapel is more clearly Gothic and the rectory Craftsman, with the parish house a hybrid of the two styles. The buildings are also important examples of the architectural and ecclesiastical work of architect Edmund Q. Sylvester, and the Boston craft firm Bigelow, Kennard & Company.

Sylvester's initial drawings for the church complex were clearly, as characterized by the Diocesan newspaper, "adapted from English Gothic architecture" (*Church Militant*, April 1903: 11). This Late Gothic Revival was a popular stylistic choice for Episcopal churches, as they traced their heritage back to the Church of England. With each scaling-down of the designs, however, the buildings acquired more of the character of the Craftsman style of architecture popular with middle-class Americans. The 1912 *Boston Globe* article describing the fire at the parish house, searching for a way to describe the building, termed it as "of the Queen Anne style" ("Leads Pupils"). The term "Craftsman" is a later characterization for some of the stylistic motifs evident in the architecture of these buildings. What both styles have in common is a preoccupation with exposed half-timbering and rafter ends, and Arts-and-Crafts influenced detailing.

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Edmund Quincy Sylvester, Architect

The architect for all three of the contributing buildings at St. Mark's Church was Edmund Quincy Sylvester (1869-1942). Sylvester specialized in institutional and ecclesiastical work, particularly for the Episcopal Church. Christened Edmund Quincy Sylvester, Jr., the architect was born in Hanover, Massachusetts, the son of prominent businessman Edmund Quincy Sylvester (1827-1898). The family traced its origins to Richard Sylvester, who settled in Weymouth in 1633 and moved to Scituate in 1642 (Dwellely 394-395). In 1858 the architect's father married Mary Salmond (1832-1864) and had three children. After Mary's early death, he married her sister Eliza Salmond (b. 1844); they had five more children, of which Edmund Quincy Sylvester, Jr., was the oldest surviving (Dwellely 400, 402). Edmund Q. Sylvester, Sr., headed the Samuel Salmond & Son tack factory of Hanover and Norwell from the death of his father-in-law in 1859 until his own death. He was also instrumental in financing and building what became the Hanover branch of the Old Colony Railroad (Dwellely 175-179).

Edmund Q. Sylvester, Jr., was educated at St. Paul's School in Concord, NH, and studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Class of 1902), in the nation's first university program in architecture (Withey & Withey 587-588; "E.Q. Sylvester"). According to Mrs. COPAR, Sylvester was active in Boston from 1901 to 1942. He opened an office in Boston at 31 Beacon St. (1905 & 1915 city directories) and later moved to 8 Beacon St. (1926, 1935). He became a member of the Boston chapter of the A.I.A. in 1908. In 1902, he published an article detailing "The Development of a Country House" in *House Beautiful*, illustrating his ideas with drawings of "Meadow-View," an otherwise unidentified house in Hanover. Two of these illustrations were republished in a popular decorating text of 1907, Isabel Bevier's *The House: Its Plan, Decoration[,] and Care*.

Like many Boston architects of his era, Sylvester was adept in many styles, particularly Colonial Revival. Sylvester designed the Colonial Revival-style Fay School Dining Hall and Dormitory (1926) in Southborough, MA ("Fay School"), the Spanish Mission-style St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (1912) in Belmont, MA (Duffy 139), and the Gothic-Revival Christ Episcopal Church (1912) in Plymouth, MA (Duffy 524). Sylvester signed on as member of the prominent committee to save Park Street Church from destruction, likely partially as a favor to the committee chairman, fellow Hanoverian Dr. L. Vernon Briggs (Committee 34).

Perhaps because of his inherited wealth and Episcopal ties, Sylvester often designed churches for smaller rural or working-class Episcopal parishes, commissions unlikely to pay well. For example, Sylvester designed a small brick church in the Roxbury section of Boston that combined two African-American Episcopal mission churches into the Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin. Built in 1908 at 29-31 Lenox Street, it continues today as an Episcopal church serving a diverse neighborhood in Roxbury and the South End (*Church Militant* 11 (April 1908) pg. 9; Duffy 180-184; parish website). Sylvester designed the oldest part of Christ Episcopal Church (1914) in Needham Heights, MA, now the chapel wing to a larger, later church ("Christ Church").

Several of Sylvester's designs were for churches in New Hampshire; he published plans for Saint Barnabas Church in Berlin, and St. Andrew's Church and Rectory in Manchester (*Cyclopedia; The Architectural Review*). Sylvester designed the Lower School Study (1916; renamed Nash House) for his alma mater, St. Paul's School in Concord (Stern). For a friend, Sylvester donated the plans for the shingled St. Cuthbert's Chapel (1899) on MacMahon Island, Georgetown, Maine (Diocese of Maine). The interiors of this church have been attributed to Ralph Adams Cram and the carving to Kirchmayer ("Dixon's Paint").

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The Sylvester family supported many Hanover institutions, especially the family's Episcopal parish, part of which was designed by Sylvester, and to which the family donated memorials including the chancel window and parish clock (*Church Militant*, October 1942: 16; Briggs). Edmund Q. Sylvester, Jr., was also the architect for Hanover's red-brick, Georgian Revival-style, John Curtis Free Library (1907). Sylvester continues to be remembered in Hanover for a singular act of generosity. In 1926, when a contentious Town Meeting was refusing to fund a needed high school for Hanover, Sylvester stood up and pledged \$50,000. Sylvester's half-brother Samuel pledged another \$10,000, and a third townsperson offered 20 acres of land. The new high school was named in Sylvester's honor. In 2012, the Edmund Q. Sylvester School continues to serve Hanover as an elementary school, part of the Center/Sylvester School complex (Barker-Kemp; "About Center/Sylvester Elementary").

Bigelow, Kennard & Company

The distinctive wood-railed brass pulpit installed in the chapel of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in 1910, came from Bigelow, Kennard & Company, a prominent Boston retailer known for fine silver and metalwork, which it manufactured itself or obtained from other craftworkers and companies. Many of its pieces were architectural in nature, such as the pulpit at St. Mark's. In the 1904 *Year Book of the Boston Architectural Club*, the company advertised itself as "goldsmiths, silversmiths, & importers, designers and makers of fine hall and mantel clocks. Bronzes from the foundries of Barbedienne, Colin & others. Makers of electric & gas lighting fixtures[,] Experts in indirect & subdued lighting effects."

The company began as jewelers specializing in making and importing fine watches. John Bigelow (1802-1878) of Westminster, Massachusetts, founded Bigelow Brothers in Boston in 1830, with his brothers Abraham and Alanson (Howe, 275-276; "John Bigelow" 277). In 1847 the company became Bigelow Brothers and Kennard, and eventually Bigelow, Kennard and Co. Their partner Martin Parry Kennard (1818-18) was a native of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, who became a clerk in Boston. Kennard was a partner in the firm until 1878 (Denehy 223-224). He was joined by his brother O. P. Kennard, and his nephew William Henry Kennard (William Henry Kennard). Bigelow, Kennard & Co. became known for the high quality of its products, especially Arts-and-Crafts-inspired items. It was a primary Boston retailer of Grueby Pottery. It is not clear whether Bigelow, Kennard & Co. made the pulpit or acquired it through one of their partner artisans.

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Deeds (listed chronologically)

Accessed through the City of Boston. Deeds, mortgages, and other papers concerning 73 Columbia Road. on file in the office of the Boston Landmarks Commission. Most of these files document various mortgages for St. Mark's Episcopal Church; only the most important are listed below.

- Louis A. Lauriat and Martha H. Lauriat to John V. N. Stults and Julius Adams. Mortgage quitclaim. 1889. Book 20940, Page 325.
- Edwin S. Davis and William H. Thayer to William H. Cundy and William W. Bartlett. 1898. Book 2562, Page 403.

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Maps, Photographs, and Plans (listed chronologically)

All of the maps listed below have been digitized and are accessible online in 2012 through the Maps link on the website of the local historical society, the Dorchester Athenaeum: <http://www.dorchesteratheneum.org/index.php>.

Griffith M. Hopkins. Atlas of Boston. 1874. Vol. 3, Plate P: North Part of Ward 16, Dorchester.

City of Boston. Engineering Dept. Map of Dorchester. 1880.

Griffith M. Hopkins. Atlas of Boston. 1882. Plate 29: Dorchester, City of Boston, Ward 24.

Bromley. 1884 Plate F.

Bromley. 1889 Plate 13.

Bromley. 1894 Plate 14.

Bromley. 1898 Plate 14.

Richards. 1899 Plate 4.

Bromley. 1904 Plate 14.

Postcard [of St. Mark's Episcopal Church]. Postmarked Dorchester Center 6 May 1908.

<http://www.dorchesteratheneum.org/image.php?id=4260&slide=St.Mark&ko=0>. Accessed 21 January 2012.

Bromley. 1910 Plate 14.

Bromley. 1918 Plate 14.

Bromley. 1933 Plate 14.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL FOR ST. MARK'S CHURCH

Architectural Drawings for St. Mark's Chapel and Parish House located at the Dorchester Historical Society

List compiled by Earl Taylor, May 2012

blueprint	10 light electric chandelier
blueprint	wall sconce - three bulbs
linen	Chapel detail of exterior and interior finish for St. Mark's Mission
thick paper	Chapel detail of stairs
linen	Church first floor plan
linen	Church elevations rear & front
linen	Church elevation north
linen	Church elevation south
linen	north elevation
linen	east elevation
linen	addition to Chapel basement plan
linen	addition to Chapel first floor plan
linen	Church longitudinal section on centre line & cross section
thin paper	Plan and elevation of chancel
thin paper	detail of Chancel arch

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linen	Parish House section through side wall, through front porch, half elevation
thin paper	Parish House stairs to Guild Room 10/8/09
thin paper	Parish House elevation & section of stairs
thin paper	Parish House drawing of toilet room 10/8/09
thin paper	Parish House location of gas and electric outlets cellar & foundation plan
thin paper	first floor plan electric outlets
thin paper	second floor plan
thin paper	south elevation of framing
linen	lot survey by Frank E. Sherry December 1903
thin paper	framing plan
thin paper	roof framing plan
thin paper	elevation framing rear and front
thin paper	elevation framing north
blueprint	plan of lower hall with kitchen, dining room, women's coat room
blueprint	plan of Parish House E.Q. Sylvester
blueprint	plan of Parish Hall with stage
thin paper	change in stairs first floor plan
thin paper	south and north chimneys 10/12/09
thin paper	revised plan of furnace room
thin paper	detail and full size sections of doors 10/11/09
thin paper	elevation front end of Parish Hall
thin paper	elevation of glass doors and window between Guild Room and Hall

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10. Boundary Description

The National Register boundary for this property corresponds to the legal boundary of two interconnected lots, City of Boston Assessor's Parcel ID numbers 1400975000 (chapel and parish house) and 1400976000 (Rectory), 71-73 Columbia Road. However, the legal and mailing address for the entire complex is 73 Columbia Road. While Parcel 1400976000 has been considered a separate lot legally for nearly a century, it has no street access. The online Assessor's map shows the chapel and parish house as 71 Columbia Road and the rectory as 73 Columbia Road. Moreover, the address 71 Columbia does not exist in the Assessor's database, nor on the Parcel information sheet for the chapel and parish house, which are listed simply as "Columbia Road." Furthermore, the numerals "73" have been affixed to the front of both the chapel and the rectory by the parish. Together, the two lots represent a single lot laid out in 1870, purchased as such by St. Mark's Episcopal mission in 1898, and used for church purposes since that time.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel associated with St. Mark's Episcopal Church since it was purchased by St. Mark's Mission in 1898. Episcopal Church services have been offered continuously on this property since 1898.

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Returned

Site Data Sheet

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Structure/Landscape/Feature	Date of Construction	Type of Resource	Contributing or Non (NC)	Direction from St. Mark's Chapel	Architect or Designer (if known)
St. Mark's Chapel	1904, 1916 (addition)	Building	Contributing		Edmund Q. Sylvester Edmund Q. Sylvester
Parish House	1909, 1912 (fire repair)	Building	Contributing	SE	Edmund Q. Sylvester Edmund Q. Sylvester
Rectory	1909-1910	Building	Contributing	E	Edmund Q. Sylvester
Frame Shed	1990s	Building	NC	SE	
Pole and Box Signs	1970s-1990s	Object	NC	N	
Total: 5 3 contributing buildings, 1 noncontributing structure, and 1 noncontributing object.					

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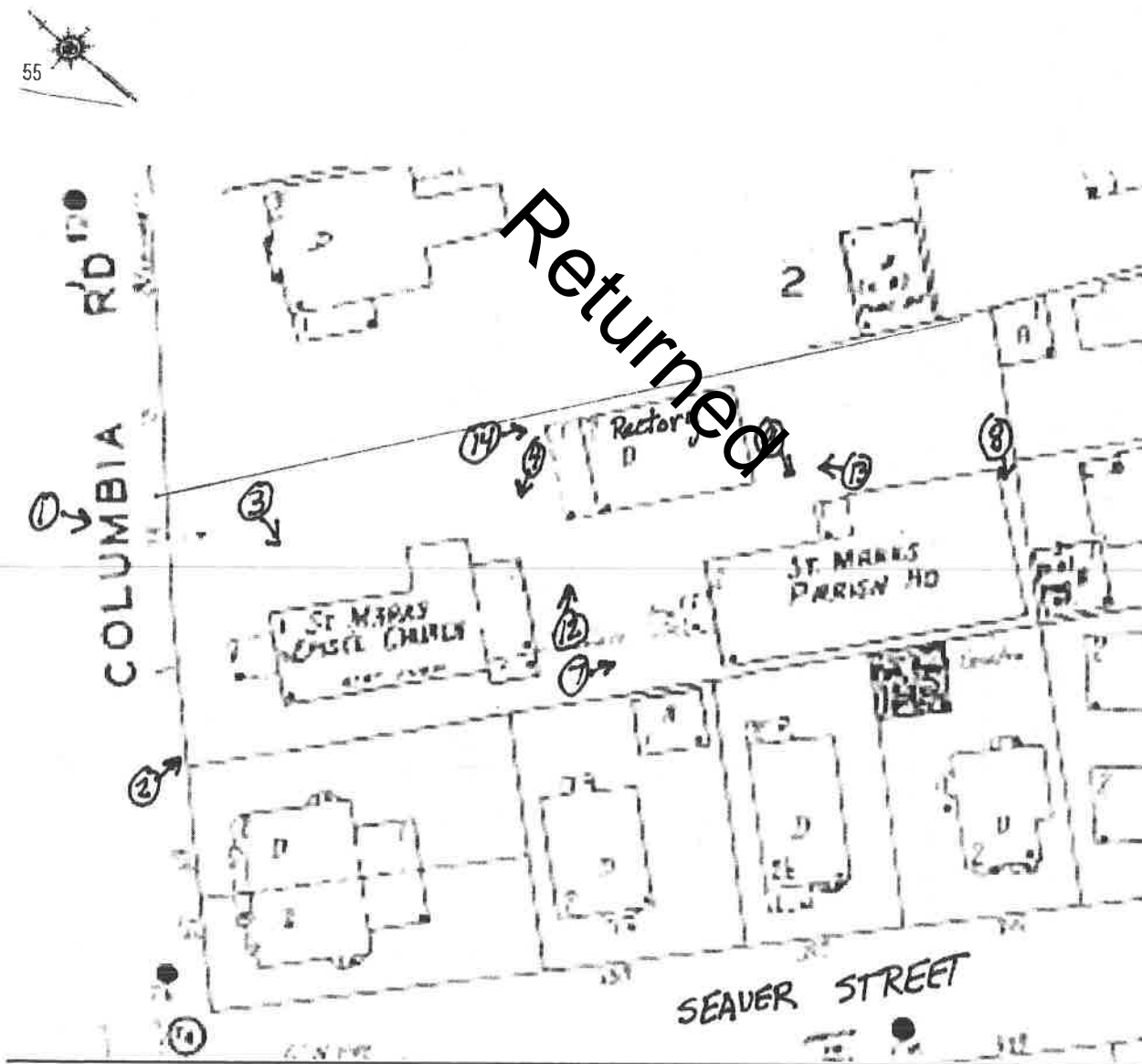
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Site Sketch Map

Map adapted by Timothy Orwig from "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map 1950," courtesy of Boston Landmarks Commission. Circled numbers with arrows indicate the position of photographer and direction of view in the photographs. This detail map is not to scale.



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Additional Documentation—Photographs

Name of Property:	St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Address, City, Vicinity:	73 Columbia Road, Dorchester (Boston)
County:	Suffolk
State:	MA
Name of Photographer:	Timothy T. Orwig
Date of Photographs:	August 2011
Location of Original Digital Files:	409 Common St., Walpole, MA 02081
Number of Photographs:	14

Because Columbia Road travels from the southwest to the northeast, this lot does not clearly align with compass directions. To simplify these descriptions, Columbia Road has been considered to be an east-west street due north of the lot.

Photo #1.

Left to right, the porch of the rectory, the side door of the parish house (far to the rear), and the chapel, camera facing southwest.

Photo #2.

Chapel north façade (left) and west elevation (right), camera facing southeast. Note the box sign (left) and pole sign.

Photo #3.

Chapel east elevation with original side wing (left), camera facing southwest.

Photo #4.

Chapel east elevation, towards the rear, with the south elevation (left), rear addition (center left; note change in roof height), and original side wing (center right), camera facing northwest.

Photo #5.

Chapel interior, camera facing south.

Photo #6.

Chapel interior showing pulpit by Bigelow, Kennard & Co., camera facing southeast.

Photo #7.

Parish house north façade, with rear of rectory to the left, camera facing southeast.

Photo #8.

Parish house rear (south) elevation, with rear fence to the left, camera facing west.

Photo #9.

Parish House east elevation (southern half), with the frame shed to the left, camera facing southwest.

Photo #10.

Parish house interior, bottom floor, camera facing north.

Photo #11.

Parish house interior, top floor, camera facing northwest.

Photo #12.

Rectory north façade (left) and west elevation (right), camera facing southeast.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Boston (Dorchester), Suffolk County, MA

Section number Additional Documentation Page 3

Photo #13.

Rectory west elevation (left) and south elevation (right), camera facing northeast.

Photo #14.

Rectory east elevation (right) and side door, camera facing south. Note the front porch post, shingle, and trim details.

Additional Documentation—Figures

Figure 1: "St. Mark's, Dorchester." Initial sketches & site plan by Edmund Q. Sylvester. *Church Militant*, April 1903: 11.

Figure 2: "Laid Corner Stone of a New Church." *Boston Daily Globe*, 26 April 1904. ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

Figure 3: Postcard [of St. Mark's Episcopal Church]. Postmarked Dorchester Center 6 May 1908. Dorchester Atheneum.

Figure 4: "Parish House, St. Mark's Church, Dorchester." Edmund Q. Sylvester. *Church Militant*, December 1909: 10.

Figure 5: "The New Rectory of St. Mark's Church, Dorchester." Edmund Q. Sylvester. *Church Militant*, March 1910: 10.

Returned

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Boston (Dorchester), Suffolk County, MA

Section number Additional Documentation Page 4

Additional Documentation—Historic Images (arranged chronologically)

Figure 1: "St. Mark's, Dorchester." Initial sketches & site plan by Edmund Q. Sylvester. *Church Militant*, April 1903: 11.

April, 1903.]

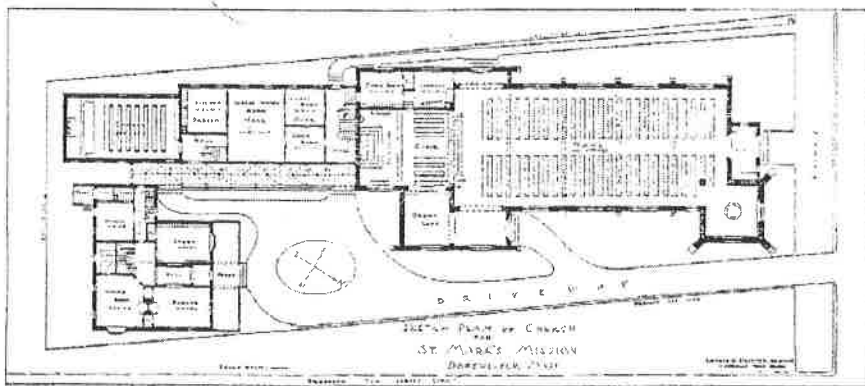
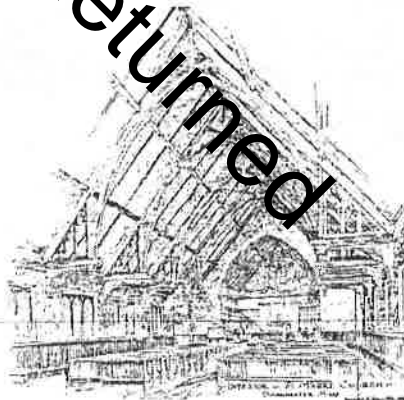
THE CHURCH MILITANT.

11



St. Mark's, Dorchester.

The accompanying illustrations show the proposed plans for a new church for St. Marks' Mission, Dorchester. The buildings are all planned so as to be built separately, but when finished will form one complete unit. The present intention is to build the first four bays of the nave, together with the lower part of the tower, at the cost of some \$10,000. This will give a seating capacity of over two hundred, which will fill the needs of the Parish for some years. The other buildings will be added from time to time as the Parish grows and the means allow, until at last the pinnacles are completed, as shown by the sketches. The Church will be very simple in design, built of granite (or red brick with stone trimmings) and adapted from the English Gothic architecture. When completed the nave will be 38 ft. wide by 88 ft. long, and will seat 400. The other buildings will have the first story built of stone (or brick), and the second story of plaster, and will follow the English examples in detail. The limit for the cost of the church is to be \$25,000; and the other buildings will cost some \$30,000 more.



United States Department of the Interior
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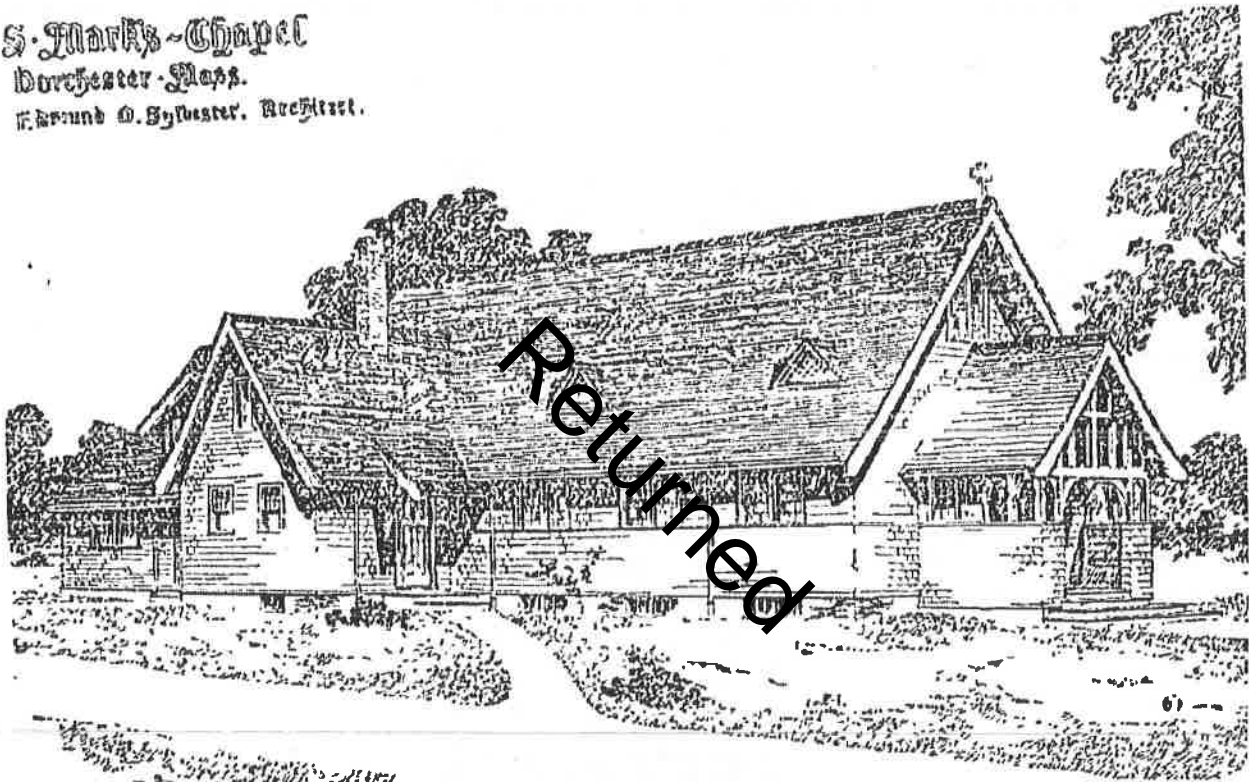
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Boston (Dorchester), Suffolk County, MA

Section number Additional Documentation Page 5

Figure 2: "Laid Corner Stone of a New Church." *Boston Daily Globe*, 26 April 1904. ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

S. Mark's Chapel
Dorchester, Mass.
Edmund O. Sylvester, Architect.



CHAPEL TO BE REARED ON SITE FOR ST MARK'S CHURCH, DORCHESTER, THE CORNERSTONE WHICH WAS LAID YESTERDAY.

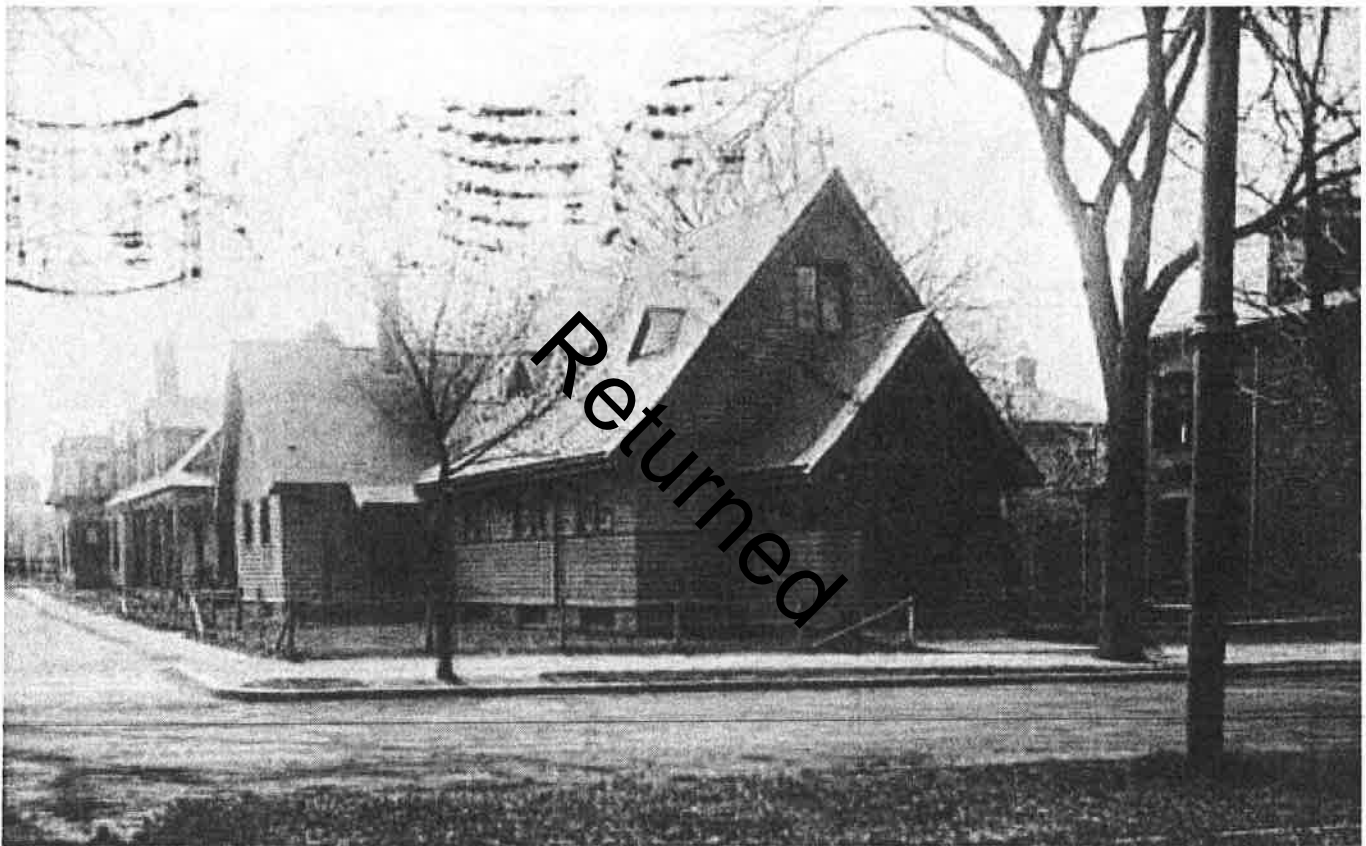
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Boston (Dorchester), Suffolk County, MA

Section number Additional Documentation Page 6

Figure 3: Postcard [of St. Mark's Episcopal Church]. Postmarked: Dorchester Center, 6 May 1908.
[http://www.dorchesteratheneum.org/image.php?id=4260&slide=St. Mark&ko=0](http://www.dorchesteratheneum.org/image.php?id=4260&slide=St.Mark&ko=0). Accessed 21 January 2012



United States Department of the Interior
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St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Boston (Dorchester), Suffolk County, MA

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Figure 4: "Parish House, St. Mark's Church, Dorchester." Edmund Q. Sylvester. *Church Militant*, December 1909: 10.



PARISH HOUSE, ST. MARK'S CHURCH, Dorchester.

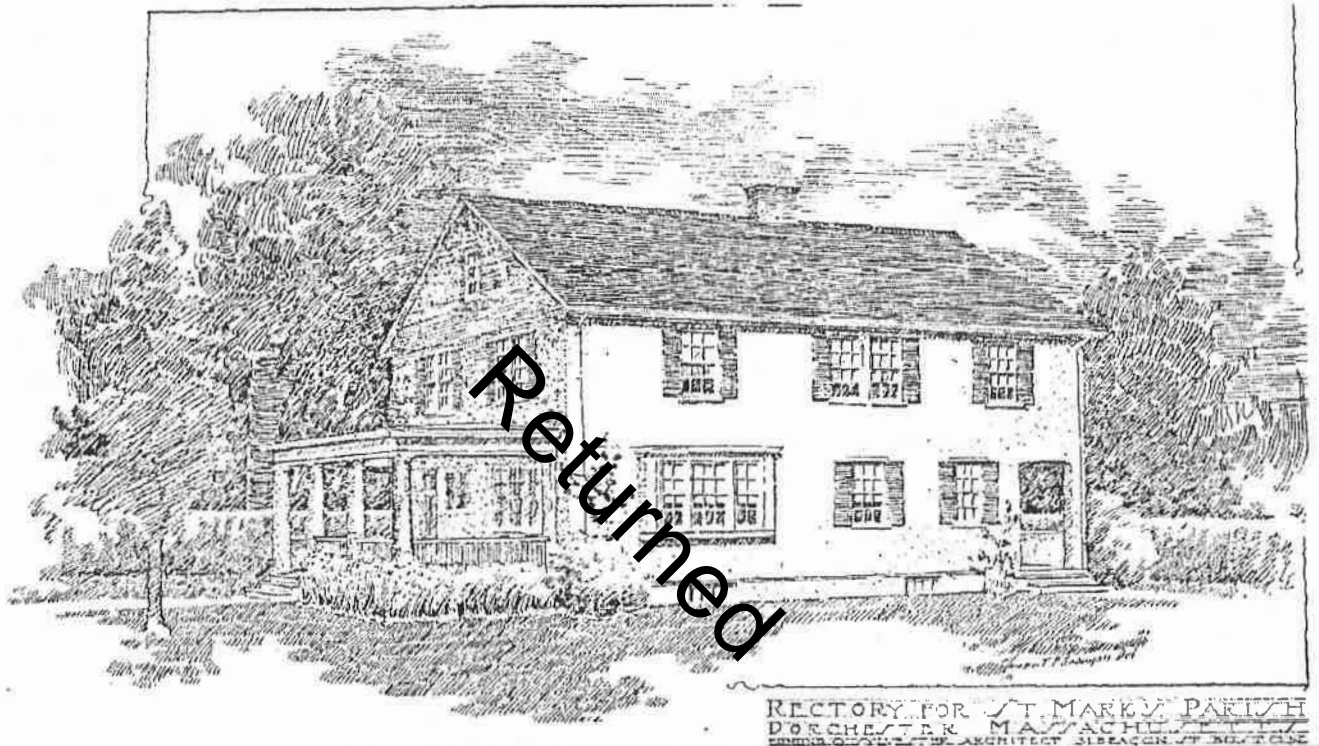
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Boston (Dorchester), Suffolk County, MA

Section number Additional Documentation Page 8

Figure 5: "The New Rectory of St. Mark's Church, Dorchester." Edmund Q. Sylvester. *Church Militant*, March 1910: 10.



THE NEW RECTORY OF ST. MARK'S CHURCH, Dorchester.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: St. Mark's Episcopal Church (Suffolk County, MA)
Reference Number: 12000783

Reason for Return:

This nomination is being returned because it does not justify one of the National Register Criteria and two Areas of Significance for which the property is nominated (Criterion A and Community Planning and Development and Religion). The nomination does establish that St. Mark's Episcopal Church is architecturally significant under Criterion C.

The nomination states that St. Mark's Episcopal Church is important in the community planning and development of Dorchester, Massachusetts, because it "epitomizes the development of the area" (Section 8, page 2). While the construction of the church complex may reflect the development patterns of Dorchester, the nomination does not establish that the construction of the building had an important impact on the area's development. It is clear from the nomination that the construction of the church between 1904 and 1910 was in reaction to the development of Dorchester that had occurred in the previous twenty years. By the time the church was constructed there was substantial development, both residential and commercial, in the area. Rather than being a generator of development, the church was built in reaction to earlier development.

The nomination does not directly address why the Church is considered important in the Area of Significance of Religion.

Unless additional information can be provided to demonstrate that St. Mark's Episcopal Church was significant in the development of the area, then it is recommended that the nomination be revised to delete Criterion A and Community Planning and Development and Religion as Areas of

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Evaluation/Return Sheet**

Property Name: St. Mark's Episcopal Church (Suffolk County, MA)
Reference Number: 12000783

p. 2

Significance, and the nomination be resubmitted only under Criterion C and Architecture as the Area of Significance.

Period of Significance: Note that the nomination defines the period of significance inconsistently. In Section 8 of the cover of the nomination, it is listed as 1898-1962, while in Section 8, page 1, it defines the period as 1904-1962. If the nomination is revised and resubmitted only under Criterion C, then the period of significance should be defined to reflect only the architectural importance of the buildings.



Patrick Andrus, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
202-354-2218
patrick_andrus@nps.gov
9/12/2012



Boston
Landmarks
Commission

City of Boston
The Environment
Department

Boston City Hall/ Room 805
Boston, Massachusetts 02201
617/635-3850
www.cityofboston.gov/landmarks

Susan D. Pranger, Chair
Cyrus Field, Vice-Chair
John Amodeo
David Berarducci
John Freeman
Susan Goganian
Thomas Herman
Kirsten Hoffman
Thomas Hotaling
Adam Hundley
Diana Parcon
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Yanni Tsipis
Charles Vasiliades
Richard Yeager
Ellen J. Lipsey, Exec. Director

RECEIVED BF

MAY 11 2012

MASS. HIST. COMM

May 9, 2012

Ms. Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Re: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 73 Columbia Road, Dorchester
National Register of Historic Places Nomination

Dear Ms. Simon:

The Boston Landmarks Commission is very pleased to support the listing of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 73 Columbia Road, Dorchester, in the National Register of Historic Places. The BLC unanimously voted to support this listing at its May 8, 2012 public meeting.

Thank you for providing the BLC with the opportunity to support this deserving nomination. BLC staff looks forward to the Massachusetts Historical Commission's review of this nomination at its June 13, 2012 quarterly meeting.

Sincerely,

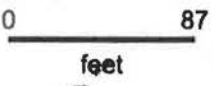
Emily Wolf
Architectural Historian/Assistant Survey Director

Cc: Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC
Timothy Orwig, preservation consultant
Rev. James K. Githitu, St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Mary-dith Tuitt (*via email*)

VOTE TO SUPPORT THE LISTING OF ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 73 COLUMBIA ROAD,
DORCHESTER, IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

MOTION: D. Parcon **SECOND:** J. Freeman
IN FAVOR: C. Vasiliades, J. Freeman, S. Pranger, C. Field, L. Smiledge, D. Berarducci, D. Parcon, S. Goganian, J. Amodeo. **OPPOSED:** none.

St Mark's Episcopal Church



Property Information

Parcel ID 1400975000,1400976000
Owner ST MARKS PARISH OF DOR
Address 73 COLUMBIA RD
Property Type 0985
Building Value \$1,884,600.00
Land Value \$ 498,400.00
Total Value \$2,383,000.00
Lot Size 20647 sq ft
Land Use Exempt



City of Boston
MAPS

**MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY
NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission



May 12, 2014

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

12-078

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following revised nomination form:

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 73 Columbia Road, Boston (Suffolk), MA

The nomination was voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property in the Certified Local Government community of Boston were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60 to 90 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

The nomination was returned to the Massachusetts Historical Commission by the National Park Service for further documentation. We have addressed NPS concerns and are resubmitting the nomination for listing.

One letter of support has been received.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Timothy Orwig, consultant
Rev. James Githitu, St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Tonya Loveday, Boston CLG coordinator
Martin Walsh, Mayor, City of Boston
Lynn Smiledge, Boston Landmarks Commission