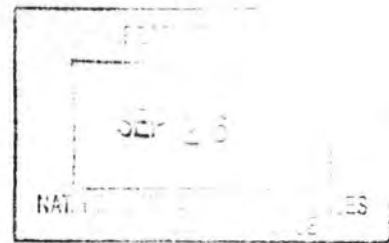


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Dorchester Temple Baptist Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 670 Washington Street

N/A not for publication

city or town Boston (Dorchester)

N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Suffolk code 025 zip code 02124

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.)

Judith B. McDonough

Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

9/23/97
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 _____

Dorchester Temple Baptist Church

Name of Property

Suffolk, Massachusetts

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

1 buildings

0 sites

0 structures

0 objects

1 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

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/shingle style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE; granite

walls WOOD: shingle

roof ASPHALT

other GLASS

Narrative Description

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

(See continuation sheet)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetDorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 1

7. DESCRIPTION

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church (**Photos 1 and 2**) is located at 670 Washington Street, Dorchester, Massachusetts. Built in two stages between 1889-1892 by George W. Oliver, from designs provided by Boston architect and Dorchester resident Arthur Vinal this wooden church ranks among the finest examples of Shingle style ecclesiastical architecture in Boston.

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church is situated on level ground at the northeast corner of Welles Avenue and Washington Street. The church stands at the southern gateway to the Codman Square commercial district as well as the western edge of the Ashmont Hill residential area.

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church, together-with the Federal style 1806 Second Church in Dorchester at the northern end of the Codman Square area bracket Washington Street's architecturally and historically significant mid 19th through early 20th century commercial, public and residential buildings. The northern part of the Codman Square area contains the historic Codman Square cross roads which includes segments of Talbot Avenue, Centre Street, Norfolk Street, as well as Washington Street. In addition to the churches of the Codman Square area, other well-designed buildings include the Hartwell, Richardson and Driver- designed Dorchester High School, recently known as Girl's Latin Academy, a massive, yellow brick Renaissance Revival building dating to 1900, the former Dorchester Women's Club, a handsome A. Warren Gould-designed Colonial Revival wooden structure at 40 Centre Street (1898), the Joseph T. Greene - designed Lithgow Building, rendered in the Georgian Revival style in 1899; and the former Codman Square Branch Library housed in a masonry, cupola-topped Georgian Revival building of 1904. The Codman Square Historic District was designated in 1983.

Additionally, the church's towered, asymmetrical form and dark brown wood shingle sheathing echo those of the Shingle style residences of the Ashmont Hill neighborhood to the east, designed by Edwin J. Lewis and others during the 1880s and 1890s.

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church stands on a trapezoidal-shaped lot containing 18,000 square feet with a building footprint covering 7,500 square feet. Bordering the church's property, to the north is a one-story concrete commercial block.

To the east, the Ashmont Hill neighborhood unfolds with Italianate/ Mansard and Queen Anne residences bordering Welles Avenue with a 2 1/2 story Queen Anne residence immediately adjacent to the eastern side of the church. Across Welles Avenue to the south is the modern masonry one-story Codman Square branch of the Boston Public Library which replaced the Harrison Atwood-designed Henry L. Pierce School in 1967.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**Section number 7 Page 2

The church's west facade overlooks altered double and single-family wooden Italianate houses of the 1870s at 665/667 and 671 Washington Street, respectively, as well as the Classical Revival E-shaped, 3-story masonry apartment building erected during the 1910s.

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church exhibits the Shingle style's trademark complex shape and picturesque profiles achieved via the artful massing of its structural components. Particularly compelling is the heavy configuration of the sanctuary's intersecting gables and the exotic appeal of the bell tower's bulbous roof. In a sense the church is as much a work of sculpture as it is architecture with the artistic placement of a succession of varied volumes all unified by a smooth skin of dark brown shingles.

The building consists of three structural components: 1) a large rectangular sanctuary enclosed by an intersecting gable roof with a floor area of 4,000 square feet; 2) an off-center square bell tower segment capped by a distinctive pyramidal roof; and 3) a northern, single-story hip roofed component with shed-roofed dormers. All of the church's structural components rise from low, rubble stone foundations.

Circumscribed by low concrete borders, open areas of grass and shrubbery border the Washington Street and Welles Avenue elevations, the width of this green space narrowing as it approaches the northwest and southeast corners of the lot. A short flight of concrete steps leads from the Washington Street sidewalk to a concrete path providing access to the main entrance currently located on the tower's west elevation. A path also leads to an entrance at the center of the west porch. Passing through a porte cochere at the southwest corner of the building, an asphalt-covered driveway follows a semicircular path on the Welles Avenue side of the building.

Dorchester Temple Baptist Church: West Elevation

Reading from north to south, the west or main elevation of the church is asymmetrically divided into a three bay / single bay / four bay arrangement of the church offices, tower and front porch, respectively. The three-bay section of the church offices is fenestrated by a double window flanked by single windows; all of the windows are square-headed and contain 12/12 wood sash. This hipped-roof section is ornamented with a simple molded cornice. A shed-roofed dormer extends the length of the northern slope.

Piercing the western facade of the dormer wall to the south of its intersection with the hip roof is a window containing 8/2 wood sash.

The off-center tower provides the composition with a strong vertical anchor. The western elevation of the tower exhibits double doors which are surmounted by a cornice headed entablature. Surmounted by a tripartite, multi-pane window, this entrance was added

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**Section number 7 Page 3

during the mid-20th century. Above this entrance, a tall and narrow stained glass window originally extended to a point approximately two thirds distant from the cornice of this later entrance's entablature. At the third floor of the tower's south facade is a double multi-pane window. The open "belfry" portion of the tower flares out into a shingled parapet; this sculptural form was somewhat marred by the addition of a low-pitched pedimented section of roof, most likely installed to eliminate bird access and weather-proof the flat deck. The tower roof is a pyramidal bell-shaped form comprised of three separate pitches and capped with a finial. During the mid-20th-century, a large marquee was cantilevered from the open bell tower. This electrified signboard read, "Dorchester WELCOME Temple." Holes from the supports are still evident today.

The sanctuary's western elevation exhibits an inset porch with three broad arches. This originally open porch was accessed by stairs across its full width. Presently the center arch contains double doors which open on a short flight of brick stairs while the flanking arches contain multi-pane windows which rise from wood shingle-covered walls. To the right of the porch is a double window, each half containing 6/6 wood sash.

Rising above the west porch's roof slope is a broad gable containing a bank of seven stained glass windows. Its sash strikes a Queen Anne note, with three small panes at the top and bottom bracketing single rectangular panes. The center window contains circular glass with small panes above and below. A small and narrow four-pane stained glass window lights the apex of the west gable. A gable roofed porte cochere extends from the southern end of the west wall.

South Elevation

The south elevation is the most inherently picturesque in terms of massing, roof configuration, fenestration and detailing. Its recessed gabled end wall emphasizes the bold profile of the tower with its distinctive segmental arched belfry opening and bell-shaped, finial-topped roof cap. The south facade is dominated by its broad endwall gable and the porte cochere's gabled form. This elevation is lit by a massive central arched window comprised of a ribbon of four 8/8 wood sash windows surmounted by the tall arched stained glass window above a rectangular, wood trimmed panel containing wood shingles. The window's arch is accented by a wooden key stone. A porte cochere projects from the south west corner sheltering the side driveway. Surmounted by a gable roof, the porte cochere's southern wall is pierced by a pair of arched openings. The porte cochere's south wall displays a double multi-pane window. The integrated lean-to at the southeast corner has a secondary entrance recessed within a curving, wood shingle covered continuation of the larger wall surface.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetDorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 4

To the west of this side entrance, a Colonial Revival ornamental panel and Queen Anne oval window illustrate the fact that these styles were frequently blended with the Shingle style. The tall ornamental panel is surmounted by a swan's neck scroll pediment which is accented by a wooden keystone. Above the panel, an oval stained glass window heightens the charm of the south elevation.

East Elevation

Both the east and north elevations are less formally finished than the street-facing facades. The rear facade of the sanctuary is dominated by a broad gable whose south slope culminates in a return while its north slope sweeps down to the projecting 5-bay wall of the northern component.

The one story structural component enclosing the Baptistry projects from the first floor of the sanctuary. Boards cover the Baptistry's four small basement windows, two first floor windows, as well as windows flanking the stained glass window. To the north of the Baptistry is a multi-panel door which culminates in a two-light transom. A single window containing 6/2 wood sash is located to the right of the rear entrance. Above the Baptistry wall is a tall, keystone arched stained glass window. Situated near the apex of the east gable is a tall and narrow four-light window that echoes that of the west gable. A double 2/6 wood sash window appears at the north end of the sanctuary's second level. Rising from the north slope of the Baptistry gable is a tall brick chimney. Contiguous with the Baptistry's north wall is the two story hospitality/offices/classrooms component. The first level of this component exhibits five multi-light bays.

The second floor is a wall dormer which rises from a hip roof. The east facade of this dormer displays four windows containing 2/2 wood sash.

North Elevation

The north elevation's first floor exhibits a center polygonal bay which is flanked by double windows. At the eastern end of this elevation is a square bay with a single window on its north side and an entrance accessed by a short flight of steps on its west side. At the western end of this elevation are two windows separated by one bay's width of wall. A small shed containing a stairway leading down to the basement projects from the west side of the polygonal bay located at the center of the north wall. The north elevation's roof slope overhangs the double windows flanking the center polygonal bay. In general, the first floor's windows contain 12/12 wood sash while those of the flat-roofed dormer contain 9/2 wood sash.

The northern component of the building is enclosed by a complex roof configuration consisting of a two-stage hip roof. Projecting from the lower hip's northern slope is a 5-bay flat roofed wall dormer while the upper hip projects from the sanctuary's north gable.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**Section number 7 Page 5

Rising from the northern end of the upper hip's ridge is a low, square cupola which is shingled up to its eaves and provided ventilation of the sanctuary and class room levels. Other than a restricted portion at the south side, the louvers in the cupola are no longer visible. This cupola is enclosed by a miniature version of the bell tower's bulbous roof cap.

Interior Features: First Floor

The church's first floor consists of a large rectangular sanctuary with a porch projecting from its west wall. A narrow, 2-story Baptistry is located at the rear of the sanctuary, behind the altar. At the south end of the porch is a small, rectangular vestibule with entrances providing access to Washington Street and the port cochere on the Welles Avenue side of the building, as well as a stairway leading to the sanctuary's balcony level. The entrance at the northern wall of the porch opens on to the tower entry. To the east of this entry are two offices. Both the offices and the sanctuary open on to the hospitality area or fellowship hall (originally a chapel). At the rear (east) of the rectangular fellowship hall is an enclosed stairhall, smaller fellowship room, and a handicapped-accessible toilet. A door on the south side of the secondary fellowship room provides access to a kitchen.

West Porch

The West Porch sustained considerable alterations during renovations prior to 1930 and in 1955. The porch was originally an open area with stairs across its full width, serving as a recessed entrance into the facility. Entrance doors lead from the porch into the tower at the north end and the gallery stair at the south end. These doors are still present. The center arch contains modern double doors. The first renovation resulted in the three openings receiving identical pairs of doors and sidelights. During the mid 1950s, the two archways that flank the central entrance received new windows with walls below. At that time, the floor level of the porch was raised approximately 6 inches to meet the main floor level. The porch's ceiling retains its original tongue and groove woodwork.

Tower Vestibule

The tower has sustained several alterations. Prior to 1930, the lower portion of the present stained glass window was removed to accommodate a new door. This window formerly extended to within approximately five and one-half feet of the ground level.

When the window was shortened, the panel containing the words "Dorchester Temple Baptist Church" was repositioned into its present location. When the door was placed in the center of the tower's Washington Street elevation the stair within the tower was shifted from its original position to the north wall. This shift necessitated the termination

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 6Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts

of the upper stair that provided access to the upper room. The present stair exhibits turned balusters as well as a turned and boldly rendered newel post. Hanging from the vestibule ceiling is an Art Deco milk glass lighting fixture. Double doors on the east and southeast side of the tower vestibule provide access to the sanctuary. These doors retain distinctive rectangular brass plates which read "PUSH" in incised lettering.

The Sanctuary

The sanctuary (**Photo 3**), despite several relatively minor alterations, retains a high percentage of original, early 1890s elements.

Architecturally, the Sanctuary exhibits an interesting blend of Classical Revival woodwork elements with ceiling truss-work that is Medieval Revival in sensibility. The juxtaposition of these two very different stylistic traditions speaks to the eclecticism and lack of concern for archaeologically correct design inherent in 1880s and early 1890s American architectural styles such as the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles, as well as the Shingle style.

The Sanctuary is a large auditorium-like space that is characterized by an openness typical of the Shingle style. This sense of openness is achieved through the loftiness of the vaulted ceiling, the high altar space accented with artistic stained glass, and the low scale of the galleries at the north, south and west walls of the sanctuary. This church's spaciousness is further underscored by three bays of doors segregating the Sanctuary from the Fellowship Room. These doors can be slid overhead in a manner anticipating the mechanics of modern garage. The sanctuary's pews are arranged in an Akron or semi-circular plan; a configuration that fosters an additional sense of intimacy. This intimate quality is enhanced by the overhang of the galleries.

The oak woodwork in the sanctuary and throughout the building, including doors, paneling, casings, trim and window sash, retain their original varnish finishes. The walls are generally painted lime plaster on wood lathe. There are minor cracks in the plaster but the finish appears to be intact and repairable. Evidence of original stenciled finishes in the Sanctuary survives at the gallery level.

The semi-circular arrangement of the pews was evidently a frequently employed plan for churches of the 1880s and 1890s judging by Boston area churches such as the Eugene Clark-designed Allston Congregational Church on Quint Avenue in Allston. The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church's pews exhibit unusually elegant proportions, design and quality craftsmanship.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 7Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts

The north wall of the Sanctuary exhibits three doors (a single and two double width) that slide up into the wall, opening the Fellowship Room to worship services. The lower third of each door consists of solid, multi-panel woodwork while the upper two thirds are composed by multi-lite wood sash with opaque panes. Above the sliding doors is the ceiling of the east gallery.

All of the galleries are faced with solid, multi-panel woodwork surmounted by iron "safety railings" which were installed in 1945. A large mural is located at the center of the wall above the east gallery. Depicting Christ after Baptism by John the Baptist, this mural was a gift of Tremont Temple and originally hung in front of the present baptistry, between the two sets of organ pipes. The mural's inscription reads "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." At that time, the Baptistry was relocated from the center of the altar area to a flat-roofed annex addition directly behind its original location. The Baptistry opening is flanked by Doric pilasters which support an entablature. A plaque on the entablature exhibits incised lettering which reads, "I AM THE RESURRECTION". Recessed behind the Baptistry's Classical Revival wooden enframent is a mural depicting water with a wooded shore line in the background.

The Sanctuary's rear wall is dominated by a broad proscenium arch which enframes the altar, organ pipes and Baptistry. Projecting in front of the arch is a low semi-circular platform containing an altar. Painted on the arch in original vine and leaf stenciling is the quotation from Habakkuk 2:20 "The Lord Is In His Holy Temple". The arch springs from wooden entablatures which are "supported" by Doric pilasters. Recessed behind the proscenium arch is a Baptistry which is flanked by organ pipes. In its original form, the organ was a single unit located in the center of the choir loft. In 1919, the organ pipes were split into two sections across the front of the church. Joseph G. Cooper converted the organ's playing action from a mechanical key and stop to electropneumatic control with a detached console.

Above the Baptistry is one of the church's original stained glass windows. Donated by E.C. Wheeler in memory of his parents, this arched window depicts angels against a background of a beautiful white and blue coloration. This artistic window provides a physical link to the late 19th century rediscovery of "lost arts" such as mosaic tile artistry, mural painting, and fine wood carving as well as stained glass making. These ancient art forms were revived in England and America within the Arts and Crafts Movement as a reaction to mass production introduced decades earlier by the Industrial Revolution.

The Sanctuary's south wall 's lower level is pierced by a bank of four post-1938 replacement multi-lite windows. To the east of these windows is an original artistic oval window depicting vines intertwined with a cross. Situated above the south gallery is a tall, arched window containing stained glass that was installed after a 1938 hurricane destroyed the original window.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**Section number 7 Page 8

Designed by John Creed, a church member, this window's glass exhibits vivid hues of red, green, gold, blue, yellow and lavender. The center of the window displays a circular motif containing four quadrants. The upper left corner depicts an open Bible. The lilies in the right quadrant recall Christ's saying "Consider the lilies how they grow." The upper right corner portrays the Spirit of God descending as a dove after Christ's Baptism by John the Baptist. Beneath the dove is a representation of the sheep in the parable when Jesus said "Rejoice with me for I have found my sheep which was lost."

The west wall exhibits four post-1938 stained glass windows on the first floor, encompassing a double window flanked by single windows. Like those on the south wall's lower level, these windows contain clear diamond-shaped panes enframed by a border of square windows of a gold coloration. A bank of stained glass windows appear above the west balcony. These windows, in turn, are surmounted by a small and narrow rectangular stained glass window located near the apex of the west gable. Remnants of original painted stencil work is in evidence on the south wall of the west gallery.

The ceiling of the sanctuary is supported by an impressive system of trusses that spring from the four corners of the Sanctuary and feature Medieval Revival hardware. Suspended from the ceiling's center is a large brass chandelier which retains milk glass globes from c. 1940.

Lower Level : Offices and Fellowship Hall

The two offices on the north of the tower vestibule exhibit polished oak woodwork that is in evidence throughout the building, including door and window enframements exhibiting corner blocks with circular detail.

To the east of the offices is a large rectangular Fellowship Room which was built to serve as a chapel and later utilized as a Sunday School room. At the northeast corner of this room is a stairhall providing access to the basement and upper level. To the south of this stairhall is a meeting room which opens on to the Fellowship Room. To the south of this meeting room is a bathroom.

The north wall of the Fellowship Room features an alcove that was evidently the location of an altar when this room served as a Chapel. The alcove's segmental arch and flanking pilasters were cut off when the ceiling was lowered.

The west wall is characterized by two bays, each containing three handsome oak doors. The lower third of each door exhibits solid panels while the upper two thirds is treated as multi-lite windows.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 9Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts

The south wall features three bays of doors which slide up into the ceiling and allow the Fellowship Room to open on to the Sanctuary. Suspended from the Fellowship Room's ceiling are six milk glass lighting fixtures.

Upper Level: Classroom and Nursery

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church's Upper Level is located above the offices and fellowship rooms on the north side of the building. This level encompasses a large classroom area which can be divided into three enclosed classrooms via two systems of folding doors. Adjacent to the classroom area, to the north, is a nursery room. Noteworthy features of the Upper Level include the two banks of eleven doors; each door exhibits six panels. A built-in wooden cupboard with a denticulated cornice is located at the southeast corner of the Class Room. At the center of the class room's ceiling is a square opening covered by an ornate gingerbread punched and cut grille. This opening corresponds with the roof's ventilator cupola. Both the classroom and nursery exhibit polished oak woodwork finishes in evidence throughout, including surrounds accented by corner blocks incised with circular motifs.

The Basement

The basement is roughly bisected by an east-west center hall with access to the stair tower's first floor vestibule provided by a flight of stairs at the hall's northwest corner. On the north side of this hall is a large dining hall with a kitchen at its eastern end. On the south side of the hall are two storage rooms, boiler room, youth room and an unexcavated rectangular area along the west wall. The basement has little in the way of noteworthy architectural detail or elements. The basement was extensively modernized during the mid-1950s; a remodeling that is particularly evident in the paneling and floor covering of the dining room.

Archaeological Description

Although there are no prehistoric sites recorded on the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church parcel, it is located within a mile of the Neponset River, an important area for prehistoric activity and known site concentrations. Physical characteristics of the property include a flat, well-drained piece of land. The potential for locating significant prehistoric remains on the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church parcel is low due to construction impacts to the small parcel.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 10

**Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**

The potential for the recovery of historic archaeological resources is moderate. The land-use history of the parcel reveals it was part of the Welles estate and had not been developed until the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church was erected in 1889. Archaeological remains dating from that time could include landscaping features such as planting holes, paths or walkways, evidence of changes to the exterior of the building including damage from the 1938 hurricane, and the social and recreational use of the yard area by church and community members. Church related activities would have included ecclesiastical celebrations such as holidays and special services, educational activities specifically Sunday School, day-care, and youth groups, and social occasions such as fairs, bazaars, picnics and community meetings.

(end) -

Dorchester Temple Baptist 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.)

- ☒ **XA** 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.
- ☒ **XC** 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:

- ☒ **XA** 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

ART

EDUCATION

ETHNIC HISTORY

RELIGION

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1889-1947

Significant Dates

1889-1892

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

ARTHUR H. VINAL

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government Library, Town Hall
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**Section number 8 Page 1**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church is significant as Dorchester's oldest Baptist church structure as well as its finest example of Shingle style ecclesiastical architecture. Organized in 1886, it is the fifth oldest Baptist Society in Dorchester. Built between 1889 and 1892, this building represents the work of Arthur H. Vinal. The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church retains integrity of location, design, siting, materials, feeling, association, and workmanship and is of local significance, fulfilling criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The term Shingle style was coined in the 1950s by Yale architectural historian Vincent J. Scully Jr. to describe a uniquely American architectural style at a time when design was dominated by European historical revival styles. Widely utilized between 1880 and 1900, particularly in the design of New England seaside residences, the Shingle style made memorable statements through complex, fluid form and smooth shingle textural surfaces rather than with decorative detailing around doors, windows and porches. According to Virginia and Lee McAlester in A Field Guide to American Houses, the roots of the Shingle Style are three fold : " from the Queen Anne it borrowed wide porches, shingled surfaces, and asymmetrical forms. From the Colonial Revival it adapted gambrel roofs, rambling lean-to additions, classical columns, and Palladian windows. From the contemporaneous Richardsonian Romanesque it borrowed an emphasis on irregular sculpted shapes, Romanesque arches, and , in some examples, stone lower stories." One of the finest full-blown examples of a Shingle style structure in the United States as well as the Boston area is the Henry Hobson Richardson -designed Mrs. M.F. Stoughton House (1882-1883) at 90 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA.

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church illustrates almost all of the aforementioned Shingle style characteristics. In addition to Arthur Vinal and Henry Hobson Richardson, accomplished practitioners of this style included William Ralph Emerson of Boston; John Calvin Stevens of Portland, Maine; Mc Kim, Meade & White, Bruce Price, and Lamb and Rich of New York; Wilson Eyre of Philadelphia; and Willis Polk of San Francisco.

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church sits at the southern end of Codman Square in Boston's Dorchester section. Located at the geographical center of Dorchester, Codman Square is the historic crossroads formed by Washington Street, Talbot Avenue and Norfolk Street. Originally called Baker's Corners in honor of Dr. James Baker, the proprietor of a dry goods store, it was renamed Codman Square in 1847 in memory of the Second Church's minister John Codman. Codman Square was the location of Dorchester's Town Hall from 1816 until the town's annexation to Boston in 1869. The Codman Square area's significant municipal, residential, ecclesiastical and commercial buildings date from 1806 to the 1930s and include the Second Church in Dorchester (1806), Dorchester Women's Club (1898), Dorchester High School (1900) and the former Codman Square Branch Library (1904).

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**Section number 8 Page 2

Located within Suffolk County in eastern Massachusetts, Dorchester was founded in 1630 and annexed to the city of Boston in 1869. Dorchester is bordered by South Boston and Roxbury on the north and Dorchester Bay on the east. The Neponset River separates Dorchester from Quincy and Milton to the south while Mattapan borders its western edge. A party of English Puritans from the ship *Mary and John* rowed ashore at Savin Hill, Dorchester in 1630. The first settlement was located in the vicinity of the Pleasant and Pond streets intersection in north Dorchester.

Although a node of industry was located on the Neponset River, at Lower Mills from the 1630s onward, a high percentage of Dorchester's land supported agricultural pursuits until as late as the 1880s. As a result of Dorchester's annexation to the city in 1869 and the advent of improved public transportation, major development occurred throughout Dorchester, transforming it from a rural district of village clusters with a population of 8,000 in 1850 to a middle class suburb of residential enclaves with a population of 150,000 in 1900. The expansion which took place in the Codman Square area exemplifies this transition. Public transportation by means of railway lines served the area surrounding Codman Square as early as the 1850s, but it was the streetcars, initially horse drawn in the 1870s, and then electrified by the 1880s, which had a significant impact on the growth of the district. The main transportation route ran north/south along Washington Street from the Square to Mt. Bowdoin, and from Roxbury, fed into lines which ran to downtown Boston. By the 1890s, the route was extended as far south as Gallivan Boulevard, and crosslines were developed which passed through Codman Square and ran along Talbot Avenue and Norfolk Street.

As the result of these transportation improvements, enclaves of large, stylish and substantial residences evolved in Melville Park, Ashmont Hill and other areas of Dorchester.

A brief discussion of Ashmont Hill's evolution is warranted given this neighborhood's proximity to the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church, the similarities between this neighborhood's Shingle style houses and the Church as well as the fact that both this neighborhood and the church stand on land bequeathed to George D. Welles, Ashmont Hill's developer. In 1870 Welles inherited a substantial amount of property from his grandfather John Welles, encompassing all of what is now Ashmont Hill. The property included the site of the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church and the Welles mansion on Welles Avenue, now the site of the Codman Square Branch of the Boston Public Library. Ashmont Hill's subdivision into streets and house lots was supervised by Welles' attorney and agent Edward Ingersoll Browne. Before this subdivision, the area bounded by Dorchester Avenue, Centre Street, Washington Street and Ashmont Street was completely devoid of streets. Surveyor H.W. Wilson's 1871 plan for Ashmont Hill provided for Welles Avenue, Walton, Harley, Roslin, Ocean and Alban Streets as well as other streets outside the neighborhood. Land sales began in 1872 and by 1874 seven

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 3**Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**

houses had been built on Ashmont Hill. The Depression of 1873 resulted in a brief setback for Welles, his development rebounding with sixteen houses built on his Ashmont Hill lots between 1874 and 1884. Large Italianate Mansard, Queen Anne, Shingle and Colonial Revival houses were built for doctors, lawyers, artists, and architects on lots measuring 6,000 square feet or more.

John "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald, early 20th century mayor of Boston and grandfather of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy resided in a mansion at the corner of Welles Avenue and Harley Street.

Between 1884 and 1904, 160 houses were built in this area, with one hundred completed within the first decade. This building boom was fueled in part by the introduction of the electric trolley to Washington Street during the late 1880s.

Two-family homes and three-deckers were the predominant housing types built between 1904 and 1930. Constructed between 1889 and 1892, the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church was built at the height of the residential construction boom on Ashmont Hill and other streetcar accessible sections of Dorchester.

Dorchester Temple Baptist Church began as a missionary church of the Union, now Tremont Temple, in Boston. The Church traces its beginnings in Dorchester to a building on Norfolk Street erected in the fall of 1884. This building contained a store on the ground floor, beneath a second floor hall with a capacity of three hundred people. Under the leadership of Deacon George Chipman and "helpers from the Boston's Tremont Temple Baptist Church," the Norfolk Street hall was dedicated as a house of worship on March 8, 1885. At that time the only church building within a radius of two miles was the Second Congregational Church in Codman Square. Shortly after its dedication, a Sunday School was organized to serve the children of the community. According to church histories, the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church grew out of the Sunday School under the leadership of Richard B. Hassett, the first superintendent. On November 8, 1886, the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church was duly organized with a membership of thirty six.

The organization of the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church represents an important chapter in the history of the Baptist Society in Dorchester. Although Baptists have resided in Dorchester since the 18th century, it was not until the second quarter of the 19th century that their numbers were sufficient to allow the construction of a church.

The first Baptist worship service in Dorchester was held on July 12, 1835. The Baptist Society was organized in December, 1836 and the first meeting house was erected on

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 4**Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**

Chickatawbet Street in the Neponset area in 1838. In 1907, the First Baptist Church moved to the corner of Adams and Ashmont Street. Later Baptist congregations in Dorchester include Stoughton Street Baptist (1845) at Uphams Corner, Bethany Baptist (1871) at West Cottage and Judson Street, The Blaney Memorial Baptist Church (1882) at Lower Mills and Emmanuel Baptist Church (1897) on Adams Street.

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church's purchase of the George D. Welles' estate's Lots 1, 2 and 3 at the northeast corner of Washington Street and Welles Avenues, was recorded in the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds, Book 1901, Page 609 on October 5, 1889. The total cost of land and building was \$40,000.00. Construction began in July, 1889 and the church's corner stone was laid October 3, 1889. Church membership numbered ninety-nine at the time of the laying of the cornerstone.

The architect of the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church was the prolific Boston architect Arthur H. Vinal. Born in Quincy in 1854, Vinal was initially employed by Peabody & Stearns, one of Boston's leading late 19th century architectural firms.

During his tenure as city architect he designed the Joshua Bates School, 725-731 Harrison Avenue in the South End, Minot School, Neponset Avenue, near Walnut Street in Dorchester and the Bowditch School, corner of Green and Cheshire Streets in West Roxbury. Perhaps his best known work, by virtue of its prominent location in the Back Bay, is the police and fire station building at Boylston and Hereford Streets. In 1886, he designed a two-story engine house at Saratoga Street near Byron Street in East Boston as well as the Medford Street School in Charlestown. The Metropolitan Water Works High Service Station at the Chestnut Hill Reservoir was one of his most important commissions of the late 1880s. Vinal was also engaged in Boston theatre work, submitting designs for Washington Street theatres including the Pagoda and the Music Hall. Further afield, he designed opera houses for Augusta and Bangor, Maine. Boston philanthropist Robert B. Brigham was one Vinal's most important patrons. Vinal designed Brigham's estate and a hospital named in his honor, now Brigham and Women's Hospital. Additionally, Vinal designed the lodge at the base of the Bunker Hill monument.

Vinal's work is also represented in numerous Boston area residences. During the 1880s, Vinal designed several Melville Avenue, Dorchester residences including his own home at 35 Melville Avenue (1882), a charming, picturesquely rendered Queen Anne residence. Additionally, his Dorchester work includes the W.F. Kakas residence at 40 Sawyer Avenue and a two-family residence at 341-343 Washington Street. During the 1890s, Vinal was responsible for three six-family residences at 382 to 388 Commonwealth Avenue as well as twenty Bay State Road row houses.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 5**Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**

Undoubtedly Vinal's reputation as an architect of handsome, upscale Dorchester residences aided his selection as the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church's architect. Vinal's Dorchester years were followed by a twenty-five year residency in Brookline and summers at Marble Head Neck. Arthur H. Vinal died in West Harpswell, Maine, August 25, 1923.

The Boylston Street Fire Station and the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church attest to Vinal's unusual talents as both imitator and innovator in his approach to designing within the Richardsonian Romanesque and Shingle styles. Vinal was nearing the height of his career when he was awarded the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church contract in 1889.

The building permit application for the church was submitted on July 9, 1889, and was granted on August 10. The church's chapel (later the Sunday School) was completed for worship services in January, 1890. The auditorium or sanctuary was finished and formally dedicated on November 17, 1892 and the final inspection report for the building was recorded on December 12, 1892. The building inspection report describes the building as a single-story 48-foot high structure with references to a gallery level, an unpaved cellar and five wooden stairways.

The church's Opus 334 organ was manufactured in 1893 especially for the church by George Sherburn Hutchings, one of the leading organ builders of his time. He had a reputation as a great case-maker and innovator within the realm of console improvements. Hutchings built organs for important Boston area institutions, including Symphony Hall, Arlington Street Church, St. Peter's R.C. Church (Bowdoin Street, Dorchester), First Unitarian Church (Meeting House Hill, Dorchester) and Mission Church (Mission Hill).

The church's long tradition of reaching out to the youth of the community began in 1897 when Dorchester Temple Baptist Church's pastor, Rev. C.W. Chamberlain "realized that the young people of his church needed something to do in a collective way. This resulted in a branch Bible School at 165 Lauriat Avenue (now Woodrow Avenue)." Five years after its founding the school had an enrollment of 189.

Following the 1908 fire in Chelsea, many Canadians from Nova Scotia moved from Chelsea to Dorchester; the church membership doubled as some of them joined. Nova Scotians composed the majority of the church for fifty years. Under Dr. Otis Foye, the church reached its peak membership in 1928 with 1,131 members in the church and 1,032 students in the Sunday School. During the 1930s, membership was steady with the congregation encompassing skilled craftsmen, small business owners and sales people. The Church suffered considerable damage during the 1938 hurricane. The south gable's stained glass window was destroyed when a large tree came through the window during the storm.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**

Section number 8 Page 6

After World War II as Dorchester became increasingly Irish Catholic, many parishioners moved to the suburbs and the church's attendance began to fall, a trend that continued into the early 1970s.

Organ chimes were installed in June 1950 as a memorial to the youth who died in World War II.

In 1954, the church purchased a Victorian house at 17 Ocean Street to be used as a parsonage at a cost of \$14,500. In 1956, the basement was renovated and the youth room excavated and constructed. An author of a church publication entitled "A Celebration of New Beginnings" notes that "with the reintegration of the Boston public schools in the 1970s, whites again moved en masse to the suburbs, resulting in a further membership drop of over fifty percent." Beginning with the leadership of interim pastor Dr. Joe O'Donnell and then Rev. Dan Buttry in 1978, attendance began to rise. After seeking support from key lay leaders such as Roy Mason and Hal Dutton, "the church began to welcome blacks and was virtually restarted through extensive contacts with neighborhood people and groups. "

By the 1980s, the demographics of the congregation began to reflect those of Dorchester with 12 different ethnic groups represented within the church's membership. The "survivalist mentality" of the 1970s was superseded by a more hopeful outlook. By all accounts the church grew stronger and the worship service began to come alive as it expressed the racial/ethnic vitality in the congregation.

At the time of the church's 100th Anniversary in 1986 the active membership had risen to 154, with most of the members in their twenties and thirties. Following, Rev. Dan Buttry's resignation in 1987 a difficult seven year transition period ensued as the church searched for permanent leadership.

Since June, 1993, Dorchester Temple Baptist Church has been under the co-pastoral leadership of Rev. Bruce Wall and Rev. Craig W. Mc Mullen. Wall, a native of Roxbury, and Mc Mullen, who grew up in Seattle, Washington, have worked successfully together to heal a community beset by urban problems. Rev. Wall fought the granting of liquor licenses, restored Sunday evening city bus service and labored to register voters. Rev. Wall has organized the Concerned Citizens of Roxbury and co-founded the "Drop-A-Dime" crime reporting organization. In September, 1994, Revs. Wall and McMullen led a sleep-in at Roberts Park, Dorchester, to fight drug traffic. They continue to offer a ministry of reconciliation between the racial and ethnic groups of the city as well as the Codman Square area of Dorchester. The membership currently embraces 140 active adult members and 160 children for a total of 300 parishioners.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 7Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts

During the 110 years since the church's founding, Dorchester Temple has had sixteen pastors as well as a number of interim pastors. The longest pastorate was that of Dr. Otis W.Foye, from October, 1919 to October, 1940.

Many dedicated individuals have served the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church over time, including ministers, missionaries and lay men. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries members of the Church preached the gospel world-wide. Women have played an important role in realizing the mission of the church. During the 1890s Carrie Currant Murray was the first woman missionary to Alaska. Mrs. Mabel G. Oldfield was a missionary in Woochow, South China. Miss Emma Kelly had a notable ministry as pastor's assistant for twenty-one years (1920-1941).

Herbert Flagg and Rev. F.R. Bruce represented the Baptist Church in Shanghai, China and Sanoway, Burma, respectively. Closer to home, Reverend and Mrs. L. Curtis Foye worked tirelessly for the Hull Street Medical Mission Dispensary in Boston. R. Dean Goodwin, pastor of the church from 1941 to 1944 later became Director of the Division of Communications of the American Baptist Convention. Archibald T. Davison, a member of the church in his youth was Harvard's Musicologist and director of the university's Glee Club for 45 years. Life long member Willard F. Rockwell was "one of the country's industrial magnates" while Albert H. Curtis, a member of the church for sixty-one years, was President of the New England Baptist Hospital for 15 years and was active in its development for forty years. In recent years the music ministry under the leadership of Bil Mooney-McCoy has played a powerful role within the worship service.

Archaeological Significance

It is unlikely that any prehistoric sites are located on the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church parcel. Given that most of the known prehistoric sites are concentrated near the Neponset River and that only a very small portion of the church parcel has not been impacted by construction, it is unlikely that any prehistoric survivals remain.

A moderate potential exists for the recovery of historical archaeological remains. The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church played an integral role in the development of the Codman Square/Ashmont Hill community at the turn of the century. Built during a historically significant period, this parcel could contain archaeological survivals revealing evidence of the social, cultural, and economic development of the area.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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12/22/1894

Miscellaneous

Boston Landmarks Commission : Ashmont Hill Area Description, by Robert Bell Rettig,
1972; Dorchester Cultural Resources Survey by Edward W. Gordon, 1994-1995.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 2

**Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**

Boston Public Library, Fine Arts Department: Architects File, obituary and references to the work of Arthur Vinal.

Dorchester Temple Baptist Church Archives: Anniversary Histories, Newspaper clippings, programs, etc.

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Wentworth Institute of Technology, *Dorchester Temple Baptist Church*, prepared by Tina Crochet's Interior Design Students, 1996

(end)

Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Name of Property

Suffolk, Massachusetts
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 18,000 sq. ft.

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 19. 329210 4683640
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. 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 Edward Gordon, Preservation Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, MHC, National Register Director

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date September 1997

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard 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 Dorchester Temple Baptist Church

street & number 670 Washington Street telephone 617-282-7794

city or town Boston (Dorchester) state MA zip code 02124

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 Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church run east from Washington Street along the side lot line shared with the commercial property numbered 668 Washington Street. The eastern boundary runs along the side lot line shared with the residential property numbered Welles Avenue. This property's southern lot line borders Welles Avenue, while its western boundary runs along Washington Street.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries as nominated are the current and historic boundaries of the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church, since its construction in 1889-1892.

(end)

BF

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Dorchester Temple Baptist Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Suffolk

DATE RECEIVED: 9/26/97 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/07/97
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/23/97 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/10/97
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 97001239

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT ___DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

This building is nominated for significance in the areas of Architecture, Art, Education, Ethnic History, Religion, & Social History, but only Architecture is directly addressed in the nomination - Please either provide additional information which directly addresses the building's significance in the other Areas of Significance, or delete them on resubmission. The fact that this is one of five Baptist churches in Dorchester, or that a

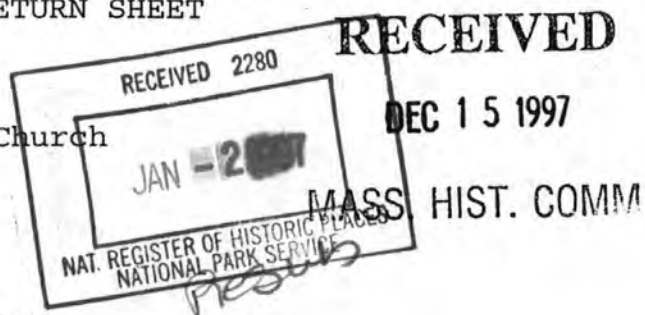
RECOM./CRITERIA Return

REVIEWER Patrick Anders DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 11/19/97

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

Sunday school was established in the building does not justify Religion and Education as areas of Significance.



DOCUMENTATION ISSUES--DISCUSSION SHEET

State Name MA County Name Suffolk Resource Name Dorchester Baptist Church
Multiple Name _____
Reference No. 97001239 Listed Date _____

Section of Nomination:

☐ Classification
☐ State/Agency Certification
☐ Function

☐ Description
☒ Significance
☐ Bibliographical References

☐ Geographical Data
☐ Accompanying Documentation
☐ Other

See Page _____ Paragraph _____

Solution:

Nomination is being returned

NR Staff:

P. Anderson Date: 11/21

Data Collector's Explanation of Problem:

1. The AOS for Art is not supported; the AOS for education is questionable - ^{Does the establishment of a Sunday School warrant sig?}
2. The AOS for ethnic history does not fall within the Period of Sig. (8,6)

Data Collector: Nathan

Date: 10/8/97

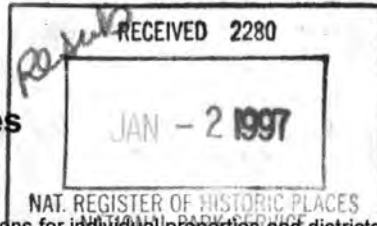
Resolution in Data Base:

D.B. Corrected:

Date:

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 Dorchester Temple Baptist Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 670 Washington Street

N/A not for publication

city or town Boston (Dorchester)

N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Suffolk code 025 zip code 02124

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.)

Judith B. McDonough
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

9/23/97
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

Patrick Ardus

1/16/97

Dorchester Temple Baptist Church

Name of Property

Suffolk, Massachusetts

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

1 buildings

sites

structures

objects

1 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/shingle style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE; granite

walls WOOD: shingle

roof ASPHALT

other GLASS

Narrative Description

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

(See continuation sheet)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts

7. DESCRIPTION

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church (**Photos 1 and 2**) is located at 670 Washington Street, Dorchester, Massachusetts. Built in two stages between 1889-1892 by George W. Oliver, from designs provided by Boston architect and Dorchester resident Arthur Vinal this wooden church ranks among the finest examples of Shingle style ecclesiastical architecture in Boston.

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church is situated on level ground at the northeast corner of Welles Avenue and Washington Street. The church stands at the southern gateway to the Codman Square commercial district as well as the western edge of the Ashmont Hill residential area.

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church, together with the Federal style 1806 Second Church in Dorchester at the northern end of the Codman Square area bracket Washington Street's architecturally and historically significant mid 19th through early 20th century commercial, public and residential buildings. The northern part of the Codman Square area contains the historic Codman Square cross roads which includes segments of Talbot Avenue, Centre Street, Norfolk Street, as well as Washington Street. In addition to the churches of the Codman Square area, other well-designed buildings include the Hartwell, Richardson and Driver- designed Dorchester High School, recently known as Girl's Latin Academy, a massive, yellow brick Renaissance Revival building dating to 1900, the former Dorchester Women's Club, a handsome A. Warren Gould-designed Colonial Revival wooden structure at 40 Centre Street (1898), the Joseph T. Greene - designed Lithgow Building, rendered in the Georgian Revival style in 1899; and the former Codman Square Branch Library housed in a masonry, cupola-topped Georgian Revival building of 1904. The Codman Square Historic District was designated in 1983.

Additionally, the church's towered, asymmetrical form and dark brown wood shingle sheathing echo those of the Shingle style residences of the Ashmont Hill neighborhood to the east, designed by Edwin J. Lewis and others during the 1880s and 1890s.

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church stands on a trapezoidal-shaped lot containing 18,000 square feet with a building footprint covering 7,500 square feet. Bordering the church's property, to the north is a one-story concrete commercial block.

To the east, the Ashmont Hill neighborhood unfolds with Italianate/ Mansard and Queen Anne residences bordering Welles Avenue with a 2 1/2 story Queen Anne residence immediately adjacent to the eastern side of the church. Across Welles Avenue to the south is the modern masonry one-story Codman Square branch of the Boston Public Library which replaced the Harrison Atwood-designed Henry L. Pierce School in 1967.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 2**Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**

The church's west facade overlooks altered double and single-family wooden Italianate houses of the 1870s at 665/667 and 671 Washington Street, respectively, as well as the Classical Revival E-shaped, 3-story masonry apartment building erected during the 1910s.

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church exhibits the Shingle style's trademark complex shape and picturesque profiles achieved via the artful massing of its structural components. Particularly compelling is the heavy configuration of the sanctuary's intersecting gables and the exotic appeal of the bell tower's bulbous roof. In a sense the church is as much a work of sculpture as it is architecture with the artistic placement of a succession of varied volumes all unified by a smooth skin of dark brown shingles.

The building consists of three structural components: 1) a large rectangular sanctuary enclosed by an intersecting gable roof with a floor area of 4,000 square feet; 2) an off-center square bell tower segment capped by a distinctive pyramidal roof; and 3) a northern, single-story hip roofed component with shed-roofed dormers. All of the church's structural components rise from low, rubble stone foundations.

Circumscribed by low concrete borders, open areas of grass and shrubbery border the Washington Street and Welles Avenue elevations, the width of this green space narrowing as it approaches the northwest and southeast corners of the lot. A short flight of concrete steps leads from the Washington Street sidewalk to a concrete path providing access to the main entrance currently located on the tower's west elevation. A path also leads to an entrance at the center of the west porch. Passing through a porte cochere at the southwest corner of the building, an asphalt-covered driveway follows a semicircular path on the Welles Avenue side of the building.

Dorchester Temple Baptist Church: West Elevation

Reading from north to south, the west or main elevation of the church is asymmetrically divided into a three bay / single bay / four bay arrangement of the church offices, tower and front porch, respectively. The three-bay section of the church offices is fenestrated by a double window flanked by single windows; all of the windows are square-headed and contain 12/12 wood sash. This hipped-roof section is ornamented with a simple molded cornice. A shed-roofed dormer extends the length of the northern slope.

Piercing the western facade of the dormer wall to the south of its intersection with the hip roof is a window containing 8/2 wood sash.

The off-center tower provides the composition with a strong vertical anchor. The western elevation of the tower exhibits double doors which are surmounted by a cornice headed entablature. Surmounted by a tripartite, multi-pane window, this entrance was added

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**Section number 7 Page 3

during the mid-20th century. Above this entrance, a tall and narrow stained glass window originally extended to a point approximately two thirds distant from the cornice of this later entrance's entablature. At the third floor of the tower's south facade is a double multi-pane window. The open "belfry" portion of the tower flares out into a shingled parapet; this sculptural form was somewhat marred by the addition of a low-pitched pedimented section of roof, most likely installed to eliminate bird access and weather-proof the flat deck. The tower roof is a pyramidal bell-shaped form comprised of three separate pitches and capped with a finial. During the mid-20th-century, a large marquee was cantilevered from the open bell tower. This electrified signboard read, "Dorchester WELCOME Temple." Holes from the supports are still evident today.

The sanctuary's western elevation exhibits an inset porch with three broad arches. This originally open porch was accessed by stairs across its full width. Presently the center arch contains double doors which open on a short flight of brick stairs while the flanking arches contain multi-pane windows which rise from wood shingle-covered walls. To the right of the porch is a double window, each half containing 6/6 wood sash.

Rising above the west porch's roof slope is a broad gable containing a bank of seven stained glass windows. Its sash strikes a Queen Anne note, with three small panes at the top and bottom bracketing single rectangular panes. The center window contains circular glass with small panes above and below. A small and narrow four-pane stained glass window lights the apex of the west gable. A gable roofed porte cochere extends from the southern end of the west wall.

South Elevation

The south elevation is the most inherently picturesque in terms of massing, roof configuration, fenestration and detailing. Its recessed gabled end wall emphasizes the bold profile of the tower with its distinctive segmental arched belfry opening and bell-shaped, finial-topped roof cap. The south facade is dominated by its broad endwall gable and the porte cochere's gabled form. This elevation is lit by a massive central arched window comprised of a ribbon of four 8/8 wood sash windows surmounted by the tall arched stained glass window above a rectangular, wood trimmed panel containing wood shingles. The window's arch is accented by a wooden key stone. A porte cochere projects from the south west corner sheltering the side driveway. Surmounted by a gable roof, the porte cochere's southern wall is pierced by a pair of arched openings. The porte cochere's south wall displays a double multi-pane window. The integrated lean-to at the southeast corner has a secondary entrance recessed within a curving, wood shingle covered continuation of the larger wall surface.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**Section number 7 Page 4

To the west of this side entrance, a Colonial Revival ornamental panel and Queen Anne oval window illustrate the fact that these styles were frequently blended with the Shingle style. The tall ornamental panel is surmounted by a swan's neck scroll pediment which is accented by a wooden keystone. Above the panel, an oval stained glass window heightens the charm of the south elevation.

East Elevation

Both the east and north elevations are less formally finished than the street-facing facades. The rear facade of the sanctuary is dominated by a broad gable whose south slope culminates in a return while its north slope sweeps down to the projecting 5-bay wall of the northern component.

The one story structural component enclosing the Baptistry projects from the first floor of the sanctuary. Boards cover the Baptistry's four small basement windows, two first floor windows, as well as windows flanking the stained glass window. To the north of the Baptistry is a multi-panel door which culminates in a two-light transom. A single window containing 6/2 wood sash is located to the right of the rear entrance. Above the Baptistry wall is a tall, keystone arched stained glass window. Situated near the apex of the east gable is a tall and narrow four-light window that echoes that of the west gable. A double 2/6 wood sash window appears at the north end of the sanctuary's second level. Rising from the north slope of the Baptistry gable is a tall brick chimney. Contiguous with the Baptistry's north wall is the two story hospitality/offices/classrooms component. The first level of this component exhibits five multi-light bays.

The second floor is a wall dormer which rises from a hip roof. The east facade of this dormer displays four windows containing 2/2 wood sash.

North Elevation

The north elevation's first floor exhibits a center polygonal bay which is flanked by double windows. At the eastern end of this elevation is a square bay with a single window on its north side and an entrance accessed by a short flight of steps on its west side. At the western end of this elevation are two windows separated by one bay's width of wall. A small shed containing a stairway leading down to the basement projects from the west side of the polygonal bay located at the center of the north wall. The north elevation's roof slope overhangs the double windows flanking the center polygonal bay. In general, the first floor's windows contain 12/12 wood sash while those of the flat-roofed dormer contain 9/2 wood sash.

The northern component of the building is enclosed by a complex roof configuration consisting of a two-stage hip roof. Projecting from the lower hip's northern slope is a 5-bay flat roofed wall dormer while the upper hip projects from the sanctuary's north gable.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 5**Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**

Rising from the northern end of the upper hip's ridge is a low, square cupola which is shingled up to its eaves and provided ventilation of the sanctuary and class room levels. Other than a restricted portion at the south side, the louvers in the cupola are no longer visible. This cupola is enclosed by a miniature version of the bell tower's bulbous roof cap.

Interior Features: First Floor

The church's first floor consists of a large rectangular sanctuary with a porch projecting from its west wall. A narrow, 2-story Baptistry is located at the rear of the sanctuary, behind the altar. At the south end of the porch is a small, rectangular vestibule with entrances providing access to Washington Street and the port cochere on the Welles Avenue side of the building, as well as a stairway leading to the sanctuary's balcony level. The entrance at the northern wall of the porch opens on to the tower entry. To the east of this entry are two offices. Both the offices and the sanctuary open on to the hospitality area or fellowship hall (originally a chapel). At the rear (east) of the rectangular fellowship hall is an enclosed stairhall, smaller fellowship room, and a handicapped-accessible toilet. A door on the south side of the secondary fellowship room provides access to a kitchen.

West Porch

The West Porch sustained considerable alterations during renovations prior to 1930 and in 1955. The porch was originally an open area with stairs across its full width, serving as a recessed entrance into the facility. Entrance doors lead from the porch into the tower at the north end and the gallery stair at the south end. These doors are still present. The center arch contains modern double doors. The first renovation resulted in the three openings receiving identical pairs of doors and sidelights. During the mid 1950s, the two archways that flank the central entrance received new windows with walls below. At that time, the floor level of the porch was raised approximately 6 inches to meet the main floor level. The porch's ceiling retains its original tongue and groove woodwork.

Tower Vestibule

The tower has sustained several alterations. Prior to 1930, the lower portion of the present stained glass window was removed to accommodate a new door. This window formerly extended to within approximately five and one-half feet of the ground level.

When the window was shortened, the panel containing the words "Dorchester Temple Baptist Church" was repositioned into its present location. When the door was placed in the center of the tower's Washington Street elevation the stair within the tower was shifted from its original position to the north wall. This shift necessitated the termination

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 6Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts

of the upper stair that provided access to the upper room. The present stair exhibits turned balusters as well as a turned and boldly rendered newel post. Hanging from the vestibule ceiling is an Art Deco milk glass lighting fixture. Double doors on the east and southeast side of the tower vestibule provide access to the sanctuary. These doors retain distinctive rectangular brass plates which read "PUSH" in incised lettering.

The Sanctuary

The sanctuary (**Photo 3**), despite several relatively minor alterations, retains a high percentage of original, early 1890s elements.

Architecturally, the Sanctuary exhibits an interesting blend of Classical Revival woodwork elements with ceiling truss-work that is Medieval Revival in sensibility. The juxtaposition of these two very different stylistic traditions speaks to the eclecticism and lack of concern for archaeologically correct design inherent in 1880s and early 1890s American architectural styles such as the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles, as well as the Shingle style.

The Sanctuary is a large auditorium-like space that is characterized by an openness typical of the Shingle style. This sense of openness is achieved through the loftiness of the vaulted ceiling, the high altar space accented with artistic stained glass, and the low scale of the galleries at the north, south and west walls of the sanctuary. This church's spaciousness is further underscored by three bays of doors segregating the Sanctuary from the Fellowship Room. These doors can be slid overhead in a manner anticipating the mechanics of modern garage. The sanctuary's pews are arranged in an Akron or semi-circular plan; a configuration that fosters an additional sense of intimacy. This intimate quality is enhanced by the overhang of the galleries.

The oak woodwork in the sanctuary and throughout the building, including doors, paneling, casings, trim and window sash, retain their original varnish finishes. The walls are generally painted lime plaster on wood lathe. There are minor cracks in the plaster but the finish appears to be intact and repairable. Evidence of original stenciled finishes in the Sanctuary survives at the gallery level.

The semi-circular arrangement of the pews was evidently a frequently employed plan for churches of the 1880s and 1890s judging by Boston area churches such as the Eugene Clark-designed Allston Congregational Church on Quint Avenue in Allston. The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church's pews exhibit unusually elegant proportions, design and quality craftsmanship.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 7Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts

The north wall of the Sanctuary exhibits three doors (a single and two double width) that slide up into the wall, opening the Fellowship Room to worship services. The lower third of each door consists of solid, multi-panel woodwork while the upper two thirds are composed by multi-lite wood sash with opaque panes. Above the sliding doors is the ceiling of the east gallery.

All of the galleries are faced with solid, multi-panel woodwork surmounted by iron "safety railings" which were installed in 1945. A large mural is located at the center of the wall above the east gallery. Depicting Christ after Baptism by John the Baptist, this mural was a gift of Tremont Temple and originally hung in front of the present baptistry, between the two sets of organ pipes. The mural's inscription reads "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." At that time, the Baptistry was relocated from the center of the altar area to a flat-roofed annex addition directly behind its original location. The Baptistry opening is flanked by Doric pilasters which support an entablature. A plaque on the entablature exhibits incised lettering which reads, "I AM THE RESURRECTION". Recessed behind the Baptistry's Classical Revival wooden enframent is a mural depicting water with a wooded shore line in the background.

The Sanctuary's rear wall is dominated by a broad proscenium arch which enframes the altar, organ pipes and Baptistry. Projecting in front of the arch is a low semi-circular platform containing an altar. Painted on the arch in original vine and leaf stenciling is the quotation from Habakkuk 2:20 "The Lord Is In His Holy Temple". The arch springs from wooden entablatures which are "supported" by Doric pilasters. Recessed behind the proscenium arch is a Baptistry which is flanked by organ pipes. In its original form, the organ was a single unit located in the center of the choir loft. In 1919, the organ pipes were split into two sections across the front of the church. Joseph G. Cooper converted the organ's playing action from a mechanical key and stop to electropneumatic control with a detached console.

Above the Baptistry is one of the church's original stained glass windows. Donated by E.C. Wheeler in memory of his parents, this arched window depicts angels against a background of a beautiful white and blue coloration. This artistic window provides a physical link to the late 19th century rediscovery of "lost arts" such as mosaic tile artistry, mural painting, and fine wood carving as well as stained glass making. These ancient art forms were revived in England and America within the Arts and Crafts Movement as a reaction to mass production introduced decades earlier by the Industrial Revolution.

The Sanctuary's south wall 's lower level is pierced by a bank of four post-1938 replacement multi-lite windows. To the east of these windows is an original artistic oval window depicting vines intertwined with a cross. Situated above the south gallery is a tall, arched window containing stained glass that was installed after a 1938 hurricane destroyed the original window.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**Section number 7 Page 8

Designed by John Creed, a church member, this window's glass exhibits vivid hues of red, green, gold, blue, yellow and lavender. The center of the window displays a circular motif containing four quadrants. The upper left corner depicts an open Bible. The lilies in the right quadrant recall Christ's saying "Consider the lilies how they grow." The upper right corner portrays the Spirit of God descending as a dove after Christ's Baptism by John the Baptist. Beneath the dove is a representation of the sheep in the parable when Jesus said "Rejoice with me for I have found my sheep which was lost."

The west wall exhibits four post-1938 stained glass windows on the first floor, encompassing a double window flanked by single windows. Like those on the south wall's lower level, these windows contain clear diamond-shaped panes enframed by a border of square windows of a gold coloration. A bank of stained glass windows appear above the west balcony. These windows, in turn, are surmounted by a small and narrow rectangular stained glass window located near the apex of the west gable. Remnants of original painted stencil work is in evidence on the south wall of the west gallery.

The ceiling of the sanctuary is supported by an impressive system of trusses that spring from the four corners of the Sanctuary and feature Medieval Revival hardware. Suspended from the ceiling's center is a large brass chandelier which retains milk glass globes from c. 1940.

Lower Level : Offices and Fellowship Hall

The two offices on the north of the tower vestibule exhibit polished oak woodwork that is in evidence throughout the building, including door and window enframements exhibiting corner blocks with circular detail.

To the east of the offices is a large rectangular Fellowship Room which was built to serve as a chapel and later utilized as a Sunday School room. At the northeast corner of this room is a stairhall providing access to the basement and upper level. To the south of this stairhall is a meeting room which opens on to the Fellowship Room. To the south of this meeting room is a bathroom.

The north wall of the Fellowship Room features an alcove that was evidently the location of an altar when this room served as a Chapel. The alcove's segmental arch and flanking pilasters were cut off when the ceiling was lowered.

The west wall is characterized by two bays, each containing three handsome oak doors. The lower third of each door exhibits solid panels while the upper two thirds is treated as multi-lite windows.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 9Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts

The south wall features three bays of doors which slide up into the ceiling and allow the Fellowship Room to open on to the Sanctuary. Suspended from the Fellowship Room's ceiling are six milk glass lighting fixtures.

Upper Level: Classroom and Nursery

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church's Upper Level is located above the offices and fellowship rooms on the north side of the building. This level encompasses a large classroom area which can be divided into three enclosed classrooms via two systems of folding doors. Adjacent to the classroom area, to the north, is a nursery room. Noteworthy features of the Upper Level include the two banks of eleven doors; each door exhibits six panels. A built-in wooden cupboard with a denticulated cornice is located at the southeast corner of the Class Room. At the center of the class room's ceiling is a square opening covered by an ornate gingerbread punched and cut grille. This opening corresponds with the roof's ventilator cupola. Both the classroom and nursery exhibit polished oak woodwork finishes in evidence throughout, including surrounds accented by corner blocks incised with circular motifs.

The Basement

The basement is roughly bisected by an east-west center hall with access to the stair tower's first floor vestibule provided by a flight of stairs at the hall's northwest corner. On the north side of this hall is a large dining hall with a kitchen at its eastern end. On the south side of the hall are two storage rooms, boiler room, youth room and an unexcavated rectangular area along the west wall. The basement has little in the way of noteworthy architectural detail or elements. The basement was extensively modernized during the mid-1950s; a remodeling that is particularly evident in the paneling and floor covering of the dining room.

Archaeological Description

Although there are no prehistoric sites recorded on the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church parcel, it is located within a mile of the Neponset River, an important area for prehistoric activity and known site concentrations. Physical characteristics of the property include a flat, well-drained piece of land. The potential for locating significant prehistoric remains on the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church parcel is low due to construction impacts to the small parcel.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 10

**Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**

The potential for the recovery of historic archaeological resources is moderate. The land-use history of the parcel reveals it was part of the Welles estate and had not been developed until the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church was erected in 1889.

Archaeological remains dating from that time could include landscaping features such as planting holes, paths or walkways, evidence of changes to the exterior of the building including damage from the 1938 hurricane, and the social and recreational use of the yard area by church and community members. Church related activities would have included ecclesiastical celebrations such as holidays and special services, educational activities specifically Sunday School, day-care, and youth groups, and social occasions such as fairs, bazaars, picnics and community meetings.

(end)

Dorchester Temple Baptist Church

Name of Property

Suffolk, Massachusetts

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

Period of Significance

1889-1947

Significant Dates

1889-1892

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Vinal, Arthur H. (A)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetDorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 1

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church is significant as Dorchester's oldest Baptist church structure as well as its finest example of Shingle style ecclesiastical architecture. Organized in 1886, it is the fifth oldest Baptist Society in Dorchester. Built between 1889 and 1892, this building represents the work of Arthur H. Vinal. The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church retains integrity of location, design, siting, materials, feeling, association, and workmanship and is of local significance, fulfilling criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The term Shingle style was coined in the 1950s by Yale architectural historian Vincent J. Scully Jr. to describe a uniquely American architectural style at a time when design was dominated by European historical revival styles. Widely utilized between 1880 and 1900, particularly in the design of New England seaside residences, the Shingle style made memorable statements through complex, fluid form and smooth shingle textural surfaces rather than with decorative detailing around doors, windows and porches. According to Virginia and Lee McAlester in A Field Guide to American Houses, the roots of the Shingle Style are three fold : " from the Queen Anne it borrowed wide porches, shingled surfaces, and asymmetrical forms. From the Colonial Revival it adapted gambrel roofs, rambling lean-to additions, classical columns, and Palladian windows. From the contemporaneous Richardsonian Romanesque it borrowed an emphasis on irregular sculpted shapes, Romanesque arches, and , in some examples, stone lower stories." One of the finest full- blown examples of a Shingle style structure in the United States as well as the Boston area is the Henry Hobson Richardson -designed Mrs. M.F. Stoughton House (1882-1883) at 90 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA.

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church illustrates almost all of the aforementioned Shingle style characteristics. In addition to Arthur Vinal and Henry Hobson Richardson, accomplished practitioners of this style included William Ralph Emerson of Boston; John Calvin Stevens of Portland, Maine; Mc Kim.Meade & White, Bruce Price, and Lamb and Rich of New York; Wilson Eyre of Philadelphia; and Willis Polk of San Francisco.

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church sits at the southern end of Codman Square in Boston's Dorchester section. Located at the geographical center of Dorchester, Codman Square is the historic crossroads formed by Washington Street, Talbot Avenue and Norfolk Street. Originally called Baker's Corners in honor of Dr. James Baker, the proprietor of a dry goods store, it was renamed Codman Square in 1847 in memory of the Second Church's minister John Codman. Codman Square was the location of Dorchester's Town Hall from 1816 until the town's annexation to Boston in 1869. The Codman Square area's significant municipal, residential, ecclesiastical and commercial buildings date from 1806 to the 1930s and include the Second Church in Dorchester (1806), Dorchester Women's Club (1898), Dorchester High School (1900) and the former Codman Square Branch Library (1904).

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**Section number 8 Page 2

Located within Suffolk County in eastern Massachusetts, Dorchester was founded in 1630 and annexed to the city of Boston in 1869. Dorchester is bordered by South Boston and Roxbury on the north and Dorchester Bay on the east. The Neponset River separates Dorchester from Quincy and Milton to the south while Mattapan borders its western edge. A party of English Puritans from the ship *Mary and John* rowed ashore at Savin Hill, Dorchester in 1630. The first settlement was located in the vicinity of the Pleasant and Pond streets intersection in north Dorchester.

Although a node of industry was located on the Neponset River, at Lower Mills from the 1630s onward, a high percentage of Dorchester's land supported agricultural pursuits until as late as the 1880s. As a result of Dorchester's annexation to the city in 1869 and the advent of improved public transportation, major development occurred throughout Dorchester, transforming it from a rural district of village clusters with a population of 8,000 in 1850 to a middle class suburb of residential enclaves with a population of 150,000 in 1900. The expansion which took place in the Codman Square area exemplifies this transition. Public transportation by means of railway lines served the area surrounding Codman Square as early as the 1850s, but it was the streetcars, initially horse drawn in the 1870s, and then electrified by the 1880s, which had a significant impact on the growth of the district. The main transportation route ran north/south along Washington Street from the Square to Mt. Bowdoin, and from Roxbury, fed into lines which ran to downtown Boston. By the 1890s, the route was extended as far south as Gallivan Boulevard, and crosslines were developed which passed through Codman Square and ran along Talbot Avenue and Norfolk Street.

As the result of these transportation improvements, enclaves of large, stylish and substantial residences evolved in Melville Park, Ashmont Hill and other areas of Dorchester.

A brief discussion of Ashmont Hill's evolution is warranted given this neighborhood's proximity to the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church, the similarities between this neighborhood's Shingle style houses and the Church as well as the fact that both this neighborhood and the church stand on land bequeathed to George D. Welles, Ashmont Hill's developer. In 1870 Welles inherited a substantial amount of property from his grandfather John Welles, encompassing all of what is now Ashmont Hill. The property included the site of the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church and the Welles mansion on Welles Avenue, now the site of the Codman Square Branch of the Boston Public Library. Ashmont Hill's subdivision into streets and house lots was supervised by Welles' attorney and agent Edward Ingersoll Browne. Before this subdivision, the area bounded by Dorchester Avenue, Centre Street, Washington Street and Ashmont Street was completely devoid of streets. Surveyor H.W. Wilson's 1871 plan for Ashmont Hill provided for Welles Avenue, Walton, Harley, Roslin, Ocean and Alban Streets as well as other streets outside the neighborhood. Land sales began in 1872 and by 1874 seven

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 3**Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**

houses had been built on Ashmont Hill. The Depression of 1873 resulted in a brief setback for Welles, his development rebounding with sixteen houses built on his Ashmont Hill lots between 1874 and 1884. Large Italianate Mansard, Queen Anne, Shingle and Colonial Revival houses were built for doctors, lawyers, artists, and architects on lots measuring 6,000 square feet or more.

John "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald, early 20th century mayor of Boston and grandfather of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy resided in a mansion at the corner of Welles Avenue and Harley Street.

Between 1884 and 1904, 160 houses were built in this area, with one hundred completed within the first decade. This building boom was fueled in part by the introduction of the electric trolley to Washington Street during the late 1880s.

Two-family homes and three-deckers were the predominant housing types built between 1904 and 1930. Constructed between 1889 and 1892, the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church was built at the height of the residential construction boom on Ashmont Hill and other streetcar accessible sections of Dorchester.

Dorchester Temple Baptist Church began as a missionary church of the Union, now Tremont Temple, in Boston. The Church traces its beginnings in Dorchester to a building on Norfolk Street erected in the fall of 1884. This building contained a store on the ground floor, beneath a second floor hall with a capacity of three hundred people. Under the leadership of Deacon George Chipman and "helpers from the Boston's Tremont Temple Baptist Church," the Norfolk Street hall was dedicated as a house of worship on March 8, 1885. At that time the only church building within a radius of two miles was the Second Congregational Church in Codman Square. Shortly after its dedication, a Sunday School was organized to serve the children of the community. According to church histories, the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church grew out of the Sunday School under the leadership of Richard B. Hassett, the first superintendent. On November 8, 1886, the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church was duly organized with a membership of thirty six.

The organization of the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church represents an important chapter in the history of the Baptist Society in Dorchester. Although Baptists have resided in Dorchester since the 18th century, it was not until the second quarter of the 19th century that their numbers were sufficient to allow the construction of a church.

The first Baptist worship service in Dorchester was held on July 12, 1835. The Baptist Society was organized in December, 1836 and the first meeting house was erected on

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts

Chickatawbet Street in the Neponset area in 1838. In 1907, the First Baptist Church moved to the corner of Adams and Ashmont Street. Later Baptist congregations in Dorchester include Stoughton Street Baptist (1845) at Uphams Corner, Bethany Baptist (1871) at West Cottage and Judson Street, The Blaney Memorial Baptist Church (1882) at Lower Mills and Emmanuel Baptist Church (1897) on Adams Street.

The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church's purchase of the George D. Welles' estate's Lots 1, 2 and 3 at the northeast corner of Washington Street and Welles Avenues, was recorded in the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds, Book 1901, Page 609 on October 5, 1889. The total cost of land and building was \$40,000.00. Construction began in July, 1889 and the church's corner stone was laid October 3, 1889. Church membership numbered ninety-nine at the time of the laying of the cornerstone.

The architect of the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church was the prolific Boston architect Arthur H. Vinal. Born in Quincy in 1854, Vinal was initially employed by Peabody & Stearns, one of Boston's leading late 19th century architectural firms.

During his tenure as city architect he designed the Joshua Bates School, 725-731 Harrison Avenue in the South End, Minot School, Neponset Avenue, near Walnut Street in Dorchester and the Bowditch School, corner of Green and Cheshire Streets in West Roxbury. Perhaps his best known work, by virtue of its prominent location in the Back Bay, is the police and fire station building at Boylston and Hereford Streets. In 1886, he designed a two-story engine house at Saratoga Street near Byron Street in East Boston as well as the Medford Street School in Charlestown. The Metropolitan Water Works High Service Station at the Chestnut Hill Reservoir was one of his most important commissions of the late 1880s. Vinal was also engaged in Boston theatre work, submitting designs for Washington Street theatres including the Pagoda and the Music Hall. Further afield, he designed opera houses for Augusta and Bangor, Maine. Boston philanthropist Robert B. Brigham was one Vinal's most important patrons. Vinal designed Brigham's estate and a hospital named in his honor, now Brigham and Women's Hospital. Additionally, Vinal designed the lodge at the base of the Bunker Hill monument.

Vinal's work is also represented in numerous Boston area residences. During the 1880s, Vinal designed several Melville Avenue, Dorchester residences including his own home at 35 Melville Avenue (1882), a charming, picturesquely rendered Queen Anne residence. Additionally, his Dorchester work includes the W.F. Kakas residence at 40 Sawyer Avenue and a two-family residence at 341-343 Washington Street. During the 1890s, Vinal was responsible for three six-family residences at 382 to 388 Commonwealth Avenue as well as twenty Bay State Road row houses.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 5**Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**

Undoubtedly Vinal's reputation as an architect of handsome, upscale Dorchester residences aided his selection as the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church's architect. Vinal's Dorchester years were followed by a twenty-five year residency in Brookline and summers at Marble Head Neck. Arthur H. Vinal died in West Harpswell, Maine, August 25, 1923.

The Boylston Street Fire Station and the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church attest to Vinal's unusual talents as both imitator and innovator in his approach to designing within the Richardsonian Romanesque and Shingle styles. Vinal was nearing the height of his career when he was awarded the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church contract in 1889.

The building permit application for the church was submitted on July 9, 1889, and was granted on August 10. The church's chapel (later the Sunday School) was completed for worship services in January, 1890. The auditorium or sanctuary was finished and formally dedicated on November 17, 1892 and the final inspection report for the building was recorded on December 12, 1892. The building inspection report describes the building as a single-story 48-foot high structure with references to a gallery level, an unpaved cellar and five wooden stairways.

The church's Opus 334 organ was manufactured in 1893 especially for the church by George Sherburn Hutchings, one of the leading organ builders of his time. He had a reputation as a great case-maker and innovator within the realm of console improvements. Hutchings built organs for important Boston area institutions, including Symphony Hall, Arlington Street Church, St. Peter's R.C. Church (Bowdoin Street, Dorchester), First Unitarian Church (Meeting House Hill, Dorchester) and Mission Church (Mission Hill).

The church's long tradition of reaching out to the youth of the community began in 1897 when Dorchester Temple Baptist Church's pastor, Rev. C.W. Chamberlain "realized that the young people of his church needed something to do in a collective way. This resulted in a branch Bible School at 165 Lauriat Avenue (now Woodrow Avenue)." Five years after its founding the school had an enrollment of 189.

Following the 1908 fire in Chelsea, many Canadians from Nova Scotia moved from Chelsea to Dorchester; the church membership doubled as some of them joined. Nova Scotians composed the majority of the church for fifty years. Under Dr. Otis Foye, the church reached its peak membership in 1928 with 1,131 members in the church and 1,032 students in the Sunday School. During the 1930s, membership was steady with the congregation encompassing skilled craftsmen, small business owners and sales people. The Church suffered considerable damage during the 1938 hurricane. The south gable's stained glass window was destroyed when a large tree came through the window during the storm.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**Section number 8 Page 6

After World War II as Dorchester became increasingly Irish Catholic, many parishioners moved to the suburbs and the church's attendance began to fall, a trend that continued into the early 1970s.

Organ chimes were installed in June 1950 as a memorial to the youth who died in World War II.

In 1954, the church purchased a Victorian house at 17 Ocean Street to be used as a parsonage at a cost of \$14,500. In 1956, the basement was renovated and the youth room excavated and constructed. An author of a church publication entitled "A Celebration of New Beginnings" notes that "with the reintegration of the Boston public schools in the 1970s, whites again moved en masse to the suburbs, resulting in a further membership drop of over fifty percent." Beginning with the leadership of interim pastor Dr. Joe O'Donnell and then Rev. Dan Buttry in 1978, attendance began to rise. After seeking support from key lay leaders such as Roy Mason and Hal Dutton, "the church began to welcome blacks and was virtually restarted through extensive contacts with neighborhood people and groups. "

By the 1980s, the demographics of the congregation began to reflect those of Dorchester with 12 different ethnic groups represented within the church's membership. The "survivalist mentality "of the 1970s was superseded by a more hopeful outlook. By all accounts the church grew stronger and the worship service began to come alive as it expressed the racial/ethnic vitality in the congregation.

At the time of the church's 100th Anniversary in 1986 the active membership had risen to 154, with most of the members in their twenties and thirties. Following, Rev. Dan Buttry's resignation in 1987 a difficult seven year transition period ensued as the church searched for permanent leadership.

Since June, 1993, Dorchester Temple Baptist Church has been under the co-pastoral leadership of Rev. Bruce Wall and Rev. Craig W. Mc Mullen. Wall, a native of Roxbury, and Mc Mullen, who grew up in Seattle, Washington, have worked successfully together to heal a community beset by urban problems. Rev. Wall fought the granting of liquor licenses, restored Sunday evening city bus service and labored to register voters. Rev. Wall has organized the Concerned Citizens of Roxbury and co-founded the "Drop-A-Dime" crime reporting organization. In September, 1994, Revs. Wall and McMullen led a sleep-in at Roberts Park, Dorchester, to fight drug traffic. They continue to offer a ministry of reconciliation between the racial and ethnic groups of the city as well as the Codman Square area of Dorchester. The membership currently embraces 140 active adult members and 160 children for a total of 300 parishioners.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 7**Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**

During the 110 years since the church's founding, Dorchester Temple has had sixteen pastors as well as a number of interim pastors. The longest pastorate was that of Dr. Otis W.Foye, from October, 1919 to October, 1940.

Many dedicated individuals have served the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church over time, including ministers, missionaries and lay men. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries members of the Church preached the gospel world-wide. Women have played an important role in realizing the mission of the church. During the 1890s Carrie Currant Murray was the first woman missionary to Alaska. Mrs. Mabel G. Oldfield was a missionary in Woochow, South China. Miss Emma Kelly had a notable ministry as pastor's assistant for twenty-one years (1920-1941).

Herbert Flagg and Rev. F.R. Bruce represented the Baptist Church in Shanghai, China and Sanoway, Burma, respectively. Closer to home, Reverend and Mrs. L. Curtis Foye worked tirelessly for the Hull Street Medical Mission Dispensary in Boston. R. Dean Goodwin, pastor of the church from 1941 to 1944 later became Director of the Division of Communications of the American Baptist Convention. Archibald T. Davison, a member of the church in his youth was Harvard's Musicologist and director of the university's Glee Club for 45 years. Life long member Willard F. Rockwell was "one of the country's industrial magnates" while Albert H. Curtis, a member of the church for sixty-one years, was President of the New England Baptist Hospital for 15 years and was active in its development for forty years. In recent years the music ministry under the leadership of Bil Mooney-McCoy has played a powerful role within the worship service.

Archaeological Significance

It is unlikely that any prehistoric sites are located on the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church parcel. Given that most of the known prehistoric sites are concentrated near the Neponset River and that only a very small portion of the church parcel has not been impacted by construction, it is unlikely that any prehistoric survivals remain.

A moderate potential exists for the recovery of historical archaeological remains. The Dorchester Temple Baptist Church played an integral role in the development of the Codman Square/Ashmont Hill community at the turn of the century. Built during a historically significant period, this parcel could contain archaeological survivals revealing evidence of the social, cultural, and economic development of the area.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barrows, Samuel J. "Dorchester in the Last Hundred Years" in Justin Winsor's Memorial History of Boston , 1880-1881

Dorchester Tercentenary Committee, Dorchester Old and New 1630-1930, Chapple Publishing Co. Ltd., 1930

Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings, American Vernacular Interior Architecture, 1870-1940, Van Nostrand-Rhinehold Co, 1988

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Mc Alester, Virginia & Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses
Knopf, 1984

Ochse, Orpha The History of the Organ in the United States.
The Globe Pequot Press, 1982

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The MIT Press, 1982

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Scully, Vincent J.Jr. The Shingle Style and The Stick Style, Yale, 1955

Tucci, Douglas Shand, Church Building in Boston, Rumford Press, 1974

Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780, A Guide to the Styles , The MIT Press, 1969

Newspapers

The Dorchester Beacon : 6/12/1886, 10/16/1886, 1/7/1888, 11/21/1888, 7/21/1894,
12/22/1894

Miscellaneous

Boston Landmarks Commission : Ashmont Hill Area Description, by Robert Bell Rettig,
1972; Dorchester Cultural Resources Survey by Edward W. Gordon, 1994-1995.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 2

**Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**

Boston Public Library, Fine Arts Department: Architects File, obituary and references to the work of Arthur Vinal.

Dorchester Temple Baptist Church Archives: Anniversary Histories, Newspaper clippings, programs, etc.

Historic Boston, Inc. *Religious Properties , A Boston Casebook*, 1991

Mills, Don, *Rehabilitation Assessment for the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church*, 15 July 1996

Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities Archives, Dorchester Post Card and Photo Files

Suffolk County Registry of Deeds: vol. 1894,p.402, date: 1889; vol. 1901,p.609, 1889

Wentworth Institute of Technology, *Dorchester Temple Baptist Church*, prepared by Tina Crochet's Interior Design Students, 1996

(end)

Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Name of Property

Suffolk, Massachusetts
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 18,000 sq. ft.

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 19. 329210 4683640
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. 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 Edward Gordon, Preservation Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, MHC, National Register Director

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date September 1997

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard 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 Dorchester Temple Baptist Church

street & number 670 Washington Street telephone 617-282-7794

city or town Boston (Dorchester) state MA zip code 02124

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.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

**Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk)
Massachusetts**

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church run east from Washington Street along the side lot line shared with the commercial property numbered 668 Washington Street. The eastern boundary runs along the side lot line shared with the residential property numbered Welles Avenue. This property's southern lot line borders Welles Avenue, while its western boundary runs along Washington Street.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries as nominated are the current and historic boundaries of the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church, since its construction in 1889-1892.

(end)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Dorchester Temple Baptist Church

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: Massachusetts, Suffolk County

DATE RECEIVED: 01/02/98 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 02/16/97
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 97001239

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

___ACCEPT___RETURN___REJECT___DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*On resubmission, every area of significance
except architecture has been deleted.*

RECOM./CRITERIA accept C

REVIEWER Patrick Anders

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 1/16/97

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



Temple Baptist
Dorchester
High Street
Dorchester, MA
Ed Gordon
February 1997
5th from

DORCHESTER TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH
BOSTON (SUFFOLK CO.) MA
FEB 1997 PHOTO BY ED GORDON
looking N. from Welles Ave.

PHOTO #1



DORCHESTER TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH
BOSTON (SUFFOLK CO). MA
FEB 1997

WEST from

PHOTO BY ED GORDON

looking S. from WASHINGTON ST.

PHOTO #2



Washing.
Dorchester MA
Photographer: Ed Gordon
Date: February, 1997
Sanctuary # PHOTO #3

DORCHESTER TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH
BOSTON (SUFFOLK CO.) MA
670 WASHINGTON ST.
PHOTOGRAPHER: ED GORDON FEB 1997
SANCTUARY

PHOTO # 3



For Dorch...
Temple Baptist Church
Boston (Suffolk Co.), MA

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



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

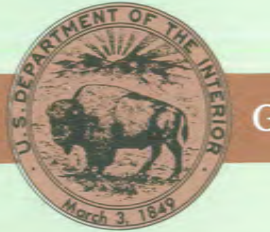
Contours and elevations in meters

Highways, roads and other manmade structures

Water features

Woodland areas

Geographic names



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1987

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1973. Field checked 1973. 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 (1982). This information is not intended for navigational purposes.

Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 19.

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.

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.3 METER

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS

DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE

SHOULDER SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER

THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.9 METERS

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5617
3	9.8425
4	13.1234
5	16.4042
6	19.6850
7	22.9659
8	26.2467
9	29.5276
10	32.8084

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

DECLINATION DIAGRAM

UTM grid convergence multiply by 2.280 at center of map

UTM grid convergence, declination (MM) at center of map

Diagram is approximate

ADJOINING MAPS

1	2	3
1 Maynard	2 Boston North	3 Lynn
4 Framingham	5 Haverhill	6 Lowell
7 Newbury	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 improved surface

Unimproved road, trail

Route marker: Interstate; U.S. State

Railroad: standard gauge; narrow gauge

Bridge: drawbridge

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

Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation

Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression

Distorted surface: strip mine, lava; sand

Soundings: depth curve

Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream

Roads, large and small; trails, large and small

Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp

Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland

Scrub; mangrove

Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092



DORCHESTER TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH ↑
DORCHESTER, BOSTON, SUFFOLK COUNTY
DETAIL BRA MAP

0 100 200 300 400 500 FT.

14N-10E	14N-12E	14N-14E
12N-10E	12N-12E	12N-14E
10N-10E	10N-12E	10N-14E



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 24, 1997

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P. O. Box 37127
Washington, D. C. 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Dorchester Temple Baptist Church, 670 Washington Street, Boston (Suffolk County), Massachusetts, 02124.

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60-120 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

With the understanding that a waiver of the customary 15-day Federal Register commenting period is necessary to assist in the preservation of the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church, the Massachusetts Historical Commission respectfully requests that the commenting period be waived (36 CFR 60.13(a)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Dorchester Temple Baptist Church
Alan Schwartz, Chair, Boston Landmarks Commission
Maura FitzPatrick, Boston Landmarks Commission
Ed Gordon, Preservation Consultant
Thomas Menino, Mayor, City of Boston



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

December 26, 1997

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service, Cultural Resources
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed, please find amended National Register nomination for the following:

Dorchester Temple Baptist Church, Boston (Dorchester) (Suffolk Co.), MA
Reference # 97001239

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60-120 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

With the understanding that a waiver of the customary 15-day Federal Register commenting period is necessary to assist in the preservation of the Dorchester Temple Baptist Church, the Massachusetts Historical Commission respectfully requests that the commenting period be waived (36 CFR 60.13(a)).

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Bergen".

Philip Bergen
National Register Assistant
Massachusetts Historical Commission

cc: Maura Fitzpatrick, Boston Landmarks Commission

Control No.:

PROPERTY NAME: Dorchester Temple Baptist Church

OTHER NAME/ NOT APPLICABLE
SITE No.:

MULTIPLE NAME: NOT APPLICABLE

ADDRESS/ 670 Washington St.
BOUNDARY:

CITY: Boston

COUNTY: Suffolk

STATE: MASSACHUSETTS

Restricted Location Information: Owner: PRIVATE Resource Type: BUILDING

Contributing Noncontributing

Buildings	1	0
Sites	0	0
Structures	0	0
Objects	0	0

Nomination/Determination Type: SINGLE RESOURCE

Nominator: STATE GOVERNMENT

Nominator Name:
NOT APPLICABLE

Federal NOT APPLICABLE
Agency:

NPS Park Name: NOT APPLICABLE

Certification: DATE RECEIVED/PENDING NOMINATION

Date: 09/26/97

Other NOT APPLICABLE
Certification:

Historic RELIGION
Functions:

Historic RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE
Subfunctions:

Current RELIGION
Functions:

Current RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE
Subfunctions:

Level of LOCAL Applicable Criteria: EVENT
Significance: ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING

Significant Person's Name: NOT APPLICABLE

Criteria Considerations: RELIGIOUS PROPERTY

Area of Significance: ARCHITECTURE
ART
EDUCATION
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
RELIGION

SOCIAL HISTORY

Periods of: 1875-1899 1900-1924
 Significance: 1925-1949

Circa: Specific Sig. Years:

1889

1892

Architect/Builder/Engineer/
 Designer:

Cultural Affiliation:

Vinial, Arthur H.

NOT APPLICABLE

Other Documentation:

NOT APPLICABLE

HABS No. N/A

HAER No. N/A

Architectural LATE VICTORIAN
 Styles: SHINGLE STYLE

Describe Other Style: NOT APPLICABLE

Foundation Materials: GRANITE
 Wall Materials: SHINGLE
 Roof Materials: ASPHALT
 Other Materials: GLASS

Acreage: 0.9

UTM	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
Coordinates:	19	/ 3 29 210	/ 46 83 640	/	/	/