

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Mass.

COUNTY:
Bristol

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER
71.9.25.0009

DATE
9/28/91



1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Third District Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Institution for Savings

2. LOCATION Cong. District 12

STREET AND NUMBER:
Second and William Street

CITY OR TOWN:
New Bedford

STATE: Mass. CODE: 25 COUNTY: Bristol CODE: 9

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Site ☐ Object	☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Private ☐ Both	☒ Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☒ Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Agricultural ☒ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☒ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) ☐ Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Wilbur D. Johnson

STREET AND NUMBER:
33 William Street

CITY OR TOWN:
New Bedford

STATE: Mass. CODE: 25

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Bristol County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
801 19th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
New Bedford

STATE: Mass. CODE: 25

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1961 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
H.A.B.S., 801 19th St. Washington

STREET AND NUMBER:
801 19th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D.C. CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mass.

COUNTY: Bristol

ENTRY NUMBER: 71.9.25.0009

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Third District Courthouse stands at the northeast corner of William and Second Streets in New Bedford. Built in 1853, this rectangular one-story building is covered by a low pitched roof. The three bay main facade, faced with ashlar brownstone, is situated at the pedimented gable end. A full entablature of sandstone runs under the pediment and at the top of the side walls, which are brick. The building rests on a granite ashlar foundation.

The foundation of the side walls extends beyond the main facade to form two granite porches. These flank the stairway leading to the entrance in the center bay. On each side of the entrance is a window beneath which is a balcony with sandstone balustrades, also supported by the projected foundation. The door and windows on this facade have molded surrounds and are topped by deep cornices. The cornice above the door forms the horizontal member of a pediment. The main entablature consists of an architrave of three plain fasciae and a molded talon, a plain frieze, and a dentilled cornice. On the wall above the entrance and windows a panel is inset and inscribed "Third District Court of Bristol."

The flat brick walls of the side facades are broken into three bays by sash windows. These are recessed and are topped by simple entablatures which project slightly. The window sills are flush with the walls; the wall space between the sills and the foundation is recessed. Two-stage, recessed panels are set above each window in the space between the window cornices and architrave.

The foundation consists of three courses, the uppermost of which projects to form a water table. These courses correspond to the elements comprising the porch balustrades. The lowest member of the foundation extends to form the footing, while the water table extends as the rail. The area between the footing and rail, while solid in some sections, is composed of granite pier balusters across the street side of the porches. The square newels at the corners echo in granite the decorative two-stage recessed panels which appear in brick on the side walls.

Two brick wings are attached to the rear facade of the Courthouse. One extends to the north; the other to the east. Although these are lower in height than the main block many of the same decorative features are used. The east wing illustrates best this repetition of material and design. It has a pitched roof and a pediment in the gable. Because of the narrow width of the gable end, the roof is steeper and the pediment smaller. The entablature which encircles this wing is proportionate to the height of this extension, and the decorative window details and recessed panels beneath the windows are similar to those on the side walls of the Courthouse. Even the foundation, equal in height to that of the main block, is composed of the same courses.

The exterior of the building is largely unchanged, except for the added wings. According to the owner, the brownstone on the main facade is "weakening quite rapidly." The interior of the structure has been somewhat altered, and the owner has restored the courtroom for the visiting public.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mass.	
COUNTY Bristol	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.9.25.0009	DATE 9/28/71

(Number all entries)

New Bedford

Old Third District Courthouse - Institution for Savings

6. Representation in existing surveys

Inventory of the historic assets of the commonwealth State 1971

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Secretary
State House, Boston, Massachusetts 025



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☐ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1853

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Historic

☐ Agriculture

☒ Architecture

☐ Art

☒ Commerce

☐ Communications

☐ Conservation

☐ Education

☐ Engineering

☐ Industry

☐ Invention

☐ Landscape

☐ Architecture

☐ Literature

☐ Military

☐ Music

☐ Political

☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science

☐ Sculpture

☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater

☐ Transportation

☐ Urban Planning

☒ Other (Specify)

government

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old Third District Courthouse is an integral part of the Waterfront Historic District in New Bedford, which has already been designated a National Historic Landmark. The Courthouse was constructed in 1853 to house the New Bedford Institution for Savings, which had been incorporated in 1825. From 1897 until 1940 (or shortly thereafter), the building served as the Third District Courthouse.

The Courthouse was built from plans drawn by Russell Warren and closely resembles his earlier Institution for Savings in Providence. Warren's design is a rare example of a commercial building which shows the influence of the Italian Renaissance on mid-nineteenth century American architecture. Although basically Greek Revival in style, the building carries a number of Renaissance Revival decorative details. The Courthouse is one of the two buildings in the Waterfront Historic District designed by an architect of some renown; the other is the U.S. Customs House by Robert Mills, which faces the Courthouse across the intersection of Second and William Streets.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hurd, D. Hamilton. History of Bristol County, 1888.

Urban Renewal Demonstration Project. Manuscript "Preservation and Rehabilitation, Historic Commercial Areas." New Bedford, 1967.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	41	°	38' 09"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	70	°	55' 28 1/2"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

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

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>Anne R. Wardwell, Survey Director</u>	
ORGANIZATION <u>Massachusetts Historical Commission</u>	DATE <u>August 26, 1971</u>
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>State House</u>	
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Boston</u>	STATE <u>Mass.</u> CODE <u>25</u>

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name John F. H. Doreen
Secretary of the Commonwealth & Chrm.
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Title _____

Date March 18, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connolly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

SEP 28 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:

William J. Smith
Keeper of The National Register

SEP 21 1971

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NEW BEDFORD

THIRD DISTRICT COURTHOUSE

SECOND + WILLIAMS ST.

HABS - MASS-684 - 1961

SOUTH + EAST FACADES

NPS Number 71-9-25-0009

Title: Old Third District
Courthouse

LOC. Bristol Co.

South and East Facades

Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

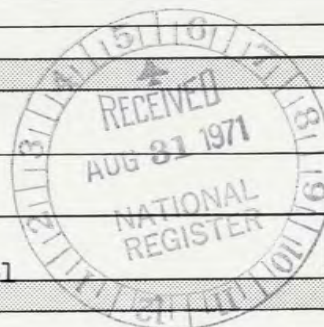
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

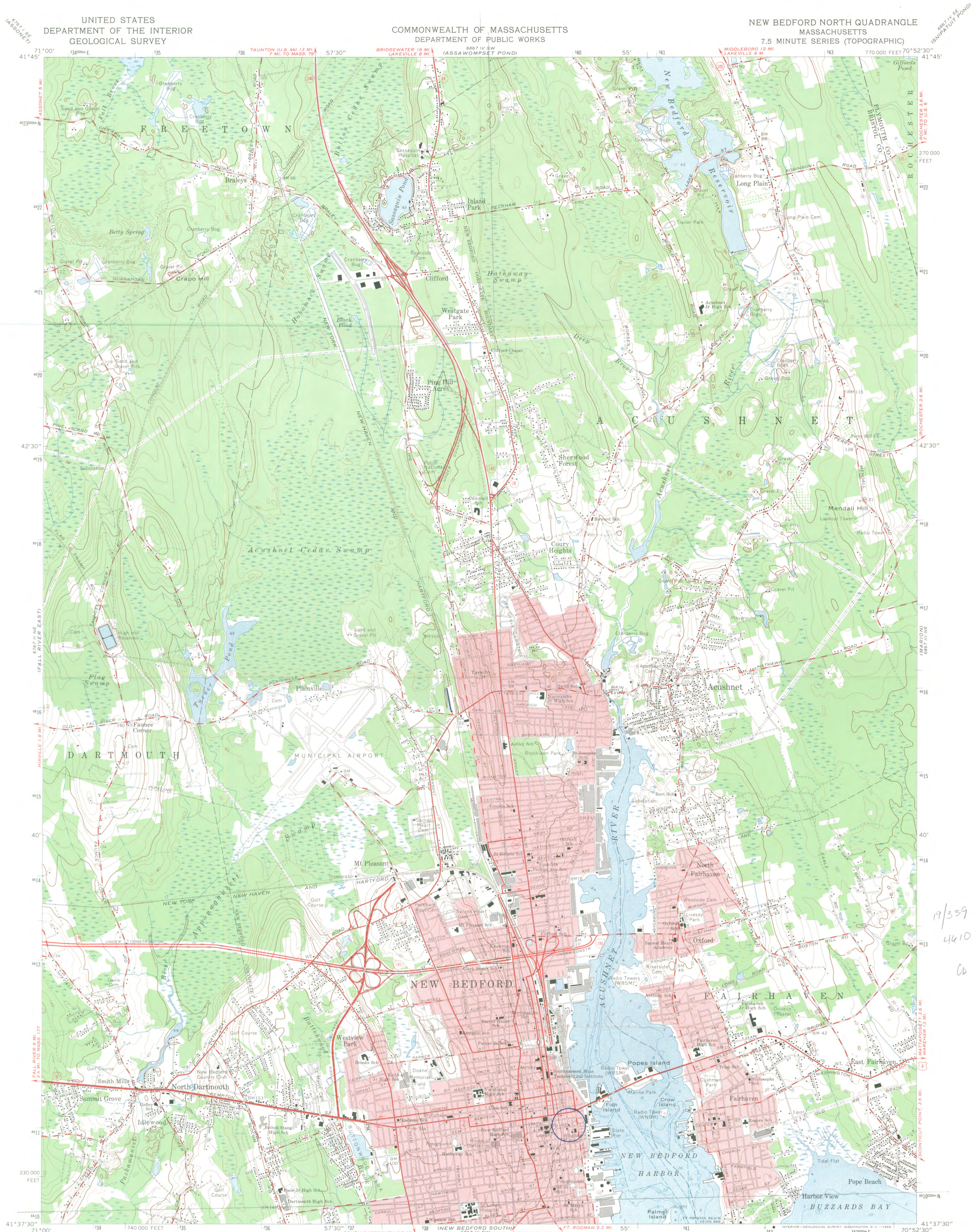
STATE <u>Mass.</u>	
COUNTY <u>Bristol</u>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<u>71-9-25-0009</u>	<u>9/28/71</u>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: <u>Old Third District Courthouse</u>			
AND/OR HISTORIC: <u>Institution for Savings</u>			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>Second and William Street</u>			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>New Bedford</u>			
STATE: <u>Mass.</u>	CODE <u>25</u>	COUNTY: <u>Bristol</u>	CODE <u>9</u>
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: <u>USGS New Bedford North, Mass.</u>			
SCALE: <u>1:24,000</u>			
DATE: <u>1964</u>			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



①



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

NEW BEDFORD NORTH QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

1939 690
4410 900
0

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1936. Revised 1964
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 252 (1964)
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
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information furnished by
Massachusetts Department of Public Works

UTM GRID AND 1964 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

15° 26' 15" N
1° 17' 23" E

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 3.7 FEET

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20542
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route ——— U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

MASS
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

NEW BEDFORD NORTH, MASS.
N4137.5—W7052.5/7.5

1964
AMS 6867 III NW—SERIES V814

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Mass.	
COUNTY Bristol	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	

ENTRY NUMBER 71.9.25.0009	DATE 9/28/71
------------------------------	-----------------



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Old Third District Courthouse			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Institution for Savings			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Second and William Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: New Bedford			
STATE: Mass.	CODE 25	COUNTY: Bristol	CODE 9
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: HABS			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1961			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: H.A.B.S.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. South and East facades			



NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

THIRD DISTRICT COURTHOUSE (INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS)

U.S.G.S New Bedford, North, Mass.

Scale 1:24,000

Date: 1964

L 10 FEET
A LEVEL
— DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
IMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
ROXIMATELY 3.7 FEET

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

NEW BEDFORD NORTH, MASS.
N4137.5—W7052.5/7.5

1964

Bristol Co.,
Mass.

10/29

H30-HR

October 29, 1968

Mr. Wilbur D. Johnson
Johnson's Inc.
33 William Street
New Bedford, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for sending us the additional information on the Third District Court building in New Bedford. We shall incorporate it into our files.

In answer to your questions, the entire New Bedford Historic District is in the National Register, even though it may include a few non-historic buildings that would not be eligible for Federal grants-in-aid. Dr. Hale is aware that when this grant-in-aid program is funded, it will be largely the responsibility of the Massachusetts Historical Commission to recommend which properties in the district (and in the entire Commonwealth) should receive the highest priority for assistance. However, the program has not yet been funded, and therefore no funds are available for individual preservation projects.

Judging from his mention of other potential sources of assistance Dr. Hale seems to be very interested in helping you. We wish you well in your efforts to preserve your building.

We are enclosing the other material you requested.

Sincerely yours,

Russell V. Keune (Sgd.)

Russell V. Keune
Assistant Keeper of the
National Register

Enclosures

cc:

Regional Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston

Dr. Richard Hale

Regional Director, Northeast

HR

JLRogers:jah 10/29

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN ER



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

John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth

August 27, 1971

The Office of Archeology and Historic
Preservation

National Park Service
801 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Attention: Mrs. Sally Marusin

REGISTERED MAIL

Dear Sirs,

Enclosed are National Register submissions for:

Rotch Counting House, New Bedford
Old Third District Court House, New Bedford
Loammi Baldwin Mansion, Woburn
Twin Lights, Thacher's Island
Old African Meetinghouse, Boston
Merrell Tavern, Lee
Pelham Town Hall Complex, Pelham

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard W. Hale Jr".

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

RWH:aw

AUG 30 1971

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered SEP 28 1971

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Old Third District Courthouse</u>	New Bedford Bristol County
Rotch Counting House	New Bedford Bristol County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Hastings Keith

Director, Northeast Region

HR

MCMeans:mm 9/22/71

State Liaison Officer
Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
Office of the Secretary
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133