

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 15A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 First Congregational Church of Hyde Park

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 6 Webster Street

☐ not for publication

city or town Boston (Hyde Park)

☐ vicinity

state Massachusetts

code MA

county Suffolk

code 025

zip code 02136

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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

9/27/99
Date

Signature of 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

Signature of Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:) _____

for
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beal 11/12/99

First Congregational Church of Hyde Park
Name of Property

Suffolk County, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property Category of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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 of 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 Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls STONE / granite

roof STONE / slate

other

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Congregational Church of Hyde Park, Boston (Hyde Park), Suffolk County, MA

Section Number 7 Page 1

The First Congregational Church of Hyde Park survives as an early-twentieth-century landmark for its transitional neighborhood, separating business and residential districts, and continues as an active social center for the surrounding community. The church occupies a 27,314 square foot lot at the corner of Webster and River Streets in Hyde Park. The property slopes from west to east allowing the lower level of the building to open at grade on the east end. An iron fence, added in 1931, wraps the property. The one and one-half-story, T-shaped plan church is located at the western end of the rectangular shaped lot with the two and one-half-story education wing attached to the east side of the church. The church is distinguished by rough granite ashlar walls, wood awning and double-hung windows and steep-sloped gable roofs covered with slate. The windows in the church were originally clear glass and then replaced with stained glass in 1917. The stained glass was eventually covered with acrylic panels to prevent vandals from breaking the glass. The windows of the education wing have always been clear glass. The main entrance door at the west end of the church is contained within a pointed arch opening as is the large window above. The gable roof of the education wing ends in paired gables that run perpendicular to the church. All gable ends are parapeted.

The main body of the church is rectangular in shape, approximately fifty-six feet wide by eighty-six feet deep. A twenty-foot square bell tower rises approximately forty-five feet above grade at the northwest corner of the church. This castellated tower has buttressed corners and three sides are punctured with pointed-arch louvered openings at the bell house. The education wing is approximately forty-one feet wide by seventy-one feet deep and sits perpendicular to the church along the west elevation.

The walls of the entire building are clad with Weymouth Seam granite and windows are typically triple wide. The north and south elevations of the church have two rows of windows equally spaced. At the sanctuary level the center window is fixed and the outer windows have awning sash at the bottom. The north and south elevations of the education wing have three rows of equally spaced double-hung windows. The east elevation of the education wing is fenestrated by three bays of elongated windows centered on the elevation. Bays that are capped with gabled wall dormers flank this central section. The main church entries at the west end and the north side of the bell tower, contain paired, wood panel doors with stained glass lites divided into a grid pattern in the upper panel. The other entrance doors to the building along the north elevation contain single wood panel doors with clear glass lites filling the top panel.

The main entrance doors to the sanctuary are centered on the west elevation and are reached by a shallow rise of four steps entering into a vestibule that spans the width of the church. A second set of doors at the north elevation of the bell tower is reached by a rise of thirteen steps also entering into the vestibule. The double doors from the vestibule into the sanctuary enter on axis with the chancel at the east end.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Congregational Church of Hyde Park, Boston (Hyde Park), Suffolk County, MA

Section Number 7 Page 2

The interior is simply adorned with open web raised-chord trusses spanning the sanctuary. The walls and ceiling are finished with painted plaster. The center aisle is carpeted with stained wood pews to each side. Wall sconces and six chandeliers provide the primary light. Steps in the vestibule lead to the balcony that spans the length of the sanctuary at the west end. A door to the north of the pulpit leads to a stair hall and the basement and educational wing. The basement can also be reached by a set of stairs in the vestibule. The altar area at the east end of the sanctuary was reconstructed from a raised platform and pulpit to a chancel with pulpit and lectern on either side and communion table at the back in 1931.

A kitchen and large meeting room are located in the basement below the sanctuary. The large meeting room in the basement has painted plaster walls and ceiling. The kitchen is located at the west end of the room and was most recently rehabilitated in 1962. The attached education wing originally contained a small chapel, classrooms, restrooms and a ladies parlor. The chapel was rehabilitated into additional classroom, meeting room space and a library in 1961. The ladies parlor was converted into a minister's office. Today there are approximately four to five rooms per level entered off of a central corridor or the main stair hall. The rooms typically have painted plaster walls.

One-, two- and three-story frame houses to the west, north and east and two- and three-story masonry buildings to the south characterize the surrounding neighborhood. The structures typically date from around the turn of the twentieth century to the present. A small grass covered island sits in the road directly across the street from the front of the church. Access to the church property is provided through gates in the iron fence. There are small plantings and shrubs along the west and north sides of the church, evergreen trees on the southwest corner of the property and some deciduous trees on the northeast corner of the property.

(end)

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 boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☒ **A** owned by a 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**Bibliography**

(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 the Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1910 - 1949

Significant Dates

1910, 1917

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation**Architect/Builder**

Architect / Kilham & Hopkins Architects

Stained glass / Charles J. Connick Studio

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Congregational Church of Hyde Park, Boston (Hyde Park), Suffolk County, MA

Section Number 8 Page 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Congregational Church of Hyde Park is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, meeting criteria A and C at the local level. A religious property, it meets criteria consideration A for its architecture. The present church houses the second oldest congregation in Hyde Park and serves as an early-twentieth-century landmark for its transitional neighborhood, separating the Cleary Square business district from neighboring residences.

Historically, the site falls under the category of social history because it was a gathering spot for many of the Boston businessmen and their families that moved to Hyde Park looking for the openness and safety of the suburbs.

Architecturally, the church is an excellent local example of Neo-Gothic Revival and significant for its association with the prominent Boston architectural firm of Kilham and Hopkins as well as the stained glass studio of Charles J. Connick.

SOCIAL HISTORY

Early development of Hyde Park began in November 1855, when a group of Boston businessmen known as "The Twenty Associates" purchased farmland in Milton with the intention of building a village. Alpheus P. Blake¹ was president of the organization and he purchased the land from Deacon Nathan Tucker. The associates built and occupied twenty identical houses on their purchase. Remote from downtown Boston, these businessmen had to walk to Milton or Dorchester in order to commute to the city. The new village was called Fairmount after Fairmount Park in Philadelphia.

The area grew rapidly and Hyde Park was incorporated on April 30, 1868. The new town encompassed parts of Dorchester, Dedham and Milton.² The Rev. Henry Lyman named the new community after Hyde Park in England. The newly incorporated town had 3500 residents, three small schools, one large school, six religious societies and three churches. Businesses included a cotton mill, paper mill, woolen mill, vise factory, car shops and needle factory.³

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¹ Alpheus P. Blake is listed in Boston City directories as a debt collector for the Internal Revenue. In the book *Hyde Park the First Hundred Years* he is also listed as president of the Boston and Revere Beach railroad.

² Hyde Park was made up of 1300 acres from Dorchester, 800 acres from Dedham and 700 acres from Milton.

³ The Hyde Park Centennial Committee, *Hyde Park The First hundred Years 1868-1968*, (Hyde Park Tribune Publishing Co., 1968) 16.

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

First Congregational Church of Hyde Park, Boston (Hyde Park), Suffolk County, MA

Section Number 8 Page 2

The first religious meetings held in this newly settled area occurred in the home of Alpheus P. Blake in 1857. The meetings were nondenominational. The first church was organized in 1860 and it was Episcopal. The Congregationalists started to hold their own services in Bragg's Hall in December of that same year. In June 1862, an Ecclesiastical Council⁴ was called to formally organize a local Congregational church. The council finally met on May 7, 1863, and approved organization of the Hyde Park Congregational Church. There were ten original members, seven men and three women, mostly working class people. Henry Adams was listed in Boston City directories as "treasurer Post Office," Thomas Hammond was a tailor, John Lawson was a shipwright and Albert Knight was a clerk in Boston.⁵

Membership grew slowly and in 1865 land was donated at the corner of Fairmount Avenue and Everett Square (now Logan Square) for a church building. By 1867 the congregation had grown to thirty-eight members and the church was receiving financial assistance from the Home Missionary Society.⁶ It was decided to build a parsonage for the minister and his family and to proceed with building a church. The new parsonage on Oak Street was completed in September 1867 and a contract for the church building was awarded that same month. The Gothic style church cost \$15,526 and was dedicated on October 15, 1868. The congregation of 111 planned for growth because the new church could seat 500 people. Shortly before the church was completed, the name was officially changed to The First Congregational Church of Hyde Park.

The population of Hyde Park grew rapidly during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and by 1880 Unitarian, Catholic, Baptist and Methodist churches had been organized. A second Congregational church, Clarendon Congregational, was organized about 1876. This church eventually closed and its members joined the First Congregational Church. In the early 1880s, the First Congregational Church of Hyde Park enlarged its church to provide seating for 730. The congregation grew to nearly 700 members by 1892.

By the end of the century the congregation was feeling that the Fairmount Avenue church was no longer adequate for their needs and the present lot on Webster street was purchased for \$12,500. On December 5, 1905, the congregation voted to build a new church. A fund drive was started and the ground breaking for the present church was held on March 3, 1910. The cornerstone was laid on April 30 of that year and articles from the original churches' cornerstone were placed in the new cornerstone along with newspapers, photographs and a list of current members. The church was completed by the end of the year for a cost of approximately \$63,000 including furnishings. The new structure was of Weymouth Seam face granite and it had a seating

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⁴ The Ecclesiastical Council consisted of pastors or members from seven area Congregational churches.

⁵ The ten original members as listed in *History of the The First Congregational Church* were Mrs. Hannah M. Adams and Henry S. Adams, Enoch E. Blake, Thomas Hammond and Mrs. Harriet W. Hammond, John Lawson, Rev. Hiram Carlton and Mrs. Mary J. Carlton, Albert Knight and Sylvester Phelps.

⁶ The Home Missionary Society is part of the United Congregational Church (U.C.C.).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Congregational Church of Hyde Park, Boston (Hyde Park), Suffolk County, MA

Section Number 8 Page 3

capacity of 520 on the main floor and 170 in the balcony. The organ cost \$9000 and was donated by Mr. Edward E. Taylor of Boston in honor of his mother Mrs. Almira B. Taylor.⁷ The first service was held in the new church January 1, 1911. The organ was not installed until June of 1911.

The old church was leased "for movie picture entertainment under proper supervision,"⁸ and the chapel attached to it was rented to the American Stationary Company. The Fairmount Avenue church was finally sold in November 1915, for \$15,000.

One year after the Webster Street church was completed the residents of Hyde Park became dissatisfied with town water rates and service and they voted for annexation to Boston. Hyde Park was a thriving community by this time and home to many businessmen that commuted to work in Boston. The church often served as a social outlet for women whose domain was largely confined to the home while their husband's domain was the outside world. The majority of active organizations at the First Congregational Church were for women including the Women's Home Missionary Union, Auxiliary of Women's Board of Missions, and the Maternal Association. Other active groups were the Pastor's Aid, the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, the Church Aid Society and the Men's Club. In April 1915, a charter for Boy Scout Troop 3 was granted to the church. This was the first Boy Scout troop in Hyde Park. Eight years later Cub Scout Pack 3 was organized.

When the Webster Street church was constructed the windows were of plain glass and it was hoped that stained glass could be installed when funding became available. In 1916, Almira B. Taylor gave the money for the stained glass windows in memory of her son, Edward E. Taylor, who had died the year before.⁹ The windows were made by the Charles J. Connick Studio in Boston and the theme for the windows was "The Evolution of Christianity." There were nine windows in all, eight of them having three panels, and they were installed in 1917. The cost of the windows was approximately \$9000.

From the moment the church was finished it thrived as a social center for the community. The Norfolk School of Religious Education was started in 1916 and it offered classes in Bible study, psychology and teacher training to name a few. For eight years the school trained Sunday school teachers and others and was attended by people from many of the surrounding communities. The school lasted for eight years. The community

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⁷ Edward E. Taylor is listed in Boston City Directories as "pres. 57 Lincoln h. Hotel Vendome." It is not clear what business was located at 57 Lincoln, but I may have been a family business. Edward Taylor died nov. 15, 1915 and his nephew, George M. Peabody, is listed as "pres. 57 Lincoln" after that date. Mr. Peabody lived at 51 Beacon in Hyde Park. Almira B. Taylor, mother of Edward and grandmother of George Peabody, lived at 50 Beacon Street in Hyde Park. Boston City Directories list her as widow of Stephen L. Taylor.

⁸ The Hyde Park Centennial Committee, 24.

⁹ The organ in the church had been donated by Edward E. Taylor in honor of his mother Almira B. Taylor. When Mr. Taylor died he left a gift of \$5000 to the church that was used to start an endowment fund.

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

First Congregational Church of Hyde Park, Boston (Hyde Park), Suffolk County, MA

Section Number 8 Page 4

School of Religious Education was organized in January 1926, as a successor to the Norfolk School. More recently the New Beginnings Academy, a progressive school for nursery school age through third grade, operated out of the church's education wing. That school closed about 1995 and the YMCA occupied the vacated space, renting three rooms for after school programs and a nursery. This has been an ideal situation for the YMCA whose main building is located adjacent to the church.

The congregation has been involved in local, national and world events throughout the years. The ladies of the congregation served lunch to local businessmen during the mid-twentieth century; food has always been provided to shut-ins at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter; the minister corresponded with soldiers from the local area by mail during WWII; and financial support has been given to missionaries in China, India, Africa and Micronesia at various times.

At its peak in the 1940s and 50s the church had a congregation of approximately 1,000.¹⁰ There have been many social groups for men, women, and youths throughout the history of the church as well as bible study classes and choirs. In the 1920s and 30s the church participated in summer union services with the other Protestant churches in Hyde Park. Dinners were held on a regular basis for meetings and socials. Today, because of the decline in membership, potlucks are held right after church services.

The present membership of the church is approximately 110, but they remain an active congregation. There continues to be an active youth group and Women's Association, the church donates food to the local food pantry at the Episcopal Church and shut-ins continue to be remembered when ill and at the holidays with notes, plants and candy.

ARCHITECTURE

The present First Congregational Church of Hyde Park is an excellent example of Neo-Gothic Revival (or Modern Gothic) ecclesiastical architecture and significant for its association with the prominent Boston architectural firm of Kilham and Hopkins as well as the stained glass studio of Charles J. Connick. The Neo-Gothic style was a part of the Academic Architecture that was occurring in the United States around the turn of the century. "Academic" can be defined as referring to a way of handling earlier styles of architecture, refining and correcting them according to rules or attitudes learned "academically."¹¹

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¹⁰ Ruth Higbee, interview by author, 9 July 1998.

¹¹ Alan Gowans, *Styles and Types of North American Architecture*, (new York: harperCollins Publishers, 1992) 216.

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

First Congregational Church of Hyde Park, Boston (Hyde Park), Suffolk County, MA

Section Number 8 Page 5

The Neo-Gothic style was largely promulgated by Ralph Adams Cram, the foremost church architect of the early twentieth century. Cram opened an office in Boston in 1899 with Charles Francis Wentworth after studying architecture in Boston and in Europe. Together they determined that Gothic architecture was the most appropriate architecture for American Christian churches. Their design intention was to avoid copying Gothic churches of the seventeenth century, but to work with historical forms and principles and interweave modern elements. Cram was following in the footsteps of the Oxford Movement in Europe and was trying to reform ecclesiastical architecture in the United States. The Oxford Movement began in Oxford, England in 1833 and was a religious revival within the Church of England that emphasized the catholic origins of the church. There was a belief that the Church of England was more than a merely human institution because the catholic church had been created by divine authority. The movement began to fade in the 1850s, but the religious revival brought about a renewed interest in theology and church history and inspired new artistic achievements in ecclesiastical music and architecture among other things. Gothic architecture had traditionally been a symbol of the catholic church and this reform brought about a renewed interest in the Gothic style. In his book, *Church Building A Study of the Principles of Architecture in their Relation to The Church*, Cram states that to build a church properly it is necessary to build it as Gothic; select an architect who believes in the Church and sympathizes with her, who understands Gothic as living, not as a historical style; and build a little now and build it right.¹² Cram designed many Neo-Gothic churches across the United States and his most notable commission was for the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York City. Cram redesigned the nave and west front of the church, a structure still unfinished and originally planned as the world's largest cathedral.

Kilham and Hopkins Architects are best known for their educational buildings and residential work. Walter H. Kilham was born in Beverly, MA in 1868 and studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), graduating in 1889. A few years after graduation he won the Rotch Traveling Scholarship, an award given to young architects so they can travel and study architecture independently. He spent two years traveling in Europe and doing advanced study in Paris. Mr. Kilham opened his office in 1898 and was joined by James C. Hopkins two years later. James Hopkins was born in Jamaica Plain, MA in 1873 and studied at Boston "Tech," graduating in 1895. The two men met while working for the Boston architectural firm of Winslow and Wetherell and they remained business partners until Mr. Hopkins death in 1938.

While studying in Paris, Kilham met several architects studying at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts who would influence his work later in his career. MIT's campus had been designed based on the Beaux Arts Classicism and the architecture school's curriculum was based on the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, but Kilham doubted the value of that training for an American architect. The Boston architectural community continued to follow the English

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¹² Ralph Adams Cram, *Church Building A Study of the Principles of Architecture in their Relations to The Church*, (Boston: Small, Maynard & Company, 1901).

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

First Congregational Church of Hyde Park, Boston (Hyde Park), Suffolk County, MA

Section Number 8 Page 6

models for training as they had since colonial times even though the Beaux Art atelier system had launched a new approach to architectural education that would spread throughout the United States. Not all Beaux Arts-trained architects approached their work in the same scholarly manner and they favored different styles, but the principles of historical styles provided the basis for all designs. Clearly articulated and rational floor plans were stressed. Gothic veneers were quite common for college quadrangles, certain churches and skyscrapers where an expression of tallness or "soaring" was desired.¹³ Kilham and Hopkins projects appear to reflect the idea of favoring different styles.

Prior to the First Congregational Church being built, most of Kilham and Hopkins' work was private residences for the upper-middle class, public schools and urban apartment houses. After 1910, they continued to work on civic structures, but they are best known for their low-cost housing design and community planning. One of their most successful designs worth noting is the garden suburb of Atlantic Heights in Portsmouth, NH. The community was a United States government housing project for WWI shipyard workers. The First Congregational Church appears to be a rare example of Neo-Gothic architecture by the firm, their other buildings tended to be more of the Colonial Revival and Arts and Crafts styles. The design for the exterior of the church appears similar to Cram, Wentworth and Goodhue's design of Christ Church (1894) at the corner of River and Maple Streets in Hyde Park. The First Congregational Church is also a rare example of ecclesiastic architecture by the firm. Two other known churches worked on by the firm include Saint Mary's Episcopal (1884) in Boston's North End and the Unitarian Universalist Church (1910) in Marblehead.

Ralph Adams Cram said that churches should be of brick or stone with simple plans and mass. The First Congregational Church was designed as a simple rectangle with a corner bell tower and a simple rectangular shaped educational wing attached to one end. The entire building was clad with a buff colored stone. The Gothic ornamentation included the buttressed tower with a castellated top, pointed arch entrance doors and windows and the parapet gabled roof. On the interior, the open web raised-chord trusses have pointed arch bottoms that mimic a vault.

The simple design of the church is also typical of the design of Protestant churches. The interior is a center aisle church with a raised pulpit at the east end and balcony at the west. The main level consists of the sanctuary and the lower level contains a kitchen and a large meeting room. The attached education wing to the east originally contained a small chapel, classrooms, restrooms and a ladies parlor. The chapel was rehabilitated into additional classroom and meeting room space and a library in 1961. The ladies parlor was converted to a minister's office.

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¹³ William H. Jordy, *American Buildings and Their Architects, Volume 4*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1972) 347.

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

First Congregational Church of Hyde Park, Boston (Hyde Park), Suffolk County, MA

Section Number 8 Page 7

When the church was first constructed, the windows were of plain glass with the hopes of buying stained glass in the future. In 1915, the church began to look for an artist to make the stained glass windows. Ralph Adams Cram was contacted in light of his expertise in Gothic Architecture. Mr. Cram highly recommended the studio of Charles J. Connick. Mr. Connick was interviewed and his previous projects reviewed. Mr. Connick was hired in 1916 and Ralph Adams Cram was hired as consulting architect.

Charles J. Connick was born in Springboro, Pennsylvania in 1875. He dropped out of high school to help support his family and eventually apprenticed at Rudy Brothers Glass Company in Pittsburgh. Once his apprenticeship was done, he worked for studios in Pittsburgh, New York and Boston. While working as a designer for Spence, Moakler, and Bell in Boston he received his first commission in 1909. It was for the George H. Champlin Memorial Window at All Saints Parish Church in Brookline. All Saints was designed by Ralph Adams Cram and the first of many collaborations between the two men. Connick left Spence, Moakler, and Bell and worked as an independent artist out of other shops, eventually opening his own studio in Boston in April 1913. Noreen O'Gara, a Connick scholar, notes that "together Cram and Connick were largely responsible for the shift in national taste away from the pictorial, opalescent glass designed by John LaFarge, Louis C. Tiffany and their imitators toward an appreciation of historicist, neo-medieval windows."¹⁴

Once Cram and Connick were hired a decision needed to be made regarding the design of the windows. Dr. Owen, the current minister of the church, chose the theme and subjects for the windows. The theme for the windows was "The Evolution of Christianity" and the windows, beginning in the southeast corner of the sanctuary and working clockwise, are named "Preparation," "The Advent," "Training," "Discipleship," "Teaching," "Mastery," "Suffering," and "Victory." The large window on the west wall of the balcony is labeled "The Spread of the Gospel." The windows were dedicated in at a service on December 16, 1917. An article in *The Sunday Herald* described the windows as a regal magnificence of jeweled colors with a richness and splendor that is almost overwhelming. The article continues to say the windows are a compact and logical pictorial history of Christianity, with a wealth of symbolism unexampled in any other modern church.¹⁵

The church retains its architectural integrity and remains relatively unaltered from the time of construction.

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¹⁴ Noreen O'Gara, "Retrospective . . . Charles J. Connick," *Stained Glass Quarterly*, Spring 1987.

¹⁵ *The Sunday Herald* (Boston), 16 December 1917.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Congregational Church of Hyde Park, Boston (Hyde Park), Suffolk County, MA

Section Number 9 Page 1

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First Congregational Church of Hyde Park
Name of Property

Suffolk County, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 19 325050 4680320
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

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 Tobin N. Tracey, Historical Architect, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date September 1999

street & number 220 Morrissey Blvd telephone 671-727-8470

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name First Congregational Church of Hyde Park

street & number 6 Webster Street telephone 671-361-0374

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02136

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Congregational Church of Hyde Park, Boston (Hyde Park), Suffolk County, MA

Section Number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies lot number 8983 on the City of Boston Assessors Plan for Ward 1817, Block 55.

(end)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries encompass all land historically known as the First Congregational Church of Hyde Park. The property includes the church and grounds.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Congregational Church of Hyde Park, Boston (Hyde Park), Suffolk County, MA

Section Number photos Page 1

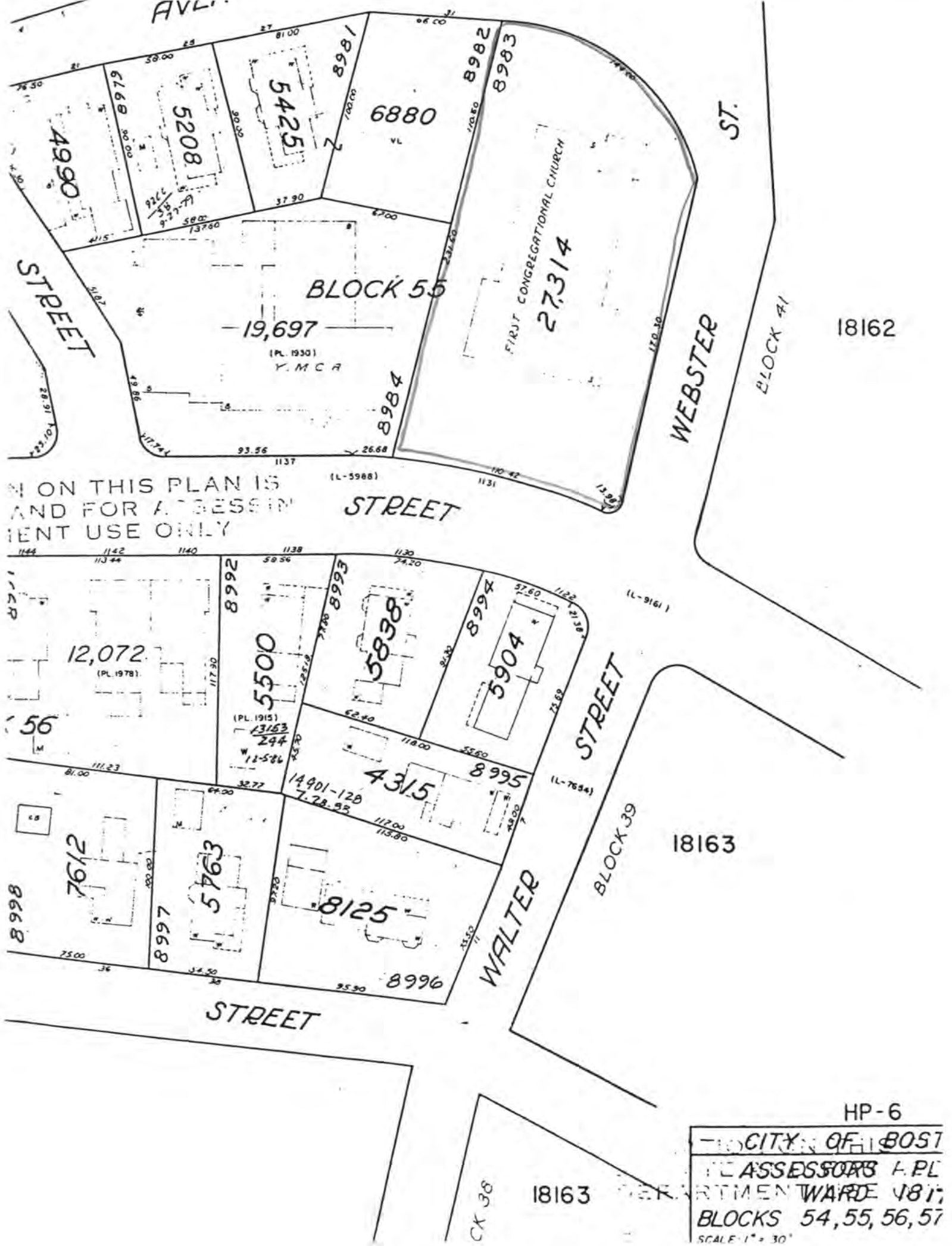
PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographer: Tobin Tracey

Date of photographs: September 17, 1998

1. South and west elevations looking NE.
2. North and west elevations looking SE.
3. North elevation looking SW.
4. South and east elevations looking NW.
5. Sanctuary looking E.
6. Sanctuary looking W.
7. Sanctuary stained glass window.

(end)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY First Congregational Church of Hyde Park
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Suffolk

DATE RECEIVED: 10/07/99 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/21/99
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/06/99 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/21/99
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 99001308

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 11/12/99 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



1. FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HYDE PARK
2. SUFFOLK COUNTY, MA
3. TOBIN TRACEY, PHOTOGRAPHER
7560411 1 1
4. SEPT. 17, 1998
5. TOBIN TRACEY, NEGATIVES
6. NORTH AND WEST ELEVATIONS, LOOKING SOUTHEAST



1. FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HYDE PARK
2. SUFFOLK COUNTY, MA
3. TOBIN TRACEY, PHOTOGRAPHER
4. SEPT. 17, 1990
5. TOBIN TRACEY, NEGATIVES
6. SOUTH AND WEST ELEVATIONS, LOOKING NORTHEAST



1. FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HYDE PARK
2. SUFFOLK COUNTY, MA
3. TOBIN TRACEY, PHOTOGRAPHER
4. ^{756 0411 1 1} SEPT. 17, 1998
5. TOBIN TRACEY, NEGATIVES
6. NORTH ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTHWEST



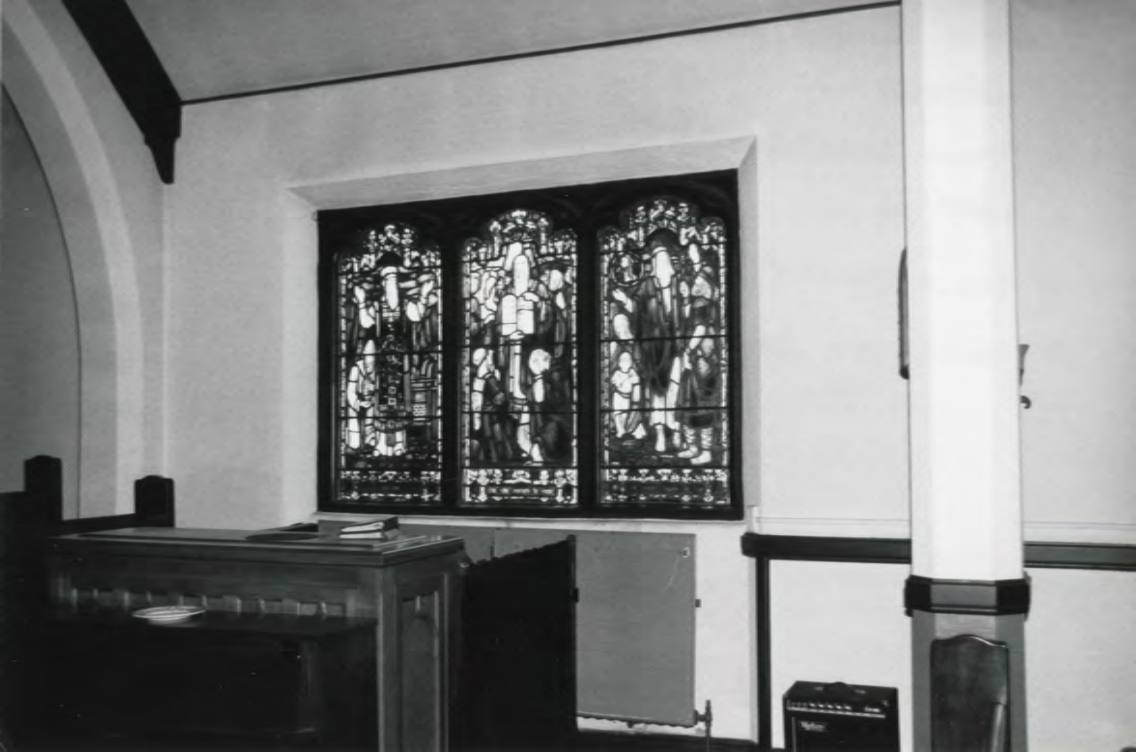
1. FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HYDE PARK
2. SUFFOLK COUNTY, MA
3. TOBIN TRACEY, PHOTOGRAPHER
4. SEPT. 17, 1998
5. TOBIN TRACEY, NEGATIVES
6. SOUTH AND EAST ELEVATIONS, LOOKING NORTHWEST



1. FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HYDE PARK
2. SUFFOLK COUNTY, MA
3. TOBIN TRACEY, PHOTOGRAPHER
4. SEPT. 17, 1998
5. TOBIN TRACEY, NEGATIVES
6. SANCTUARY, LOOKING EAST



1. FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HYDE PARK
2. SUFFOLK COUNTY, MA
3. TOBIN TRACEY, PHOTOGRAPHER
4. ^{756 0411 1 2} SEPT. 17, 1998
5. TOBIN TRACEY, NEGATIVES
6. SANCTUARY, LOOKING WEST



1. FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HYDE PARK
2. SUFFOLK COUNTY, MA
3. TOBIN TRACEY, PHOTOGRAPHER
4. SEPT. 17, 1998
5. TOBIN TRACEY, NEGATIVES
6. SANCTUARY STAINED GLASS WINDOW



First Cong. Ch. Hyde Park 42071-C1-TM-025
Boston (Hyde Park) (Suffolk), 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

1987

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works. Control by USGS, NOS NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies.

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1978. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1987. Supersedes Newton and Boston South 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1970.

Selected topographic data compiled from NOS charts 13270 (1985) 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, maintained 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. CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER. OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.3 METER. DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE. ELEVATIONS SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE OF MEAN HIGH WATER. THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.9 METERS.

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM	ADJOINING MAPS
Meters	Feet		1 2 3
1	3.2808		4 5
2	6.5617		6 7 8
3	9.8425		
4	13.1234		
5	16.4043		
6	19.6852		
7	22.9660		
8	26.2469		
9	29.5278		
10	32.8084		

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

UTM grid convergence (GN) at 43° 30' N (declination) (MN) Diagram is approximate

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 gage; narrow gage	—————
Bridge: drawbridge	—————
Footbridge; overpass; underpass	—————
Build-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; forest section corner	—————
U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section	—————
Range, township, section line: location approximate	—————
Fence or field line	—————
Power transmission line, isolated tower	—————
Dam; dam with lock	—————
Cemetery; grave	—————
Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument	—————
Whitlock; water well; spring	—————
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave	—————
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	—————
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	—————
Distorted surface: eroded mine; lava; sand	—————
Soundings: depth curve	—————
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	—————
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	—————
Submerged marsh, marsh, swamp	—————
Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland	—————
Scrub; mangrove	—————
Orchard; vineyard	—————



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 29, 1999

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

First Congregational Church of Hyde Park, 6 Webster St., Boston (Suffolk), Mass.

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

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: First Congregational Church of Hyde Park
John Bowman, Chair, Boston Landmarks Commission
Tobin Tracey, Preservation Consultant
Hon. Thomas Menino, Mayor, City of Boston
Ellen Lipsey, Boston Landmarks Commission