

PH0026522

HB E 331 780  
7419 N 4688580

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Massachusetts
COUNTY:	Suffolk
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUN 4 1973

#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Arlington Street Church**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**corner of Arlington and Boylston Streets**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Boston**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**Eighth**

STATE: **Massachusetts**      CODE: **025**      COUNTY: **Suffolk**      CODE: **025**

#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Arlington Street Church, Inc.**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**355 Boylston Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Boston**

STATE:  
**Massachusetts**

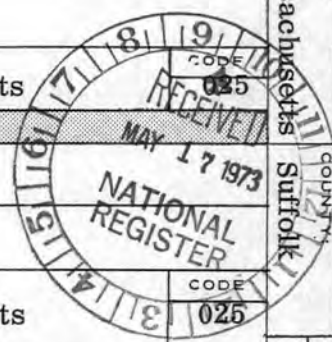
#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Pemberton Square**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Boston**

STATE:  
**Massachusetts**



#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**1. Historic American Buildings Survey (MASS-817) [continued]**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1965**       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Washington, D. C.**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington, D. C.**

STATE:  
**Washington, D. C.**

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Massachusetts

COUNTY: Suffolk

ENTRY NUMBER: JUN 4 1973

DATE: JUN 4 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

*gabled!*

The Arlington Street Church occupies a corner lot, facing the Public Garden, at the entrance to the Back Bay, and measures 70 feet on Arlington Street and 160 feet on Boylston Street. It is a 2 1/2 story structure of symmetrical plan with a ~~modified gambrel~~ roof, projecting entrance porch, and steeple rising to a height of 190 feet. The exterior is entirely sheathed in New Jersey brownstone ashlar and displays architectural embellishment derived from 16th century Italian Renaissance and 18th century English sources.

The lateral walls of the church are composed of two banks of five windows each. The first story windows are capped with segmental-arched lintels, while those of the second story are round-arched. The projecting porch forming the entrance to the church is framed by corner pilasters supporting a central pediment, and the main doorway is surmounted by a glazed lunette and framed between monumental, engaged columns of a composite order. Above the porch rises the steeple, patterned after that of St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London, designed by James Gibbs in 1721. Its superstructure is built up in five stages and terminates in a columniated octahedral lantern and steep spire, stylistically akin to the steeple of the Park Street Church, built in 1809 and within sight of Arlington Street.

The interior of the church continues to show the strong influence of 18th century English and American models. It is divided into a nave and two side aisles by a superb range of 35 foot Corinthian columns; this order is used again in pilasters along the walls. Galleries flank the side walls of the second story and a choir loft and organ (with original case) occupy the rear space at this level. Above the columns, on each side of the nave, spring five arches. These support an impressive vaulted ceiling ornamented with caissons and rich plaster decoration.

The general effect is similar to that of King's Chapel in Boston (1749; a National Historic Landmark); and the eighteenth century appearance is further heightened by the use of box pews made of chestnut and lined with old crimson damask.

Other features include thirteen Tiffany windows, a sixteen bell set of chimes in the steeple, and a small chapel, 26 by 50 feet, attached to the rear of the church and entered from Boylston Street.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



*[Faint, illegible handwritten notes]*

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 4 1973

(Number all entries)

Boston, Arlington Street Church

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

2. Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

1970 State

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
40 Beacon Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 025



8. SIGNIFICANCE

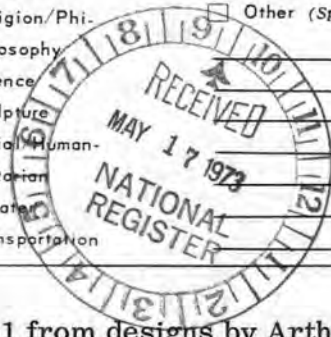
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1859-1861

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 checked="" 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

Arlington Street Church was built in 1859-61 from designs by Arthur Gilman. It was the first church and the first public building erected in Boston's Back Bay. Gilman was a Boston architect who was associated for a time with Gridley Bryant. Together they designed what is now called Old City Hall on School Street, erected in 1862-65 (a National Historic Landmark). Arthur Gilman is also credited with devising the layout of the Back Bay street system, beginning with the scheme for Commonwealth Avenue in 1856.

The design of Arlington Street Church, derived from eighteenth century English sources, marks it as an almost unique harbinger of the Colonial Revival. It was not until a quarter of a century after the church was built that Georgian-inspired architecture gained general popularity.

The church is the fourth home in Boston of the Unitarians and the history of the congregation adds significance to the building. The church was gathered in 1729 by Scotch-Irish immigrants whose background prompted them to employ the presbyterian form of church government. In August of 1786, the church voted to adopt congregational polity, foreshadowing a gradual shift to a Unitarian theology.

The first three church buildings were located on a site in what is now Boston's downtown business district. The first building (1729-1744) was a barn converted into a church by putting in some extra windows, a pulpit, and bare benches for pews. The second building (1744-1809) was larger and finer than the old and boasted a steeple with a bell. Here, in 1788, met the Massachusetts Convention which ratified and accepted the Constitution of the United States. In honor of that event the name of Long Lane was changed to Federal Street. The third building (1809-1859) was designed by Charles Bulfinch on more or less Gothic lines of architecture. In 1825 the American Unitarian Association was organized in the vestry of that church. William Ellery Channing, the renowned Unitarian leader, (1780-1842) was the senior minister from 1803 to 1842. For one hundred years, until 1965, the annual May Meeting of the American Unitarian Association met in the present building. Because of this, the church is considered to be the mother church of the denomination.

The Arlington Street Church has a pivotal location across from the southwest corner of the Public Garden and balances the Park Street Church at the far corner of the Boston Common. The handsome steeple can be seen throughout the Garden and enhances the appearance of that public open space. The position of the church at a major urban crossroads exemplifies the important role churches played in the development of the Back Bay and in the maintenance of the community's character.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Boston Evening Transcript, December 6, 1861, contained an article by Arthur Gilman, architect, describing the church in detail.  
 Kilham, Walter H., Boston After Bulfinch 1800-1900, Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1946.  
 Mumford, Lewis and Walter Muir Whitehill, Back Bay Boston: The City As A Work of Art, Boston, Museum of Fine Arts, 1969.  
 Whitehill, Walter Muir, Boston: A Topographical History, Cambridge, The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1963.

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			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	42	21	07	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"				71	04	19
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one half acre**

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:  
**Andréa Calfee and Alexander Cassie, Consultants**

ORGANIZATION: **Massachusetts Historical Commission** DATE: **March 20, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**40 Beacon Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Boston** STATE: **Massachusetts** CODE: **025**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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. Davoren  
**John F. X. Davoren, Secretary of the Commonwealth and Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission**

Date **April 30, 1973**

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert Van Utley  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/4/73

ATTEST:

W. Bradford  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5/31/73

PROPERTY

*Arlington Street Church* STATE *Mass*

WORKING NUMBER

*5.17.73.2945*

TECH REVIEW

Photos *2*

Maps *1*

*4/10/73*  
*Sutcliffe*

CONTROL REVIEW

*cm*  
*5-24-*  
*73*

*OK*

HISTORIAN

*Accept*  
*5-24-73*  
*C. Shull*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Accept*  
*KH*  
*5-29-73*

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

*OK*  
*5/31/73*

KEEPER

*OK*  
*5/31/73*

National Register write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Register entry *8-7-73*

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered *JUN 4 1973*



BOSTON, ARLINGTON ST. CHURCH-

EXTERIOR LOOKING TOWARD NORTH WEST

NPS Number

6-4-73

Title:

Arlington Street

Church

Loc.

Suffolk Co., Mass.

Exterior

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Boston, ARUNSTON St. Church

INTERIOR LOOKING TOWARD BACK OF CHURCH

NPS Number 6-4-73

Title: Burlington Street  
Church

Loc. Suffolk Co., Mass (2)  
Interior

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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

**1. NAME**

COMMON

Arlington Street Church

AND/OR HISTORIC

NUMERIC CODE *(Assigned by NPS)*

**JUN 4 1973**

**2. LOCATION**

STATE

Massachusetts

COUNTY

Suffolk

TOWN

Boston

STREET AND NUMBER

corner of Arlington and Boylston Streets

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE

U. S. G. S. Boston South

DATE

1956

SCALE

1 : 24,000

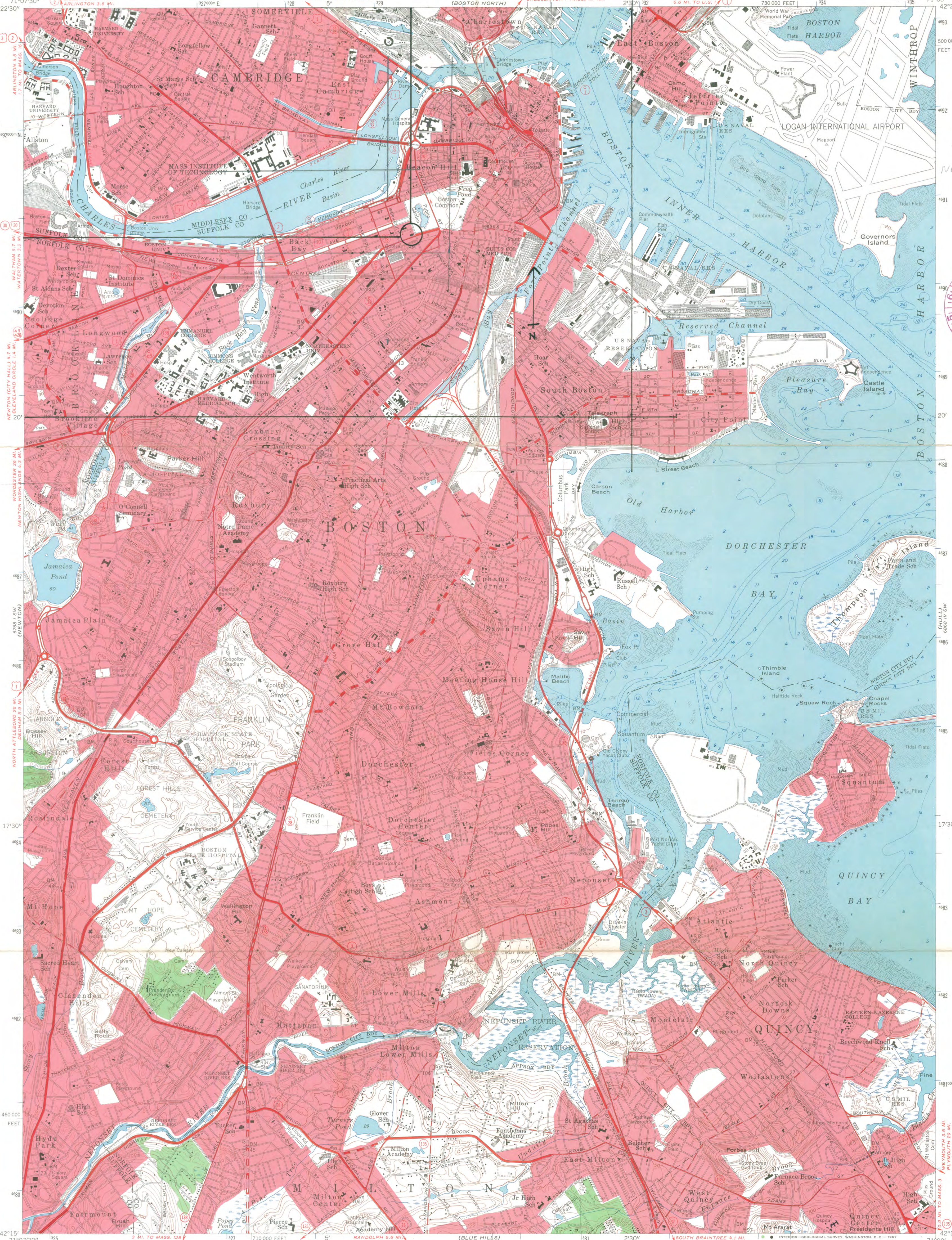
REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW



ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH  
BOSTON

42° 21' 07"  
71° 04' 19"

HB  
2n19  
E 331780  
N4688530



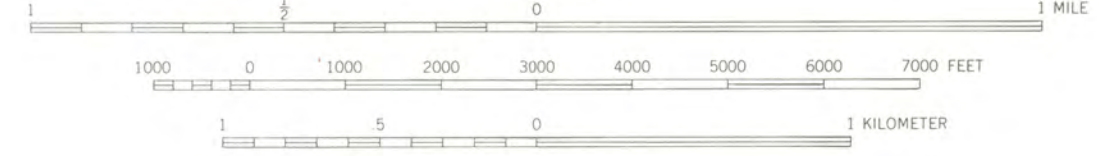
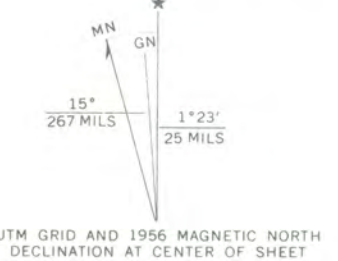
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Mass. Harbor & Land Commission,  
and Mass. Geodetic Survey

Topography by planimetric surveys 1943. Culture revised by  
photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1955  
Field check 1956

Hydrography compiled from USC&GS chart 246 (1956)  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts (Mainland)  
coordinate system.

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

Boundaries in tidewater areas from information  
supplied by Mass. Dept. 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

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route	State Route

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.  
N4215-W7100/7.5

1956

AMS 6768 1 SE—SERIES V814



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

John F. X. Davoren  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

~~3--Joy Street--~~  
40 Beacon Street

Boston, Mass. 02108

May 11, 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 are National Register submissions for:

Plymouth County, Hingham, Cushing Homestead;  
Suffolk County, Boston, Arlington Street Church.

These have been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and have been signed by Secretary of the Commonwealth John F. X. Davoren, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the designated State Historic Preservation Officer.

Sincerely,

Bob,

Robert B. Rettig  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

RBR/akc  
enclosures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered JUN 4 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Arlington Street Church	Boston Suffolk County
The Cushing Homestead	Hingham Plymouth County
Jackson Homestead	Newton Middlesex County
Peabody Institute Library	Peabody Essex County
Wapanucket Site	Middleboro Plymouth County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
Hon. Edward W. Brooke  
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.  
Hon. Gerry E. Studts  
Hon. Robert Drinan  
Hon. Michael J. Harrington  
Hon. Margaret M. Heckler

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

Director, Northeast Region

PHR NRowland: pcl 6/12/73

**NOTIFICATION OF GRANT-IN-AID ACTION**

Do Not Use This Space

1. STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER

74070490

2. (Reserved for use by State central information reception agency)

3. GRANTOR: a. Federal agency

Department of the Interior

b. Organizational unit

National Park Service

c. Administering office—(1) Name

Division of Grants

(2) Address—Street or P.O. Box

18th and C Streets, NW.

City

Washington

State

D.C.

Zip Code

20240

4. FEDERAL AGENCY GRANT IDENTIFIER:

a. Code

b. Title

25-75-00156-00

Arlington Street Church

c. Purpose

The exterior walls will be cleaned and repaired.

5. GRANTEE: a. Name

Massachusetts Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon, Exec. Dir., MA Historical Commission

b. Address—Street or P.O. Box

40 Beacon Street

City

Boston

State

Massachusetts

Zip Code

02108

6. GRANTEE TYPE (Check only the single most applicable box)

a. State

b. Inter-state

c. County

d. City

e. School district

f. Special unit

g. Community action

h. Sponsored organization

i. Other

7. APPLICATION RECEIPT DATE

Year Month Day

75 | 10 | 7

8. ACTION DATE

Year Month Day

75 | 12 | 12

9. EFFECTIVE STARTING DATE

Year Month Day

75 | 12 | 12

10. ENDING DATE

Year Month Day

78 | 12 | 11

11. TYPE OF ACTION (Check as many boxes as apply to this action)

a. New grant

b. Continuation grant

c. Supplemental grant

d. Change in existing grant

(identify agency in item 16)

(1) Increase in duration

(2) Decrease in duration

(3) Cancellation

(4) Increase(\$)

(5) Decrease(\$)

12. AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION

a. Federal—(1) basic

\$ 10,000

(2) Supplemental

\$

b. State

\$ 11,070\*

c. Local

\$

d. Other

\$

13. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (if none, clarify in item 16)

a. Program Number

15.904

b. Supplemental Program Number

14. AUTHORIZATION

a. Federal Budget Accounts

10-58-1040-0-1-405

b. Public Laws

PL Title Sec.  
89 665

PL Title Sec.

PL Title Sec.

c. U.S. Code

16 U.S.C. 470

15. FACILITY LOCATION: (For facility grant actions only)

a. City

Boston

b. County

Suffolk (CD 8)

16. REMARKS

\*Arlington Street Church