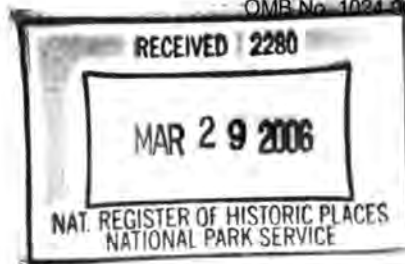


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any 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 Holbrook Square Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number west side of North Franklin Street from Union Street to Linfield Street not for publication

city or town Holbrook vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Norfolk code 021 zip code 02343

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Brona Simon

3/27/06

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon

Date

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or 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

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

5.10.06

Holbrook Square Historic District
Name of Property

Norfolk County, Massachusetts
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>building</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>sites</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>structures</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>objects</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>Total</u>

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/town hall
GOVERNMENT/fire station
LANDSCAPE/park
RELIGION/religious facility/church

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/town hall
GOVERNMENT/fire station
LANDSCAPE/park
RELIGION/religious facility/church

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/High Victorian Gothic
LATE VICTORIAN/Stick
OTHER/Panel Brick

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite, brick
walls brick, clapboard, shingle
roof slate
other sandstone

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

Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook (Norfolk Co.), MA

Section number 7 Page 1

7. Description

Holbrook is a small suburban town located approximately 17 miles south of Boston. The town is bordered on the north by Braintree, on the east by Weymouth, on the southeast by Abington and Brockton, on the southwest by Avon, and on the west by Randolph. The southeastern boundary with Abington and Brockton is a segment of the Old Colony Line (1640) that divided the Massachusetts Bay Colony and Plymouth Colony. Defining much of Holbrook's western border is the right of way (1846) of the former Old Colony Railroad (later the New York, New Haven & Hartford), now operated by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority as commuter rail to Boston. Holbrook has several brooks and numerous bogs and swamps, particularly in the east and southeast sections, as well as two large ponds (lakes), all part of the drainage of the Cochato River, which is located in Randolph immediately northwest of the Holbrook boundary. Two state highways – Routes 37 and 139 – intersect at the town center at Holbrook Square.

Situated on an upland plain that descends westerly from North Franklin Street, the Holbrook Square Historic District (photo 1) occupies a full block on the west side of North Franklin Street (Route 37), from Union Street (Route 139) north to Linfield Street. Located at Holbrook's commercial and institutional core, the district consists of three institutional buildings of townwide significance: the Town Hall (1878), Winthrop Congregational Church (1878-1880), and the Central Fire Station (1881). All three are built into the grade and display high raised basements on their side and rear elevations. Anchoring the southern end of the district is Mary Wales Holbrook Park (1906), the major landscape feature at Holbrook Square. The district encompasses the only historic institutional development extant at the town center. Significant commercial redevelopment in recent decades has compromised the historic integrity of the remaining Holbrook Square area. In addition to the three principal buildings, the park, and select monuments that date to the period of significance, the district encompasses two noncontributing ancillary buildings at the rear of the Town Hall lot, and various memorials, signs, and fences that are noncontributing due to their recent vintage. (see enclosed sketch map)

Holbrook Town Hall (1878-1879)

The only example of High Victorian Gothic architecture in the town, Holbrook Town Hall, 50 North Franklin Street (1878-1879, MHC #131, photos 1-3, see sketch map) is distinguished for its substantial size and scale, symmetrical façade, and polychromatic finish. The building elevations are executed in pressed brick, while ornament is contrasting sandstone and Quincy granite trim, with dark glazed brick used for additional decorative effect. Designed by Boston architect John Lyman Faxon and constructed by Norcross Brothers Inc. of Worcester, the rectangular brick block is 3½ stories on a granite foundation with a high raised basement of brick. The building has a slate hipped roof and a brick chimney on the south (side) elevation. The symmetrical façade features a slightly projecting, two-bay, hip-roofed center pavilion, and pyramidal-roofed corner pavilions, each with an entry at the base. These entries retain polychromatic voussoirs carried on foliated engaged columns, capped with small hipped roofs of slate. Polychromatic voussoirs also define the four original first-floor storefronts. In the 1960s, these were infilled with painted plywood panels and fixed single-pane windows to create office space. Brick piers with sandstone foliated capitals divide the former storefront bays. Marking the location of the original double-height meeting hall are paired windows on the upper floors with polychromatic voussoirs and attenuated engaged columns framing stacked, 2/2 wood sash. Some of the sash incorporates colored glass. Engaged columns also appear at the attic level on the corner pavilions. The building includes a granite belt course over the third-floor windows and a highly detailed corbelled cornice with patterned brick frieze at the center of the building. A sandstone plaque centered on the façade above the first floor reads *Holbrook Town Hall/Erected 1878/The Gift of E. N. Holbrook.*

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook (Norfolk Co.), MA

Section number 7 Page 2

Ample photographic evidence documents the original appearance of Town Hall before the storefronts were infilled in the 1960s. About the same time, sandstone pinnacles on the gabled wall dormers of the corner pavilions were replaced with steel flashing. In connection with Holbrook's centennial celebration, a granite cornerstone, marked 1872-1972, was installed at the northeast corner of the building. The cornerstone contains a time capsule of Holbrook ephemera from 1972. The southern entry on the facade, plus two entries on the rear elevation, contain replacement metal and glass systems. The northern entrance on the facade displays a wood-paneled door, installed when the present universal access ramp was constructed in 2003-2004. Designed by TBA Architects of Waltham, Massachusetts, the ramp incorporates bricks, colored mortar, Quincy granite, and railings to complement the historic building.

The most significant changes to the interior involve the installation of dropped ceilings for energy conservation in the 1970s, and the reconfiguration of the second-floor meeting hall for additional office space. The ceiling panels conceal original tin ceilings on the first and second floors. Above the dropped ceiling of the present second-floor offices (at the balcony level in the original meeting hall) are silver leaf stenciling, cove moldings, light fixture medallions, and colored glass in the round-arched window transoms. Historic wood trim on the interior includes matchstick wainscoting and corner blocks at doorways. The basement level retains the vault for town records.

Winthrop Congregational Church (1878-1880)

A fine example of Stick Style design and the best preserved of Holbrook's historic churches, Winthrop Congregational Church, 16 North Franklin Street (1878-1880, MHC #133, photos 1, 2, and 4) is a major historic feature of Holbrook Square. The church was designed in 1878 by Hartwell and Tilden of Boston, constructed in 1879 by Norcross Brothers Inc. of Worcester, and dedicated in February 1880. Built roughly on a cruciform plan with a gable-front main block and a hipped and cross-gabled transept, the church has a granite foundation, a high brick raised basement, clapboard and wood shingle siding, and a slate roof. There are twin, interior end-wall, brick chimneys on the rear (west) elevation. The double-height church displays a four-story square tower that projects slightly from the center of the facade. At the base of the tower, beneath an oversized gabled hood, is the largest of the facade's three wood-paneled, double-door entries. Secondary entries at the basement level of the side and rear elevations contain replacement metal and glass systems. Most windows at the sanctuary level contain stained glass with storm glazing. Windows in the raised basement retain 2/2 wood sash set in wood frames, with decorative bosses at the top corners and corbelled corners in the brick surrounds. Ornamental detailing features decorative wood trusses in all gables, including gabled hoods over the entries, a bracketed cornice, studs over the clapboard siding, and scalloped shingles in the gable ends. William Blake of Boston, who apprenticed with Paul Revere, cast the church bell (1878). The bell weighs five thousand pounds and measures fifty-four inches across the base. Granite curbing (ca. 1890) defines the church property on the North Franklin Street frontage and rounding the corner to Linfield Street. The church also retains its original front steps of granite.

The church was renovated in 1988. In the winter of 1994-1995, a storm damaged the steeple, which was dismantled and removed in May 1995. The base of the spire (bell tower), which remained on the building, was reconstructed and reinforced in the summer of 2001, and the bell was reinstalled in July 2002. On May 14, 2003, a new steeple was raised, constructed of fiberglass over a steel skeleton. The present clock in the steeple is a replica of the original late 19th-century clock.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook (Norfolk Co.), MA

Section number 7 Page 3

Central Fire Station (1881)

Separated from Town Hall by a narrow alley is the most intact of Holbrook's historic fire houses, the Central Fire Station, North Franklin Street (1881, MHC #130, photos 1, 2, and 5), now known as Holbrook Fire Department Station 1. Likely built by Henry C. Dorman of Holbrook, the fire station is the only example of Panel Brick design in the town. The two-story main block is roughly square, three bays across and three bays deep, with a brick foundation and a slate-covered pyramidal roof. The building features a pressed brick façade, and granite lintels and sills on the façade windows, while remaining elevations are executed in standard brick. Windows contain 1/1 vinyl replacement sash. Mounting brackets survive from metal shutters that could be closed over the windows in the event of a fire at the neighboring boot and shoe factory (now the site of Mary Wales Holbrook Park, see below). Character-defining ornamental details on the fire station include the brick corbelled cornice, a shed-roofed brick parapet centered on the façade bearing the date 1881 in a granite panel, and granite-trimmed corner piers flanking the vehicular entries. At the rear, built into the grade, is a one-story frame wing (1890s) with a concrete basement, originally a barn where horses were kept to pull the fire apparatus. This space now houses kitchen and living facilities for the firefighters on duty.

The present configuration of the first floor vehicular bays dates to 1948. Originally, the fire station had three asymmetrical bays on the first floor, encompassing two bays with folding doors for the fire apparatus and a third bay (closest to Town Hall) for pedestrian access. In 1948, most of the granite lintels over the first floor bays were removed, and the original three bays were converted to two vehicular bays with overhead garage doors. Standard brick was installed to replace the granite lintels. The present overhead doors were added in 1988.

The fire station's second floor is no longer used. There is no second means of egress and a ventilation system, installed after diesel engines were purchased, has proven insufficient in eliminating the fumes that travel from the garage bays below. A modification (ca. late 1950s-1970s) in the stairwell to the second floor created more space for the larger engines garaged in the station during that period. When the barn was converted to living quarters and the stairs were changed to allow more space for the apparatus, the original sleeping quarters upstairs were replaced with the Chief's Office, now the union room, and the stairwell.

Mary Wales Holbrook Park (1906)

Roughly rectangular in shape, Mary Wales Holbrook Park, Holbrook Square (1906, MHC #903, photo 1) occupies the northwest corner of the intersection of North Franklin and Union Streets. The terrain drops off from North Franklin Street westerly. There is a paved circular path at the center with radial pedestrian paths leading to pedestrian entrances on the north, east, and south. The park occupies the site of the 2½-story, Thomas White and Co. boot and shoe factory (demolished 1905). The factory, built in 1868 for George N. Spear as the first steam-operated factory in Holbrook, incorporated as a wing the building of the defunct East Parish church (1819, demolished, see **Significance** following).

The park's principal feature is the Civil War Monument (1917, MHC #904, photo 1, see sketch map) flanked by a pair of granite monuments (1989) memorializing Holbrook veterans. Sculpted by John Horrigan of Quincy, Massachusetts, the Civil War Monument consists of a bronze statue of a Union soldier atop a high pedestal of Vermont granite, inscribed *1861-1865/This memorial is erected to honor those who offered their lives to gain and preserve the liberty of this nation.* The flanking twin monuments were installed in 1989 and honor, on the south side, veterans of the Spanish-American

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook (Norfolk Co.), MA

Section number 7 Page 4

War, World War I, and World War II, and, on its north side, veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. This pair of monuments is considered noncontributing to the district's significance by virtue of its recent vintage.

Two other Civil War memorials survive in the park, and were likely installed about the same time (ca. 1917) as the Civil War Monument. They are twelve-pounder, bronze field guns (photo 2) mounted on granite pedestals, each placed next to a pile of ammunition, which has been bronzed. Both field guns bear markings on the rims that show they were manufactured in 1861 by the Henry N. Hooper & Company foundry in Boston. The northern field gun is #205 from the Hooper foundry; the southern field gun in #351.

Noncontributing Resources

Noncontributing resources consist of public works buildings at the rear of the Town Hall lot, various monuments at the park and the fire station lots, and fences installed during a recent streetscape improvement project (see **Significance**). At the rear of the Town Hall lot are two buildings that serve the town's Public Works Department: a one-story, concrete block garage (ca. 1960) with a flat roof, and a one-story, wood-frame, gabled shed (ca. 1960). Due to their size, scale, setback from the street, and position on a downward grade behind Town Hall, these ancillary buildings do not compromise the integrity of the historic district.

Both the park and the fire station have monuments from recent decades. In addition to the 1989 veterans monument flanking the Civil War Monument (see above), the park displays a flagpole and associated granite tablet (ca. 1980, photo 1) placed in memory of Pfc. Paul J. Surette. This memorial was presented by Post No. 9813 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Across the center path and directly east of the flagpole is the Jewish War Veterans USA tablet (1984), a rectangular brass tablet set in a concrete base and placed by Morochnick-Rotman Post #171. The Holbrook Fire Department monument (1993), placed at the southeast (front left) corner of the fire station, is granite on a concrete base and is inscribed *Dedicated to those who served*. A standing sign (ca. 1990) in the front yard of the Winthrop Congregational Church lot is noncontributing due to its recent vintage.

Construction of improvements at Holbrook Square in 2001-2002 produced the granite-bollard and wood-rail fences defining the street frontages of both the Town Hall/Fire Station lot and Mary Wales Holbrook Park. In addition, a small brick plaza was built directly in front of the Town Hall. This plaza incorporates a flagpole (photo 3), which replaces an earlier (1909) flagpole at the same location, and a granite sidewalk medallion bearing the town seal and inscribed *Holbrook Square Improvements, 2001-2002*.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are recorded in the district, sites may be present. Twenty-six sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile). Most known sites are located in upland areas bordering the Cochato River drainage, including its tributary streams west of the district. Environmental characteristics of the nominated area do not represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. The district is located on a level to moderately sloping upland plain over 1,000 feet from the nearest wetlands. Soils in the area are classified as urban land deposits indicating original soil characteristics that been altered and/or obscured by urban development. Given the above information, the small size of the district (1.96 acres), and the extent of historic landuse, a low potential exists for locating significant ancient Native American resources.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook (Norfolk Co.), MA**

Section number 7 **Page** 5

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the Holbrook Square Historic District. Additional documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate evidence of historic settlement known to exist in Holbrook since the mid-17th century. While sites have yet to be identified, a historic colonial presence in the district area is documented by the use of North and South Franklin Streets as a regional trail and road system in the 17th century and the development of the Union Street/Franklin Street crossroads during the Colonial Period. Village settlement was present in the crossroads area by the mid-18th century. A mid-1750's schoolhouse, now demolished, is reported in the crossroads village area. Several potential 19th century historic archaeological sites have been identified within the district. Structural evidence may survive from the 1818 Meetinghouse or East Parish Church later incorporated into the Thomas White and Co. boot and shoe factory built in 1868. Both the meetinghouse and factory were demolished in 1905 to form Mary Wales Holbrook Park (1906). Structural evidence may also survive from the First Winthrop Congregational Church (1857-58) and first Town Hall (1873), both of which burned in 1877. The existing church and town hall were built in the general vicinity of the earlier structures. Structural evidence may survive from cisterns built in the vicinity of the Town Hall parking lot to hold water in the event of fire. Structural evidence may also survive from a hose tower demolished in 1907; possibly a detached structure, for the Central Fire Station (1881) on North Franklin Street. Occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may survive at the sites of the 1818 Meetinghouse, 1750's schoolhouse, and 1868 boot and shoe factory. Structural evidence of barns, carriage houses, and outbuildings may also survive in the district.

(end)

Holbrook Square Historic District

Name of Property

Norfolk County, Massachusetts

County and State

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 the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by 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

(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 Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Politics/Government

Religion

Social History

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1878-1956

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Faxon, John Lyman

Hartwell, Henry Walker (continued sect. 8, page 1)

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Holbrook Historical Commission

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook (Norfolk Co.), MA

Section number 8 Page 1

8. Statement of Significance

Architect/Builder (continued)

Tilden, George T.
Norcross Brothers, Inc.
Dorman, Henry C.
Blake, William & Co.
Horrigan, John
Hooper, Henry N. & Co.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Holbrook Square Historic District, North Franklin and Union Streets, Holbrook (photo 1) is the town's historic institutional focus. The well-preserved cluster consists of three late 19th-century institutional buildings and a municipal park. A crossroads village settled in the mid-18th century, the present Holbrook Square became a meetinghouse location in 1818 with the establishment of the Second Church of Randolph, known locally as the East Parish and later as East Randolph (Holbrook). During the third quarter of the 19th century, a schism within the East Parish led to the formation of the Winthrop Congregational Church (first church 1857-1858), and incorporation of the town of Holbrook led to construction of the original town hall (1873). Following a fire in December 1877 that destroyed both the original town hall and the Winthrop church, the present Town Hall (1878-1879), Winthrop Congregational Church (1878-1880), and Central Fire Station (1881) were built. The original meetinghouse site, occupied by a boot and shoe factory from 1865 to 1905, is now known as Mary Wales Holbrook Park (1906), the principal landscape feature of Holbrook Square. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, Holbrook Square Historic District meets Criteria A and C, and Criteria Consideration A, of the National Register of Historic Places at the local level.

In 1634, the area now encompassing Holbrook, Randolph to the west, and Braintree Highlands to the north was known by the native term Cochato, meaning swift flowing. The name referred to the river (now a brook) in Randolph located near the present northwestern boundary of Holbrook. This area constituted a part of the town of Braintree, incorporated in 1640. Two tracts comprised what is now Holbrook. The northeast section of town was a portion of the Iron Works Grant (1646-1647) from the town of Boston to Robert Winthrop and associates. The Holbrook portion was a forested area used as a source for charcoal. Remaining sections of Holbrook not included in the Iron Works Grant were part of the Purchase Land, or territory purchased from Boston in 1700 and divided among the Braintree freeholders. Both Randolph and Holbrook were part of the south precinct of Braintree, formed in 1708. The south precinct later became known as the new south (or third) precinct after the formation of another precinct in Braintree in 1727.

European settlement of Holbrook dates to the mid-17th century. North and South Franklin Streets (MA Route 37) through Holbrook Square were part of a regional trail and road system connecting the Massachusetts Bay Colony to Bridgewater (1656, including Brockton) and other points south. A segment of the Old Colony Line, which divided the Massachusetts Bay Colony and Plymouth Colony, survives as Holbrook's southeastern boundary. Union Street (now MA Route 139) is on the Colonial-period east-west route through Holbrook, connecting Randolph and Abington. Early settlement was principally residential, with a crossroads community developing at the present square. By the mid-1750s, the crossroads village was of sufficient size to support construction of a schoolhouse (demolished).

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook (Norfolk Co.), MA

Section number 8 Page 2

During the Federal period (1775-1830), the new south precinct of Braintree began to agitate for independence from the rest of the town. The town of Randolph, including the present Holbrook, separated from Braintree and was incorporated in 1793. Randolph and Holbrook were primarily agricultural in nature, with a growing emphasis on boot and shoe making. Formal recognition of a distinct community at East Randolph (Holbrook) came on February 15, 1818, with the incorporation of the Second Congregational Church (East Parish Church) of Randolph. The meetinghouse (demolished 1905) occupied a site at Holbrook Square that later became Mary Wales Holbrook Park (1906, MHC #903, photo 1). The building was sited between the present Holbrook war memorials in the park and the Central Fire Station (see below) to the north. The Church's first pastor was the Rev. David Brigham.

The Early Industrial period (1830-1875) brought growth at East Randolph (Holbrook Square) and South Randolph (Faxon's Corner, later known as the Brookville village of Holbrook) two miles to the south. With this growth came a greater distinction between these villages and the balance of Randolph. Irish and French-Canadians were the dominant immigrant groups in Randolph as a whole, with the Irish population peaking in 1855. Many worked in the local boot and shoe industry, which saw considerable expansion during the Early Industrial period, especially during the Civil War. At that time, most boot and shoe manufacturing moved from small shops, barn lots, and kitchen ells into factories. Several boot and shoe businesses operated at East Randolph. In 1838, in a small shop on Linfield Street just west of the present Holbrook Square, Ezra Thayer began manufacturing the nation's first leather shoestrings. About the same time, John Porter on Union Street reportedly manufactured the nation's first machine-stitched boots produced for the commercial trade. In 1865, George N. Spear built Holbrook's first steam factory (demolished 1905) on the site of the present Mary Wales Holbrook Park (1906, see below) at Holbrook Square. All of Holbrook's large boot and shoe factories built in the third quarter of the 19th century have been demolished.

In the area of transportation, Early Industrial-period improvements included construction in 1846 of the Fall River Railroad, which passed between the village centers at Randolph and East Randolph (Holbrook). By the 1870s, the railroad had been incorporated into the Old Colony system, later known as the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad. The railroad corridor figured in the establishment of the 1872 dividing line between the towns of Randolph and Holbrook.

With population growth at East Randolph (Holbrook) came new public and private institutions to serve local residents. A Baptist society was formed in 1834. On December 30, 1856, dissension within the congregation of the East Parish Church, attributed to a disagreement over a proposed change in the number of deacons and some discontent with its pastor, the Rev. Ezekial Russell, D. D., led to the formation of Winthrop Congregational Church. The new church was named in honor of Gov. John Winthrop, first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The first pastor was the Rev. Russell, who came over from the old East Parish Church. There is no surviving church building in Holbrook associated with the old East Parish.

In 1872, the eastern end of Randolph, including the villages of East and South Randolph, separated from the balance of the town with the incorporation of the Town of Holbrook on February 29 (leap year day). Elisha Niles Holbrook (1800-1872) was the new town's namesake and principal benefactor. He was an industrialist, a major owner of the railroad line that divided Holbrook and Randolph, a deacon of the Winthrop Congregational Church, and a leader in the construction of the 1858 church building. ["A Community Develops," 11; "History of the Winthrop Congregational Church"] Mr. Holbrook, who resided in a large Italianate-style dwelling at 109 North Franklin Street (MHC #135, demolished 1997),

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook (Norfolk Co.), MA

Section number 8 Page 3

pledged \$25,000 to build a town house; \$10,000 to furnish a library; and \$15,000 to pay the new town's debt. His gesture set a precedent for generous gifts to the town of land, buildings, and cash from other members of the Holbrook family, including the land at Holbrook Square that now comprises Mary Wales Holbrook Park (1906, see below).

With Holbrook's incorporation, North Franklin Street at Holbrook Square was established as the new town's civic focus. Churches already located at the square were the East Parish Church, at the corner of Union and North Franklin Streets (1819, demolished 1905, site of Mary Wales Holbrook Park), and the first Winthrop Congregational Church, at the corner of North Franklin and Linfield Streets (1857-1858, burned 1877, site of the present church). Between the two buildings, the town built the first Town Hall (1873, burned 1877, site of the present town hall), designed in the High Victorian Gothic style. Two miles south of Holbrook Square, Faxon's Corner became known as Brookville Square, the location of the village school and fire house (neither extant) and a developing commercial center.

The Late Industrial period (1875-1915) brought a decade of continued prosperity in Holbrook, followed by a longer period largely characterized by economic downturn. In the late 1870s, Holbrook was considered one of the most important boot and shoe towns in Norfolk County. The factory of Thomas White & Co., one of the town's three largest producers, operated out of the former Spear steam factory at Holbrook Square. The shoe factory, a portion of which occupied the former East Parish church, was demolished in 1905. By 1880, Holbrook had sixteen factories employing 950 men and 202 women. About that time, the total value from all Holbrook manufactures was just over \$2 million, all but \$6,000 coming from the production of footwear. Boot and shoe production in Holbrook peaked in 1883, with 75,826 cases shipped.

Separate population figures for Holbrook are lacking for the periods during which the town was part of Braintree and later Randolph. During the Late Industrial period, there was a population increase of 61% between 1875 and 1910 (2816 persons). The periods of the greatest population growth—the late 1870s and the first decade of the 20th century—reflect the health of the town's economy in those years. The only period of population decline was in the 1890s. The town's largest foreign-born group continued to be Irish.

Population increases led to church construction in Holbrook. Five churches were built from 1872 through the late 1880s, serving Congregational, Baptist, Methodist Episcopal, and Roman Catholic congregations, plus a non-denominational chapel on Union Street. Of these, Winthrop Congregational Church (see below) is the largest, the most substantial in terms of architectural design, and the least altered.

A fire on Christmas morning of 1877, which destroyed the original Town Hall and Winthrop Church buildings, remains the worst in the town's history. The cause of the blaze, which started at the Town Hall and quickly engulfed both buildings, was attributed to a festival at the Town Hall the previous evening, where Christmas trees were decorated by lighted candles. [Cote, "Tragedy"] The burned buildings were subsequently replaced with the present Town Hall, 50 North Franklin Street (1878-1879, see below), and Winthrop Congregational Church, 16 North Franklin Street (1878-1880, see below). Construction of the Central Fire Station, North Franklin Street (1881, see below) a short time later completed the row of institutional buildings at Holbrook Square.

John Lyman Faxon (b. 1851) of Quincy, later of Boston, designed the present Town Hall, 50 North Franklin Street (1878-1879, MHC #131, photos 1-3). [Cote/*Norfolk County Register*] His business card was included in the building's 1878

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook (Norfolk Co.), MA

Section number 8 Page 4

time capsule, which was replaced with a new time capsule during the town's centennial celebration in 1972. The laying of the cornerstone occurred in a Masonic ceremony held on July 10, 1878, and the finished building was dedicated March 26, 1879. Relatively little is known about Faxon's career. He reportedly embarked on his architectural education about 1873, and maintained a Boston-based architectural practice from the mid-1870s until at least the early twentieth century. In 1900, Faxon was elected a member of the Boston Society of Architects. His known Massachusetts commissions include the Hotel Victoria, 275 Dartmouth Street (corner Newbury Street), Back Bay, Boston (1886); a rowhouse at 197 Marlborough Street, Back Bay, Boston (1892); Ferdinand's Blue Store, 2260 Washington Street (Dudley Square), Roxbury, Boston (1895); the Mayhew School, West End, Boston (1897, demolished); and the first East Boston High School, Boston (ca. 1899, demolished). Working in other states, Faxon also designed Rollins Chapel at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire (1884-1885), the First Congregational Church of Detroit, Michigan (1891); and the Central Baptist Church, Norwich, Connecticut (ca. 1899). [Withey; Boston Public Library, Boston Architecture Reference File; Bunting; Shand-Tucci] Holbrook Town Hall appears to be an early commission for Faxon, whose surname was common in Holbrook and surrounding towns in the second half of the 19th century. It is possible that he received the commission to design Holbrook Town Hall through his personal ties to the area.

Holbrook's Town Hall housed municipal offices, the town's principal meeting hall, the public library, and the first police station. The building retains its original basement vault for storage of old town records, as well as two jail cells in the basement. The double-height meeting hall, which retains its ticket office on the second floor, as well as the balcony level currently concealed behind a dropped ceiling on the second floor, served a wide range of gatherings. They included the Firemen's Balls, graduations, dances, stage plays, and other social functions. [Ruthwicz, Holbrook Town Hall notes]

Like other town halls in Massachusetts built in the second half of the 19th century, Holbrook Town Hall incorporated ground-floor commercial spaces, which generated rental income. Business cards for proprietors of the first stores at Town Hall were found in the 1878 time capsule at the cornerstone, which was opened during the town's centennial celebration in 1972. Mrs. L. W. Paine, a milliner, advertised as a "fashionable millinery shop, fancy feathers, ostrich tips, pompoms, lace, etc." Mrs. Jordan operated a "fancy wallpaper" shop, with a specialty in "coloring walls." Later, J. E. Nickerson was associated with a wallpaper and painting supplies store at Town Hall. These two types of businesses remained in the building until at least 1892, according to the Sanborn map of that year. Grocers Hallet & Baxter also operated from the Town Hall storefronts about the turn of the 20th century. In addition to these businesses, the Holbrook Cooperative Bank occupied a storefront from 1888 to 1941. The bank is now located in a detached building diagonally across the street from Town Hall, built in 1997-1998 on the site of the Elisha Niles Holbrook mansion (MHC #135, demolished 1997). Some of the storefronts at Town Hall were occupied into the 1950s. [Ruthwicz, Town Hall notes]

In August 1878, members of the Winthrop Congregational Church selected the plans of Boston architects Hartwell and Tilden for their new church. George N. Spear, George T. Wilde, and Seth C. Sawyer served on the building committee. Norcross Brothers Inc. of Worcester was selected as builder in January 1879. Following the installation of the windows and organ, the present Winthrop Congregational Church, 16 North Franklin Street (1878-1880, MHC #133, photos 1, 2, and 4, see sketch map) was dedicated on February 25, 1880. Total construction cost was \$28,327. [Cote/Norfolk County Register] Construction of the new church provided an opportunity to strengthen the recently reunited Congregational Church membership in Holbrook. After the split in the Second Church of Randolph (East Parish Church) that led to the formation of the Winthrop Congregational Church in 1856, declining membership caused the Second Church to close in 1864. By vote of members of the Winthrop Church on January 22, 1874, 39 members of the old Second Congregational

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook (Norfolk Co.), MA

Section number 8 Page 5

Church were received into the fellowship of the Winthrop Church. The following week, a council of ministers from five other churches met to ratify the action, the Second Church ceased to exist, and the churches were reunited as the Winthrop Congregational Church of Holbrook. ["History of the Winthrop Congregational Church"]

The steeple of the Winthrop Congregational Church once incorporated Holbrook's town clock, a gift to the town in 1879 from Mary Wales Holbrook (1829-1906), daughter of Elisha Niles Holbrook. For most of the 20th century, the clock had to be wound manually every week. About 1972, the town appropriated funds to electrify the clock. The original clock was removed when the steeple was dismantled in May 1995 after sustaining damage in a storm. The present clock, an exact replica of the original in size and appearance, employs a satellite antenna to keep time to within one millionth of a second, with satellite signals from a Global Positioning System. [Nelson, Winthrop Congregational Church notes] In 1883, Miss Holbrook also gave the Winthrop church its first parsonage, located about one block west of the church at 28 Linfield Street (ca. 1880, MHC #114).

The Stick Style Winthrop church is one of very few architectural commissions associated with the two-year partnership of Boston architects Henry Walker Hartwell (1833-1919) and George T. Tilden (1845-1919). The son of a painter, Hartwell was born in Boston, raised in Littleton, Massachusetts, and educated at Lawrence Academy in Groton. He had neither a college degree nor formal training in architecture, beyond his first employment at age seventeen with the Boston architectural firm of Joseph E. Billings and Hammatt Billings. From 1856 to ca. 1868, Hartwell maintained an architectural practice in Boston, interrupted by a nine-month term of service in the Union Army in 1862-1863. Hartwell was a founding member of the Boston Society of Architects in 1867, and established himself as an architect with a principal interest in building construction rather than design. He was associated with architect Albert E. Swasey, Jr. from ca. 1868 to 1877, after which he entered into a partnership with George Tilden. Tilden, a New Hampshire native and a resident of Milton, had worked previously in the architecture office of Ware and Van Brunt, and had been a partner of J. Pickering Putnam. Hartwell and Tilden were best known as architects of the former Milton Town Hall (1878, demolished 1971). Hartwell also designed Belmont Town Hall (1881), following the dissolution of his partnership with Tilden, and Ware Town Hall (1885) in partnership with William Cummings Richardson. Following the construction of the new Winthrop Congregational Church, George N. Spear, an industrialist, member of the church's building committee, and library trustee, commissioned Hartwell and Richardson to design his own Shingle-style house in Holbrook, at 40 South Franklin Street (mid-1880s, MHC #141). [Vogel; Sammarco]

Extant in the new (2003) steeple at the Winthrop church is the bell (1878), cast by William Blake & Company of Boston. [Nelson, Winthrop Congregational Church notes] The company, which operated from 1869 to 1890, is the successor foundry to both Henry N. Hooper & Co. (1830-1868) and Boston Copper Company (1823-1830). Paul Revere 3rd, John W. Sullivan, and William Blake operated Boston Copper Company, with Henry N. Hooper as agent. Another church bell cast by William Blake & Company in 1878 is located at the First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church, Fitchburg. [Hooper/Blake index] In addition to serving church-related functions, until 1946 the bell at Winthrop Church was used to notify Holbrook's volunteer firefighters about the location of fires.

Completing the row of institutional buildings in the Holbrook Square district is the Central Fire Station, North Franklin Street (1881, MHC #130, photo 1, 2, and 5). The building is the second oldest fire station in continuous use in Massachusetts, following an 1878 fire station in Taunton [Holbrook Community Devt. Office]. Organized fire fighting in Holbrook began by about 1830, when East Randolph (Holbrook) maintained a volunteer fire department equipped with a

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook (Norfolk Co.), MA

Section number 8 Page 6

small hand engine known as the *Columbian*. In 1839, the *Aquarius* hand engine replaced the *Columbian* and was stored in a small firehouse near the site of the present station. When a new firehouse was built in 1869 on nearby Plymouth Street, the older (1839) station was moved; that building is now a dwelling at 72 South Franklin Street (MHC #144).

In 1878, the town acquired a steam engine, which pumped water faster than the hand-pumped engines. Despite offering greater efficiency in pumping water, it took seventeen minutes for the steamer to reach the temperature necessary for the pump to operate. [Bell, Central Fire Station notes] The Holbrook Fire Department's inventory in 1878 included the steamer, two hand engines (the *Aquarius* and the *Washington*), and one hook and ladder truck. The *Aquarius* Engine Company was headquartered at the Plymouth Street firehouse, and the *Washington* Engine Company was headquartered at Brookville. [Board of Engineers, *Seventh Annual Town Report*, 10] The steamer and the hook and ladder truck evidently were not housed in permanent quarters initially. The size of the steamer engine required a larger firehouse than was available in Holbrook at that time.

An article was placed on warrants for two successive Annual Town Meetings – in April 1880 and April 1881 – to see what action the town would take to build a suitable house for the steamer on the Town Hall lot. Construction on the new engine house, also known as the “steamer hall,” was completed in 1881. Henry C. Dorman, a member of Holbrook's Board of Engineers (Engineers of the Fire Department) in 1878 and 1879, was involved in the building's construction, likely as the builder, though further research is needed to confirm. Both Dorman and George Howard received payment from the town for work of an unspecified nature on the new engine house. According to town reports of the late 1870s, the town of Holbrook paid Dorman for various carpentry projects at Town Hall and elsewhere. In 1883, he built an addition to the fire station in Brookville. Other contractors who worked on the steamer hall included Hiram Belcher, who dug the cellar and laid up the stone foundation, and Elcock & Sons, who did the decorative stone work. [Board of Engineers, *Tenth Annual Town Report*, 15; *Twelfth Annual Town Report*, 5]

Central Fire Station has served as the town's main fire station since its construction. Though underutilized today (see **Description**), the second floor of the station, complete with vaulted ceilings, was originally a key meeting room in the town. All fire department meetings were held there, as well as political meetings and some social functions. The Fire Department also hosted Monday night supper hours in the basement. [Bell, Central Fire Station notes]

In the 1890s, fire alarm boxes were installed around Holbrook. When an alarm sounded and the message was received at the Central Fire Station, the bell of the Winthrop Congregational Church was rung a specific number of times to let the town's volunteer firefighters know where the fire was located. Firefighters would then meet at the fire. The church bell was rung first by hand, and from 1895 onward by an electric striker system, installed between the fire station and the church. The present fire whistle was installed at Town Hall in 1946. [Bell, Central Fire Station notes; Holbrook inventory; “History of the Winthrop Congregational Church”]

The steam engine was replaced in the early 20th century by a system of fire hydrants installed throughout the town. Previously, several cisterns were built in Holbrook to hold water that could then be used in the event of a fire. One such cistern is located under the parking lot at Town Hall and was found during recent construction of the universal access ramp at the building's main entrance (see below). Constructed of brick and beehive in shape, the cistern is still being used as part of the drainage system for the Town Hall lot. [Bell, Central Fire Station notes] In 1907, the town removed the old hose tower at the Central Fire Station [“Report of the Fire Department,” *37th Annual Report*, 51]. The hose tower

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook (Norfolk Co.), MA

Section number 8 Page 7

is not visible in pre-1907 photographs of the building; it may have been a detached structure located on the Town Hall lot behind the fire station.

Local manufacturing collapsed midway through the Late Industrial period (1875-1915), likely owing to the Panic of 1893, a nationwide financial crisis, and the ensuing depression through the mid-1890s. Although there was a partial recovery from ca. 1900 to 1905, boot and shoe manufacturing had almost completely ended in Holbrook by 1910. Small-scale farming continued throughout the town. Several greenhouses operated in Holbrook in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and at least two companies established in the 1890s produced dried fruit.

Demolition of the Thomas White & Company boot and shoe factory, a prominent building in Holbrook Square from 1865 onward, precipitated the creation of Mary Wales Holbrook Park (1906, MHC #903, photo 1, see sketch map). Thomas White & Company had been one of the town's largest producers of boots and shoes. A portion of the 2½-story factory occupied the former Second Church or East Parish Church building already on the site (1819, demolished). The factory business had folded by 1903, according to Sanborn maps of that year, and the building was subsequently demolished. In 1906, Mary Wales Holbrook (1829-1906), daughter of Elisha Niles Holbrook, gave the town the land at the northwest corner of North Franklin and Union Streets for use as a public park. A philanthropist like her father, she also gave the town clock for the steeple of the Winthrop Congregational Church (replaced with the current clock in 2003). Miss Holbrook's other donations included the Church's first permanent parsonage (surviving at 28 Linfield Street, west of Holbrook Square) and an annual sum of \$200 to the public library.

The town accepted title to the park property from Miss Holbrook on August 27, 1906. Her gift to the town included \$1,000 for grading the site. This amount proved to be insufficient, leading Miss Holbrook to donate additional funds to the town to cover the full amount of the grading work, totaling \$2,415.15. Hartley L. White was the engineer/surveyor on the project, and John L. Galvin did the grading. [35th Annual Report (Dec. 1906), 38; 36th Annual Report (Dec. 1907), 16] There is no evidence from the *Town Reports* that a landscape architect was contracted to design the park for the town.

Like many towns in Massachusetts that were not incorporated until the post-Civil War era, Holbrook does not have a Colonial-period town common. Until the early 1960s, there was a small green on North Franklin Street, directly in front of Town Hall. This green was largely eliminated for the construction of off-street parking, though a small site for the flagpole remains. Mary Wales Holbrook Park is highly significant as the best preserved historic green space at Holbrook Square, serving as a *de facto* town common.

On December 8, 1906, Mary Wales Holbrook died at age seventy-seven. In the years following, her brother, E. Everett Holbrook, made regular donations to the town, the income from which funded maintenance of the park. He also funded two improvements coordinated by the Holbrook Memorial Association, an agency of town government charged with keeping "before the public the due observance of all memorial occasions." [37th Annual Report (Dec. 1908), 81; 38th Annual Report (Dec. 1909), p. 77]. On Independence Day of 1909, the town dedicated a flagpole on the green in front of Town Hall. The current flagpole (photo 3, see sketch map) is a replacement installed in 2002 during streetscape improvements. Mr. Holbrook also provided one-half the cost of the Civil War Monument (see below), placed in the park donated by his sister. The monument honors men from East Randolph (Holbrook) who died in the Civil War.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook (Norfolk Co.), MA

Section number 8 Page 8

John Horrigan (1864-1939) of Quincy sculpted the bronze and granite Civil War Monument (1917, MHC #904, photo 1, see sketch map) at Mary Wales Holbrook Park, Holbrook Square. A native of Fayston, Vermont, Horrigan moved to Newton, Massachusetts with his family and by the 1880s relocated to Quincy, where he was apprenticed to stone-cutter Fred Barnicoat. He supplemented his early education by attending night schools in Boston and Quincy. Horrigan's obituary lists his best known works, chief of which was the Civil War soldier that survives in Holbrook. Horrigan carved the World War Memorial in Hull, and the Robert Burns statue (1925) in Quincy, presented to the city by the Robert Burns Memorial Association. Shortly thereafter, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts commissioned Horrigan to carve the Myles Standish statue (1926-1930) to replace an earlier statue at the State Reservation in Duxbury that had been damaged by lightning. Horrigan also did the carving on the Titanic statue, Washington, D. C.; the carving on *The Crusader* by Lorado Taft, a memorial to the late Victor Lawson, editor of the *Chicago Daily News*; and a statue of a Continental soldier at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. [Boston Public Library, Boston Art Archives/New England Art Information File]

Modest growth occurred in Holbrook during the Early Modern period (1915-ca. 1940). The town's population increased five percent between 1920 and 1940 (3,330 persons). Dairy farming was a mainstay of the local economy from the 1920s until well after World War II. The greenhouse and market gardening industry also remained an important presence locally. Fueling much of the town's growth was the construction of speculative housing developments, undertaken partly due to Holbrook's location on the Bay State Street Railway line, which operated from ca. 1917 to 1935. After 1935, busses replaced the streetcars. Also in the 1930s, North and South Franklin Streets were designated part of State Route 37. Early Modern-period commercial buildings are uncommon in Holbrook. The storefronts at Town Hall (currently infilled with plywood panels) retain the greatest integrity of any historic commercial spaces surviving at Holbrook Square.

In the 1920s, the town acquired its first motorized fire truck and hired the first full-time paid firefighter, who also was the permanent driver. He lived at the Central Fire Station Monday through Friday, and had three hours a day to go home for meals. He was responsible for receiving the first emergency calls and ringing the Winthrop church bell to notify firefighters of the location of a fire. He also had a phone at his house so his wife could answer emergency calls while he was traveling between his home and the station. In the 1940s, the Fire Department hired a second driver so the two firefighters could rotate duties. Employment of paid firefighters peaked in the 1970s, with twenty in the department. The Fire Department still owns one of the original hand-drawn hose reels from the late 19th century. [Bell, Central Fire Station notes]

After years of close cooperation between the two churches, in 1931 committees from the Winthrop Congregational Church and the Methodist church in Holbrook considered uniting their memberships. The proposition was passed by the Winthrop Church by a close vote. The Methodists, who favored the idea of unification, had sought a two-thirds vote in favor. The matter was not pursued. ["History of the Winthrop Congregational Church"]

From the 1950s onward, some of the municipal functions previously housed at Town Hall shifted to other town-owned buildings. Construction of the Holbrook Junior-Senior High School, South Franklin Street (1954) provided a modern auditorium in which to hold large gatherings such as Town Meeting, which relocated from Town Hall to the school in 1956. The public library vacated Town Hall after construction of the Holbrook Public Library, Plymouth Street (1961) at

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook (Norfolk Co.), MA

Section number 8 Page 9

Holbrook Square. After over one hundred years at Town Hall, the Police Department relocated in 1983 to the former Franklin School, 169 North Franklin Street (1934-1935, MHC #156).

Preservation Activity

In 2001-2002, the Town of Holbrook implemented streetscape improvements at Holbrook Square. The source of funding was unused Chapter 90 highway department monies. Improvements within the nominated historic district included construction of granite-bollard and wood-rail fences defining the street frontages of the Town Hall/Fire Station lot and Mary Wales Holbrook Park. In addition, a small brick plaza was built directly in front of the Town Hall, incorporating a new flagpole and a granite sidewalk medallion bearing the town seal and inscribed *Holbrook Square Improvements, 2001-2002*.

A universal access ramp at the northern entry to Town Hall was recently completed. The project was funded by the town's Community Development office. Another project awaiting funding with Community Development Block Grant monies is the installation of an elevator between Town Hall and the Central Fire Station. Currently, a wheelchair lift runs up the main stair between the entry at the ramp and the second floor.

The Town of Holbrook intends to apply for a grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) of the Massachusetts Historical Commission to undertake rehabilitation of the Town Hall façade. This work will include replacement of the 1960s plywood panels in the storefronts with glazing that is sensitive to the character of the historic building and the design of the original storefronts. In March 2004, the town was awarded a Preservation Services Fund grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This matching grant will enable the town, through the Community Development office, to prepare design plans and specifications for the façade rehabilitation work.

Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to many of the buildings, now demolished, responsible for the development of the crossroads village as the commercial and institutional core of the town. Archaeological resources may exist that document the locations, architectural details, and activities conducted at many institutional and commercial buildings extant during the town's and district's early period of settlement. No institutional buildings that predate the last quarter of the 19th century survive, and all of Holbrook's large boot and shoe factories have been demolished. Additional historic research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate evidence of landuse in the district that predates the 1818 meetinghouse site reported in the Park between the Holbrook War Memorials and Central Fire Station to the north. Presently undocumented 17th century landuse may exist as well as landuse related to the settlement of the crossroads village in the mid 18th century. A 1750s schoolhouse was reported in the crossroads village; however, it is not known whether the structure was located within the district. Archaeological resources may locate the precise site of the 1818 meetinghouse and barns, carriage sheds, and occupational-related features associated with that structure. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features associated with the meetinghouse may contribute important information related to the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of Holbrook's population in the crossroads village area during the early to mid 19th century. Structural evidence associated with the meetinghouse may also contribute important architectural information related to

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook (Norfolk Co.), MA**

Section number 8 **Page** 10

the appearance of that structure and the extent to which it was modified for incorporation into the later Thomas White and Co. boot and shoe factory. Structural evidence and trash deposits associated with the factory may contribute information important to the significance of the district, since no commercial/industrial examples survive in the district. As stated above, all similar boot and shoe factories, important to the town's 19th century economy, have been lost in the town. Archaeological research at the Thomas White and Co. factory may contribute important information related to the early use of steam power for industrial production in general and in Holbrook. The Thomas White and Co. factory was the first steam-operated factory in Holbrook. Detailed analysis of archaeological remains at the boot and shoe factory site may contribute important information related to technologies in use in early boot and shoe factories and details of the manufacturing process at the White and Co. factory. Boot and shoe manufacture may have included the entire process from raw materials to finished product or specific stages in the manufacturing process. Information may exist indicating a commercial/industrial relationship between smaller boot and shoe manufacturing shops or cottage industries and larger factories. Archaeological resources may contribute important information that documents the evolution of the boot and shoe industry from smaller shops to larger factories.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook (Norfolk Co.), MA

Section number 9 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

Annual Report of the Town Officers of the Town of Holbrook (1872 onward), specifically:

"Report of the Board of Engineers [Engineers of Holbrook Fire Department]." *7th Annual Report*, for the year ending 28 February 1879.

"Report of the Selectmen, New Engine House." *10th Annual Report*, for the year ending 28 February 1882.

"Report of the Selectmen, Addition to Engine House (Brookville)." *12th Annual Report*, for the year ending 28 February 1884.

"Special Report of the Selectmen, Park Report." *35th Annual Report*, for the year ending 31 December 1906.

"Report of the Holbrook Memorial Association." *38th Annual Report*, for the year ending 31 December 1909.

Boston Public Library, Fine Arts Department. Boston Architecture Reference File [biographical information on John Lyman Faxon] and Boston Art Archives/New England Art Information File [biographical information on John Horrigan]. April 2004.

Bunting, Bainbridge. *Houses of Boston's Back Bay. An Architectural History, 1840-1917*. Cambridge, Massachusetts and London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1967 (fifth printing 1982).

"A Community Develops: Holbrook After One Hundred Years, 1872-1972." manuscript, no date (ca. 1972). Holbrook Historical Commission files, Holbrook Town Hall.

Cote, Wesley C. "Early history of Holbrook," in *Holbrook, 100th Anniversary 1872-1972*. Holbrook, 1972.

-----, "History of the Winthrop Congregational Church of Holbrook." Via www.winthropchurch.org (8 March 2004).

-----, "Tragedy and near tragedy at Holbrook churches." *Holbrook Sun*, 30 October 1991, p. 7.

-----, compiler. "Interesting news items of Holbrook (1875-1885) taken from the *Norfolk County Register*." n.d. Holbrook Historical Commission files, Holbrook Town Hall.

French, Linda M. *The Winthrop Congregational Church, 1856-1956*. Holbrook: The Anniversary Committee, 1956.

Guild of Carillonners in North America. "Index to carillons and chimes by Hooper/Blake." www.gnca.org/data/IXfoundryHooperBlake (no date). 12 April 2004.

Holbrook Community Development Office and Holbrook Historical Commission. Notes and clippings on Holbrook Town Hall (Josephine Ruthwicz, compiler of notes), Winthrop Congregational Church (Dwight Nelson, compiler of notes), and Central Fire Station and Mary Wales Holbrook Park (Nicole Bell, compiler of notes). Spring 2004.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth. Town of Holbrook Historic Properties Inventory. Prepared by Kathleen Kelly Broomer for the Holbrook Historical Commission, June 1992 [includes bibliography].

(continued)

Holbrook Square Historic District
Name of Property

Norfolk County, Massachusetts
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.96 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A. 19 333990 4668850
Zone Easting Northing

C. 19 333920 4668710
Zone Easting Northing

B. 19 334000 4668700
Zone Easting Northing

D. 19 333930 4668860
Zone Easting Northing

— See continuation sheet

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 Kathleen Kelly Broomer, Preservation Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date March, 2006

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone (617) 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Holbrook [town hall] Winthrop Congregational Church

street & number 50 N. Franklin Street P.O. Box 336 telephone 781-767-4312

city or town Holbrook state MA zip code 02343

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 the 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 Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503. NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook (Norfolk Co.), MA

Section number 9/10 Page 2/1

----- Reconnaissance Survey Report for Holbrook. 1979.

Sammarco, Anthony. "Arthur Rotch: architect [information on Hartwell and Tilden]." *Milton Times* (Online Edition). www.milontimes.com/News/2002/0620/Columns/Arthur. 20 June 2002. (12 April 2004).

----- "Milton's Victorian town hall." *Milton Times* (Online Edition). www.milontimes.com/common/Historic_Places/hxanthonyoldtownhall. Undated. (12 April 2004).

Shand-Tucci, Douglass. *Built in Boston. City and Suburb, 1800-1950* [information on John Lyman Faxon]. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1978, 1988.

Vogel, Susan Maycock. "Hartwell and Richardson: an introduction to their work." *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 32 (May 1973), 132-146.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey. *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*. Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970 (republished by Omnigraphics, Detroit, 1996).

(end)

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated district is shown on the accompanying detail of the Town of Holbrook assessor's map. The district encompasses 1.96 acres and has approximately 468 feet of frontage on North Franklin Street, 83 feet on Union Street, and 168 feet on Linfield Street.

Boundary Justification

The district boundary includes the three parcels historically associated with the Town Hall and Central Fire Station (on the same lot), Mary Wales Holbrook Park, and Winthrop Congregational Church.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook (Norfolk Co.), MA

Section number

Page

Photographs

Historic Name: Holbrook Square Historic District
Location: west side of North Franklin from Union Street to Linfield Street,
Holbrook, Massachusetts
Photographer: Kathleen Kelly Broomer
Date: Spring 2004
Location of Negatives: Town of Holbrook Community Development Office

Photo #

View

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | View north/northwest from Mary Wales Holbrook Park |
| 2 | View south/southwest from North Franklin Street at Linfield Street |
| 3 | Holbrook Town Hall, view southwest from North Franklin Street |
| 4 | Winthrop Congregational Church, view northwest from North Franklin Street |
| 5 | Central Fire Station, view northwest from Mary Wales Holbrook Park |

Holbrook Square Historic District Holbrook, Massachusetts

District Data Sheet

Assessor's Map/Parcel	MHC #	Historic Name	Address	Date of Construction	Style	Resource Type	Status	Photo #
73-1	903	Mary Wales Holbrook Park	Holbrook Square	1906	---	Si	C	1
	904	Civil War Monument		1917	---	O	C	1
		HNH & Co. Field Gun #205		1861, ca. 1917	---	O	C	1
		HNH & Co. Field Gun #351		1861, ca. 1917	---	O	C	1
		Veterans Monument I and II		1989	---	2 O	2 NC	1
		Veterans of Foreign Wars Tablet and Flagpole		ca. 1980	---	2 O	2 NC	1
		Jewish War Veterans Monument		1984	---	O	NC	
		fence		2001-2002	---	St	NC	
73	130	Central Fire Station	North Franklin Street	1881	Panel Brick	B	C	1, 2, 5
		Holbrook Fire Dept. Monument		1994	---	O	NC	5
73	131	Holbrook Town Hall	50 North Franklin Street	1878-1879	High Victorian Gothic	B	C	1, 2, 3
		flagpole		2002	---	O	NC	3
		fence		2001-2002	---	St	NC	3
		sidewalk medallion/marker		2001-2002	---	O	NC	
		Dept. Public Works garage		ca. 1960	utilitarian	B	NC	3
		Dept. Public Works shed		ca. 1960	utilitarian	B	NC	
72	133	Winthrop Congregational Church	16 North Franklin Street	1878-1880	Stick Style	B	C	1, 2, 4
		granite curbing		ca. 1890	---	St	C	4
		standing sign		ca. 1990	---	O	NC	2

Key: B = building, Si = site, St = structure, O = object, C = contributing, NC = noncontributing

Number of Resources Within District

Contributing: 3 buildings, 1 site, 1 structure, 3 objects (8 total)

Noncontributing: 2 buildings, 0 sites, 2 structures, 9 objects (13 total)

LINFIELD STREET

objects and
structures (from
north to south):

Church lot

- granite curbing
- standing sign

Town Hall-
Fire Station
lot

- fence
- flagpole (right)
- sidewalk
medallion (left)
- Fire Dept.
monument

Park lot

- fence
- Field Gun
#205
- Jewish War
Vets. monument
- Veterans
monument II
- Civil War
monument
- Veterans
monument I
- VFW tablet
and flagpole
- Field Gun
#351

WINTHROP
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

SHED

GARAGE

TOWN
HALL

CENTRAL
FIRE
STATION

MARY WALES
HOLBROOK
PARK

NORTH FRANKLIN STREET (ROUTE 37)

UNION STREET (ROUTE 139)

PLYMOUTH ST

NOTES:

- ALL BUILDINGS ARE
IDENTIFIED IN SKETCH
- FOR OBJECTS AND
STRUCTURES, SEE
SIDE BAR
- LOT LINES
- ▬ FENCE OR CURBING

HOLBROOK SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT
HOLBROOK, NORFOLK CO., MASS.
MAY 2004

NOT TO SCALE

N
↑

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Holbrook Square Historic District

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Norfolk

DATE RECEIVED: 3/29/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/17/06
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/02/06 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/12/06
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06000359

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 5.10.06 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook, Mass.

Photo 1: View north/northwest from
Mary Wales Holbrook Park



Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook, Mass.

Photo 2: View South/Southwest from
North Franklin Street at
Linfield Street



Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook, Mass.

Photo 3: Holbrook Town Hall, view southeast
from North Franklin Street
(Central Fire Station at left)



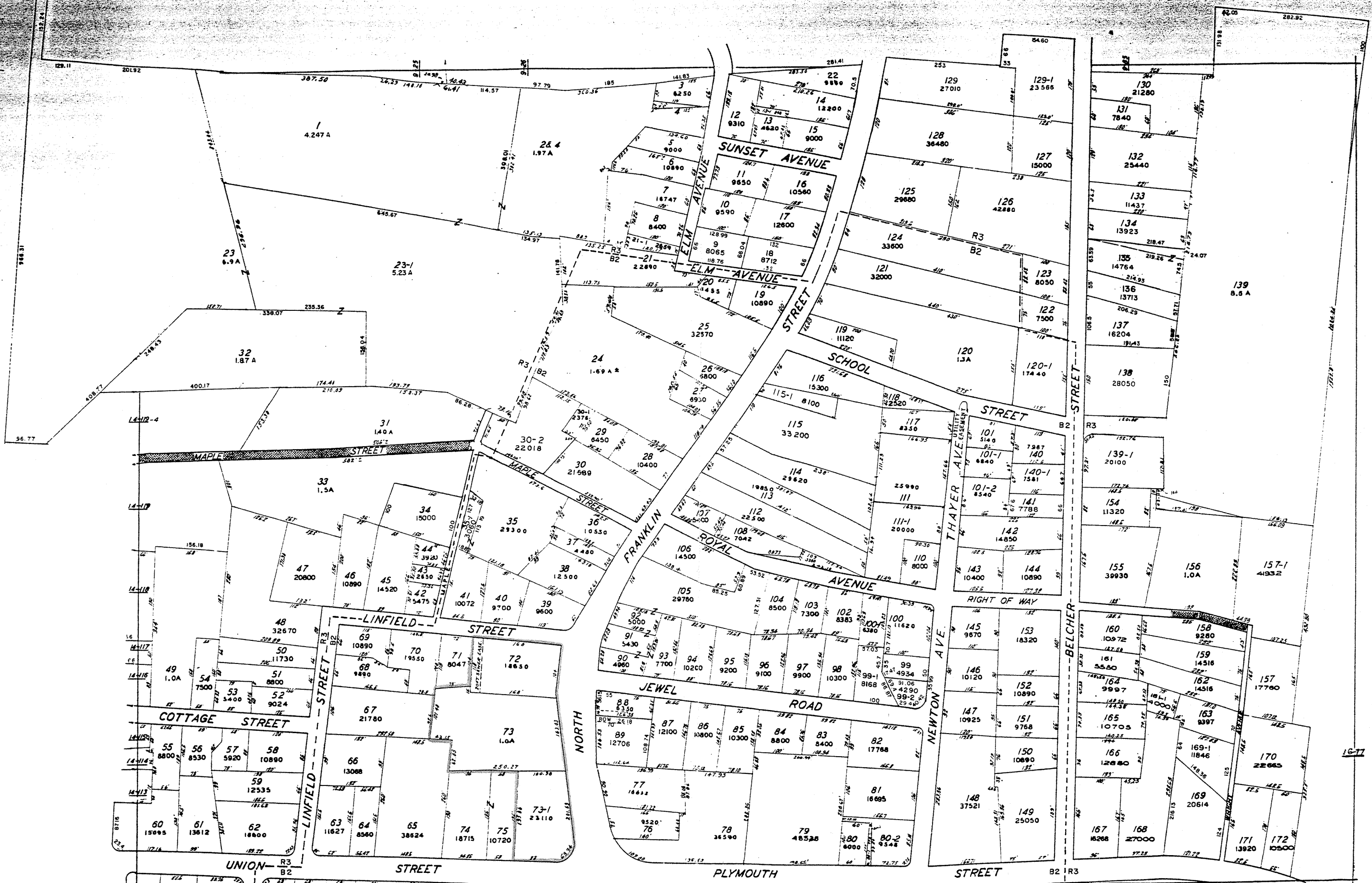
Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook, Mass.

Photo 4: Winthrop Congregational Church,
view northwest from North Franklin
Street (Town Hall at left)



Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook, Mass.

Photo 5: Central Fire Station, view northwest
from Mary Wales Holbrook Park
(Town Hall at right)



REVISED BY AVIS AIRMAP INC., 1988
REVISED BY AIRMAP AMERICA, 1992, 1997, 2000



Holbrook Square Historic District
Holbrook, Norfolk Co., Mass.
May 2004

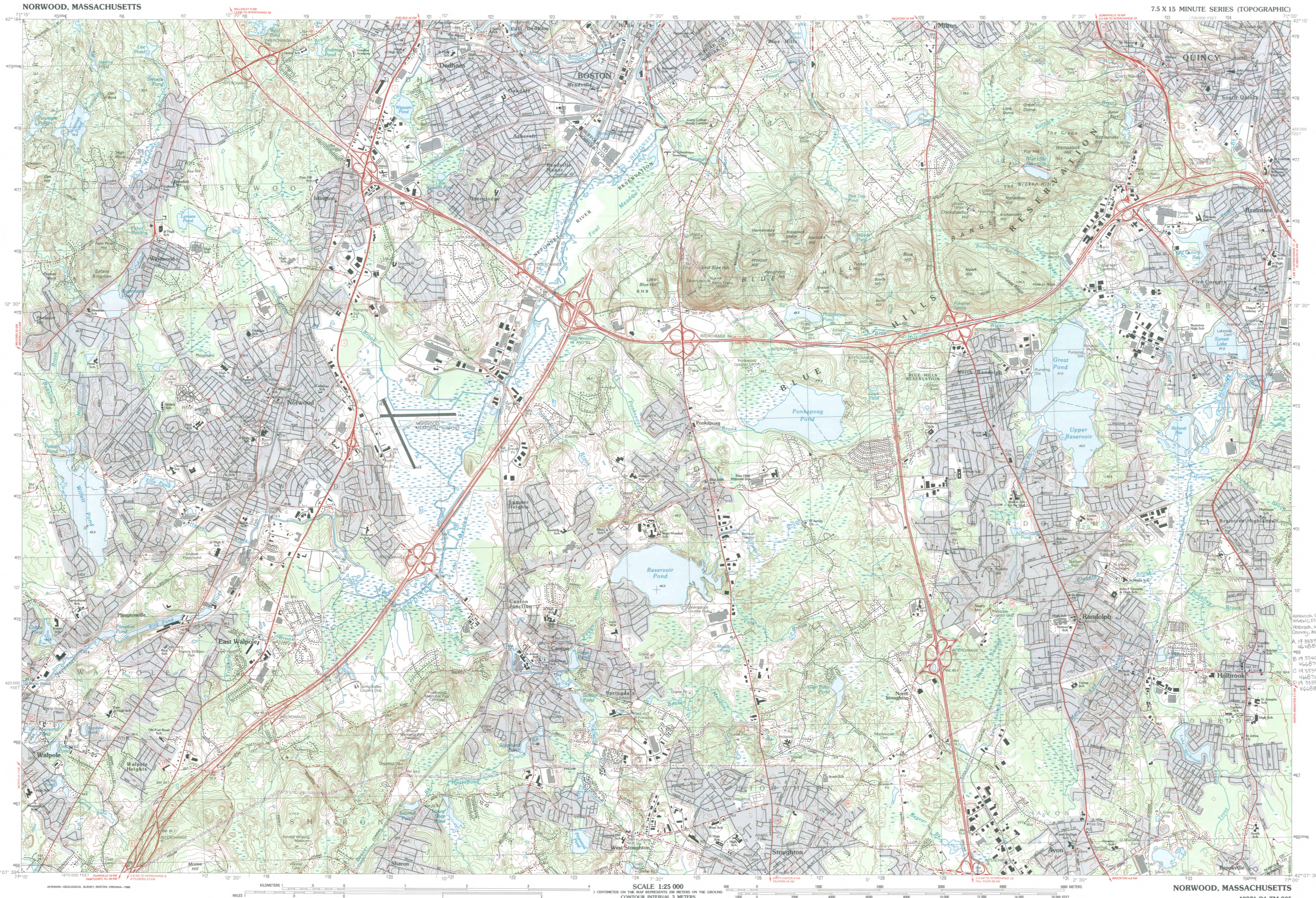
TOWN OF HOLBROOK

SCALE 1 INCH = 100 FEET

8	9	10
14	15	16
20	21	22

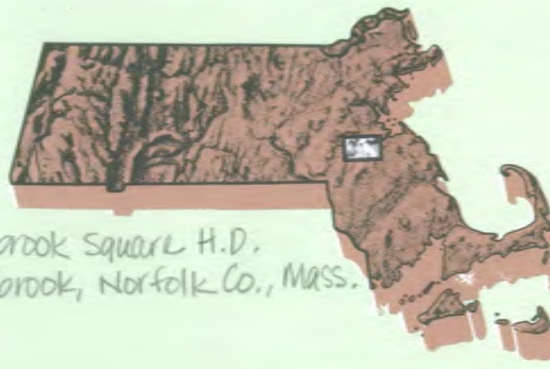
15

COPY



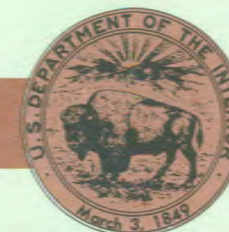
Norwood MASSACHUSETTS

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



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1985

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 1985.
Supersedes Norwood and Blue Hills 1:25,000-scale
maps dated 1970 and 1971
Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal
Transverse Mercator, zone 19
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate
system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
41 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
CONTOUR ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS											
Meters	Feet			<table border="1"><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td></td></tr></table>			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	2	3													
4	5	6													
7	8														
2	6.5608			1 Framingham											
4	13.1217			2 Boston South											
6	19.6826			3 Hull											
8	26.2434			4 Medford											
10	32.8043			5 Weymouth											
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808		UTM grid convergence (0.0000 at center of map) Diagram is approximate		6 Franklin											
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048				7 Brockton											
				8 Whitman											



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	.....
Built-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; found section corner	.....
U. S. public lands survey; range, township, section	.....
Range, township, section line; location approximate	.....
Fence or field line	.....
Power transmission line, located tower	.....
Dam; dam with lock	.....
Cemetery; grave	.....
Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument	.....
Windmill; water well; spring	.....
Mine shaft; prospect; sill or ore	.....
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	.....
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	.....
Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand	.....
Barometric contours: index; intermediate	.....
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	.....

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

March 27, 2006

Dr. John Roberts
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Dr. Roberts:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Holbrook Square HD, Holbrook (Norfolk), MA

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 were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Four letters of support have been received.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Kathleen K. Broomer, consultant
Marion G. Colburn, Holbrook Historical Commission
Robert Austin, Holbrook Board of Selectmen
Josephine Ruthwicz, Community Development Office
Dwight Nelson, Trustee Board, Winthrop Congregational Church
Chair, Holbrook Planning Board
Andrew H. Card, Jr.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

C D O

NOV 1 / RECD

2003

***Winthrop Congregational Church
Holbrook, Mass 02343***



Josephine A. Ruthwicz
Program Manager
Holbrook Community Development Office
Town of Holbrook

RE: National Historic Nomination

Dear Josephine Ruthwicz,

It is a great honor that the Trustee Board, on behalf of the entire Winthrop congregation, is able to work with your office, in the nomination process, to be considered, as part of a National Register Historical District, in the Town of Holbrook.

Therefore, please note that the Winthrop Congregational Church of Holbrook, Massachusetts officially requests to be part of the nomination process to the National Register Historic District, as defined by your office.

In closing, it should be noted that the Winthrop Congregational Church, considers it an honor that our church can work with your office in this effort to help preserve our important historical past, as we move into the future. Please contact me at the below listed numbers if I can be of any help or answer any questions you may have.

Mr. Dwight Nelson
Trustee Board, Chairman
Winthrop Congregational Church

10 Shirley Street
Holbrook, Mass
Dwight.nelson@ae.ge.com (work)
Dwight.nelson@comcast.net (home)
(781)767-5589 (home)
(781)594-7022 (work)

ANDREW H. CARD, JR.

March 1, 2004



The Honorable James A. Reichert
Chairman
Board of Selectmen of the Town of Holbrook
50 North Franklin Street
Holbrook, Massachusetts 02343

Dear Chairman Reichert:

It is my understanding that the Town of Holbrook, Massachusetts is seeking to protect and preserve the Town Hall. As a Holbrook native, I have always seen our Town Hall as a sanctuary of local government and a microcosm of American history. Built in the 19th Century, the Town Hall represents the best of the New England tradition of equal and active participation in government, providing a gathering place to debate the problems and issues facing the community. I applaud the efforts to protect the Holbrook Town Hall and hope that the community provides a comprehensive and convincing picture of the importance of the Town Hall's preservation.

Sincerely,

Andrew H. Card, Jr.

The Holbrook Town Hall
has been a venue for some
very significant events in
my life. I am proud to call
Holbrook home and to support
the protection of the Town Hall.



Town of Holbrook

50 North Franklin Street, Holbrook, MA 02343
Tel: (781) 767-4312 Fax: (781) 767-3143
selectmen@holbrookmassachusetts.us



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Board of Public Works

April 22, 2004

Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3314

Re: National Register Nomination Application

Dear Ms. Friedberg:

The Holbrook Board of Selectmen, at its meeting of April 20, 2004, voted unanimously in support of the application seeking to include Mary Wales Holbrook Park, the Central Fire Station, the Town Hall, and the Winthrop Congregational Church on the National Register of Historic Places and to establish a Historic District comprised of those properties.

The Board greatly values both the preservation of these properties for future generations, and the rich history they represent, and it fully supports the efforts of the Holbrook Historical Commission and the Holbrook Community Development Office in the creation of a Holbrook Square Historic District.

Sincerely,

David H. Holden, Chairman
HOLBROOK BOARD OF SELECTMEN

meg



Town of Holbrook

Massachusetts 02343



Office of the

Historical Commission

April 27, 2004

Betsey Freidberg

Register Director

Massachusetts Historical Commission

22 Morrissey Boulevard

Boston Ma 02125-3314

Dear Betsey,

The members of the Holbrook Historical Commission and Josephine Ruthwitz of the Community Development Office met and reviewed the Draft Proposal as prepared by Kathy Kelly Broomer, outlining and reviewing the buildings and area involved in our desire to establish an Holbrook Square Historic District.

It was the unanimous opinion of those attending that Kathy accomplished a superb review of the historical significance of the Winthrop Congregational Church, the Town Hall, the Central Fire Station and Mary Wales Holbrook Park and their relationship to the town's past and present uses.

The Historical Commission enthusiastically supports the placement of these properties on the National Register of Historic Places and the creation of an Holbrook Square Historic District.

We enjoyed working with Kathy in the past and look forward to working with her in the future.

Sincerely,

Marion G. Colburn

Marion G. Colburn

Chairman: Holbrook Historical Commission