

PH0026620 #B no atm

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Mass.</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Suffolk</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>FEB 23 1972</b>



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Crowninshield House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**164 Marlborough Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Boston**

STATE: **Mass.** CODE: **25** COUNTY: **Suffolk** CODE: **25**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Louis F. Misco**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**163 Marlborough Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Boston** STATE: **Mass.** CODE: **25**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Pemberton Square**

CITY OR TOWN: **Boston** STATE: **Mass.** CODE: **25**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Inventory of the historic assets of the Commonwealth**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Massachusetts Historical Commission**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**State House**

CITY OR TOWN: **Boston** STATE: **Mass.** CODE: **25**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Mass.**  
COUNTY: **Suffolk**  
ENTRY NUMBER: **FEB 23 1972**  
DATE: **FEB 23 1972**  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <u>some info.</u> Unaltered			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE						
<p>The Crowninshield house, designed by H.H. Richardson in 1868 and completed in 1870, is located at the southwest corner of Marlborough and Dartmouth Streets. Constructed almost entirely of red brick, the house is <u>four stories high including a full story mansard roof</u>. The lintels and a water table, which caps the rusticated brick foundation, are brownstone.</p> <p>A low straight stairway leads up to the entrance of the house, located in a <u>two story projection which is centered on the northwest facade</u>. The <u>tall front door, flanked by a pair of equally tall, narrow windows is covered by a semicircular hood of wrought iron and glass</u>. On the second floor a pair of rectangular, double hung windows have been placed above the doorway. Each end wall of the entrance pavilion contains a double hung window at the second floor level. The pavilion projects slightly more than the width of one of these windows. The corners at the second story level are turned by spiral corbels. The parapet at the top of the pavilion is finished in an elaborate brick design with small wrought iron panels. On the first floor of the main facade, a single narrow window has been placed to the left of the entrance pavilion, and a narrow double window to the right. This opposition of double and single windows on the first floor is the only interruption in the bilateral symmetry of the facade. At the second story level another double hung window has been placed on each side of the pavilion. A brick stringcourse between the second and third floors runs across the facade and continues around the building. Set in a diamond pattern, a row of square tiles below the stringcourse adds to the horizontal integrity of the building. On the third story, the architect has placed three double-hung windows, one above each of the end windows on the second story and one in line with the front door. These third story windows are of the same dimensions as those on the floor below. Each of the windows on the third floor dictates the position of a truncated gable dormer in the mansard roof. Under the eaves, a course of bricks on end, diagonally angled, continues around the building. This type of brickwork can be seen on various houses of the period on Marlborough Street, in other parts of the Back Bay and Beacon Hill.</p> <p>The wall facing Dartmouth street exhibits elements that appear ten years later in the southeast facade of Trinity Rectory. Richardson creates the idiom of a large chimney face connected to the main facade by curved planes of brick. Windows in these curved planes allow the projecting chimney piece to function as a bay window. The smooth face of the chimney wall is decorated by bands of black brick as well as the continuous stringcourse and tiles that separate the second and third floors. Truncated gable dormers interrupt the roof line on either side of the chimney. A third dormer is situated directly above the windows (one on each floor) on the left side of this facade and with them creates an axis that echoes the verticality of the chimney.</p> <p>The opposite, southwest facade is rather plain and contains a two-story bay window in place of a chimney.</p>						

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1868-1870

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Crowninshield House (1868) was Henry Hobson Richardson's first attempt at domestic architecture and, along with Trinity Rectory, is one of the two surviving houses he designed in Boston. Richardson was the first great architect to work in a truly national idiom, and his designs were international in their influence.

The primary value of the Crowninshield House lies in its availability for comparative studies of Richardson's work and the development of his unique style, known as American or Richardson Romanesque. The chimney piece on the Dartmouth Street facade was used ten years later on the Newbury Street facade of Trinity Rectory. In Sever Hall, Harvard (1878), Richardson worked with the same material, red brick, but obtained noticeably better results. In discussing the Crowninshield House, Professor Henry Russell Hitchcock has said that "there is no work of Richardson's so little rewarding in aesthetic satisfaction."<sup>1</sup> In light of the fact that this is the first house Richardson ever designed and executed, this criticism is understandable. One need only compare it with the Trinity Rectory of 1879, the Stoughton House in Cambridge (1883), or any of his later houses to see the rapid maturing of Richardson's style.

Finally, though the building is not as impressive as his later works, a study of the Crowninshield House arouses an "admiration for its originality, its relative simplicity and the handling of the bay window at the left end as an enrichment of the general mass."<sup>2</sup> Much of the interior woodwork and paneling exists in its original state, offering an excellent example of the interior decoration of an early Richardson house.

1. Hitchcock, p. 82
2. Ibid, p. 82



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hitchcock, Henry Russell. The Architecture of H. H. Richardson and His Times. M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, 1966.  
 Van Rensselaer, Marianna Griswold (Mrs. Schuyler). Henry Hobson Richardson. Boston, 1888.  
 Bunting, Bainbridge. Houses of Boston's Back Bay, Cambridge, 1967.

19/338750/4690800  
 UTM Ref W 19 92-5

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	21' 10"	71	0	04' 45"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Anne R. Wardwell, Survey Director

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE: August 26, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: State House

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Mass. CODE: 25

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. X. Donovan  
 Secretary of the Commonwealth and  
 Chairman, Massachusetts Historical  
 Title Commission

Date July 27, 1971

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

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

Date FEB 23 1972

ATTEST:  
William M. ...  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date JAN 27 1972



Boston

Crowninshield House  
164 Marlborough St.

North (entrance) facade  
and

East (exterior chimney) facade

71.439

NPS Number

Feb. 23, 1972

Title:

Crowninshield House

Loc.

Suffolk County, Mass

North and east facades



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey

Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 246 and 248 (1971). This information is not intended for navigational purposes

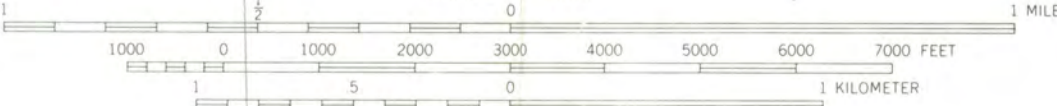
Polycyclic projection. 1927 North American datum

10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone

1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19, shown in blue

Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied by Massachusetts Department of Public Works

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET

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

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface ——— Light-duty road, hard or improved surface ———

Secondary highway, hard surface ——— Unimproved road ———

Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.  
N4215—W7100/7.5

1970

AMS 6768 1 SE—SERIES V814

CROWNFIELD HOUSE  
UTM PCF  
9-22-75  
19/328950  
19/4690800

4690800

UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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

STATE Mass.	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Crowninshield House  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
164 Marlborough Street  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Boston

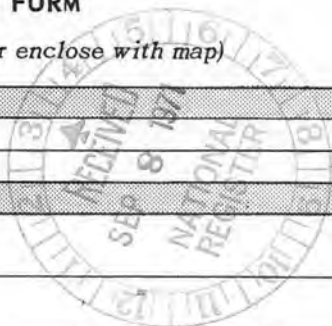
STATE: Mass.	CODE 25	COUNTY: Suffolk	CODE 25
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**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE:  
U.S.G.S. Boston, South, Mass.  
SCALE: 1:24,000  
DATE: 1956

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
  2. North arrow.
  3. Latitude and longitude reference.



STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

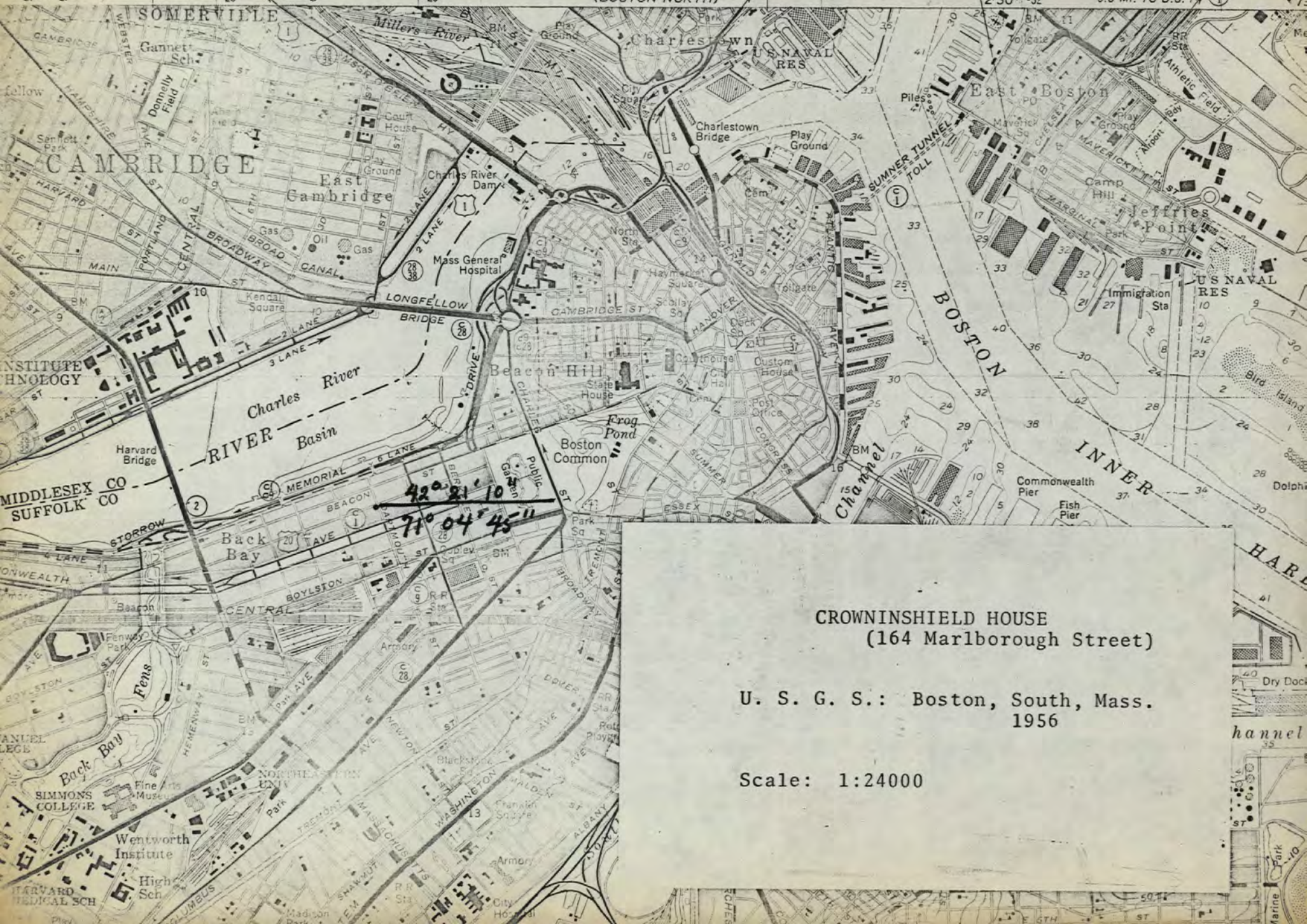
NEWBURYPORT 34 MI.  
EVERETT (CITY HALL) 3.9 MI.  
5'

6768 I NE  
(BOSTON NORTH)

CHELSEA (CITY HALL) 1.7 MI.

2'30" 332

6.6 MI. TO U.S. 1



CROWNINSHIELD HOUSE  
(164 Marlborough Street)

U. S. G. S.: Boston, South, Mass.  
1956

Scale: 1:24000

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered FEB 23 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Merrell Tavern	South Lee Berkshire County
Northborough Town-Hall	Northborough Worcester County
First Baptist Church	Boston Suffolk County
Old County Court House	Plymouth Plymouth County
Trinity Rectory	Boston Suffolk County
St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Lanesborough Berkshire County
Crowninshield House	Boston Suffolk County
First Universalist Church	Provincetown Barnstable County
Griswold (Major Joseph) House	Buckland Franklin County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
Hon. Edward W. Brooke  
Hon. Silvio O. Conte  
Hon. Harold D. Donohue  
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.  
Hon. Hastings Keith

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