

PH0365807

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 31 1977

DATE ENTERED DEC 16 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Meeting-House Common

AND/OR COMMON

Church Green (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Multiple

CITY, TOWN

Taunton

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
10th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

02780

COUNTY

Bristol

CODE

005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☒ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☒ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ RELIGIOUS☒ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Taunton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bristol County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

11 Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Taunton

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts, 02108

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 Church Green District is located at the eastern approach to the Taunton business district. The center of the district is a triangular green which contains the First Parish Church as its focus, and the Vietnam Memorial fountain at the eastern apex. A small unnamed portion of street separates the church property from the Robert Treat Paine statue to the west. The Green itself is defined by three streets. On the northern boundary of the triangle is Church Green, a continuation of Dean Street. The street on the southern boundary is also Church Green, which was formerly known as Academy Street and later Spring Street. Summer Street is the base of the triangle on the west. The Green District comprises 20 structures and 2 commemoratives: the Vietnam Memorial Fountain and the Paine statue. Despite a variety of styles and ages, the area is a coherent unit of variations of Colonial and Classical styles grouped around an early Gothic Revival Church.

The First Parish Church in Taunton (1) (Unitarian-Universalist) stands in spacious landscaped grounds and faces Summer Street. It is surrounded by an 1877 stonewall, which is capped in granite, and punctuated by granite gate posts. The church is the fourth meeting house to stand on this site. An early example of the Gothic Revival style, it was built in 1829-30. The entire church is constructed of stone. This stone, according to local tradition, was acquired in nearby Assonet. The facade faces west, and is dominated by a square tower terminating in pinnacles at the corners. Connecting wooden battlements between each pinnacle were removed during the 1940's. The main entrance, in the center, is a heavy Gothic oak door above which is a large Gothic window. On each of the four sides of the belfry is a Gothic louvered opening. The church bell was transferred from the Third Meetinghouse. It was cast in 1804 by George Holbrook of Brookfield, who was in partnership with Paul Revere Jr. until 1813. The north and south elevations each contain four tall Gothic style windows with drip moulding above the arches. The arched beams of the interior span 55' to provide a wide, otherwise unsupported interior. In 1869, the Boston architectural firm of Hartwell and Swasey extended the main structure by 24 feet, added a new chancel to the east of the altar, and constructed a Gothic style chapel in matching stone at a right angle to the main structure. In 1965, another addition was built at the east to provide office and Sunday school space. Although the exterior walls are of matching stone, the wing was built in a modern style.

The Robert Treat Paine Statue (2), designed by the distinguished Massachusetts sculptor, Richard Edwin Brooks (1865-1919), was erected in 1904 on a circular grass mound in the center of a roughly triangular plot. It is a memorial to Robert Paine, a resident of Taunton from 1761-1780 and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The statue depicts Paine standing facing west toward the commercial center of the city with a cloak over his shoulder, and a quill pen in his right hand. The base and pedestal of the statue are of light brown granite.

The Leonard Block (3), 107-111 Main Street, was built in 1870 by George Leonard, a prominent local businessman. The site had previously been occupied by the post office during the early 19th century. The 3½ story Victorian commercial building is in fair condition. Its exterior walls are of red brick. There are bracketed lintels over the second story windows and projecting round arched bracketed lintels over the third story windows. The mansard roof is of polychromatic slate tiles; it has a triangular pedimented dormer on the facade, round arched dormers on the elevations. A 2½ story projecting center bay

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Property Owners

4

1

Sketch Map #

Owner

1. First Parish Church

Donald French, Chairperson
Board of Governors
First Parish Church
Summer Street
Taunton, MA. 02780

2. Robert Treat Paine Statue

City of Taunton, Benjamin Friedman
Mayor, City Hall, 15 Summer St.
Taunton, MA. 02780

3. Leonard Block

Bertram Antine
159 Broadway
Taunton, MA. 02780

4. City Hall

City of Taunton (see above)

5. 79 Church Green

David Hutchinson Family Trust
79 Church Green
Taunton, MA. 02780

6. 72 Church Green

Marian Manor, Inc.
33 Summer Street
Taunton, MA. 02780

7. 66 Church Green

Old Colony Historical Society
W.P. Dickerman, Exec. Secretary
66 Church Green
Taunton, MA. 02780

8. 60 Church Green

Old Colony Historical Society
(see above)

9. 57 Church Green

Dr. Menehan Cooperstein
57 Church Green
Taunton, MA. 02780

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Property Owners

4

2

Sketch Map #

Owner

10. 52 Church Green

C. Stuart Robertson
50 Church Green
Taunton, MA. 02780

11. 50 Church Green

C. Stuart Robertson (see above)

12. 3 Dean Street

Stephen Crosby
3 Dean Street
Taunton, MA. 02780

13. 7 Dean Street

Mrs. Douglas Smerdon
7 Dean Street
Taunton, MA. 02780

14. 2 Dean Street

J. Douglas Robertson
2 Dean Street
Taunton, MA. 02780

15. 37 Church Green

Robert Funk
37 Church Green
Taunton, MA. 02780

16. 31 Church Green

Ralph Cuttillo
189 Sherwood Lane
Raynham, MA. 02767

17. 24 Church Green

Norman A. Rainey
404 Slater Street
Attleboro, MA. 02703

18. Hubbard House
14 Church Green

Taunton Visiting Nurse Association
14 Church Green
Taunton, MA. 02780

19. -Church Green
(storage and parking)

Mrs. Reba Friedman
241 Winthrop Street
Taunton, MA. 02780

20. One Church Green

Church Green Realty Trust
Celia Assiran, Trustee
One Church Green
Taunton, MA. 02780

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Property Owners	4	3
Sketch Map #	Owner	
21. 70 Main Street	Clinton Friedman 49 Highland Terrace Taunton, MA. 02780	
22. Vietnam Memorial Fountain	City of Taunton (see above)	
NOTE: The City of Taunton owns the Church Green		

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Taunton Church Green District

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1

with a pinnacle roof rises above the first story on the north elevation. The building is interestingly adapted to the curve of the street. The ground level is fully occupied by stores.

City Hall (4), 15 Summer Street, faces Church Green and is separated from the Leonard Block by a narrow street, Leonard Court. It was built in 1848 on the site of the homestead of the town's first minister, William Hook (1637-1644) and has served continuously as the center of town and city government. Earl E. Ryder, architect, designed the original building in the Gothic Revival style. In 1896, however, the Boston firm of Barker and Nourse enlarged and remodeled the structure. The exterior walls are rusticated stone reminiscent of H.H. Richardson's work, but the design was equally influenced by the new formality of the Renaissance Revival period. The three story structure has rounded pilasters and an elaborate dentiled cornice on the second and third story bays framing the main entry bay. The third story windows are arched. The second floor served as a high school until 1885. Opposite the building, on what is now Church Green, stood the town scales, watering trough, and Liberty Pole.

The following structures face north and are located on Church Green (south) and Dean Street (south side):

79 Church Green (5) was built c.1873 by James Rait, and purchased in 1896 by Col. Frederick Mason, owner of Mason Machine Works. Probably at this time, the house was enlarged and ornamented by the addition of such details as the delicate garland below the elaborate cornice, and the imposing one story, 3 bay, pilastered porch set on a rough stone foundation. The exterior walls of the 2½ story house are sheathed in white clapboards. The hip roof has inside end chimneys and a central triangularly pedimented dormer. A later owner, Dr. William Bennett, converted the side porch into an office, and added a two car garage.

72 Church Green (6) was built c.1902 by Col. Frederick Mason as a residence for his son, Maurice. The design was influenced by the work of H.H. Richardson and the early work of McKim, Mead and White. The house is sheathed in dark shingles, and has arches, moldings and gables typical of the shingle style. The gable roof contains two large hipped roof dormers facing north, one on the second story, one on the third. There is a small bay window in the east gable end and an indented window with curved shingles in the north gable end. The Fall River Diocese built an addition to the rear of the structure in the 1960's. The house is used as a residence for the Sisters, who operate a nearby nursing home.

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2

The Old Colony Historical Society (7), 66 Church Green, was designed by the noted American architect Richard Upjohn. The structure was built in 1852 to house the Bristol Academy, founded in 1792. The two story, three bay wide brick building is square and symmetrical. It has a dentiled white wooden cornice. The windows throughout are narrow and round arched, with 6/6 fenestration. The entryway projects; its white wooden door is covered by a fanlight in a triangular pediment. A brick string course defines the first and second stories. The hip roof is surmounted by a pinnacled cupola. The building has been used since 1926 as headquarters, museum, and archives of the Old Colony Historical Society, founded in 1853.

60 Church Green (8) was built prior to 1850 by Charles Foster. The two-story white clapboarded house has a hip roof and inside end brick chimneys. The fenestration throughout is six over one framed by louvered shutters. The facade is five bays wide with a flat cornice and projecting enclosed flatroof porch, which was added in 1913 by Harry Carlow. A sun porch on the western elevation was also added in 1913. The house was acquired in 1969 by the Old Colony Historical Society and is currently used for storage.

57 Church Green (9) was constructed in 1836 by Abner Pitts. The three-story, white clapboarded house has a hip roof and two inside end chimneys. Fenestration is 6/1, and capped by projecting flat lintels. Late in the 19th century, the house was purchased by George Colby, who added an elaborate porch to the facade. This one story arcaded porch has pilasters, twisted balusters, a dentiled cornice, and a triangular pediment over the center arch. The porch is surmounted by a large bay with a round arched window on the facade, and a rectangular window on either side. The house was purchased in 1951 by Dr. Menahem Cooperstein, who used it as both home and office.

52 Church Green (10) was built c.1919 by Judge Richard Warner on the site of the Samuel Townsend House (1850). The 2½ story Georgian Revival house is sheathed in white clapboard, with dentiled cornice, and wide corner boards. The hip roof contains three triangular pedimented dormers on the facade and two on both the east and west elevations. Fenestration is 6/1, with projecting lintels. The five bay facade has a one bay center entry porch with simple pilasters supporting a rounded balustrade. The western elevation has a three bay deep pilastered porch, headed by an elaborate balustrade. The house was used as a Parsonage by the Pilgrim Congregational Church.

50 Church Green (11) is located on the corner of Dean Street. The house was built in 1829 by Barney Deane, and is perhaps the most distinguished house in the area. The house is square, symmetrical and a classic example of the late Georgian style. The two story, white clapboarded residence has 12/12 fenestration with louvered shutters, and a

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3

wide flat cornice. An elaborate Palladian style center entryway contrasts the simplicity of the structure itself. Dr. Arthur M. Crandall, a prominent physician, and direct descendant of Deane used the house as his residence and office until it was purchased by C. Stuart Robertson in 1943.

3 Dean Street (12) was built in 1899 by Alfred Williams. It is an excellent example of the American Georgian Revival style of the late 19th Century. The 2½ story clapboarded house is painted grey with white trim. The square and symmetrical structure sits on a heavy stone foundation, has a wide flat cornice, and wide corner pilasters. The hip roof contains an elaborate Palladian style dormer on the facade. One over one windows capped by wide flat lintels are on the three bay facade. The imposing central entry porch has Ionic columns supporting a rounded balustrade backed by a Palladian window. The west elevation shows an open one story porch headed by a simple balustrade.

7 Dean Street (13) was built in 1910 by Frank Simerdon as a two family residence. It is a simple and symmetrical 2½ story red brick structure with a parapet gable roof. The facade has an east end entry porch with semi-elliptical arched openings. The main section of the facade has windows grouped in threes, each six over six. The structure is now used as a single family house by a son of the original owner.

The following structures face south, with the exception of 37 Church Green which faces east, and 2 Dean Street which faces west.

The first house at 2 Dean Street (14) was designed by Richard Upjohn, and was built in 1854 by George Augustus Crocker, a prominent Taunton industrialist. The house was destroyed by fire in 1858. The present structure was built by Crocker and is presumed to be to Upjohn's original design. This large square and impressive 2½ story Victorian mansion sits on ample, well landscaped grounds on the corner of Dean and Chestnut Streets. It has heavy brick walls, a scalloped tile mansard roof with triangular pedimented indented dormers. The fenestration is 2/2 throughout, with louvered shutters. There is a semi-elliptical arched portecochere with balustrade. A similarly styled garage was added by J. Douglas Robertson, the owner since 1933.

37 Church Green (15) was built in 1825 by Anselm Bassett, attorney and Register of Probate. The house is located in a spacious setting on the western corner of Dean and Chestnut Streets. It is a clapboarded, gable roofed 2½ story symmetrical structure. The fenestration is 6/6. The 6 bay facade has a projecting entryway with triangular pediment, and 3 triangular pedimented dormers. There are 4 tall brick chimneys in the main house, one in the eastern wing. The porch, closed portico, and kitchen wing are of later origin. The house was owned and occupied until 1971 by the Bassett family, who were prominent in business and civic affairs.

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31 Church Green (16), a modern apartment house, was constructed in 1970, on the site of the William Bradford residence, which has been destroyed by fire in 1968. The 3 story building was designed in a modified colonial style. It is of red brick, with parapet gables, and a giant 3 story front portico echoing that of the house to its east.

24 Church Green (17) was built as a residence in 1905 by Charles Newbury, a prominent industrialist. This imposing Colonial Revival structure is ample in size and well suited to its present use as an apartment house. The structure is a central block with 2 symmetrical wings. The 2½ story white clapboarded building has a dentiled cornice, a mansard roof, and gabled dormers with open returns. There are Ionic, fluted pilasters at each corner of the structure and a large triangular pedimented portico with Ionic, fluted columns. The doorway is framed by side lights and an overhead fan, and is covered by a small balustrade. The east elevation retains a one story pilastered porch, also with balustrade.

The Hubbard House (18), 14 Church Green, was built by Dr. Charles T. Hubbard c. 1844. The two-story, asymmetrical ridge-roofed house has 3 chimneys, bracketed gables and is sheathed in grey clapboards. The house has lost much of its' ornamentation. There is a covered end entryway on the facade. The original outbuildings, a barn and the doctors' office building, remain essentially as they were. The house is now owned by the Taunton Visiting Nurse Association, and houses its offices and clinics.

Church Green (19) is a utilitarian white clapboarded, one story structure. It was built during World War II as a hospitality center for servicemen. The building is in poor condition. It is owned by the Bristol County Radio and Furniture Company, and is used for storage.

One Church Green (20) was erected c. 1900 on the site of the Ingell House. It is a 2½ story white clapboarded Queen Anne style structure with tall gables. On the southern facade, there is a wide projecting two story bay containing a scroll pediment over the first story center windows. There are remodeled, symmetrical curved porches on the west elevation, and an open entry porch on the east elevation. The building originally served as the home of the Winthrop Club, a mens' club. It is now used as an office building.

70 Main Street (21) is a handsome commercial red brick block. It is a 3 story building with a rear wing and gable roof that was built c. 1840, probably by Marcus Morton, Governor of Massachusetts from 1840-1845. The simple six bay facade has flat stone lintels over each of the one over one light windows, and two triangular pedimented dormers. There are bridged chimneys on the end gables. The building was used to house shops on the lower floor, and residences above. The building is owned by the Bristol

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County Radio and Furniture Company. The upper floors contain apartments; the ground floor is used for storage and window display.

The Vietnam Memorial Fountain (22), on Church Green, is located to the east of the First Parish Church at the apex of the triangle. It consists of a large flat circular basin into which water sprays at varying heights, direction, and size. Facing the fountain on a landscaped mound is a plaque bearing an inscription to those who died in Vietnam.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

☐ PREHISTORIC

☐ 1400-1499

☐ 1500-1599

☒ 1600-1699

☒ 1700-1799

☒ 1800-1899

☒ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

☐ AGRICULTURE

☒ ARCHITECTURE

☐ ART

☐ COMMERCE

☐ COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING

☐ CONSERVATION

☐ ECONOMICS

☒ EDUCATION

☐ ENGINEERING

☒ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

☐ INDUSTRY

☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

☐ LAW

☐ LITERATURE

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSIC

☐ PHILOSOPHY

☒ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☒ RELIGION

☐ SCIENCE

☒ SCULPTURE

☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

☐ THEATER

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Taunton's Church Green is significant as a rich collection of 20 residential and commercial buildings of diverse architectural style and beauty. The structure's architectural histories span a period from 1829 to 1910, and represent a variety of high standard designs in the colonial and classic styles. Considered individually, nearly every structure is distinguished architecturally as an example of its type. Taken as a whole, Church Green represents a well preserved avenue of buildings ranging from late colonial, early Gothic Revival and Italianate, through Victorian and Richardsonian, to shingle style and colonial revival.

The district is significant historically for the important religious, educational, and political developments which took place there.

In 1637 a group of Puritans, originally from the Southwest of England, travelled from Dorchester, Massachusetts to Tetticut, Massachusetts. Led by Elizabeth Pole, the Puritans purchased the town of Tetticut from Massasoit in 1638, and in 1640 they named it Taunton, after the English town of the same name. The common land, later called Meeting House Common and then Church Green, was laid out to the south and west of what is presently Dean Street, then an Indian Trail. Here the Puritans erected their first meeting-house, and established a common school some time prior to 1647. The first houses were built near this common, along Dean Street and along the Taunton River. The homes of both Nicholas Street, a teacher and minister from 1644-1665, and of Elizabeth Pole, the founder of the town and leader in civic and church affairs, stood on the Church Green. Captain William Pole and his military company of fifty-four mustered at the Meeting House in an emergency, and undoubtedly drilled on Church Green.

This Common land has been the center of government in Taunton from the time of original settlement to the present. The first two Meeting-Houses, the Town House (1812-1848) and the City Hall (1848 -) all stood or now stand within the boundaries of the original Common land. Continuously since c. 1647, a church, or churches, has also stood on Church Green.

The First Parish Church, gathered in 1637, was the first church established within the present boundaries of Bristol County, and the fifth established in the Old Plymouth Colony. Its religious history includes the heritage of Puritan founders, the Congregational Movement, the liberal religious movement of the late 18th and early 19th centuries as well as the Unitarian Movement of 1821. Originally known as the First Church of Christ, in 1791 it became the First Congregational Society; in 1821, the First Unitarian Society; and finally in 1937, the First Parish Church in Taunton.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

First Parish Church Archives
First Parish Church, Tercentenary Program, 1637-1937
History of Taunton, Emery, Samuel, Syracuse, N.Y., 1893
City of Taunton, Tercentenary Official Program, 1639-1939
Old Colony Historical Society Archives
City Engineer, Maps: 1720, 1828-29, 1869
City Assessors, Maps

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 16 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9
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3	2	6	7	8	0
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4	6	4	0	9	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

1	9
---	---

3	2	7	0	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	4	0	6	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

E/326-520 N/4640-760

B

1	9
---	---

3	2	6	9	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	4	0	8	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

1	9
---	---

3	2	6	6	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	4	0	5	4	0
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 (cont.)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The northern boundary is the rear property line of properties facing south on Main Street (#21), Church Green (north), and Dean Street (#14). The eastern boundary is the eastern property line of #14 and #13 on the corner of Dean and Prospect St. The southern boundary is the rear property line of properties facing north on Dean St. and Church Green (south). The western boundary is Summer St. northward from Church Green (south) to #4 and continues by the rear property line of #4 and #3 and the west property line of #3 and #21.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

Blaine Mallory and Joseph Orfant, National Register Editor (Christine White, Historic District Committee, Taunton)	DATE
Massachusetts Historical Commission	October 28, 1976
294 Washington Street	617-727-8470
Boston	Massachusetts, 02108

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Blaine Mallory and Joseph Orfant, National Register Editor (Christine White, Historic District Committee, Taunton)
ORGANIZATION	Massachusetts Historical Commission
STREET & NUMBER	294 Washington Street
CITY OR TOWN	Boston

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth Reed Amador

TITLE Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE 1/26/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles A. Hensley
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/16/77

DATE

12-14-77

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Four Meeting Houses have stood within the present boundaries: the first constructed c. 1647, the second in 1730, the third in 1794 by Charles Bulfinch, and the present in 1829-30. All civil and political business in Taunton was conducted in the first two Meeting Houses until 1746. In 1671, the First Meeting House was chosen by Philip, the youngest son of Massasoit, and sachem of the Wampanoags, as the site for negotiations. Here, on April 12th, a treaty was signed with representatives of the Plymouth Colony, with Massachusetts Bay Commissioners serving as arbiters.

In 1828-29 the Church and the Town came to an agreement. The present property was deeded to the Church; the remainder was retained by the Town as Common Land.

Richard Edward Brooks, the designer of the Robert Treat Paine statue, is best known for his statue of Col. Thomas Cass in the Boston Public Garden. This statue received a gold medal at the Paris Exposition in 1900. Other of Brooks' works can be seen at the U.S. Capitol, the Connecticut State Capitol, and the Metropolitan Museum.

Robert Treat Paine himself was an associate prosecutor in the Boston Massacre Trial of 1770, a delegate to the Massachusetts Provincial Congress from 1773-1777, a delegate to the Continental Congress from 1774-1776, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was also the first Mass. Attorney General from 1777-1780, and a Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court from 1790 until 1804. Paine was born in Boston in 1730, and came to Taunton in 1761. He was an outstanding leader in the community, and was long active in resistance to the Crown. He moved back to Boston in 1780, and lived there until his death in 1814.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED	MAY 31 1977
DATE ENTERED	DEC 22 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
E 19 /	326 520 /	4640 760

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Church Green District, Taunton, Mass.
Key to Sketch Map

- (1) First Parish Church, Summer Street
- (2) Robert Treat Paine Statue, Summer Street
- (3) Leonard Block, 107-111 Main Street
- (4) City Hall, 15 Summer Street
- (5) 79 Church Green
- (6) 72 Church Green
- (7) Old Colony Historical Society, 66 Church Green
- (8) 60 Church Green
- (9) 57 Church Green
- (10) 52 Church Green
- (11) 50 Church Green
- (12) 3 Dean Street
- (13) 7 Dean Street
- (14) 2 Dean Street
- (15) 37 Church Green
- (16) 31 Church Green
- (17) 24 Church Green
- (18) Hubbard House, 14 Church Green
- (19) Church Green
- (20) One Church Green
- (21) 70 Main Street
- (22) Vietnam Memorial Fountain, Church Green

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

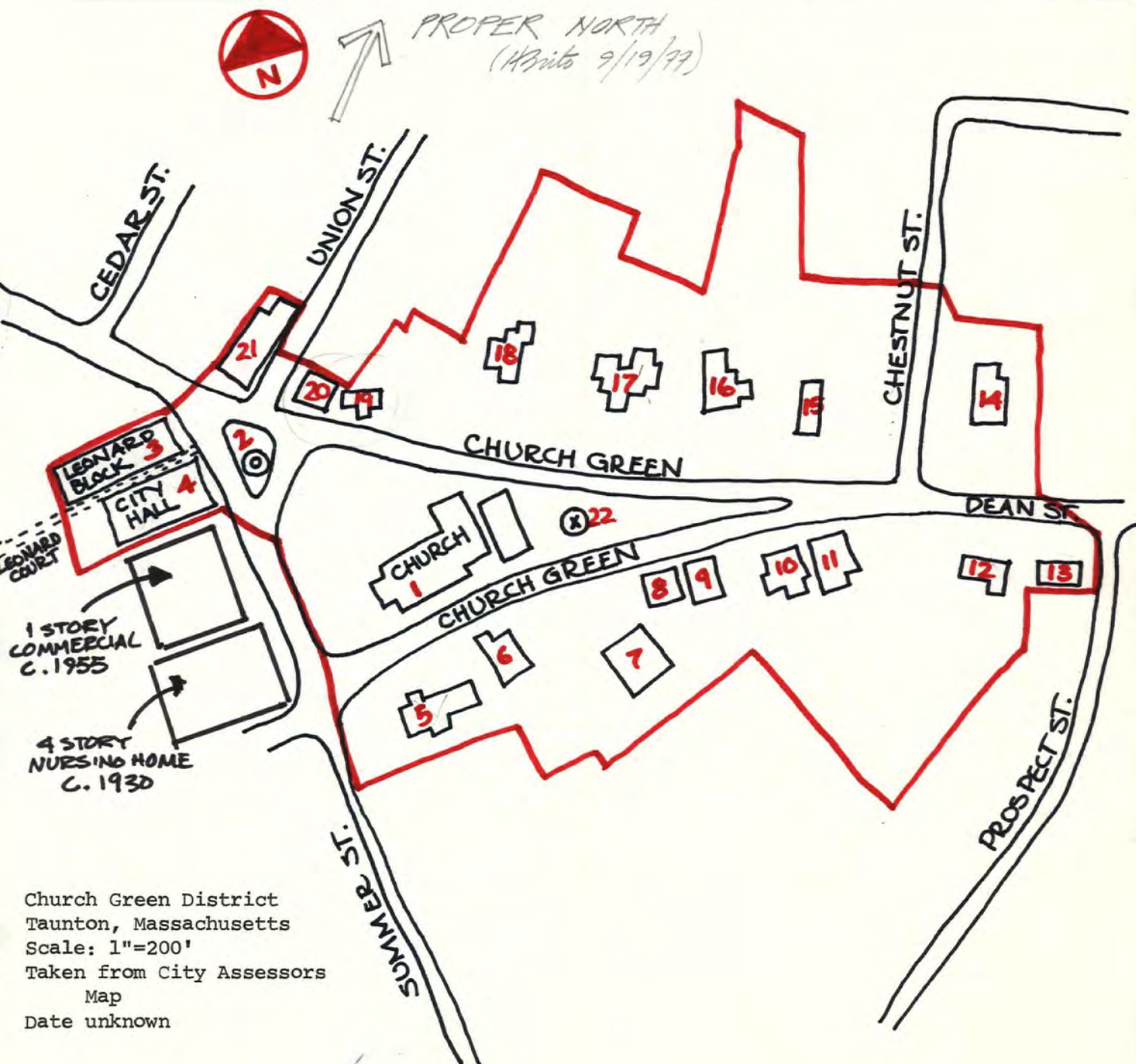
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE



Church Green District
Taunton, Massachusetts
Scale: 1"=200'
Taken from City Assessors
Map
Date unknown

Property

Church Green

State

Mass.

Working Number

5.31.77.890

Bristol

TECHNICAL

Photos

7

Maps

1

CONTROL

OK 6.2.77

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

See attached sheet.

Would like more photographic documentation.
Will accept after call.

H. G. 6/19/77

ARCHEOLOGIST

ACCEPT

H. G. 11/23/77

OTHER

accept

B. 11.23.77

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept.
L. 12/13/77

BRANCH CHIEF

H. 12.14.77

KEEPER

W. 12/16/77

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

DEC 16 1977

Federal Register Entry

2.7.78

Re-submit

INT:2108-74



Church Green Historic District

Taunton, Massachusetts

1976

Richard Mros

Old Colony Historical Society

66 Church Green, Taunton, Mass.

#1 77

Looking southwest toward First Parish

Church ①

Bristol County MAY 31 1977

DOE
DEC 16 1977

THE TOWN OF TAUNTON



Church Green Historic District

Taunton, Massachusetts

1976 *Bristol County*

Richard Mros

MAY 31 1977

Old Colony Historical Society

66 Church Green, Taunton, Mass.

#2 *of 7*

EAST (Write)

Looking southwest toward Robert Treat

Paine Statue *1 & 2*

DOE
DEC 16 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Church Green Historic District
Taunton, Massachusetts

1976

Bristol County

MAY 31 1977

Richard Mros

Old Colony Historical Society

DEC 16 1977

66 Church Green, Taunton, Mass.

3 *of 7*

Looking south toward, from right to left:

Old Colony Historical Society, ⁷

60 Church Green (south), 57 Church

Green (south), 52 Church Green

ional Fountain

ociety, 66 Church Green (south)

9 57 Church Green (South)

10 52 Church Green (partial view)

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Church Green Historic District ^{DOE}
Taunton, Massachusetts DEC 16 1977
1976 *Bristol County,*
Richard Mros MAY 31 1977

Old Colony Historical Society

66 Church Green, Taunton, Mass.

#4 of 7

Looking southeast toward, from left to right:

50 Church Green, 52 Church Green, 57 Church
Green, 60 Church Green, 72 Church Green

9 - 57 Church Green

8 - 60 Church Green

6 - 72 Church Green

Looking Southeast

Cupola of Old Colony Historical #7 can be seen

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Church Green Historic District

Taunton, Massachusetts

1976

Bristol County

MAY 31 1977

Richard Mros

Old Colony Historical Society

66 Church Green, Taunton, Mass.

#547

DOE
DEC 16 1977

Looking north and northwest toward:

24 Church Green (north), on right

Hubbard House, 14 Church Green (north),
on left

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Church Green Historic District

Taunton, Massachusetts *Bristol County*

July, 1976

Berkey Photographs

MAY 31 1977

Old Colony Historical Society

66 Church Green, Taunton, Mass.

#6 *87*

Looking east toward 31 Church Green
Apartments

NOE
DEC 16 1977

#16

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Church Green Historic District

Taunton, Massachusetts

July, 1976

Berkey Photographs

Old Colony Historical Society

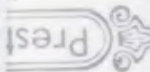
66 Church Green, Taunton, Mass.

#7 of 7

Looking northeast toward W.W.II building

Bristol County, dup
MAY 31 1977

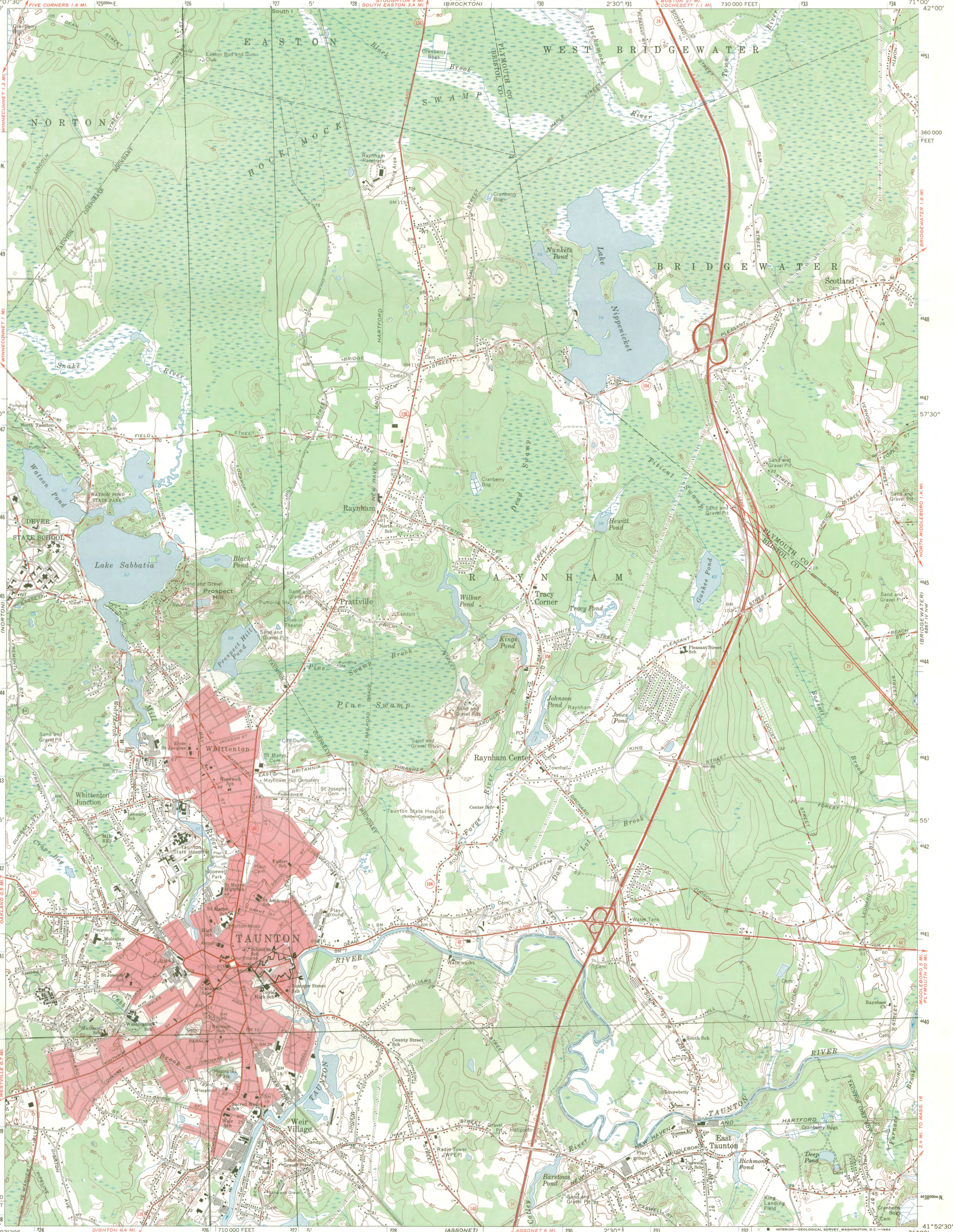
Doc
DEC 16 1977
#19



JUL

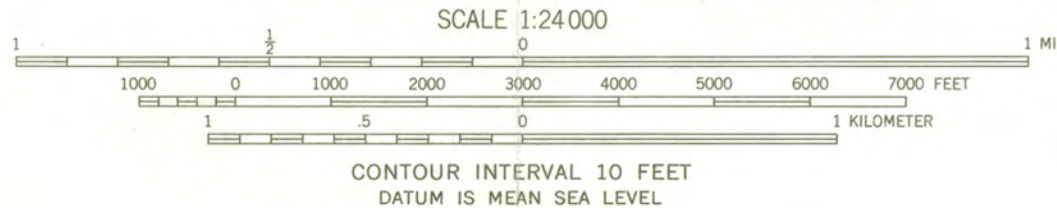
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Church Green District
Taunton, Massachusetts
UTM Coordinates:
A 19/326 780/4640 930
B 19/326 980/4640 870
C 19/327 060/4640 630
D 19/326 660/4640 540
E 19/326 520/4640 760



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry in part by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs. Topography by planimetric surveys 1942
Revised 1962
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 1962 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
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

RECEIVED
MAY 31 1977
NATIONAL
REGISTER
DEC 16 1977

TAUNTON, MASS.
N4152.5-W7100/7.5
1962
AMS 6767 1 NE-SERIES V814

159

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered JAN 16 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Pill Hill Historic District	Brookline Norfolk County
Natick Center	Natick Middlesex County
Church Green	Taunton Bristol County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Robert F. Drinan
Hon. Margaret M. Heckler

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amundson
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

880

Mott/js 12/23/77

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Church Green			2 OTHER NAMES: Meetinghouse Common			3 date of entry: DEC 16 1977		4 county code: 05	
5 LOCATION street & number U.S. 44 and MA 140			city / town Taunton		vicinity of MA		county Bristol		6 NPS REGION: NA
7 OWNER ☐ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☒ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)			8 ADMINISTRATOR:						
9 EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ NABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL			10 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO		11 CONGRESS DISTRICT 10th		12 SOURCE OF NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL		13 state who prepared form?
14 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME: ☐ NO			15 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME: ☐ NO			16 ACREAGE		☐ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION	
18 CONDITION ☐ deteriorated ☐ altered ☐ original site ☐ excellent ☐ ruins ☐ unaltered ☐ moved ☐ good ☐ unexposed ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown ☐ fair ☐ unexcavated ☐ excavated			17 features: INTERIOR: ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR: ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 FOUNDATION: ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9						
19 ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown			20 ADAPTED FOR: ☐ YES ☐ NO						
21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-Prehistoric ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-Historic ☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ ARCHITECTURE-1 ☐ ARTS-8 ☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ COMMERCIAL-2 ☐ COMMUNITY-10 ☐ CONSERVATION-6 ☐ ECONOMICS-4 ☐ EDUCATION-14 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ EXPLORATION-17 ☐ HERITAGE-3 ☐ INDUSTRY-12 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH-17 ☐ LAW-5 ☐ LITERATURE-1 ☐ MILITARY-26 ☐ MUSIC-15 ☐ ORNAMENTAL-18 ☐ CRAFTS-19 ☐ CRAFTSMANSHIP-19 ☐ CRAFTSMANSHIP-19			22 CLAIMS explain: first ☐ oldest ☐ only ☐						
23 functions WHY HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:			24 dates ☐ AFFILIATION ☐ ASSOCIATION						
25 architectural style(s)			26 architect		27 master builder		28 engineer		
29 landscape architect / garden designer			30 interior decorator		31 artist		32 artisan		33 builder/contractor
34 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:									
35 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP									