

PH 0666351

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 3 1978
DATE ENTERED	JUL 21 1978

DATA SHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC First Parish Church  
AND/OR COMMON same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER *S.W. of Duxbury at*  
Tremont Street at Depot Street

CITY, TOWN Duxbury *vic* VICINITY OF

STATE Massachusetts CODE 025 COUNTY Plymouth CODE 023

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 12th

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME First Parish of Duxbury, Unitarian-Universalist  
STREET & NUMBER Tremont Street  
CITY, TOWN Duxbury VICINITY OF STATE Massachusetts 02332

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Plymouth County Registry of Deeds  
STREET & NUMBER Russell Street  
CITY, TOWN Plymouth STATE Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth  
DATE 1976  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts Historical Commission  
CITY, TOWN Boston STATE Massachusetts

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

First Parish Church is located on Tremont Street and sited back from the road on a small rise. To the south of the church is the Mayflower Cemetery; to the north are the old town offices and the new town office building. The surrounding area is heavily wooded and maintained as a conservation area by the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society.

The rectangular plan church is 86' deep, 66' wide with sidewalls 30' high. The steeple is 127' high. The gable of the ridge roof faces east towards the street, and the roof-line is defined by an encircling entablature. The five bay wide facade faces east and is sheathed in matched board. Bays are defined by the simple wide pilasters. The three central bays contain entrances on the first level. Above these are 12 light sash. An oculus occupies the center of the gable pediment.

A 3 stage tower rises from the ridge of the roof, set back slightly from the facade. The first stage is 2 telescoping matched board sections, capped on all 4 sides by a shallow triangular pediment. Above this is the second stage which contains the bell. This stage is framed by paired engaged columns and flat pilasters at the corners and topped by an entablature. Above this is an octagonal drum, with small windows on each elevation. The drum steps in to the spire.

The side elevations are 4 bays deep and sheathed in clapboards. Long multi-light windows light the interior.

The vast interior has no supporting columns due to its inverted framing. The pristine auditorium is bathed in light and furnished with white wainscotted box pews with mahogany rails.

Attached to the church on the north is a large ell-shaped parish house built in 1958.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

First Parish Church is significant for its architecture and for its role in the history of Duxbury.

The First Church or Meeting House in Duxbury was organized in 1632, signaling the permanence of what had previously been a temporary settlement. With this event, the settlers of the community no longer returned to Plymouth for Sunday services or the winter.

The congregation was gathered by Elder William Brewster. Though Brewster was not an ordained minister, he assisted the new group for five years.

The first meetinghouse was located on a corner of the old burying ground. The present structure is the fourth meetinghouse of this congregation and the third on this site. It was built in 1840 of native Duxbury pine and was designed to seat one thousand. The refined architecture, grand size, and handsome finish represent its association with the height of Duxbury's sea-faring wealth.

In the Meeting-House bell tower hangs the 1819 town bell for which the town contracted with the Revere Company who sub-contracted the bell to a former Revere apprentice, George Handel Holbrook.

During the great Unitarian-Trinitarian split in New England, this congregation became Unitarian. The congregation merged with the Universalist Church in 1961.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records of the First Parish Church  
 Bradford; Gershom, History of the First Parish Church of Duxbury, Duxbury: The Women's Alliance of Duxbury, 1953.  
 Bradford; Gershom, Notes on the First Parish Church Bell, Duxbury, 1954.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 1/4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 9	3 5 9 9 0 0	4 6 5 4 8 2 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph R. Orfant, National Register Editor, & William B. Nash

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

28 February 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts 02108

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Peter L. Weslowski 3/23/78

TITLE Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE Acting

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

7-21-78

ATTEST:

Walter W. Coles

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6-29-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property First Parish Church

State Mass.

Working Number 4.3.78.2843

Plymouth

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 1  
Maps 1

*Signature*

**CONTROL**

*OK - pl*  
*4.6.78*

*Weak stmt. of significance, but eligible for arch.*

**HISTORIAN**

*accept 5/24/78*  
*Jr. Turner*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

*accept*  
*Braham*  
*5.15.78*

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*Nomination could be more strongly worded, but significance is there. I would like vbd, but #7 is adequate in conjunction with USGS for this purpose.*

*Accept*  
*Leborich*  
*6/12/78*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

*Approved*  
*7/21/78*

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 9.5.78

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered JUL 21 1978

INT:2106-74



First Parish Church

Duxbury, MA.

1976

F.T. Potter

Duxbury Historical Commission

Town Offices

Duxbury, MA.

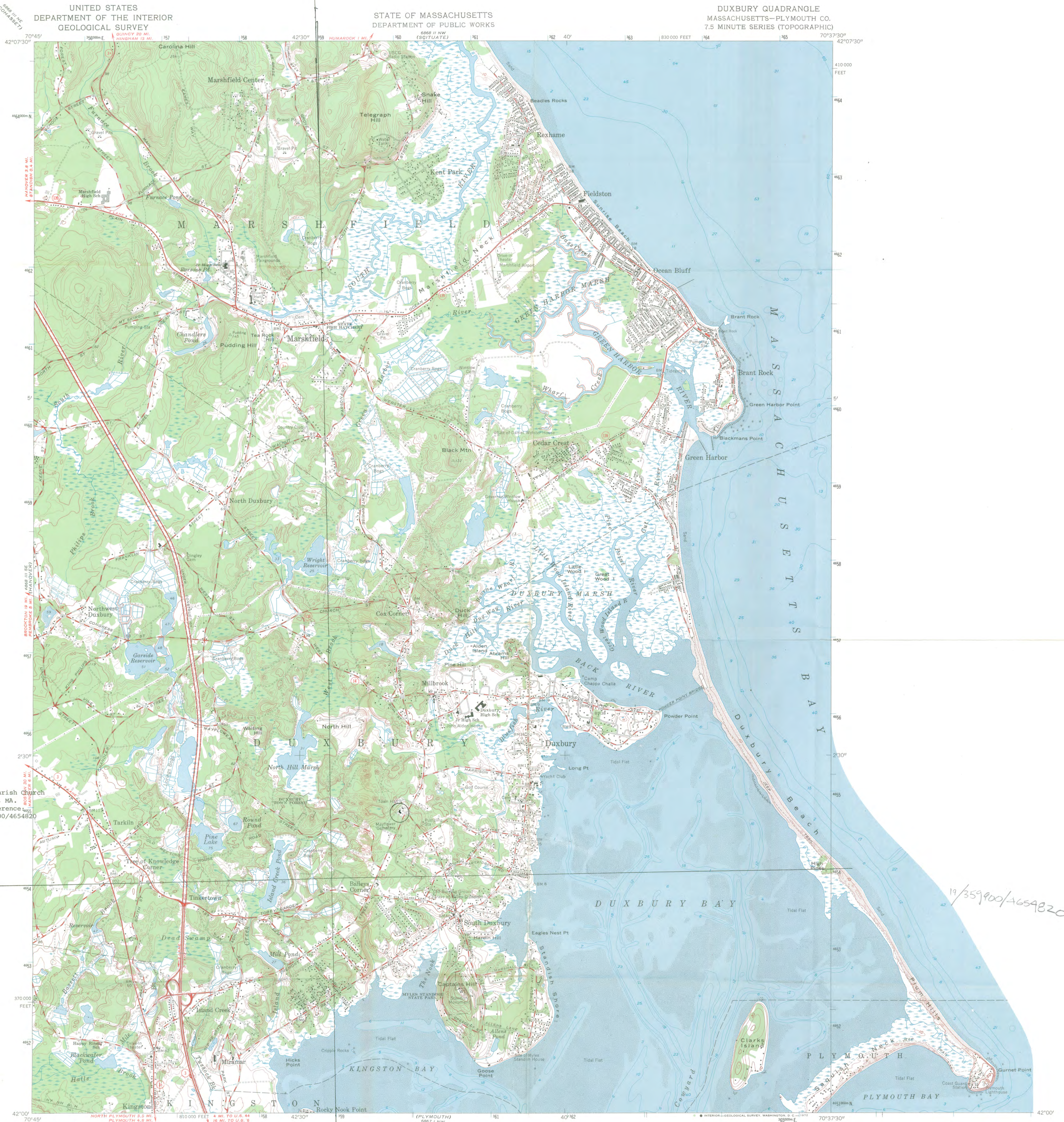
Plymouth County

APR 3 1978

Photo #1 of 1

Looking northwest towards the facade of the  
church and the Parish House

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



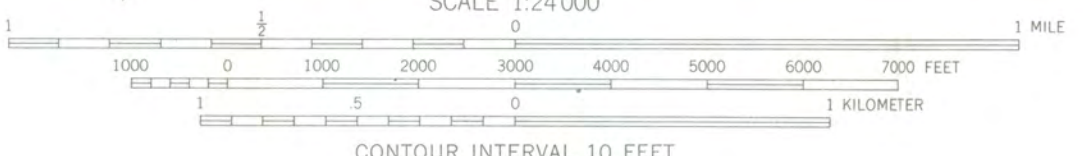
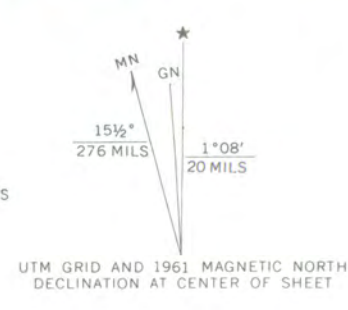
First Parish Church  
Duxbury, MA.  
UTM Reference  
19/359900/4654820

19/359900/4654820

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Planimetry in part by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs. Topography by planetable surveys 1935-1936  
Revised 1961

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS charts 245 (1958)  
and 1208 (1960). This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks  
(zone 19, shown in blue)



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.2 FEET



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
○ State Route

DUXBURY, MASS.  
N 4200—W 7037.5/7.5

1961  
AMS 6868 II SW—SERIES V814



JUL 2 1978



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered JUL 21 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Half Way House	Chatham Barnstable County
First Parish Church	Duxbury vicinity Plymouth County
Capron House	Attleboro Bristol County
Newell Farm	West Newbury Essex County
Locke, Capt. Benjamin, House	Arlington Middlesex County
Hawthorne Class Studio	Provincetown Barnstable County
Thayer Public Library	Braintree Norfolk County

Also Notified

Honorable Edward W. Brooke  
Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Honorable Gerry E. Studts  
Honorable Margaret M. Heckler  
Honorable Michael J. Harrington  
Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.  
Honorable James A. Burke

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski  
Executive Director, Massachusetts  
Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: First Parish Church		② OTHER NAMES:		③ date of entry: JUL 21 1978	④ county code: 23
⑤ LOCATION street & number SW of Duxbury at Tremont and Depot Sts.		city / town Duxbury	vicinity of Duxbury	state MA	county Plymouth
⑥ MPS REGION: NA				⑦ OWNER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL (agency name)	
⑧ EXISTING SURVEYS <input type="checkbox"/> HABS <input type="checkbox"/> HAER <input type="checkbox"/> NHL		⑩ FUNDED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT 12th	⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL	
⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES NAME <input type="checkbox"/> NO		⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? <input type="checkbox"/> YES NAME <input type="checkbox"/> NO		⑮ AGREEMENT if state who prepared form? SHPO staff <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE ORGANIZATION	
⑯ CONDITION <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> altered <input type="checkbox"/> original site <input type="checkbox"/> excellent <input type="checkbox"/> ruins <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> moved <input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed <input type="checkbox"/> reconstructed <input type="checkbox"/> unknown <input type="checkbox"/> fair <input type="checkbox"/> unexcavated <input type="checkbox"/> excavated		⑰ FEATURES: INTERIOR <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-4 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-5 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-6 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-7 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-8 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-9			
⑱ ACCESS <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No Access <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		⑲ ADAPTIVE USE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		⑳ SAVED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
⑳ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		⑳ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE-6 <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT-26 <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVT.-21 <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION-28 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS-7 <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION-12 <input type="checkbox"/> LAW-16 <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION-22 <input type="checkbox"/> SETTLEMENT-29 <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE-3 <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION-8 <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH-27 <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY-18 <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE-23 <input type="checkbox"/> URBAN PLANNING-31 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE-4 <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS-9 <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY-13 <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC-19 <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) <input type="checkbox"/> ART-5 <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION-10 <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION-14 <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY-20 <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION-25			
㉑ CLAIMS: explain 'first' <input type="checkbox"/> 'oldest' <input type="checkbox"/> 'only' <input type="checkbox"/>		㉒ FUNCTIONS WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:			
㉓ DATES of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:		㉔ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION			
㉕ architectural style(s):		㉖ architect:		㉗ master builder:	
㉘ engineer:		㉙ landscape architect / garden designer:		㉚ interior decorator:	
㉛ artist:		㉜ artisan:		㉝ builder/contractor:	
㉞ NAMES give role & date PERSONAL:  EVENTS:  INSTITUTIONAL:					
㉟ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP					