

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received APR 18 1984

date entered

1. Name

historic Bradford Smith Building

and/or common Bradford Smith Property

2. Location

street & number 1927-1941 Purchase Street N/A not for publication

city, town New Bedford N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Bristol code 005

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Martin D. Gavin & Daniel D. Zailskas - Gavin Associates

street & number Mr. Gavin - 17 Frammer Road/ Mr. Zailskas 10 Drift Way, Scituate, MA 02060

city, town Wellesley Hill, MA 02181 n/a vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bristol County Registry of Deeds

street & number 25 North Sixth Street

city, town New Bedford state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets of
title the Commonwealth #642has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate February, 1980 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☒ localdepository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission/City of New Bedford
294 Washington Streetcity, town Boston/ New Bedford Office of Better Neighborhoods
state Massachusetts

7. Description

Bradford Smith Building, New Bedford, MA

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bradford-Smith Building is a late Victorian wood frame commercial structure located in Weld Square a commercial district north of downtown New Bedford. The building faces east directly onto Purchase Street and is abutted on the north and south by vacant lots. Across the street to the north is the Union Street Railway Car barn (NR 1978) and nearby south of the Bradford-Smith Building, also on Purchase Street, is the Dawson Building (NR 1982), a late 19th century brick commercial structure.

Sheathed in clapboards, the Bradford-Smith Building rises $3\frac{1}{2}$ stories from a granite and brick foundation. The structure is capped by a black asphalt pitch roof which is pierced by three chimneys and is broken on the facade by a double gable. Plain cornerboards and a simple frieze frame the building. Fenestration, except for single pane storefront windows, consists of the original $2\frac{1}{2}$ sash.

The facade's major components (east elevation) are its four original storefronts on the ground level and a double gable with returns at the roofline. This design element, which visually divides the building into two units, is joined by a cornice and supporting brackets. The storefronts, composed of plateglass, are framed by tin posts with glazed transoms (now boarded over) on top, and low wooden boarding placed below. The commercial units are linked by six arched entrances that lead to recessed entries. Windows on this elevation are symmetrically grouped below the gables and consist of five openings on the second and third floor with three located within the gable field. An additional window is centrally placed on the second and third floor below the cornice which links the two gables. The total number of windows on these two floors is eleven. All fenestration on the facade is capped by projecting moldings which are supported by brackets.

The remaining three elevations contain little ornamentation and few significant architectural elements. The north and south elevations form the sides of the building and are identical in appearance. Both have a front section which projects slightly from the plane of the wall and double shed dormers that pierce the roofline. Windows on these two faces are placed asymmetrically and capped by simple moldings.

The rear elevation (west side), unlike the facade, does not have a continuous band of storefronts or a linking cornice between the two gables. Without these elements, the building's true configuration can clearly be seen which is a pair of connected gable ended structures. Windows on this side of the building are of the same simple design as those on the north and south elevations. Each floor contains four openings, with those on the second and third story symmetrically aligned. Two additional windows are also contained within each gable. Subsidiary entries are centrally located on the ground floor.

The interior of the building retains its original use of space which includes stores on the ground level and apartments on the floors above.

Alterations to the structure have been minimal and generally have involved superficial changes made to the storefronts and interior space. These additions have included new signage and wooden sheathing placed on the lower portion of the facade and dropped acoustical ceilings and wood panelling placed in the apartment areas. The building is presently undergoing a certified rehabilitation following the Secretary of Interior's Standards.

8. Significance

Bradford Smith Building, New Bedford, MA

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

Specific dates 1887

Builder/Architect *unknown*

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bradford-Smith Building possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. It is significant for its associations with the development of New Bedford's first streetcar suburb - Weld Square - which emerged in the late 19th century as a major commercial and residential district north of downtown New Bedford. The property is also important as an intact and early example of wood frame commercial architecture. Thus, the Bradford-Smith Building meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Weld Square, until the end of the 19th century, was an undeveloped district north of downtown New Bedford. Due to the arrival of streetcar service in this section of the city in the last quarter of the 19th century, combined with the profitable and expanding Wamsutta Mills located nearby, the Weld Square area quickly grew and prospered. By the early 20th century this streetcar suburb had become an important commercial and industrial district second only to downtown New Bedford. Residents of the neighborhood were generally recent Irish and French Canadian immigrants who worked in the nearby mills and at the Union Street Railway Car barn (NR 1978).

The nominated property, located in the heart of this late 19th century neighborhood, was constructed in 1887 by a local builder and developer Bradford Smith, who is known to have constructed a number of other buildings in the vicinity. The Bradford-Smith Building, like others on major streets, was built to serve a dual function that combined ground floor commercial space with residential apartments on the floors above. When first completed, this structure contained small shops which included a bakery and furniture store in its ground floor commercial space and apartments above for mill workers employed at the car barn and nearby textile mills. The building noted for its double facade gables and Italianate detail, has been little altered over the years, and continues to be used for its original function.

Bradford Smith, the builder/developer of the nominated property, was born in Taunton, Massachusetts in 1841. He came to New Bedford as a young man and for many years worked at the Taunton-New Bedford Copper Company. Upon his retirement, he bought numerous parcels of land in this northern section of New Bedford and constructed a number of tenement properties. These buildings, to increase productivity, generally included ground floor commercial space above which were floors that contained residential apartments. In addition to 1927-1941 Purchase Street, Bradford Smith also constructed a tenement directly to the rear of this building as well as houses on Highland Street.

Weld Square remained a thriving commercial center and blue collar neighborhood through the mid-20th century. In more recent years, it has experienced a period of deterioration and decline, however, the area has lately undergone extensive revitalization. Examples of this activity can be seen in the rehabilitation of the Dawson Building and Union Street Railway car barn, both of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Bradford-Smith Building is also scheduled for rehabilitation with plans that will follow the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Completion of this project will serve to enhance and further stabilize this important late 19th century streetscape and commercial district.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bristol County Registry of Deeds, Book 101, p. 91, Book 111, p.270, Book 1687, p. 710
City of New Bedford Tax Records, 1885, 1886, 1887
New Bedford Times, July 21, 1914.
City Directories, New Bedford Free Public Library, 1889, 1906-10, 1912.
NR nomination - Dawson Block, 1982

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 9,215 square feet

Quadrangle name New Bedford North

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A 19 339270 4612620
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification Bristol County Registry of Deeds- Book 1850, p. 1190-
"All that certain lot, piece or parcel of land situate in the City of New Bedford, State of
Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: Beginning in the northeast corner of said
lot in the west line of said Purchase Street at a point fifty-five and 45/100 (55.45)

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

Mari L. Myer, Program Assistant, and Kathryn Kubie, Preservation Planner with
name/title Peggi Medeiros, Research Historian

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January 26, 1984

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X 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 Patricia L. Weslow

State Historic Preservation Officer
title Massachusetts Historical Commission date 4/10/84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 5/17/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Bradford-Smith Building Item number 10 Page 1

feet south of the south line of Weld Street; thence

Westerly one hundred and $2/100$ (100.2) feet to the east line of land owend by Noah Tripp and at a point fifty-three and $45/100$ (53.45) feet south of the said line of Weld Street; thence

Southerly in said Tripp's east line ninety-two and $8/10$ (92.8) feet to other land of the grantor; thence

Easterly one hundred and $2/100$ (100.2) feet in a line nearly parallel with the north line, to the west line of said Purchase Street; thence

Northerly on the said west line of Purchase Street ninety-two and $9/10$ (92.9) feet to the place of beginning.

Containing thirty-four and $104/1000$ (34.104) square rods, more or less.

Mortgage Date October 27, 1982 - Recorded November 15, 1982 at 10 o'clock and 23 minutes pm. John Gomes, Register, Bristol County Register of Deeds.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Smith, Bradford, Building
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. APR 18 1984

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85

Date Due: 5/17/84 - 6/2/84

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 5/17/84

☐ RETURN

☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

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

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



OGAN ST
PURCHASE ST

COCA-COLA
DEES VARIETY

SNACK
BAR

Aackon

Antiques



1927-1941 Purchase Street
New Bedford, Mass.
Bradford Smith Property
Photographer Janet Meunier 1981
Negative WHALE - 13 Centre Street
Front Facade

6867 III NW
71°00' E
41°37'30" N

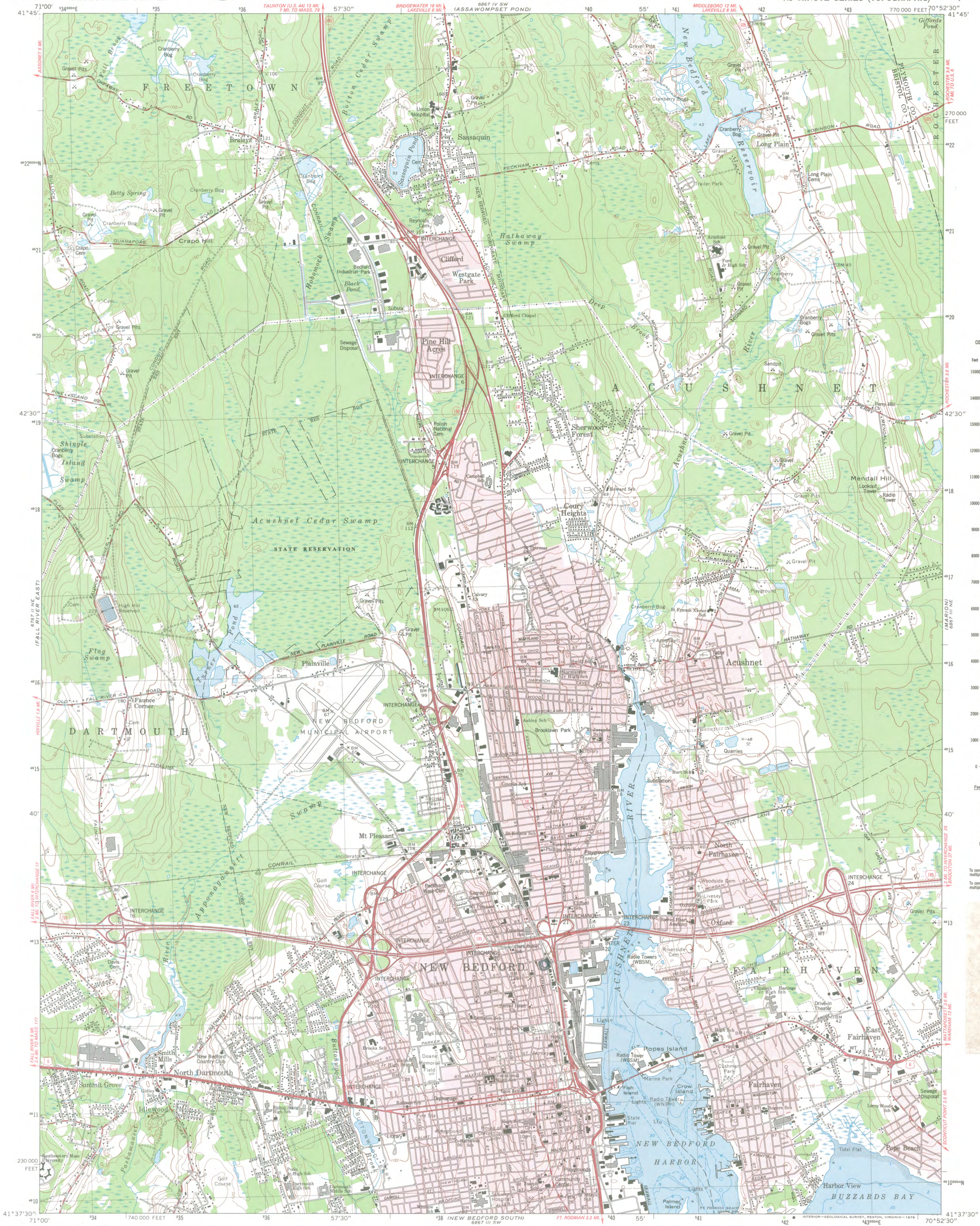
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

NEW BEDFORD NORTH QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6867 III SE
71°00' E
41°37'30" N



Feet	Meters
1	0.3048
2	0.6096
3	0.9144
4	1.2192
5	1.5240
6	1.8288
7	2.1336
8	2.4384
9	2.7432
10	3.0480

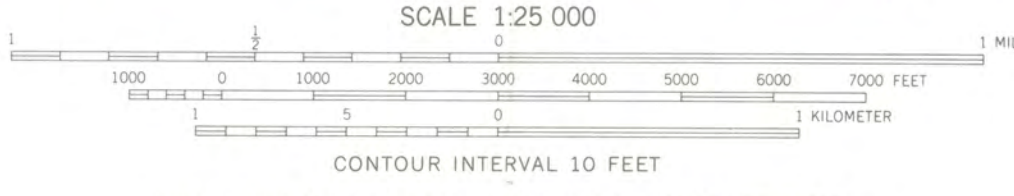
To convert feet to meters
multiply by 0.3048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

Bradford Smith Building
New Bedford, Ma.

UTM:
19/339270/4612620

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planimetric surveys 1936. Revised 1964
Revised 1975 from aerial photographs taken 1974
Field checked 1975. Map edited 1979
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS 353 (1973)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information furnished by
Massachusetts Department of Public Works
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



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

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway
hard surface
Secondary highway,
hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or
improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

NEW BEDFORD NORTH, MASS.
N4137.5—W7052.5/7.5

1979

DMA 6867 III NW—SERIES W814