

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name The First Congregational Church in Woburn (preferred)  
other names/site number First Church

2. Location

street & number 322 Main Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Woburn N/A vicinity  
state Massachusetts code 025 county Middlesex code 017 zip code 01801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Judith B. McDonough 11/15/91  
Signature of certifying official Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director Date  
Massachusetts Historical Commission, 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.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. 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:)

Beth J. Savage 1-6-92

sev Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious Structure  
 Government  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious Structure  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
 (enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Italianate  
 Late Victorian: Romanesque  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite  
 walls Wood Clapboard  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 roof Slate  
 other \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

First Congregational Church (1859-1860) (MHC #72) occupies an irregularly shaped parcel of land on Main Street (Route 38) in downtown Woburn, immediately southeast of the intersection of Main Street and Common Street at Woburn Common. Main Street is the city's primary north-south artery. Consisting of approximately three-quarters of an acre, the property is bounded on the east by Main Street, on the south by Church Avenue, and on the southwest, west, and northwest by a paved municipal parking lot. Directly north and situated very close to the property line of the church is an early 20th-century bank at 6 Common Street.

Facing east, the church is set back approximately twenty-five feet from Main Street. On the front lawn north of the church is a stone block bearing the inscription "1642". This boulder is an old "horse block" used by women for mounting and dismounting carriages. Originally located at the site of the first meetinghouse of the First Congregational Church, the horse block was moved to the present site in 1885. A cast-iron fence (ca. 1860-1885) defines the property at Main Street and the corner of Church Avenue.

The surrounding area constitutes the historic civic and commercial core of Woburn. In addition to retail establishments, several municipal buildings are located in the vicinity. To the west and northwest are City Hall (1930) (MHC #68), a district court house, police headquarters, and the Woburn Public Library (1877). The Woburn Public Library was designed by H. H. Richardson, and was listed individually in the National Register in 1976, and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987.

First Congregational Church, or First Church, as it is known locally, is a five-story frame structure on a raised basement with a sub-basement at the rear. Thirty-four granite columns resting on granite footings two feet square support the structure. The slate gabled roof is intact, although some slate has been replaced in recent years. Original tongue and groove wood siding is beaded to resemble stone courses. Now painted white, the wood siding was originally stained with a dark pigmented oil to give the appearance of rusticated brownstone. A two-story, hip-roofed projection at the rear of the church has a brick chimney.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The First Congregational Church in Woburn,  
Woburn, Massachusetts

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First Church is rectangular in massing with three fully integrated parts. The gabled main block, measuring 80 feet by 150 feet, reportedly incorporates the longest free-standing wood span in North America. This block, three bays wide and six bays deep, contains three levels as suggested by the fenestration pattern on the side elevations. The lower level (basement), marked by windows at grade and one entry each on the north and west (rear) elevations, contains Sunday School classrooms and two stairhalls. Above the raised basement is the double-height sanctuary. Centered on the facade (east elevation) is a nearly square steeple, which contains the church's main entrance at the base of the tower and rises 196 feet to the top of the spire. Curved bays topped with semi-domes connect the tower and the main entrance at the base of the tower and rises the main block at ground level. On the rear elevation is a two-story, hip-roofed projection containing a kitchen in the basement, the pastors study on the first floor, and the organ chamber on the second. A below-grade, double-door entry on the rear elevation marks the sub-basement of the church.

First Church is a fine example of Italianate-Romanesque Revival architecture, and exhibits various details characteristic of one or both styles. All three parts of the church--the main block, steeple, and rear projection--display buttresses, bracketed eaves, and a corbel table beneath the cornice. The main entry surround incorporates a round-arched hood mold with corbel stops, a feature also seen on the flanking smaller entries as well as the windows at the upper level of the sanctuary. All entries contain paneled, double wood doors, with the round-arch theme repeated in the upper panels at the main entry. Also typical of the two styles are the round-arched wood tracery of the sanctuary windows and the segmental and round-arched sash elsewhere.

A major ornamental feature is the five-story steeple, which displays corner buttresses rising to pinnacles above the third story. The clock tower has canted corner piers with Baroque footed surrounds, and engaged columns between louvered, round-arched openings. An octagonal bell tower is topped with a corbel table and octagonal spire. The tower also features a tripartite window over the main entry and bracketed cornices with consoles on the third and fourth stories.

Both bell and clock are original to the church. The bell, cast by Henry N. Hooper and Company of Boston in 1853, originally hung in an earlier Congregational church, was rehung in the present church upon its completion in the fall of 1860. The three-foot-high bell measures four feet across the bottom and twenty-two inches at the top, the same dimensions as the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. Howard and Company of Boston manufactured the clock in 1860. The clock was converted to electric power in 1950.

Diamond-paned lead glass survives in round-arched windows on the facade, as well as in the windows of the curved bays between steeple and main block. The

(continued)

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tympanum over the main entry contains stained glass. Most windows on the side and rear elevations contain six-over-six wood sash with rectangular panes of stained and etched glass. Due to advanced deterioration of the sash, all windows in the church contain at least one replacement pane of pebble glass.

The most historically significant space on the interior is the double-height sanctuary. Balconies containing gallery seating run the length of the side (north and south) walls. The choir loft is on the rear (east) wall. Two curving staircases at the front of the sanctuary provide interior access between the balconies and the main floor. A solid balustrade, ornamented with round arches springing from engaged balusters, borders the balconies and the front of the sanctuary. Stained glass windows contain interior louvered shutters of wood.

Original frescoes on the plaster walls and cover ceiling were executed by a Mr. Myers in 1860. The frescoes (subjects unknown) were painted over, most likely during the 1913 remodeling of the sanctuary. The remodeling project encompassed improvements to the church's heating and lighting systems. About 1950, the ceiling was covered with acoustical tile. Ceiling fans were added in 1988.

The organ chamber at the west end of the sanctuary is a major focus of the interior. Located at the top of a staircase and set in a large, round-arched niche, the organ is an E. & G. Hook, Opus 283, built in 1860. Rebuilt in 1913 by John D. Brennan of Reading, Massachusetts, the organ was restored to its original tonal design in 1988-1989 when pipes were replaced by Bozeman-Gibson and Company Organ Builders of Deerfield, New Hampshire.

The church exterior and double-height sanctuary survive intact. Some ancillary rooms have been converted to new uses since ca. 1950. The sexton room was expanded into an adjacent room and now serves as the church office. The vestry was converted to a kindergarten and ladies' room in 1980, and the library in the basement was converted to a rest room. Many layers of white paint cover the exterior wood siding, which was last painted in 1985. Since then, structural work has been completed on the steeple, some slate shingles on the roof have been replaced, and new copper flashing installed. The cast-iron fence is in fair condition--missing some of the fleur-de-lis finials on the balustrade--but retains its integrity. Largely intact and in good condition as a whole, the church remains the headquarters of parish activities.

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### Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the property, it is possible that sites are present. One site is recorded for the general area (within one mile) on the shore of Horn Pond. In general, however, the potential for significant archaeological remains, either prehistoric or historic, is low, as a result of poor locational criteria for prehistoric sites, small lot size, lack of historic land use predating church construction and because the church, which covers much of the lot, has a full basement.

(end)

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
 Community Planning \_\_\_\_\_  
 Music \_\_\_\_\_  
 Politics/Government \_\_\_\_\_  
 Religion \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1860-1941 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Stevens, John \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tilson, D. and Son \_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The First Congregational Church in Woburn, Massachusetts represents over 300 years of Congregational religious influence in Woburn and surrounding communities. Established in 1642, First Congregational Church is the mother church for Congregational parishes in two other sections of modern Woburn, and at least three surrounding towns. Important for its close association with the settlement and growth of Woburn, the parish is also significant for its continuous presence in the city center. The church, the parish's sixth and last meetinghouse, is a fine example of Italianate/Romanesque Revival architecture designed by John Stevens, a prolific church architect active in the third quarter of the 19th century. For over a century, the church steeple has been a prominent local landmark. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the First Congregational Church in Woburn meets criteria A and C, and criteria consideration A of the National Register at the local level.

Woburn is a suburban industrial city located in the upper Mystic River Valley approximately ten miles northwest of Boston. Most of the city is drained by two branches of the Mystic River: the Aberjona River in the east, on which most water-powered mills were located; and Horn Pond Brook in the west. Woburn Center, the first meetinghouse location and the city's historic institutional and commercial core, occupies a relatively flat plateau with Blueberry Mountain to the southeast, Rag Rock Hill to the northwest, and Horn Pond--the town's major body of water--to the south. Now bordered on the north by Wilmington, the east by Reading and Stoneham, the south by Winchester, and the west by Lexington and Burlington, Woburn originally comprised modern Wilmington (1733), Burlington (1799), and Winchester (1850), and a part of Stoneham.

The history of the First Congregational Church, or First Church, is closely tied to the settlement and development of Woburn. In November 1640, the First Church in Charlestown (immediately north of Boston) appointed seven men to supervise a new settlement at Charlestown Village, or the area near Horn

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	9
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3	2	3	0	6	0
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4	7	0	4	9	5	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown on the accompanying detail of the Woburn assessor's map. The lot area is 32,950 square feet.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the First Congregational Church, 1642 horse block, cast-iron fence, and land historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By** Jeanne Sullivan, Woburn Historical Commission, with Betsy Friedberg,

name/title MHC, National Register Director and Kathleen Broomer, NR editing consultant  
 organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date November 1991  
 street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470  
 city or town Boston state Massachusetts zip code 02116

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Pond. In 1642 this settlement was set off from the mother church and incorporated as the town of "Wooburne" (Woburn). First Congregational Church in Woburn was gathered August 14/24, 1642, a month before the town's incorporation.

Thomas Carter of Watertown was installed as pastor of First Church in 1642. The parishioners of First Church lacked ruling elders at the time, and feared that Carter's ordination by elders of other churches, as was the norm, would render the Woburn church less independent. Laymen performed the ordination, which was captured in a painting by artist Albert Thompson. Only twenty-four pastors have been installed in the First Congregational Church during its nearly 350 year history.

During Thomas Carter's pastorate, two meetinghouses were built. The first (1642, demolished), located on the southwestern corner of the present Common, housed the congregation for thirty years. A second, larger meetinghouse (1672, demolished ca. 1752) occupied Meeting House Hill near the junction of Main Street and Montvale Avenue east of the Common. The second meeting was enlarged twice and served the parish for seventy-six years. The horse block (1642) on the present church property was associated with the first meetinghouse and relocated to Meeting House Hill upon completion of the second edifice.

Until the early 1730s, First Church was the only house of worship in Woburn, the boundaries of which included the modern towns of Wilmington, Burlington, and Winchester. Establishment of a separate Congregational church in the new town at Wilmington in 1733, and the official organization of the Second Church in Woburn Precinct (later Burlington) in 1735, reduced the enrollment at First Church by forty percent. Tension between factions in the local Church led to the formation of the Third Church in Woburn in 1746, this parish rejoined the First Parish by ca. 1756. The Second Church became the First Church of Burlington upon that town's incorporation in 1799. Until the late 18th century, only members of the First Congregational Church were permitted to vote in town meetings. For nearly two hundred years, the town of Woburn also paid the pastor's salary.

In spite of reductions in the town's (and the parish's) population in the first half of the 18th century, the First Church built a new meetinghouse (ca. 1748-1752), the parish's third, on the eastern side of the Common at Main Street. The edifice burned in June 1808, prompting the construction of a fourth meetinghouse (1809, demolished) on Pleasant Street immediately northwest of the Common. This building was determined unsafe for occupancy and dismantled in 1840. The 1642 horse block, having outlived its intended use as a step for mounting and dismounting horses, was reportedly incorporated into the foundations of the third, fourth, and fifth (1840) meetinghouse.

(continued)

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The First Congregational Church in Woburn,  
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In the 19th century, Woburn Center continued to expand along Main Street as the town's primary civic and commercial focus. The opening of the Middlesex Canal (1803), which originated in Boston and passed north-south through the town center, brought economic prosperity to the primarily agricultural town. The Boston & Lowell Railroad opened along the Aberjona River in 1835, with a branch railroad built west to Woburn Center in 1844. Railroad construction precipitated significant changes in Woburn by mid-century, among them the abandonment of the Middlesex Canal due to the rail competition. Other notable changes included rapid population growth, the onset of suburban residential development, and the increasing importance of manufacturing to the local economy.

Though Woburn Center remained the town's civic and commercial core, a secondary suburban center emerged at North Woburn with an industrial village at Montvale on the Aberjona River. Boot and shoemaking, previously undertaken on a small scale, became the dominant manufacturing industry in Woburn after ca. 1830. Production peaked in 1855, when over 880 operatives were manufacturing footwear valued at nearly \$280,000.

Developments at First Church mirrored Woburn's continued growth. In 1840 the parish built its fifth meetinghouse on the Pleasant Street site of the dismantled fourth meetinghouse. The Greek Revival/Italianate building later housed Woburn's Unitarian church. Religious revivals and the town's booming population added over 760 new members to First Church between ca. 1820 and ca. 1850, despite the creation of new Congregational parishes at South Woburn (1840) and North Woburn (1849). South Congregational Church became the First Church in Winchester upon that town's incorporation in 1850. Congregations of other Protestant denominations built meetinghouses in Woburn about this time, among them the Independent Baptist Church (ca. 1849), the Second Universalist Society (1841), and the Methodist Episcopal Church (ca. 1851). In addition, the first Roman Catholic church in Woburn was built in 1853.

The fifth meetinghouse had been used for only twenty years when First Congregational Church built its sixth and last meetinghouse (1859-1860) on main Street immediately southeast of the Common. Measuring 80 feet by 150 feet without internal supports, the new church reportedly incorporates the longest freestanding wood span in North America. Upon completion of the sixth meetinghouse in 1860, First Church sold the fifth meetinghouse to the Unitarian Church, which occupied the property until 1990. The Unitarian parish moved the structure back from the street and raised it, exposing the 1642 horse block embedded in the old foundation. Jotham Hill, then master builder for the Unitarian parish and a member of the First Church parish committee, secured permission from the Unitarian Church to remove the horse block to its present site in the yard of the First Congregational Church.

First Church is a major example of Italianate/Romanesque Revival architecture

(continued)

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The First Congregational Church in Woburn,  
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in Woburn during the Early Industrial period (1830-1870). Other important institutional buildings constructed during the same period were a Greek Revival Town Hall (ca. 1845, demolished), a three-story brick Italianate Lyceum Building (ca. 1855, demolished), the brick Gothic Revival St. Charles Catholic Church (1867-1869), and the Greek Revival/Italianate Unitarian church (1840, originally the fifth meetinghouse of the Congregational church). The original steeple of the Unitarian church fell in a storm many years ago and was never replaced. The building is now vacant.

First Church was designed by architect John Stevens (1823/4-1881). Stevens was born in Mont Vernon, New Hampshire. He resided in the Woburn vicinity in South Reading (now the town of Wakefield) from ca. 1847 to ca. 1879, and maintained an architectural practice in Boston from ca. 1851 to 1879. Stevens was most widely known as a church architect, having executed plans for the construction or remodeling of at least 113 churches in various sections of the country. In 1870, Stevens joined the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, and his obituary is included in the organization's annals of 1881. Although Stevens was known as a man of considerable ability in his time, he was left almost penniless by the depression of the late 1870s. He died in Worcester, Massachusetts.

The largest Protestant church in New England at the time of its completion in 1860, First Church in Woburn may have served as a prototype for subsequent churches designed by Stevens. Old South Congregational Church in Andover, of 1861, at 41 Central Street (MHC #E/H 110), also by Stevens, is remarkably similar to the Woburn church in exterior design and massing. Other known churches by Stevens include New North Church in Haverhill and a church in Randolph. The architect also designed several buildings at South Reading (Wakefield), where he served as architect also designed several buildings at South Reading (Wakefield), where he served as architect to that town's major benefactor, Cyrus Wakefield, an importer and merchant. In addition to the Wakefield mansion (demolished), Stevens designed the 1868 Town Hall (burned 1950), which Mr. Wakefield donated to the town, and a new high school at 1 Lafayette Street, ca. 1811 and 1938, (MHC #E/B352), now the Town Hall.

First Church is also noted for its E. & G. G. Hook organ, built for the new church in 1860. Two brothers, Elias Hook and George G. Hook, started their organ company in Salem in 1827, relocating the firm to Boston in 1831. During the next four decades E. & G. G. Hook produced over 600 instruments and gained a nationwide reputation. In 1872, Francis Hastings joined the firm, which became known as Hook and Hastings in 1881. The business survived until 1936. The organ at First Church, installed in the fall of 1860, was the 283rd instrument built by E. & G. G. Hook, and is one of nine remaining three-manual organs produced by the original firm.

Other builders and craftsmen known to have worked on the church include D.

(continued)

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The First Congregational Church in Woburn,  
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Tillson and Son of Woburn, the original roofers, and a Mr. Myers, who executed the interior frescoes (painted over since ca. 1900). Additional information about Myers and the topic of the frescoes has not been located. Henry N. Hooper and Company of Boston cast the church bell in 1853. Originally hung in the parish's fifth meetinghouse, the bell was rehung in the present church upon its completion in the fall of 1860. Howard and Company of Boston manufactured and installed the clock in 1860.

By 1870, the population of Woburn had reached 8,560; nearly twenty percent was of Irish birth. Stimulated by a demand for leather during the Civil War, leather production surpassed boot and shoemaking as Woburn's primary industry. In 1865 the industry employed 554 operatives and produced leather valued at over \$1.7 million, placing Woburn at the forefront of the tanning industry in the country. Woburn was incorporated as a city in 1888. The only change to the city's boundaries since incorporation occurred in 1895, when part of the eastern area of Woburn was annexed to Stoneham.

Within the local Congregational Church, the church at Montvale, the industrial village east of Woburn Center, was established in 1892. Separation of the Montvale parish brought to five the total number of churches descendant from First Congregational Church in Woburn. In addition, Congregational churches in Billerica (organized 1829) and Arlington (organized in 1842) were largely composed of members who transferred from First Church.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the First Congregational Church also served two civic functions. Woburn's fire department was established in 1851, did not have a building for storing equipment. Niagara Engine No. 1 was stored temporarily in the subbasement at the rear of First Church. Double wood doors still mark the below-grade entry. The vehicle was kept in working order but used only in an emergency. A fire station (demolished) was later built on Winn Street near Woburn Center. City Council met for a time in what is now known as the Anne Murray Room in the church basement. A side door to Woburn Common was added to the third bay of the north elevation to fit this use. The present City Hall (MHC #68), was built on an adjacent site in 1930.

In August 1992, First Congregational Church will celebrate the 350th anniversary of its charter. The corporation is currently engaged in a campaign to raise funds for restoring the building. It is hoped that National Register designation will ensure the church's preservation.

(end)

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The First Congregational Church in Woburn,  
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### 9. Major Bibliographical Reference

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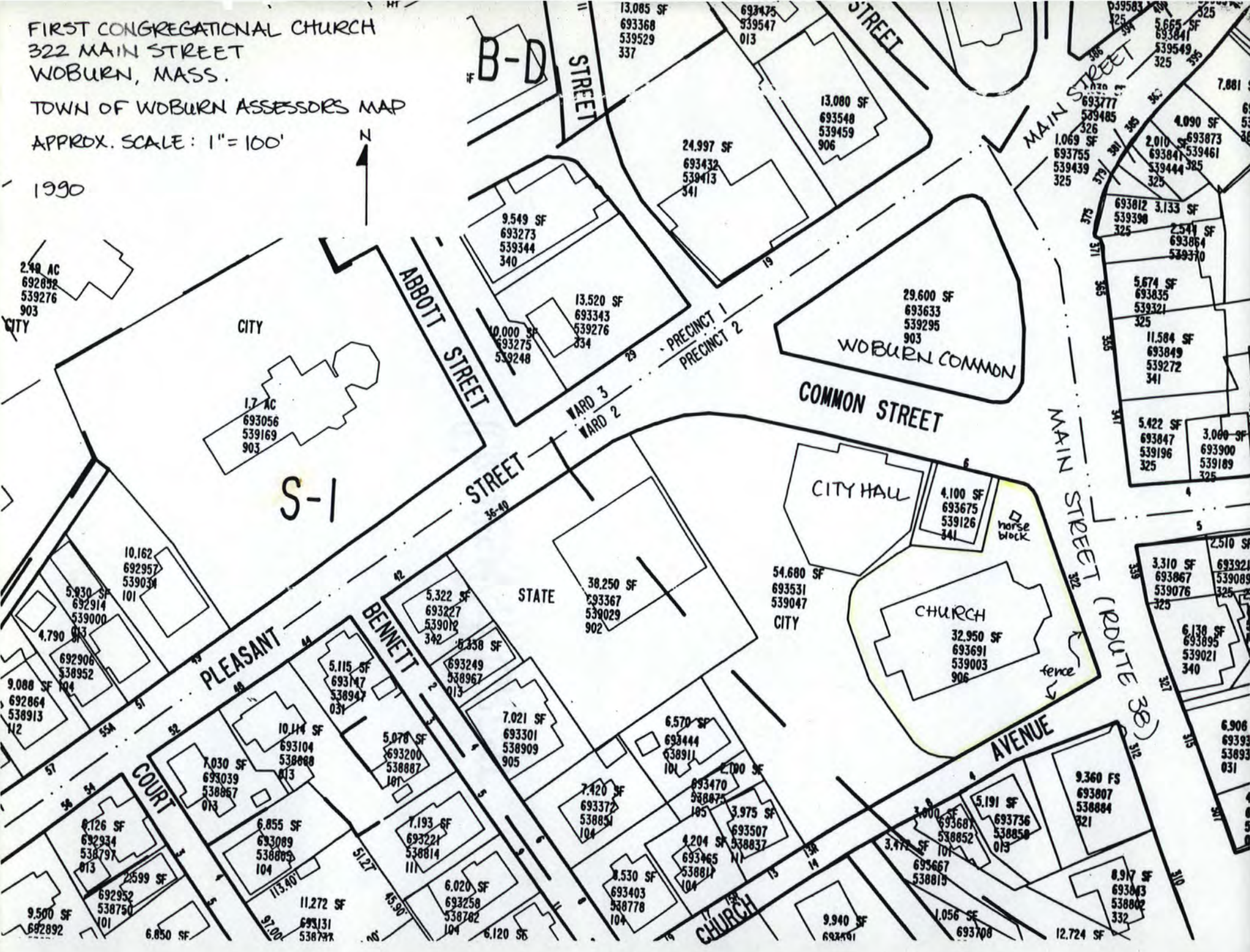
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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
322 MAIN STREET  
WOBURN, MASS.

TOWN OF WOBURN ASSESSORS MAP

APPRX. SCALE: 1" = 100'

1990



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: First Congregational Church in Woburn

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 11/22/91      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/02/91  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/18/91      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/06/92  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91001898

NOMINATOR: STATE

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: Y    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    1/6/92 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept  
REVIEWER [Signature]  
DISCIPLINE Architectural History  
DATE 1/6/92

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments  see attached SLR

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CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_count      \_\_\_resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

---

FUNCTION

\_\_\_historic      \_\_\_current

---

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_architectural classification  
\_\_\_materials  
\_\_\_descriptive text

---

SIGNIFICANCE

Period      Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

\_\_\_summary paragraph  
\_\_\_completeness  
\_\_\_clarity  
\_\_\_applicable criteria  
\_\_\_justification of areas checked  
\_\_\_relating significance to the resource  
\_\_\_context  
\_\_\_relationship of integrity to significance  
\_\_\_justification of exception  
\_\_\_other

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_acreage      \_\_\_verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_UTMs      \_\_\_boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_sketch maps      \_\_\_USGS maps      \_\_\_photographs      \_\_\_presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

322 MAIN ST.

WOBURN, MA. 01801

PHOTO # 1 OF 2

1990

FRONT (EAST) & SIDE (SOUTH) ELEVATIONS

PHOTOGRAPHER: MARY MCKENNA

NEGATIVE: 200 BEDFORD RD.

WOBURN, MA. 01801



First Congregational Church  
322 Main St  
Woburn, ma

Photographer: J. Sullivan

rear, side elevations

FIRST CONGREGATION CHURCH

322 MAIN ST.

WOBBURN, MA. 01801

PHOTO #2 OF 2

1990

REAR (WEST) & SIDE (NORTH) ELEVATIONS

PHOTOGRAPHER: JEANNE SULLIVAN

NEGATIVE: 200 BEDFORD RD., APT # 27B

WOBBURN, MA 01801



- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



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 dated 1985  
 Supersedes Boston North and Lexington 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1971  
 Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS chart 13272 (1982)  
 This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
 Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 19  
 10,000-foot grid ticks have grid: 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 subdivisions within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
 CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.3 METER  
 OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.3 METER  
 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS  
 DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE  
 SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
 THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.9 METERS

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

Meters	Feet	DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS		
1	3.2808			1	2	3
2	6.5617			4	5	6
3	9.8425			7	8	
4	13.1234					
5	16.4042					
6	19.6850					
7	22.9659					
8	26.2467					
9	29.5275					
10	32.8084					

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808  
 To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

UTM grid convergence (ISN and 1985 magnetic declination) at center of map  
 Diagram is approximate

1	Billerica
2	Reading
3	Salem
4	Maynard
5	Lynn
6	Framingham
7	Boston South
8	Hull

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

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 gauge, narrow gauge	
Bridge: drawbridge	
Footbridge; overpass; underpass	
Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown	
Mosque; 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; forest section center	
U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section	
Range, township; section line: location approximate	
Fence or field line	
Power transmission line, location approximate	
Dam; dam with lock	
Cemetery; grave	
Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument	
Wellhead; water well; spring	
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave	
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	
Distorted surface: strip mine, levee, sand	
Bathymetric 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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
322 MAIN STREET, WILMUR, MASS.  
BOSTON NORTH QUAD  
19 323060 4701 1:25





RECEIVED  
NOV 22 1991  
NATIONAL  
REGISTER

November 14, 1991

Ms. Carol Shull  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination:

The First Congregational Church in Woburn, 322 Main Street, Woburn (Middlesex County), Massachusetts, 01801.

There have been no owner objection for the property listed above.

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by myself, as the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. No comments have been received to date.

Sincerely,

Judith B. McDonough  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosure

cc: Jeanne Sullivan, The First Congregational Church  
Thomas Smith, Chairperson, Woburn Historical Commission  
William C. Campbell, Chairman, Woburn Board of Selectmen  
Kathleen Kelly Broome, Preservation Consultant

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Judith B. McDonough, *Executive Director, State Historic Preservation Officer*  
80 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 (617) 727-8470

Office of the Secretary of State, Michael J. Connolly, *Secretary*

DATE THU, DEC 26, 1991, 12:50 PM  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY REPORT  
REFERENCE No.: 91001898

Page: 23

Control No.: 911224/eod

PROPERTY NAME: First Congregational Church in Woburn

OTHER NAME/ First Church  
SITE No. :

MULTIPLE NAME: NOT APPLICABLE

ADDRESS/ 322 Main St.  
BOUNDARY :

CITY: Woburn

COUNTY: Middlesex STATE: MASSACHUSETTS

Restricted Location Information: Owner: PRIVATE Resource Type: BUILDING

	Contributing	Noncontributing
Buildings	1	0
Sites	0	0
Structures	1	0
Objects	1	0

Nomination/Determination Type: SINGLE RESOURCE

Nominator: STATE GOVERNMENT

Nominator Name:  
NOT APPLICABLE

Federal Agency: NOT APPLICABLE

NPS Park Name: NOT APPLICABLE

Certification: DATE RECEIVED/PENDING NOMINATION

Date: 11/22/91

Other Certification: NOT APPLICABLE

Historic Functions: RELIGION  
GOVERNMENT

Historic Subfunctions: RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE  
CITY HALL  
FIRE STATION

Current Functions: RELIGION

Current Subfunctions: RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE

Level of Significance: LOCAL Applicable Criteria: ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING

Significant Person's Name: NOT APPLICABLE

Criteria Considerations: RELIGIOUS PROPERTY

Area of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance: 1850-1874

Circa: Specific Sig. Years:

1860

Architect/Builder/Engineer/  
Designer:

Cultural Affiliation:

Stevens, John  
Tilson, D. and Son

NOT APPLICABLE

Other Documentation:

NOT APPLICABLE

HABS No. N/A

HAER No. N/A

Architectural Styles: ITALIANATE  
ROMANESQUE

Describe Other Style: NOT APPLICABLE

Foundation Materials: GRANITE  
Wall Materials: WEATHERBOARD  
Roof Materials: SLATE  
Other Materials: NONE LISTED

Acreage: 0.9

UTM Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Coordinates: 19/ /3 23 060/ /47 04 950 // //