

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE:

Massachusetts

COUNTY:

Worcester

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

APR 13 1973



1. NAME

COMMON:

"Old Stone Church"

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

off ~~Route~~ 140

CITY OR TOWN:

West Boylston

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

4

STATE

CODE

COUNTY:

CODE

Massachusetts

025

Worcester

027

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

(Check One)

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- ☐ District ☒ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

- ☒ Public
☐ Private
☐ Both

- Public Acquisition:
☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

- ☐ Occupied
☒ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

- Yes:
☒ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☒ Other (Specify)
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious part of watershed
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific area

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Metropolitan District Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

20 Somerset Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

CODE

Massachusetts

025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Worcester County Registry of Deeds (Also: M.D.C.)

STREET AND NUMBER:

2 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Worcester

STATE

CODE

Mass.

025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

CODE

Massachusetts

025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
Mass.COUNTY:
Worcester

APR 13 1973

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☒ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The granite ashlar "Old Stone Church" stands near the shore of the Wachusett Reservoir in a sloping meadow scattered with tall, deciduous trees. A crenellated entrance tower projects from the north corner of this rectangular building whose long and steeply pitched roof is pierced by small triangular dormers. The side facades have two ranges of rectangular windows which define the first and basement stories. On each elevation a granite course, formed in part by the lintels of the basement windows, visually separates the basement from the auditorium area. Within each gable is located either a round or an arched opening (formerly windows). Buttresses project from the corner of each exposed wall of the tower and from each end of the long walls where they extend three quarters of the wall height.

On the gable ends the fenestration consists of large openings centered within the gable and narrow rectangular windows located at the basement and first story levels. The opening in the main gable end is round and louvered, outlined by granite block voussoirs, and windows are evenly spaced on the wall at the first story level. The opposite end contains an elliptically arched opening and, at the basement level, the windows are spaced in pairs.

The side walls of the church contain two ranges of rectangular windows, one at the basement and the other at the first story level. On the wall facing the Reservoir each range contains eight windows which are spaced in pairs. On the opposite side, the first story wall contains only six windows due to the projecting tower, while at the basement level, the range is incomplete and the windows differ in size, due to the slope of the land. A heavy granite course runs the length of each wall under the eaves, and forms the lintels of the first story windows.

From the wall of the main gable end and from the northeast side wall, the entrance tower projects through a portion of the roof. The two entrances are surmounted by round arches filled with coursed blocks. Round arched and louvered openings are located below the crenellated parapet.

The building is a ruin. Doors and windows have been destroyed or have deteriorated; the roof is in a state of collapse, and most of the wood interior has decayed beyond repair. Structurally the southeast and southwest walls are buckling. Restoration of the building is not contemplated; however, stabilization of the structure as a ruin is being considered.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1891

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☒ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | <u>community development, symbol of</u> |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | _____ |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Architecture | ☐ Theater | _____ |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Literature | ☐ Transportation | _____ |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Military | | |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The "Old Stone Church" is the only structure of the old center of West Boylston remaining on its original site. Recognizing the significance of the Church, which symbolizes the community as it existed prior to 1895, the town has made it the major feature in the town seal.

The Baptists constructed the church in 1891 of hand-cut stone from a local quarry at Malden Hill. It overlooks a section of the old town that was inundated by the construction of the Wachusett Reservoir. This was the largest construction of its kind in the United States when the project started in 1895.

To the residents of West Boylston the church is a link with the past, tragic in that this is the only building of the old center to remain after sixty percent of the town's land was flooded. To the visitor, the church, which resembles an English country church, is part of a picturesque 19th century landscape, beautiful in its setting on a point of meadow at the reservoir's shore and against the evergreen background of the watershed.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Town Meeting Records: 1835-1846; 1891-1900.
 Keyes, Houghton, et al. "History of the Baptist Church Society", History of the Town of West Boylston.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	42	0	22
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	71	0	46
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 acres

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

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



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Anne R Wardwell, Survey Director

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE: May 22, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston

STATE: Massachusetts

CODE: 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name: John F. A. Warren
 Secretary of the Commonwealth and
 Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
 Title: Commission

Date: May 24, 1972

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

Robert M. Utley
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/13/73

ATTEST:

Forradford
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: April 9, 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

19/270860/4694940
 UTM 24-9-22-75 W

PROPERTY "Old Stone Church"		STATE <u>MASS.</u>	73000329
WORKING NUMBER <u>1.10.73.2093</u>		Worcester	
73/73 TECH REVIEW	Photos <u>1</u>		
	Maps <u>1</u>		
CONTROL REVIEW			<u>NAJ</u> 2-26-73
HISTORIAN	appears to me very beautiful and possessing arch. sign. - would be nice to see its decay stabilized -		Accept. AML 3/26/73 Accept 4-5-73
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN	Beautiful building! Would like to see restored.		ACCEPT KH 4/4/73
ARCHEOLOGIST			
REVIEW UNIT CHIEF			
BRANCH CHIEF			OK 4/6/73
KEEPER			OK 4/9/73
National Register write-up _____		Send-back _____	
Federal Register entry <u>6-5-73</u>		Re-submit _____	
		Entered <u>APR 13 1973</u>	
Nice photograph			



West Boylston
Old Stone Church

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

1. NAME		RECEIVED JAN 10 1973 NATIONAL REGISTER	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS) APR 13 1973
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC		
"Old Stone Church"			
2. LOCATION			
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN	
Massachusetts	Worcester	West Boylston	
STREET AND NUMBER			
Route 140			
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT	
Massachusetts Historical Commission	October, 1972	Mass. Historical Commission 40 Beacon Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			

View of exterior from North; Thomas Basin of Wachusett Reservoir in background

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

1. NAME

COMMON

"Old Stone Church"

AND/OR HISTORIC

NUMERIC CODE *(Assigned by NPS)*

APR 13 1973

2. LOCATION

STATE

Massachusetts

COUNTY

Worcester

TOWN

West Boylston

STREET AND NUMBER

Route 140

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

U.S.G.S. Worcester,
North, Mass.

DATE

1960

SCALE

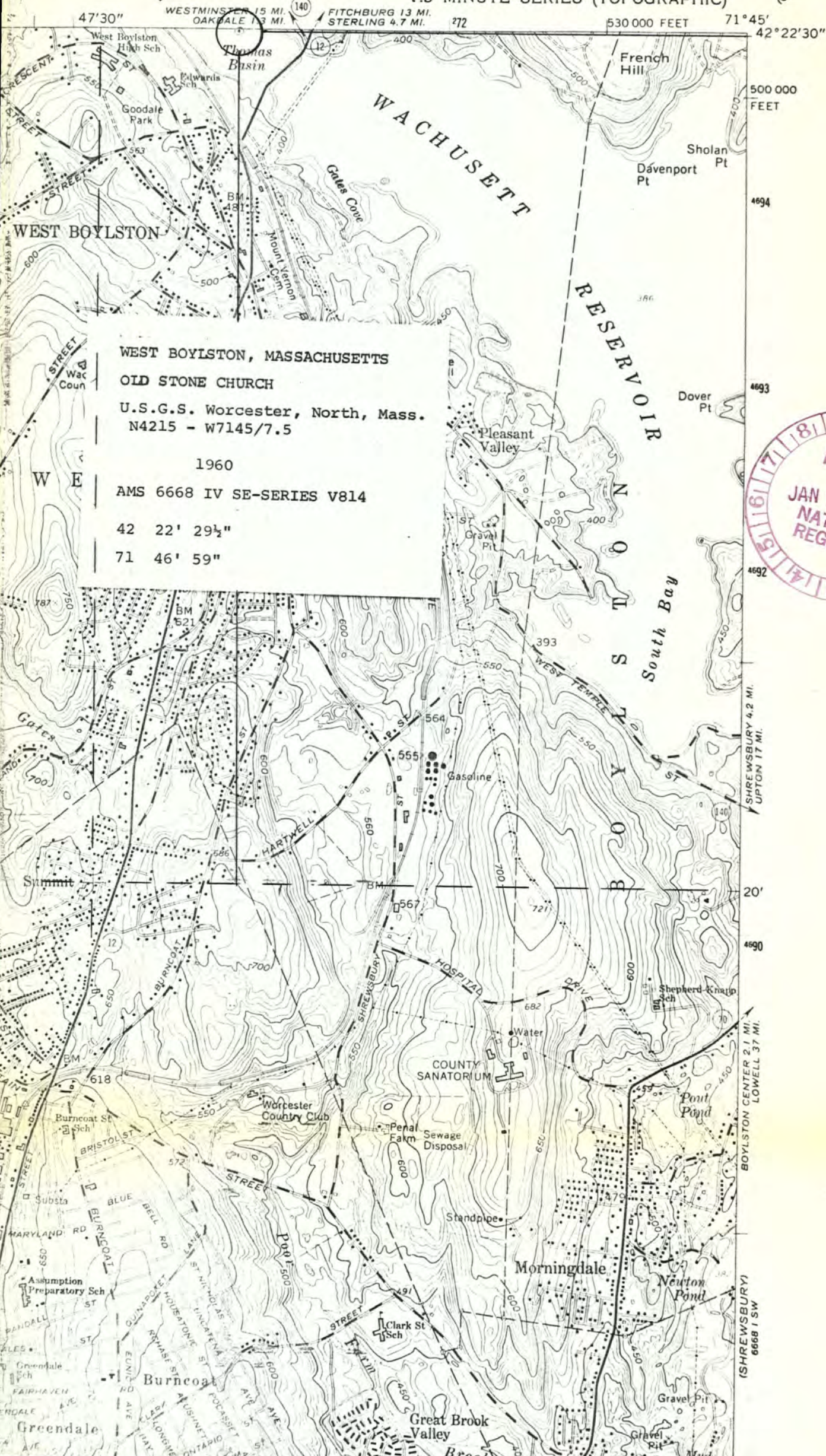
1:20,000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.



— WORCESTER NORTH QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS—WORCESTER CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6668 I NW
(CLINTON)





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

~~XXXXXX Street~~
40 Beacon Street

Boston, Mass. 02108

January 3, 1973

National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240



Attention: Mr. Jerry Rogers

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Jerry:

Enclosed is a National Register submission for:

Worcester County, West Boylston, "Old Stone Church"

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

Cordially,

Bob

Robert B. Rettig
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

RBR:pm
Encl.

4

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 13 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Cambridge Common Historic District	Cambridge Middlesex County
Wenham Historic District	Wenham Essex County
"Old Stone Church"	West Boylston Worcester County
Hamilton Historic District	Hamilton Essex County
Cyclorama Building	Boston (South End) Suffolk County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Hon. Robert Drinan
Mr. Floyd H. Hyde, HUD
Director, Northeast Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. John F.X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108