

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| In Area no. | Form no. |
| 428 | 0 |

1. Town Taunton ✓
 Address 1940 Bay St. ✓
 Name North Taunton Baptist Church ✓
 Present use Church

Present owner Taunton Baptist Church

3. Description:

Date 1837
 Source Emery, History of Taunton
 Style Federal
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboards
 Outbuildings (describe) None
 Other features See attached.

Altered No Date _____

Moved No Date _____

5. Lot size: W.O.B, PL. 27, LOT 6

One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 147'

Approximate distance of building from street

50'

6. Recorded by T.W.

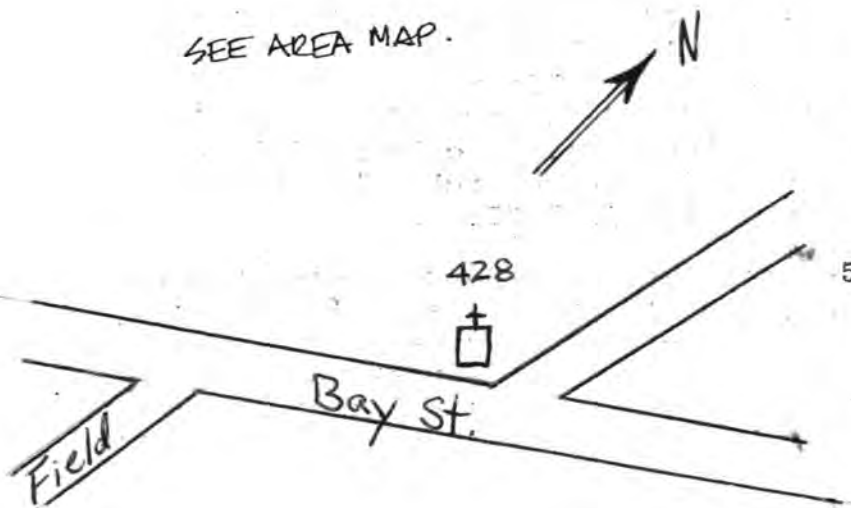
Organization T.C.H.S.

Date 10/18/79

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
 Staple to left side of form
 Photo number _____

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location
 in relation to nearest cross streets and
 other buildings. Indicate north.

SEE AREA MAP.



(over)

UTM: 19/326280/4642200

7. Original owner (if known) North Taunton Baptist Church

Original use Church

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates N/A

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Aboriginal | <u> </u> | Conservation | <u> </u> | Recreation | <u> </u> |
| Agricultural | <u> </u> | Education | <u> </u> | Religion | <u> x </u> |
| Architectural | <u> x </u> | Exploration/ settlement | <u> x </u> | Science/ invention | <u> </u> |
| The Arts | <u> </u> | Industry | <u> </u> | Social/ humanitarian | <u> </u> |
| Commerce | <u> </u> | Military | <u> </u> | Transportation | <u> </u> |
| Communication | <u> </u> | Political | <u> </u> | | |
| Community development | <u> x </u> | | | | |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The North Taunton Baptist Church is the only early 19th Century church in Taunton that survives in almost intact condition, and provides a very good illustration of Federal style church design. Historically, the Church's organization encouraged the formation of a small rural settlement in North Taunton, first supported by farming and later by small manufacturing establishments.

As early as 1747, members of the Baptist denomination were living in the area and had allied themselves with a Baptist congregation in Rehoboth, where they worshipped. One of these worshippers, Jeremiah Bassett, was permitted to hold religious meetings in his North Taunton home until the 1760's, when the first organization of local Baptists was formed, under his tutelage. A meeting house was constructed in 1767 and Congregation formally organized in 1769. The church was later moved to Weir Village, where it was used as a warehouse, and a new church, the present structure, was erected on the same site in 1837.

By the time of the construction of the second meeting house, significant divisions had taken place in the Baptist congregation. In 1822, a split occurred between Calvinists and Free Will Baptists, the formerseparationists founding their own church in Norton, and the latter remaining in No. Taunton. It was scions of the North Taunton Church that formed the Winthrop St. Baptist Church in 1819, making this church the Mother Baptist Church of the city.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Emery, History of Taunton, p. 249-252

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

| | |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Community: Taunton | Form No: 0 |
| Property Name: North Taunton Baptist Church | |

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

9. Historical Significance (continued)

North Taunton Baptist Church possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and association. It is an ecclesiastical property deriving primary significance for its architectural distinction as Taunton's only surviving late Federal period church for its historical associations with the early development of the North Taunton area during the 19th century thus meeting criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Boundaries conform to current lot lines.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received MAY 21 1984
date entered 6

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 6 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Taunton Multiple Resource Area
State Bristol County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

51. Mason, N. S., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/5/84

Attest

52. McKinstrey House

Entered in the
National Reg.

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/5/84

Attest

53. Morse House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/5/84

Attest

54. Morse, Henry, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/5/84

Attest

55. North Taunton Baptist Church

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/5/84

Attest

56. Old Colony Railroad Station

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/5/84

Attest

57. Old Weir Stove Company

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/5/84

Attest

58. Paull, Alfred, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/5/84

Attest

59. Pilgrim Congregational Church

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/5/84

Attest

60. St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melona Byers 7/5/84

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

North Taunton Baptist Church (Taunton MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAY 21 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85
Date Due: 6/21/84 - 7/5/84
Action: ACCEPT 7-5-84
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

| | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Category | Ownership Public Acquisition | Status Accessible | Present Use |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



~~#549~~

#428

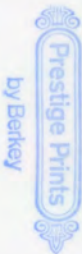
North Taunton Baptist Church #
Taunton MA, Ma



by Berkey

MAY 1980

U



MAY 1980



TAUNTON MULTIPLE RESOURCE
 NOMINATION
 FORM NO. 428
 NO. TAUNTON BAPTIST CHURCH
 SCALE: 1" = 160'
 MAP NO. WD8, Pg. 27, Lot 6
 ACREAGE *less than one*

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000297