

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

NOV 05 1979

DATE ENTERED

JAN 11 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Quincy Town Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Quincy City Hall

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1305 Hancock Street

CITY, TOWN

Quincy

VICINITY OF

11th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Norfolk

CODE

021

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC

___PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

☒ GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Quincy

STREET & NUMBER

1305 Hancock Street

CITY, TOWN

Quincy

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mass.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

630 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Dedham, Mass.

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1979

___FEDERAL ☒ STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mass Historic Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Quincy City Hall faces east on Hancock Street in Quincy Square. The surrounding area is developed with commercial, high density residential and transportation uses. It is bounded on the west by a mass transit rail line, on the north by a landscaped pedestrian mall, and on the south by the City owned Hancock Cemetery which dates from c.1640. The First Parish Church (NR) stands directly across Hancock Street.

It is a two story Greek Revival structure of rectangular plan which is constructed of native blue-grey granite ashlar. Facing gable end to the street, its triangular pediment and severe entablature are supported by four fluted Ionic pilasters flanked by two end piers, all on high pedestals. The center entrance approached by two steps and consists of modern double doors headed by a blank transom, a sign bearing the words CITY HALL, and a tripartite window. It is flanked on either side by two double casement windows which are separated from identical windows above by spandrels carved with anthemions.

The upper portion of each bay contain a recessed panel; the central one is encribed TOWN HALL - ERECTED A.D. 1844. This elevation was heavily altered in 1888 when the town house was converted to the City Hall. Originally a recessed entrance, approached by a long flight of stairs, occupied the entire center opening. Shop front doors, which originally occupied the outer bays, were replaced by the present casements windows as was the double hung sash above.

The side elevations are each four bays in length and contain double-hung sash at the first floor/basement level and quadruple hung sash at the second floor/attic level.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES	1844	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Solomon Willard
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Quincy City Hall possesses integrity of design, location, materials, and workmanship. It is significant for the continuous role it has played in the development of Quincy government and as an outstanding example of monumental Greek Revival architecture constructed of native granite.

This building is associated with both the town and city forms of government in Quincy and has been the seat of government activities since its construction in 1844. First settled in 1642, Quincy was incorporated as a part of Braintree in 1640. Braintree was divided into two precincts in 1708 but by 1792 the North Precinct had been incorporated as the town of Quincy. It was not until May 24, 1841 however, that the Town voted to build a townhouse of stone and not until April 18, 1844, that the Town authorized the Treasurer to purchase a lot next to the seventeenth century Hancock Cemetery. Solomon Willard supervised the construction of the hall that same year.

The following notice appeared in the "Quincy Patriot" of April 27, 1844: "To contractors. Sealed proposals will be received by the Building Committee...for furnishing and delivering on the spot, all materials for building a stone house, fifty by eighty feet, and thirty five feet, four inches in height, the front end and the two sides to be of dressed blue Granite of uniform color, the back end to be of rough Ashlar, and the whole to be laid in cement, together with about one hundred perches of stone for the cellar."

Later, the "Quincy Patriot" reported the following in an article: "The building Committee of the Town House has effected a contract for the building of a Town House which will be one of the most elegant edifices in New England. The Town House will be fifty feet by eighty feet and thirty-five feet, six inches to the eaves, of fine hammered stone, the front to be like the Merchants Exchange in State Street, Boston, having four beautiful fluted pilasters (26-3/4 ft. in height) and handsome capitols with architrave frieze and cornice -- the sides to be finely hammered, and laid in Ashlar courses sixteen inches rise.

"The Hall will have four large windows on both sides, each containing fifty square feet of glass. There will be an office or store in each front corner and another room in the rear of them, which will take up about one-half of the room on the first floor. The remainder will make a commodious lecture or lyceum room nearly twice as large as the old Town Hall, the entrance to which will be on the south side of the building.

"The Town Hall will be forty-six by seventy feet in the clear including gallery, which is to be over the Committee Room and the whole will be capable of seating twelve hundred persons."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edwards, William. Historic Quincy Massachusetts.
Quincy: Franklin Printing Service, 1954.

Holly, H. Hobart. Quincy 350 years. Quincy: Quincy Heritage, Inc., 1974.

Quincy Patriot, April 27, 1844.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10,680+ sq. ft.

QUADRANGLE NAME Boston, South

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 334660 46701360

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please refer to the attached map. The nominated property occupies plot #3 of plan #1149-1150 and is outlined in red.

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

Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator

Robert J. Luongo, Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

October 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston, Mass. 02108

Massachusetts

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Patricia L. Westbrooks

10/24/79

TITLE Executive Director

Mass. Historical Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1-11-80

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

1/8/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED JAN 11 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE

Within forty years the town had grown rapidly, spurred by the extension of the Old Colony Railroad from Boston in the 1840's. By then the town form of government was no longer considered adequate by many citizens. Thus, in 1884, a group met to discuss the question of City Charter. At the town meeting of 1887 the charter was recommended and approved, and was then passed by the State Legislature in 1888. Rather than demolishing their old Town Hall to construct a new City Hall in a more fashionable style as so many towns did, Quincy retained the original Greek Revival structure.

The City Hall is an excellent example of academic Greek Revival architecture which was described by Ralph Adams Cram as one of the outstanding specimens of mid-century classical American design in the country. It is unusual in both its monumentality and in the severity of its granite detail. These features may be attributed to its architect, Solomon Willard, who was instrumental in the development of the granite industry in Quincy. While Quincy granite was used as early as 1750 in the construction of King's Chapel in Boston (NR) it did not evolve beyond a small quarrying operation with little finishing of the stone until the 1820's. The impetus came in 1826 when Willard was designing the Bunker Hill Monument (NR), an obelisk for which he proposed the use of huge blocks of granite. In conjunction with Gridley J.F. Bryant, an architect and engineer, he devised a railway system to transport the granite blocks to the Neponset River where it could be floated to the Charlestown monument site. Willard also devised methods of quarrying and manipulating stone which ensured Quincy's later success in this area.

Property

Quincy Town Hall

State

Ma (Norfolk)

Working Number

11-5-79 2654

TECHNICAL

Photos

Maps

1
1,1

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF CLASSICAL DESIGN IN GRANITE WHICH WAS BUILT IN
MID 19C ~~PERIOD~~.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPT

MAK POWELL

1/8/80

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

ACCEPT

MAK POWELL

1/8/80

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

2-3-81

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered

INT:2106-74



Quincy, Massachusetts

Quincy ~~City~~ Hall

Mark Johnson 1977

Quincy Planning and Development Office

Photo #1

Front elevation (east)

Norfolk County NOV 05 1979

JAN 11 1980

SEE PLAN 1164

HON.

THOMAS

S.

BURGIN

PKWY

Massachusetts

Bay

Transportation

Authority

City of Quincy

GRANITE

ST.

SEE PLAN 1148

(1149)

City of Quincy
CEMETERY

88382
Plot 11

(1150)

SEE PLAN 1151

City of Quincy
CITY HALL
10680
Plot 9

DEPOT ST.

SAVILLE ST.

ST.

CHARLES G. ARBUCKLE
SQUARE

HANCOCK

SEE PLAN 1140

SEE PLAN 1135

SEE PLAN 1130

SEL PLAN 1136

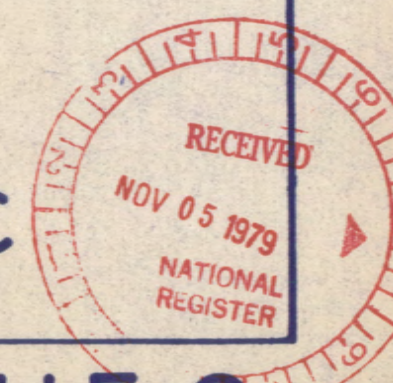
TEMPLE ST

WASHINGTON ST.

BUS. C

1149-1150

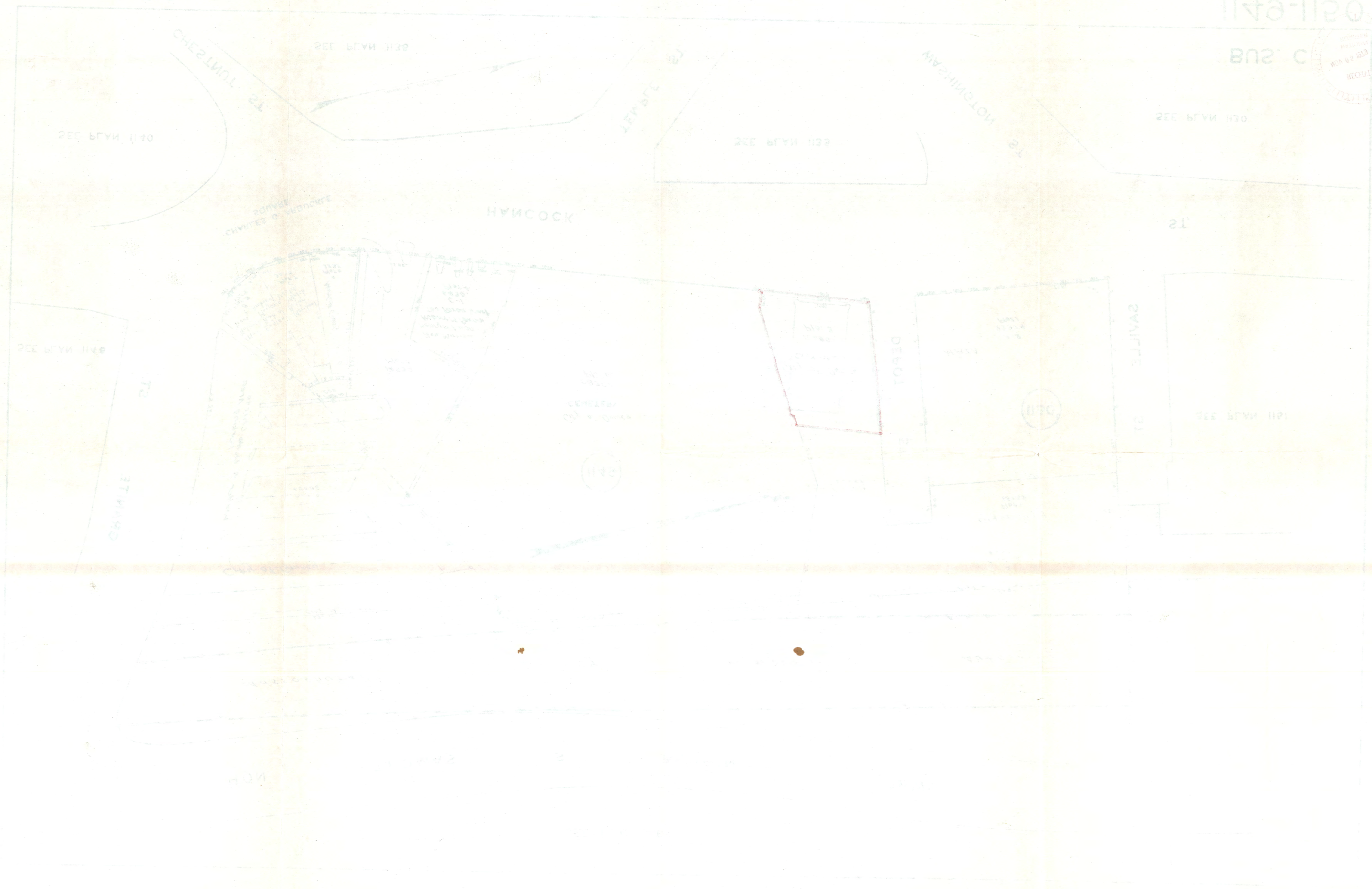
1149-1150



1148-1120

1148-1120

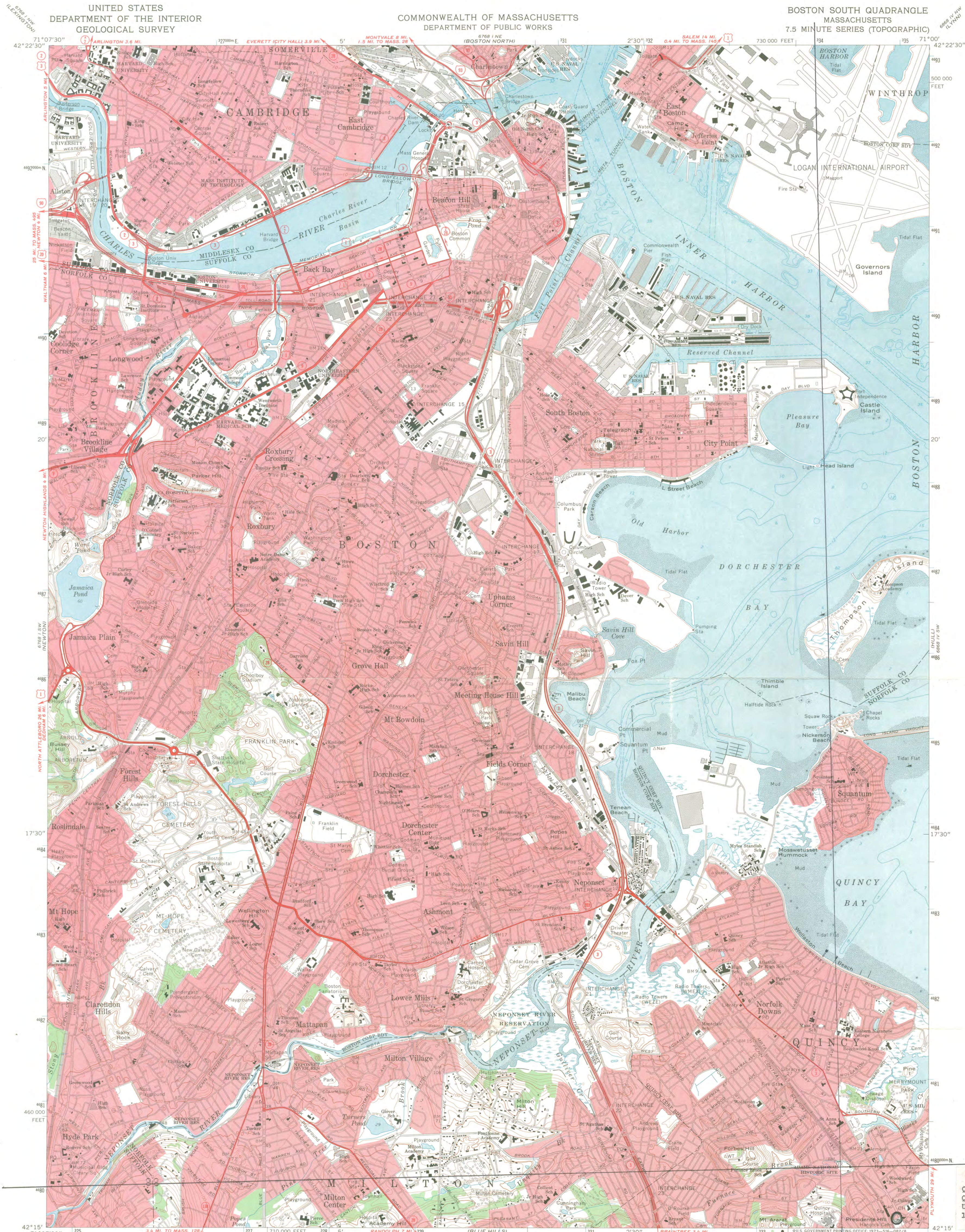
BUG C



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BOSTON SOUTH QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 246
and 248 (1971). 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
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWS APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway,
hard surface
Secondary highway,
hard surface
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route
light-duty road, hard or
improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215—W7100/7.5

1970

AMS 6768 I SE—SERIES V814

QUINCY, MASS.
QUINCY CITY HALL
UTM REFERENCES:
19/334660/4679360



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **JAN 11 1980**

Name

Location

Quincy Town Hall

**Quincy
Norfolk County**

O'Shea Building

**Peabody
Essex County**

Also Notified

Honorable Paul Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Brian J. Donnelly
Honorable Nicholas Mavroules

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

NR Byers/bjr 1/21/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-5401