

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received FEB 12 1980

date entered APR 9 1980

1. Name

historic First Baptist Church in Framingham

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 1013 Worcester Road not for publication

city, town Framingham vicinity of congressional district 10th

state Massachusetts code 025 county Middlesex code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture ☐ museum
☒ building(s)	☐ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial ☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☒ educational ☐ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment ☒ religious
☐ object	☐ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government ☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial ☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military ☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name First Baptist Church in Framingham

street & number 1013 Worcester Road

city, town Framingham vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Middlesex County Court House

street & number 208 Cambridge St.

city, town Cambridge state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets
title of the Commonwealth H.A.B.S.

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1940-1979 ☒ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records 294 Washington St.

city, town Boston state Mass.

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The First Baptist Church at Framingham Centre is a Federalist style building of timber-frame construction. At its east end, the structure rests on a foundation of hammered granite, while its west-end foundation is made of squared granite rubble which dates from 1856 when this end of the foundation was enclosed. Except for the facade which is covered with matched boarding, the church is covered with clapboards and is trimmed on all elevations with frieze and modillioned cornice. The main body of the church (54'X64') and a west end ell (32'X 12'), are enclosed by pitched roofs covered with slate.

Projecting out from the symmetrical facade (5'-9") and set on a base of two granite steps is an Ionic portico, consisting of two pairs of Ionic columns supporting a frieze, modillioned cornice and a pediment with a semi-elliptical fanlight. The main body of the facade is framed by four pairs of Ionic pilasters, one pair at each corner and two pairs set behind the portico in positions corresponding to the portico's columns. These also support an entablature and pediment. Beneath the portico, at the first story, is a wide-center entry flanked by two narrower entries, all with panelled doors. The center door is framed by an elliptical arch beneath which are a fanlight and sidelights while the narrower entries are framed by semi-circular arches with fanlights only. At the center of the second story is a Palladian window framed by pilasters which support a frieze and modillioned cornice. Flanking this central window are two windows with semi-circular arched heads.

Above the facade is a tower which rises in five stages, the last of which is a steeple, 19'7" high. The base of the tower is square in plan and has a Palladian window like that at the facade's second story on its east elevation; it is trimmed with a cornice like that of the church's main body. At its second stage, the tower contains a square-plan belfry, each face of which contains a single arched opening trimmed with a moulded architrave, keystone and fixed blinds. Each face of the belfry is framed by Doric pilasters which support an undecorated entablature. Above the belfry is an octagonal lantern, each face of which contains an arched opening with a fixed blind and is framed by two Doric pilasters supporting a modillioned cornice. The tower's fourth stage is a small octagonal lantern, essentially identical to the lantern below it. Atop the steeple is a Banneret weathervane with an arrow, scrolls and sun at its tail.

The church's north and south elevations are nearly identical. Each contains three 8/8 windows in the basement near the building's west end and six evenly spaced 6/6 windows at both the first floor and gallery level. Some original 12/12 sash remains in the gallery windows. The south elevation contains a panelled entry porch which allows access to the basement.

The church's west end is partially covered by a shallow addition built in 1886. This addition contains a center entrance with bracketted hood and two 2/2 windows at its first story and three 2/2 windows at its second story. Flanking this addition on the main body of the church are two windows at the basement, first story and gallery level. The gable of the church's main body is framed into a pediment by a raking modillioned cornice; centered on the pediment is a semi-elliptical fanlight.

Alterations to the church's exterior consist of the enclosing of its basement's west end (1856), the addition of the west wing (1886), the installation of a slate roof (1910) and the partial replacement of original sash (?). In addition, the railings which originally trimmed the first four stages of the tower have all been removed. Interior alterations include the raising of the sanctuary floor and the removal of box pews in 1856-1857.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400-1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500-1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600-1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates	1826	Builder/Architect	Solomon Willard, Architect Colonel David Harrington, Builder
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The First Baptist Church of Framingham possesses integrity of location, design materials and workmanship, as well as historical association with the brief development of old Framingham Centre in the early nineteenth century and with a prominent Boston architect.

Now the oldest church building extant in Framingham, the First Baptist Church is an especially sophisticated local example of Federalist architecture, one which retains nearly all of the original decorative details of its neo-classical facade. Planned to replace a smaller Baptist church, the present church was designed by Solomon Willard of Boston and built on a prominent site facing the Boston-Worcester Turnpike (Route 9). Opened in the early nineteenth century, this turnpike encouraged the commercial development of Framingham Center, until the Turnpike Corp. was dissolved in 1843 and the area was by-passed by train lines in 1853. During its major period of growth, Framingham Centre became built-up with a number of Federalist buildings, of which the First Baptist Church is the finest example. The present church was begun in 1825 and the cornerstone was laid on November 17, 1825 at a ceremony which included Masonic rites. Completed in 1826, the building was dedicated on January 1, 1827 and has remained in use by the same congregation since then.

Trained as a carpenter and cabinet-maker, the church's architect, Solomon Willard (1788-1862) is known for his wood and stone-carving in Boston as well as for the construction of a spiral staircase in Boston's Exchange Coffee House of 1808. Willard is thought to have studied architecture in Boston with Asher Benjamin, after which he maintained his own architecture office and architectural school between ca. 1820 and 1830. Although Willard is known as the designer of a number of public buildings and especially as the designer of the Bunker Hill Monument, the First Baptist Church is the only church known to have been designed by Willard.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Outline History of First Baptist Church in Framingham, Framingham Public Library, no date.
Photos in H.A.B.S. at Library of Congress. Washington, D.C.
Architectural Review, Vol. VI, #5, May 1918; Measured Drawings, Plates XLII-XLV.
Josiah H. Temple, History of Framingham, Mass. 1640-1880; Town of Framingham, 1887. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Framingham

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UMT References

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1	9	2	9	8	8	5	5	4	6	8	5	7	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to the attached assessor's map; sheet 237, the boundaries are delineated in red.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian Pfeiffer, Consultant with

Mary S. Evans, Secretary
Framingham Historical Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission

date November 1979

street & number 294 Washington St.

telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston

state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ☒ state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Patricia L. Weschowski 1/22/80

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

date

For HCRS use only

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

for *Bruce Mac Dougal*
Keeper of the National Register

date 4/9/80

Attest: *Patrick Andrews*

date 4/7/80

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 12 1980
DATE ENTERED APR 9 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Edmond W. Sinnott, Meetinghouse & Church in Early New England. McGraw-Hill, N.Y.,
1963.
Dictionary of American Biography.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 12 1980

DATE ENTERED APR 9 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

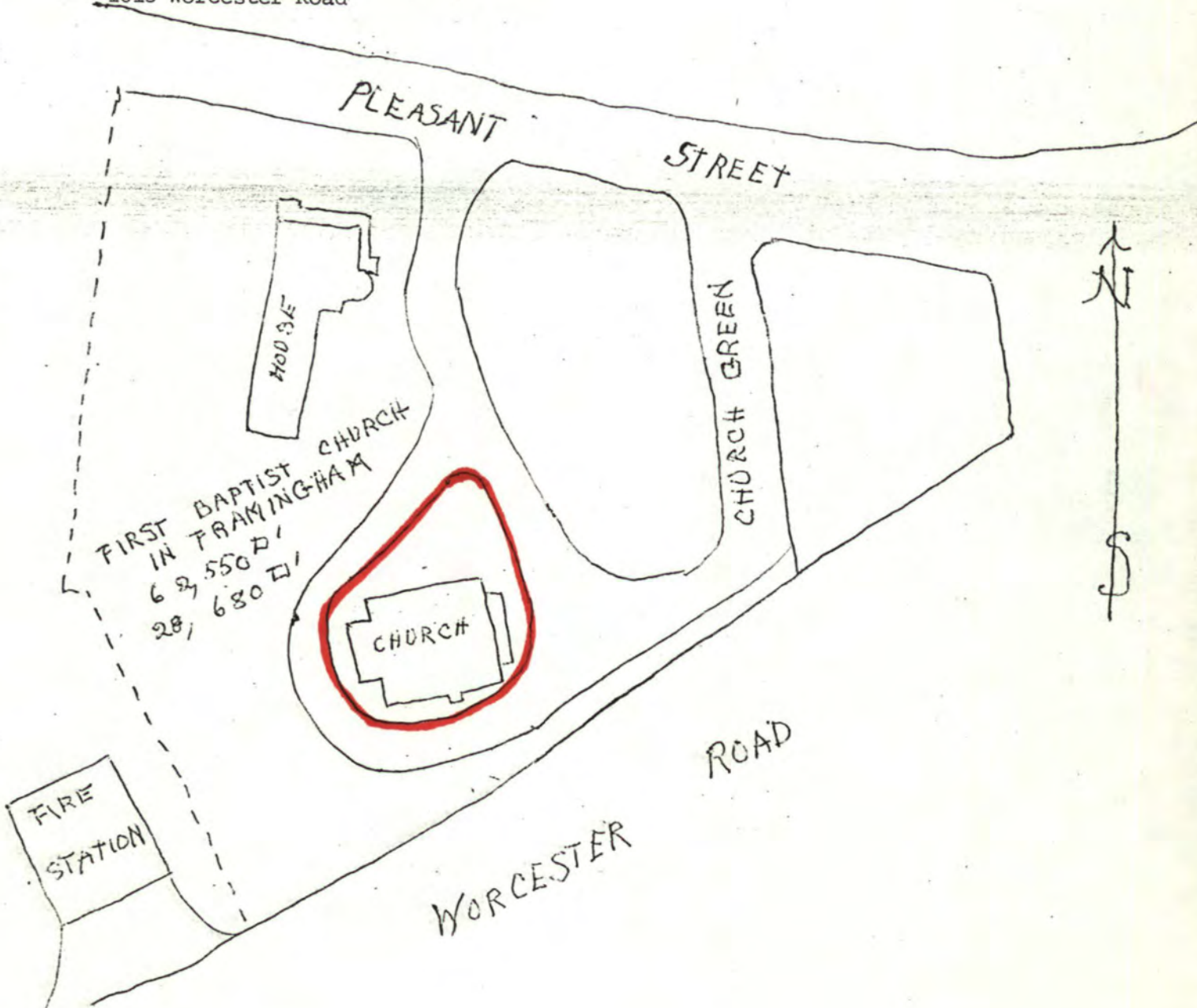
ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Assessors Plan, Sheet 237, Blocks 89 - 90

First Baptist Church in Framingham

1013 Worcester Road



Property First Baptist Church

State Massachusetts

Working Number 2-12-80 453

TECHNICAL

Photos 7

Maps 1

CONTROL

This building is eligible for architecture and for its relation to the noted Boston architect, Solomon Willard. Built in 1826 this timber frame building is a sophisticated local example of Federalist style architecture. With its wealth of original decorative detail remaining, this bldg. is the finest example of Federalist architecture in the town.

HISTORIAN

accept
Patrick Andrews
4/7/80

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Federal Register Entry _____

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered APR 9 1980



1880

First Baptist Church,

North side

First Baptist Church in Framingham
Framingham, Mass.

Middlesex Co

1880

90 Belknap Rd.
Framingham, Mass. 01701

Photo #1 of 7
393 1880, north view

FEB 12 1980

APR 9 1980

NEG. # 393
M. S. EVANS COLLECTION
90 BELKNAP ROAD
FRAMINGHAM, MASS. 01701

from: Framingham Illustrated, 1880



1940

First Baptist Church, Worcester Rd.

Railings on 2 lower tower stages were blown off
in 1938 hurricane, not replaced.

NEG. # 394
M. S. EVANS COLLECTION
90 BELKNAP ROAD
FRAMINGHAM, MASS. 01701

First Baptist Church in Framingham
Framingham, Mass. *Middlesex co*

1940

90 Belknap Rd.
Framingham, Mass. 01701

Photo #2 of 7
394 1940, HABS rear view

FEB 12 1980

APR 9 1980



1976

First Baptist Church, Worcester Rd.

Pulpit, west end.

First Baptist Church in Framingham
Framingham, Mass.

Middlesex Co

Mary S. Evans 1972

90 Belknap Rd.

Framingham, Mass. 01701

Photo #3 of 7

72-1-F Interior alter

FEB 12 1980

APR 9 1980

NEG. # 72-1-F.
M. S. EVANS COLLECTION
90 BELKNAP ROAD
FRAMINGHAM, MASS. 01701

Photo by M.S. Evans.



1976.

First Baptist Church, Worcester Rd.,
Organ loft.

First Baptist Church in Framingham
Framingham, Mass. *Middlesex Co.*

Mary S. Evans 1972
90 Belknap Rd.
Framingham, Mass. 01701

Photo #4 of 7
72-1-G Interior organ loft

FEB 12 1980

APR 9 1980

NEG. # 72-1-G.
M. S. EVANS COLLECTION
90 BELKNAP ROAD
FRAMINGHAM, MASS. 01701

Photo by M. S. Evans.



1972

First Baptist Church

Vestibule

First Baptist Church in Framingham
Framingham, Mass. *Middlesex Co.*

Mary S. Evans
90 Belknap Rd.
Framingham, Mass. 01701

1972

Photo #5 of 7
72-1-H Interior vestibule

FEB 12 1980

APR 9 1980

NEG. # *72-1-H*
M. S. EVANS COLLECTION
90 BELKNAP ROAD
FRAMINGHAM, MASS. 01701

Photo by M. S. Evans.



1972.

First Baptist Church in Framingham
Framingham, Mass. *Middlesex Co.*

Mary S. Evans 1972
90 Belknap Rd.
Framingham, Mass. 01701

Photo #6 of 7
72-1-T 1972, Front view

APR 9 1980

FEB 12 1980

NEG. # 72-1-T
M. S. EVANS COLLECTION
90 BELKNAP ROAD
FRAMINGHAM, MASS. 01701

Photo by M. S. Evans.



1976

First Baptist Church

Slave Gallery
△

First Baptist Church in Framingham
Framingham, Mass.

Middlesex Co.

Mary S. Evans
90 Belknap Rd.

1972

Framingham, Mass. 01701

Photo #7 of 7

76-3-H Interior slave gallery

FEB 12 1980

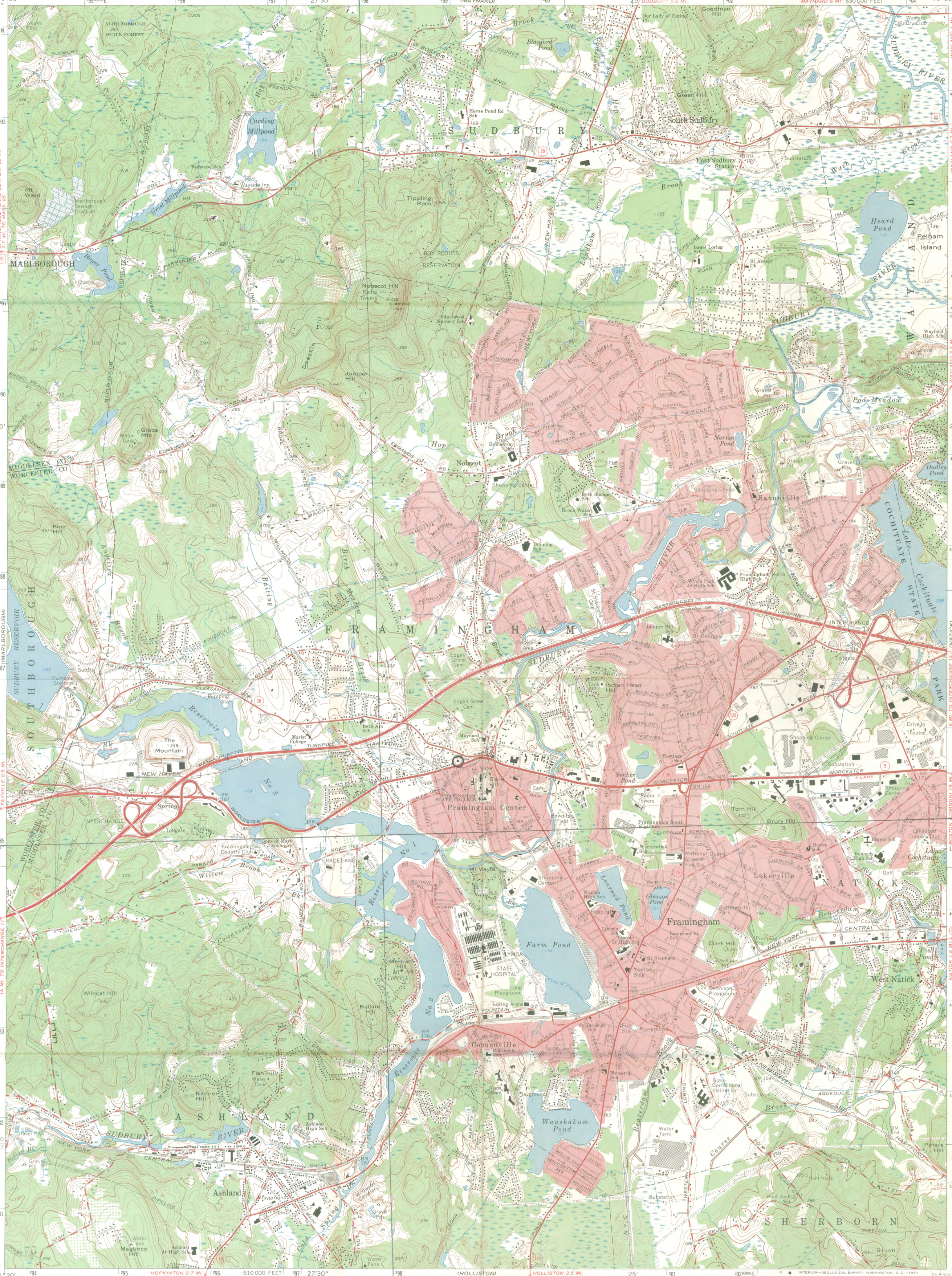
APR 9 1980

NEG. # 76-3-H
M. S. EVANS COLLECTION
90 BELKNAP ROAD
FRAMINGHAM, MASS. 01701

Photo by M. S. Evans

First Baptist Church
1013 Worcester Road
Framingham, Mass.

UTM REFERENCES:
19/298855/4685780

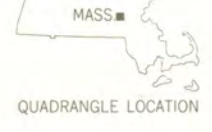


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, US&GS, and Massachusetts Geological Survey
Planimetry in part by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1939. Topography by planetable surveys 1940
Revised 1965
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19,
shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

UTM GRID AND 1965 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route



FRAMINGHAM, MASS.
N4215-W7122.5/7.5

1965

AMS 6768 IV SW—SERIES V814





**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

January 28, 1980

Ms. Carol Schull, Acting Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Heritage, Conservation & Recreation Service
440 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Schull;

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Attleboro- First Parsonage of the Second Church (local)	Medford- John McGill House (local)
* Bedford- David Lane House (local)	Middleborough- C. P. Washburn Grain- mill (local)
* Boston- Charles Street Jail (national)	Middlefield- Stone Arch Railroad Bridge District (state)
Dartmouth- Hill School (local)	Natick- Rev. Stephen Badger House (state)
* East Longmeadow- Sweetland-Pease House (local)	Newton- St. Mary's Church & Cemetery (local)
<u>Framingham- First Baptist Church (state)</u>	New Bedford- Central New Bedford Historic District (local)
Lancaster- Founders Hall (state)	Newton- Echo Bridge (state- resubmission)
Marlborough- Peter Rice House (local)	Sharon- Stoneholm (local)
Medford- Edward Oakes House (local)	(These are enclosed under separate cover)
(All of the above are enclosed)	

These have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Sincerely,

Christine Boulding
Christine Boulding
Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CB/cj

*These properties were notified under the new procedures.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

DATE

4/7/80

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

AM
PM

1. CALL ☒ TO: ☐ FROM (Name)

Carly Jenkins

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

Mass. S.H.P.O.

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

First Baptist Church in Framingham

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

The newest photo provided is now 8 yrs. old - She has assured me that there have been no alterations to the building since that time.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

Patrick Andrews

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 9 1980

Name

Location

Echo Bridge	Town of Needham, City of Newton Norfolk and Middlesex County
Swetland-Pease House	East Longmeadow vicinity Hampden County
Rice, Capt. Peter, House	Marlborough Middlesex County
First Baptist Church	Framingham Middlesex County
Oakes, Edward, House	Medford Middlesex County
McGill, John H., House	Medford Middlesex County
Dillaway School	Boston Suffolk County
Berger Factory	Boston Suffolk County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable John J. Moakley
Honorable Robert F. Drinan
Honorable Edward P. Boland
Honorable Joseph D. Early
Honorable Edward J. Markey

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

NR

Byers/bjr 4/17/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.