

PH0006009

HB NO UTM

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Massachusetts	
COUNTY: Bristol	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 9	1972



1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Phoenix

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION **Congressional District # 12**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Fort Phoenix Park

CITY OR TOWN:
Fairhaven

STATE: **Massachusetts** CODE: **025** COUNTY: **Bristol** CODE: **005**

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Town of Fairhaven

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **1. Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth, 1971.**
2. Comprehensive Statewide Preservation Plan, 1970.

DATE OF SURVEY: **(1) 1971 (2) 1970** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Secretary

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Massachusetts**
COUNTY: **Bristol**
ENTRY NUMBER: **NOV 9 1972**
DATE: **NOV 9 1972**
FOR NPS USE ONLY



7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
MAK 17 1972	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Phoenix is located in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, at the mouth of New Bedford Harbor. Situated on a promontory at the northwestern end of Scotcut Neck, sixty feet above eventide, the Fort and the beaches along the cove of the Neck make up Fort Phoenix Park which is a recreational area for local residents. The Fort is at the northern end of the park and ensconced among the smooth shore boulders which characterize the promontory. Seventy yards south of Fort Phoenix is a small parking lot for visitors; east and north of the Fort is a causeway and jetty which extends across the harbor and west of the Fort is the harbor.

The original construction of Fort Phoenix began in 1775 after the Battle of Concord and Lexington. Major General Grey, in his account to Sir Henry Clinton of his raid on the harbor area described the Fort as enclosed with eleven pieces of cannon, a barracks and magazine. The local militia immediately rebuilt the Fort after Grey's attack and, since "it rose from ashes," it was named Fort Phoenix. Unfortunately, no description of the rebuilt Fort can be found. After 1794 when the Federal Government took over the task of sea coast defense, Fort Phoenix received no attention. However, local interest and Town ownership since 1922 has maintained the structure so that today it is in an excellent state of preservation.

The Fort is horse-shoe shaped; its east wall missing. The shape and dimensions of the Fort are irregular following the contours of the promontory on which it is built. This is particularly true of the exterior dimensions. The design of the Fort is simple, consisting of an outer and an inner wall, between which sod and earth fill forms a parapet. The interior of the Fort is essentially square in shape with the west wall at a slightly oblique angle. At the northeast end of the Fort, the exterior wall forms an enclosed square, earth filled. This may have been a magazine or bomb-proof.

The exterior walls of the Fort are constructed of bricks with a cement covering (added in 1950 to keep the bricks from being stolen). The walls are topped with a single row of tapered granite slabs. The height of the exterior walls varies with the contours of the rocks from six feet to fourteen feet. The distance between the exterior and interior walls also varies from five to fourteen feet. The south wall is 32 feet long and joins the west wall at a slightly oblique angle. The west wall is 50 feet in length to the beginning of the northwest corner where it curves to meet the north wall. The north wall continues for 32 feet until it turns to form the enclosed earth-filled square mentioned above.

The interior walls are four feet high and constructed of smooth granite blocks. The south wall, 36 feet long, joins the west wall at an oblique angle. The sixty foot long west wall meets the north wall at a 90 degree angle after adjusting in the northwest corner for one of the gun emplacements. The fifty-five foot long north wall terminates at a short stairway which allows access to the parapet. In each of the interior walls are semi-circular recesses, four feet wide and three feet deep, which allowed the muzzles of the cannon to be moved forward over the parapet after they had been made ready to fire. There are two of these recesses along the south wall; three along the west wall; and three along the north wall. Semi-circular slabs, created of 12 x 6 inch granite blocks linked together, are imbedded in the earth at each recess. Known as truck runs, they have a diameter of seventeen feet and a radius of twelve feet. A wheel at the base of the gun carriages rested on the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

[continued]

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - Nomination Form

Continuation Sheet

Fort Phoenix

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

025

7. Description

runs and allowed the cannoneer, with the use of handspikes, to rotate the cannon and its carriage 180 degrees. There are five cannon mounted at the Fort on wooden supports. The cannons are made of cast iron and dated 1828. There is one smaller cannon, unmounted, and lying on the middle truck run of the north wall. This has a plaque affixed to it which states its origin.

In the center of the Fort is a flag pole and a large boulder with a commemorative plaque.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1775

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

General Gage, bottled up in Boston Harbor after the Battle of Concord and Lexington in 1775, sent the H. M. S. Falcon southward to Martha's Vineyard and the Elizabeth Islands in search of food supplies. The appearance of this emblem of royal tyranny in the waters of Buzzards Bay incited the people of the villages of New Bedford and Fairhaven to action. Captain Nathaniel Pope and twenty-five local militiamen outfitted a sloop, the Success, and sailed out into the Bay seeking a prize. Two native sloops, previously taken by the Falcon were found at anchor and captured at the cost of one Redcoat dead. The prisoners were escorted to Taunton jail and the men of Fairhaven had taken part in one of the first naval engagements of the War. The local militia next took precautions to protect their harbor and possessions from future enemy incursions. A fort was begun on the northwestern end of Sciticut Neck and completed two years later, in 1777.

During the early years of the War, the rebel colonies (without a formal navy) engaged heavily in privateering. Sir Henry Clinton described the area around Fairhaven and Bedford as a "noted rendezvous for privateers." In a retaliatory action on 5 September 1778, over 4,000 British troops under the command of General Grey landed on the western shore of the harbor at Clarke's Point, marched inland destroying warehouses, stores and rebel property. Over seventy ships (including several recent prizes of Count D'Estaing) lay in the harbor and all were destroyed. The British then crossed the Acushnet River and marched down the Fairhaven side to Sciticut Neck. The Fort was deserted and the British destroyed it, burning the carriages, knocking the trunions off the cannon, burning the barracks and blowing up the magazine. The rebel militia under the command of Major Israel Fearing put up some resistance, but were far outnumbered. The British, having completed their mission in less than eighteen hours, departed at midday, 6 September.

The local militia immediately began to rebuild the Fort. Indeed, the Fort was rebuilt so rapidly that it seemed to "rise from its ashes" and was called Fort Phoenix.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Almon, J. (ed.), The Remembrancer or Impartial Repository of Public Events, 1779.
American Archives, Washington: M. St. Clair Clarke and Peter Force, Fourth Series, Vol. II, 1837.
 Clark, William Bell, (ed.), Naval Documents of the American Revolution, Vol. I, Washington, 1964.
 Stevens, B. F., Facsimiles of Manuscripts in European Archives Relating to America, 1775-1783, Vol. XI, 1157.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		41°	37'	26"
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		70°	54'	11"
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2.3 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Richard W. Hale, Jr., Acting Chairman

ORGANIZATION: **Massachusetts Historical Commission** DATE: **April 30, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Office of the Secretary, State House

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *John F. X. Dawson*
 Secretary of the Commonwealth and
 Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
 Commission

Date: **February 15, 1972**

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *11/9/72*

ATTEST:
W. Bradford
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: *Nov. 7, 1972*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Bristol

PROPERTY FORT PHOENIX

STATE MASS.

DATE OF RECEIPT 3-10-72

YES

NO

NUMBER

REGISTER:

NOV 9 1972

DATA PAGE

PHOTO (S)

PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S)

MAP (S)

MAP DESCRIPTION (S)

LOGGED

ACKNOWLEDGE 3-17-72

RESUBMIT _____

2

1

TECH
jj 5-15-72



REVIEW

HISTORIAN I consult for any sources to check on this, but _____ Oliver Seales
10/3/72

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT

OK Chambers
10-2-72

ASST. KEEPER

OK P. Fry
11/6/72

KEEPER

OK 558 for
W. M. J.
11/7/72

WRITER/EDITOR

DIRECTOR, OAHF

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR

OK
CDA
9/26/72

Federal Registry Entry 12-5-72 Annual Edition Entry _____

Logged NOV 9 1972 Card NOV 9 1972

COMMENTS:

WORKING NUMBER 3-17-72-391

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: _____



Neg # 2

NPS Number Nov 9 1972

Title: Fort Phoenix

①

Exterior: Fort Phoenix
Fairhaven, MA

Loc. Bristol Cnty, Mass.

DIRECTION: SOUTH EAST

Exterior: facing S.E.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

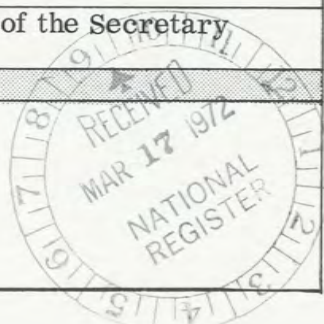
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Bristol	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 9 1972	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Fort Phoenix			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Fort Phoenix Park			
CITY OR TOWN: Fairhaven			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Bristol	CODE 005
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Massachusetts Historical Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Secretary State House, Boston, Massachusetts			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Exterior: facing southeast			





Neg #12

NPS Number Nov. 9, 1972

Title: Fort Phoenix

(2)

Interior: Fort Phoenix

Fair Haven, MA.

Loc. Bristol City, Mass.

Interior: N.W.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

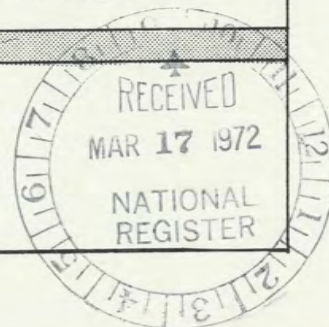
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Bristol	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 9 1972	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

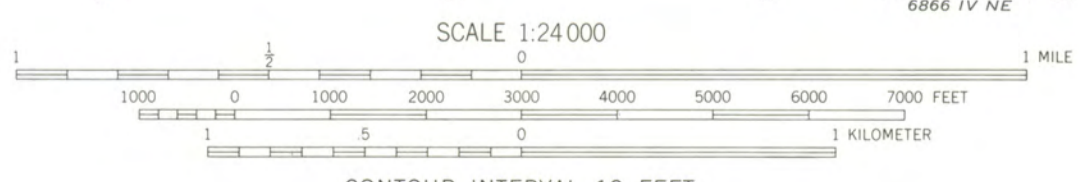
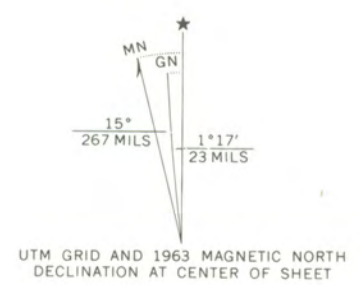
1. NAME			
COMMON: Fort Phoenix			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Fort Phoenix Park			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Fairhaven			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Massachusetts	025	Bristol	005
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Massachusetts Historical Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Secretary State House, Boston, Massachusetts			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Interior: facing northwest			





19/341 480
4609 580
60

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1936. Revised 1963
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 252 (1961),
237 (1962), and 249 (1963). This information is not intended for
navigational purposes
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 area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information furnished
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 3.7 FEET

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty - - - - - Unimproved dirt - - - - -



NEW BEDFORD SOUTH, MASS.
N4130—W7052.5/7 5

1963
AMS 6867 III SW—SERIES V814

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Bristol	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER NOV 9 1972	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Fort Phoenix
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Fort Phoenix Park

CITY OR TOWN:

Fairhaven

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Bristol

CODE

005

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U. S. G. S. New Bedford South, Mass.

SCALE: 1 : 24,000

DATE: 1963

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

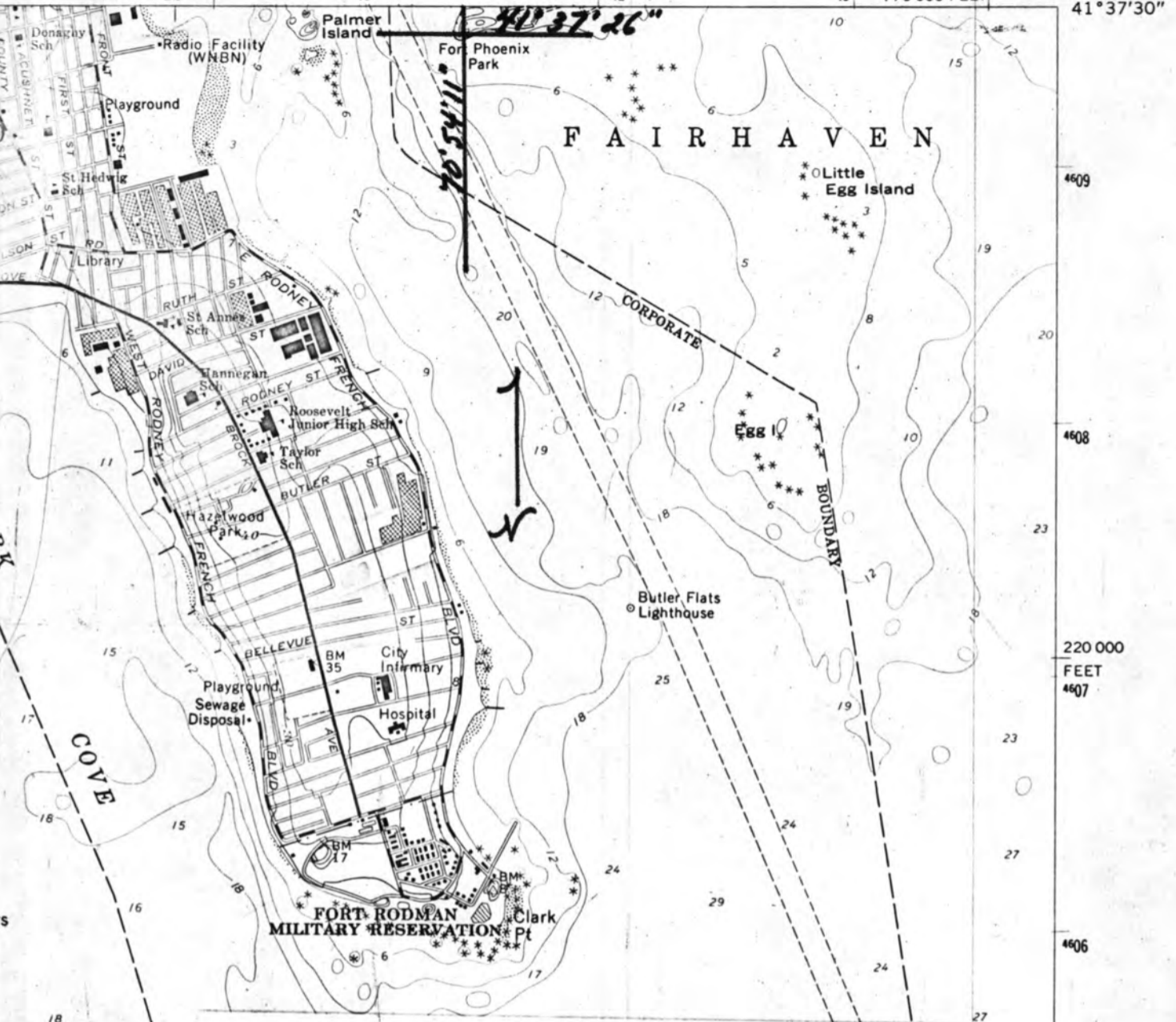


SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NEW BEDFORD SOUTH QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS-BRISTOL CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6867 III NE
(MARION)

340 55' 341 342 343 770 000 FEET 70°52'30" 41°37'30"



FORT PHOENIX

U.S.G.S. NEW BEDFORD SOUTH, Mass

Scale: 1:24,000

1963



(SCOTICUT NECK)
6867 III SE



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

State House, Boston 02133

John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

February 17, 1972

The Office of Archeology &
Historic Preservation
National Park Service
801 Nineteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Attention: Miss Mary Means

CERTIFIED MAIL

Enclosed are National Register submissions for:

1. Fort Phoenix, Fairhaven, Massachusetts
2. Citizens Hall, Stockbridge, Massachusetts

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard W. Hale, Jr.".

Richard W. Hale, Jr.
Acting Chairman
Massachusetts Historical Commission

RWH/akc
enclosures



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered NOV 9 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mechanics Hall	Worcester Worcester County
Essex Company Machine Shop	Lawrence Essex County
The Hadley Falls Company Housing District	Holyoke Hampden County
✓ Fort Phoenix	Fairhaven Bristol County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Edward P. Boland
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Hon. Silvio O. Conte
Hon. Margaret M. Heckler

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

Director, Northeast Region

PHR

NRoland:mmm

11/13/72