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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A)*. Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name First Baptist Church of Medfield

other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 438 Main Street n/a not for publication

city or town Medfield \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity \_\_\_\_\_

state Massachusetts code MA county Norfolk code 021 zip code 02052

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director 7/21/03  
Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ 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 for additional Comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**4. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Carl  
Edson R. Beall 9-11-03

First Baptist Church of Medfield  
Name of Property

Norfolk County, Massachusetts  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

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

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	building
0	0	sites
1	1	structures
0	2	objects
2	4	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility/church

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility/church

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Gothic

MID-19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY/Greek Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite, concrete

walls flushboard

vinyl

roof slate, asphalt shingle

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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First Baptist Church of Medfield  
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### 7. Description

The First Baptist Church of Medfield, 438 Main Street, Medfield (1838, 1874, MHC #2, Photo #1) is the best-preserved survivor of the town's Victorian Gothic-style institutional architecture. Located in Medfield's historic town center, at the eastern edge of the town's principal business district, the church occupies the southeast corner of the Main Street intersection with South Street. The church is set back about twenty-five feet from Main Street and about thirty feet from South Street at its closet point. Granite curbing (installed 1890) defines the property for most of the Main Street frontage, and rounding the corner to South Street. A noncontributing, vinyl picket fence (ca. 1990s) borders the rest of the church lot along South Street, enclosing a play area associated with the children's center that operates on the property. In addition, two standing signs (ca. 1970s) at the Main Street side of the church lot, and a small wood-frame storage shed (ca. 1990s) on the South Street side, are noncontributing due to their recent vintage. Landscaping on the property includes mature deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs.

The original wood-frame church, constructed in 1838 in the Greek Revival style, was substantially remodeled in 1874 to its present Victorian Gothic appearance. Renovations at that time included grafting a new façade onto the front of the 1838 building, and constructing a new steeple at the building's northwest corner (replacing the original square bell tower on the roof ridge). In 1905, further renovations were made to the interior, particularly in updating the appearance of the sanctuary. In 1969-1970, a Colonial Revival wing was added to the east elevation of the church to house a Fellowship Hall, classrooms for the Sunday school, and administrative offices. The wing occupies the approximate site of 19<sup>th</sup>-century horse sheds that were present at the eastern edge of the church lot until early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 1838 Construction

As built originally, the main block (1838, Photo #2) of the Baptist Church was one story on a raised basement, rectangular in massing, three bays across and three bays deep. The building had a pedimented gable roof, a center entry, and a square tower with spire located on the roof ridge directly over the façade (north elevation). Today, the northeast corner of the original main block (Photo #3), located directly behind the turret at the northeast corner of the Victorian Gothic (1874) façade, retains the most Greek Revival-style features, including paneled corner pilasters and a section of the original façade pediment. The wide frieze on the church's east, west, and south elevations also dates to this period; Italianate-style eave brackets apparently were added later (see below). The main block has a granite foundation, flushboard siding on the raised basement, vinyl siding above, and an asphalt shingle roof. Double-height windows on the east and west walls of the sanctuary originally contained 16/16 wood sash.

#### 1874 Remodeling

The 1874 remodeling grafted a new Victorian Gothic-style façade, three bays across and one bay deep, onto the front of the Greek Revival-style church. Wood mullions framing diamond-shaped panes replaced the original rectangular window panes in the double-height sanctuary windows. Also at the time, it appears the church was extended one bay to the rear with the construction of a hip-roofed addition spanning the south elevation. This rear extension yielded a secondary entry at the basement level but did not add any windows to the sanctuary above (see interior description). A pair of brick interior chimneys, sandwiched between the rear wall of the 1838 block and the massing of the rear extension, appear to date to the 1874 remodeling, as well as the Italianate eave brackets on both the main block and rear extension.

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Most of the church's Victorian Gothic exterior detailing is located on the 1874 façade addition (Photo #1). The façade consists of a two-story steeple on a raised basement at the northwest corner, and a full-height turret at the northeast corner, framing a projecting gable-roofed center-entry vestibule with a round-arched window above. The steeple is composed of a square, hip-roofed stair tower; a four-sided bell tower with chamfered corners and a hipped roof; and an octagonal spire, all with slate roof shingles. The stair tower has paneled corner piers topped with triangular caps, recessed wall panels with corbeling, and a heavy bracketed cornice. The bell tower features attenuated engaged columns with foliated capitals at the corners, a row of small engaged columns beneath each louvered opening, and Victorian vernacular decorative trusses in the hip roof above. The spire has a copper finial. At the opposite end of the façade, the full-height turret consists of three parts: a square chamfered base with triangular caps having an incised geometric design, a square shaft with attenuated engaged columns at the corners, and a spire clad in slate shingles.

The church has three historic entries, the principal one being the Main Street entry. Here, the flushboard-sided entry vestibule has paired doors set within a heavily molded arched door surround. The present four-panel wood doors with a diamond-paned arched transom above are believed to date to 1928, when the church was repaired following a fire. Attenuated engaged columns with foliated capitals at the corners and a bracketed cornice complete the entry vestibule. On the west side of the steeple, the South Street entry, also located at ground level, contains the same type of four-panel doors seen on the façade, though here they are shielded by a shed-roofed hood (1874) on decorative wood brackets. A similar door hood appears on another entry, facing South Street, on the rear extension.

Windows on the 1874 façade have wood-frame round-arched openings and diamond-shaped, painted glass panes framed in lead. This contrasts with the wood mullions framing the diamond-pane sash that replaced the original (1838) rectangular panes in the sanctuary windows. The latter windows contain colored pebble glass and have similarly styled transoms. Trim added to the exterior of the sanctuary windows during the 1874 remodeling consists of drip moulds and elaborately carved sills. Windows in the raised basement at ground level have 1/1 wood sash and blind panels above. An oriel window at the northeast corner of the church, located at the juncture of the 1838 façade and the 1874 façade addition, features a wood-frame round-arched opening and diamond-shaped, painted glass panes framed in lead.

**Interior**

The interior of the First Baptist Church is in excellent condition and retains its historic integrity. The historic main block (1838, remodeled 1874) consists of two principal levels. On the upper level is a double-height sanctuary (Photo #4). On the lower level, in the raised basement, are meeting spaces, restrooms, and a kitchen. These levels are connected by stairs located at the front (northern end) of the church, in the spaces that were added to the 1838 church with the construction of a new façade in 1874. From the entry vestibule, which is centered on the façade at ground level, a broad staircase rises one-half story to a landing, then splits in two and continues easterly and westerly to separate landings at the sanctuary level. Beneath the west flight of stairs, at the base of the 1874 steeple, a stair leads from the entry vestibule down to rooms in the raised basement. Also in this location is the church's South Street entry, located at the base of the steeple's west wall. From here, there is elevator access to the sanctuary upstairs and the rooms downstairs. Higher up in the steeple, directly behind the double-height stained glass window on the façade, a separate stair connects the sanctuary level to the choir gallery.

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Decorative finishes in the stair halls vary with the location. The main stair hall (Photo #5), leading from the entry vestibule to the sanctuary, plus the second stair hall at the base of the steeple leading down to the raised basement, have matchboard wainscoting, wallpapered walls, and plaster ceilings. The main stair itself consists of paneled square posts and turned balusters carrying a raised handrail from the entry vestibule to the first landing. At that point, the design of the stair changes, and is continued upward to the sanctuary level by a plainer, curved handrail carried on pierced splats, terminating in newel posts that, in their chamfered design, recall the design of the turret on the northeast corner of the church's 1874 facade. The half-turn stair in the steeple, which was not intended to be seen by the public, is more modest in its finishes, with plain plaster walls and a simple handrail.

The sanctuary (Photo #4) is one large room of striking breadth and height. In plan, the sanctuary has a nave (center aisle) and two side aisles, with the pulpit situated at the southern end of the room on a raised dais, and the gallery at the rear (northern end). Concealed in the floor of the dais is a tin-lined baptismal pool. Sanctuary walls are plastered, with applied wooden molding strips creating simple panels above matchboard wainscoting. Tall windows, three on the west wall and two on the east, filter daylight through purplish-pink pebbled glass in wood diamond-pane sash. The original third (southernmost) window on the east wall was removed ca. 1970 when the education wing was added (see below). Many of the sanctuary's existing finishes date to a renovation in 1905. Curved pews of quartered oak flank the center aisle, ten on each side. The pews have recessed quatrefoil panels on the ends and carved armrests. An undulating railing, with pierced splats and molded caps, encloses the organ and present choir area at the southwest corner. The highly decorative, embossed tin ceiling in the sanctuary (Photo #6) and gallery, complete with decorative coving at the junction of walls and ceiling, also dates to 1905. The gallery, closed off from the sanctuary ca. 1970 to conserve heat, is now used for storage, though the tin ceiling survives in good condition behind the false wall of paneling that separates the gallery from the sanctuary. There is a wood floor in the gallery, and the floor in the sanctuary has wall-to-wall carpet. The organ, built in 1908 by H. C. Harrison for a church in Maine, is a tracker pipe organ with attached console. The organ was re-leathered and installed in the Baptist church in 1987, replacing an earlier Moller pipe organ, which dated to 1927. Furnishings on the raised dais (Photo #7), including the pulpit, altar table, and chairs, show an Eastlake influence in their design, and may date to the 1905 renovations.

**Addition of Education Wing (1969-1970) and Related Renovations**

In 1969-1970, the Baptist Church constructed a two-story, Colonial Revival wing (Photo #8) on the east elevation to house a fellowship hall, Sunday school classrooms, and church offices. This addition, which is set back from the church's historic facade, wraps the southeast (left rear) corner of the building and spans most of the building's rear elevation. The addition is five irregularly spaced bays across and three bays deep, with a concrete foundation, clapboard siding, and a side-gable roof clad with asphalt shingles. Windows contain double-hung wood sash with detachable muntins. The entry is located at the juncture of the historic church and contemporary wing, and contains a pair of six-panel wood doors. Immediately east of the entry is a two-bay, hip-roofed projection containing ground-level offices.

The Fellowship Hall is the principal space on the first floor of the addition. This room, which has a stage at the southern end, is used for Sunday worship during the winter months, in addition to housing children's activities year-round. At the rear (north side) of the Fellowship Hall are the administrative offices in the hip-roofed projection noted above, and to the

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west is a large kitchen. When the addition was constructed, the Baptist Church also renovated rooms in the adjacent raised basement of the historic main block. Some of these rooms now serve as meeting spaces for the church, and others are leased to the Medfield Children's Center Inc., a daycare provider.

Two stairwells, located on the east side and at the southwest end, respectively, of the Fellowship Hall, provide access to classrooms on the upper level of the addition. Classrooms have plaster walls, colonial casing on doors and windows, and wall-to-wall carpet. Originally built to house the Church's Sunday School programs, the classroom space is now principally occupied by the Medfield Children's Center Inc.

**Recent Improvements**

In 1994, the First Baptist Church installed an elevator to improve access throughout the historic building, connecting the historic spaces in the main block with the already accessible education wing and Fellowship Hall. The elevator shaft was placed at the north side (interior wall) of the steeple, with minimal intrusion on the northwest corner of the sanctuary, where the effect is a minor bump-out of the plastered walls at that location. The elevator connects the church's accessible entrance, fronting South Street at the base of the steeple, with the sanctuary above and the meeting spaces in the basement. Elevator machinery is enclosed at the gallery level.

Also in the 1990s, the sanctuary was painted, new ceiling fans were installed, and the fifteen-foot stained glass windows in the steeple were restored.

**Archaeological Description**

While no ancient Native American sites are known on the church property, sites may be present. 14 Native sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the property indicate a high potential for the presence of Native sites. The church is located on an excessively drained, level to moderately sloping outwash plain in close proximity to wetlands. Vine Brook, located less than 1,000 feet north of the church, drains to the Charles River less than one-half mile to the southwest. In spite of the high potential described above, the potential for recovering intact ancient Native American resources on church property is low. The small size of the parcel (less than one acre) combined with impacts associated with 1838 construction of the church and extensive 1874 renovations would have destroyed any Native resources located on the church property.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the church property. Structural evidence may survive from horse sheds originally located in the vicinity of Fellowship Hall and the educational wing built at the northeast corner of the historic church. The horse sheds were demolished in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may also exist on the property. Construction features and evidence of structural changes made during the 1874 renovations may also be present.

(end)

First Baptist Church of Medfield

Name of Property

Norfolk County, Massachusetts

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture \_\_\_\_\_
- Exploration/Settlement \_\_\_\_\_
- Religion \_\_\_\_\_
- Social History \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1838-1953 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1874 (church building remodeled) \_\_\_\_\_  
1905 (sanctuary renovated) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

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

**Architect/Builder**

Gleason, Jonathan E. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dirlam, Arland A. \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

First Baptist Church of Medfield \_\_\_\_\_

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The First Baptist Church of Medfield, 438 Main Street (Photo #s 1 through 7), is a well-preserved building associated with the town's Baptist congregation, a vital presence in the community and at the town center since the third quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The wood-frame church is the congregation's second house of worship in Medfield, constructed in 1838 in the Greek Revival style and substantially remodeled in 1874 to its present Victorian Gothic appearance. In 1905, further renovations were made to the interior, particularly in updating the sanctuary in an Eastlake-style mode. The First Baptist Church is Medfield's best preserved survival of Victorian Gothic institutional architecture. A contemporary wing (Photo #8), added to the east side of the church in 1969-1970, does not compromise the integrity of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century building. Taken together, additions and modifications to the church trace the congregation's growth as it reflects Medfield's historic development from 1838 to 1953. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the First Baptist Church of Medfield meets Criteria A and C, and Criteria Consideration A for a religious property, of the National Register of Historic Places at the local level.

Established as a town during the Plantation period (1620-1675), also known as the First Period of English settlement in eastern Massachusetts, Medfield is one of fourteen towns carved, in whole or in part, from the territory known as the Dedham Grant (1636). Medfield was set off from Dedham in 1650, its territory then encompassing the present towns of Medfield, Millis, and Medway. In 1651, the General Court recognized Medfield as a town.

The first land grants in the Medfield area, once known by the native name Boggestow and later as Dedham Village, date to 1643, and constitute some of the earliest expansion of English settlement west of the settlement cluster at Dedham. Most of the first English settlers in Medfield were from Dedham, Braintree, and Weymouth. They were married sons from large families who sought opportunities to use their skills and so support their own families. Both the town center and the river meadow served as principal foci for First Period settlement in Medfield.

With the laying out of Vine Brook (later Vine Lake) Cemetery (1651) and the construction of the first Congregational meetinghouse (1653-1656) and the first town pound (1654), Medfield's institutional core began to take shape on the present Main Street. The town initiated public education in 1655 with Ralph Wheelock, who attended Cambridge University, serving as schoolmaster. Medfield's location provided early settlers with extensive river meadows, which were well suited for grazing livestock. Hunting and fishing supplemented agriculture as the basis of the economy, and the town's upland streams provided power for gristmills and several sawmills. Available population records for Medfield show 261 inhabitants, with forty-nine voters, by 1663.

During the Colonial period (1675-1775), Medfield began its gradual evolution from a frontier community to a moderately prosperous rural town. In 1702, Medfield had 123 land proprietors. In 1713, Medfield's territory west of the Charles River was set off as the town of Medway, and further divided, in 1885, to create the separate town of Millis. Early 18<sup>th</sup>-century improvements to the road network put Medfield at the crossroads of regional highways to Dedham (later State Route 109) and Taunton (later old State Route 27). Taverns opened in the town's principal transportation corridors. Other new interior roads provided access to meadows along the Charles River and mills throughout the town. At the town center, William Plimpton dammed Vine Brook in 1724 to power his fulling mill, creating what later became known

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as Meetinghouse (or Baker's) Pond. This action initiated a long-term industrial use of the pond that continued into the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Plimpton's fulling mill was one of several saw, grist, and fulling mills in Medfield that served local residents during the Colonial period, constituting the major industrial activity in the town at that time.

According to William S. Tilden, Medfield historian and himself a member of the town's Baptist Church, the first person known to have entertained "Baptist sentiments" in Medfield was Jonathan Adams (d. 1744). Adams was reportedly baptized at Swansea, where the first Baptist church in Massachusetts was organized in 1663 [MHC, *Historic and Archaeological Resources of Southeast Massachusetts*, p. 175] It does not appear that Adams was ever in fellowship with the Congregational Church in Medfield, as was the case, Tilden noted, "with most of those who became Baptists in those times." Adams' death coincided with the start of a seven-year period of dissent among some members of the Congregational Church in Medfield, sparked by the Church's settlement in 1744 of an assistant to the parish minister. The assistant's preaching of Arminian rather than Calvinist doctrines led ten members by 1747 to charge the Congregational Church with breach of covenant, causing them to be forbidden to come to communion or take part in the action of the church. Some of the "aggrieved brethren," failing to receive satisfaction from a council of Congregational churches called to mediate, then united with the Baptist Church of Boston. [Tilden, *Baptist Church*, p. 4-6]

In 1752, seven men from Medfield, all members of the Second Baptist Church in Boston, were granted permission by the Boston church to hold Baptist meetings in Medfield and to grant certificates to other regular attendants of Baptist meetings. Ebenezer Mason, Jr., Ezekiel Adams, Nathan Plimpton, John Allen, Joshua Morse, Joseph Plimpton, and John Cutler were thus excused from paying the ministerial tax that supported Medfield's (Congregational) parish church and minister. The law governing ministerial taxation, however, changed several times in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, creating continual uncertainty as to the tax status of those residents who aligned themselves with the Baptist church. [Tilden, *Baptist Church*, 6-9]

The Baptist congregation in Medfield built its first meetinghouse in 1772 at the town center. Previously, Baptist meetings had been held in private homes, including the home of Nathan Plimpton [Tilden, *Baptist Church*, 7] or, by 1771, a town school building. [Priest, 2] After purchasing land on June 19, 1772, the Baptists built a meetinghouse at 584 Main Street (1772, MHC #27), on the west side of the town center. The meetinghouse, since converted to residential use, was thirty-one feet square, with the entrance on the west side, the pulpit on the east side, and galleries on the north, west, and south sides. The Warren Association of Baptist Churches, to which the Medfield church belonged, held meetings in the Medfield meetinghouse in 1773 and 1774.

By early in the Federal period (1775-1830), the population of Medfield had grown to 775. Agriculture and animal husbandry remained the mainstay of the town's economy, and a few farms included orchards and dairy operations. The establishment, by the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, of cottage industries in straw braid, bonnet manufacture, and brush-making brought greater diversification to the economy and made use of the rye growing in the Charles River meadows. There was small-scale granite quarrying in Rocky Woods at the boundary with Dedham (now Dover), and seasonal grazing of sheep and cattle in the northeastern corner of town.

Though Medfield's town center remained a small cluster village during the Federal period, new residences were constructed, commercial activities were expanded, and institutional buildings were replaced or remodeled. Main Street

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was improved as part of the Boston and Hartford Turnpike, and a causeway was built over the Charles River to Medway (now Millis). A new Congregational meetinghouse, now the First Parish Unitarian Church, North Street (1789, MHC #1, NR 1974), replaced a 1706 building. Some Baptists in Medfield bought pews in the Congregational meetinghouse, and nearly all attended meetings there often. [Tilden, *Baptist Church*, 23] By the end of the Federal period (1830), Medfield's population numbered 817, down from a peak of 892 in 1820.

The Federal period brought significant developments in the history of the Baptist Church in Medfield. Formally constituted on August 18, 1776, the First Baptist Church had ten men and nineteen women as original members, many of whom were descendants of the seven men who had started Baptist meetings in Medfield twenty-four years earlier. They included members of the Mason, Adams, Morse, Plimpton, Cutler, Cheney, Chenery, and Harding families of Medfield, as well as a slave, Grace, belonging to John Green of Medfield, who was not a member of the Medfield church. The Rev. Thomas Gair, a graduate of Rhode Island College, accepted the invitation to serve as the first pastor. Medfield historian and church member William S. Tilden, writing on the occasion of the Church's centennial in 1876, described the early period:

The years prior to 1783 were the brightest in the early history of the church. It had steadily increased in numbers, and the congregation embraced the greater part of the wealth and talent of the town. A decline commenced with the death of some of the original members. Of those who had been added, the greater part were non-residents, whose nominal connection was here indeed, but whose efforts and contributions were expended in maintaining their branch work. Out of thirty-six baptized by Mr. Gair about this time, only six were residents of this town, and only two of these were men; so . . . the burdens began to fall upon a few. [Tilden, *Baptist Church*, 18]

Disputes over doctrine in 1784 further weakened the Baptist Church, causing many members of the congregation to withdraw, some returning to the Congregational Church. The Rev. Gair resigned as pastor in 1787. By 1805, the membership numbered only twelve resident members, and continued decline caused the members to consider a proposal to disband the Medfield church altogether and associate as a branch of the Baptist church in Attleboro. [Tilden, *Baptist Church*, 24; Priest, 2-3]

A disagreement in a neighboring town led to resurgence in the membership of the First Baptist Church in Medfield and brought about a period of considerable expansion in the church's activities in Medfield and beyond. In 1808, sixty so-called "Mad Baptists" from West Dedham, now Westwood, arrived in Medfield one Sunday to join the Baptist church "though they cared nothing for the doctrine preached." These individuals objected to the location selected for a new Congregational meetinghouse in their town, and sought to avoid paying their share of the costs by associating themselves with a religious society of a different denomination. A Baptist meetinghouse was later built in West Dedham (Westwood) in 1824. [Tilden, *Baptist Church*, 25]

In 1810, the First Baptist Church in Medfield called the Rev. William Gammel to serve as its first pastor in twenty-three years. Under his pastorate, which concluded in 1823, the Baptist Church expanded its presence in the community. The

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Medfield (Norfolk Co.), MA

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church and congregation were incorporated in 1811 as a religious society, by special act of the legislature. The first church school in Medfield was established in 1818, a combined effort of the Baptist and Congregationalists, but split a year later into separate schools held at their respective meetinghouses. Also in 1818, forty Baptist women organized the United Baptist Female Education Society of Medfield to assist in the work of education. [Tilden, *Baptist Church*, 26-28; Priest, 3-4] In 1822, the first Baptist meetinghouse on the west side of the town center, which had served the congregation for fifty years, was enlarged, nearly doubling its capacity. Among the changes were the removal of the pulpit to the west wall, establishment of a center aisle between pews, construction of an addition to the west end, and replacement of the building's original hip roof with the present gable roof. [Priest, 10; DeSorgher, 342]

Between 1779 and 1843, seventy-two members of the Baptist Church in Medfield were dismissed to form eight other Baptist Churches in the area. The new churches were at Needham (1779, dissolved in 1789), Weston (1789), Sharon (1814), West Dedham (now Westwood, 1824), West Medway (1831), Needham and Dover jointly (1837, new church for Needham), and Norfolk (1843). Offshoots of these churches were Baptist Churches in East Dedham, Framingham, South Framingham, Lexington, Natick, Norwood, Foxborough, and Waltham, making the First Baptist Church in Medfield the parent church of over one dozen Baptist Churches in Norfolk and Middlesex counties.

By the end of the Federal period, a new church joined the Baptist and Congregational Churches in serving Medfield. Orthodox Trinitarian members of the First Parish (Congregational) Church split with that church in 1828 to form the Orthodox Church of Medfield. From that point onward, the old parish church was known as the First Parish Unitarian Church. The new Orthodox Church was reorganized late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as the Second Congregational Church of Medfield, and is now known as The United Church of Christ.

All three churches undertook major construction projects at the town center in the 1830s, at the beginning of the Early Industrial period (1830-1870). As residential development in Medfield increased, fueled by expansion in the local straw goods industry and the arrival, toward the end of the period, of the railroad, the town center became increasingly important as the location of the town's principal institutions and commercial activities. In 1832, the new Orthodox Church built a meetinghouse at 486-496 Main Street (destroyed by fire in 1876), just a half block from the North Street axis dominated by the First Parish Unitarian Church. A few years later, members of the First Baptist Church decided that a new meetinghouse, in a more central location, was necessary. [Tilden, *Baptist Church*, 31] The congregation acquired a building lot at the southeast corner of Main Street and South Street, two blocks east of the new Orthodox Church and more than four blocks east of the original Baptist meetinghouse. There, Jonathan Gleason, a resident builder, constructed in 1838 the new Baptist church, 438 Main Street (MHC #2, Photo #2), a Greek Revival-style edifice on a raised basement, with a pedimented gable façade and a square bell tower and steeple at the roof ridge. The following year, the First Parish Unitarian Church, North Street (1789, MHC #1, NR 1974) was remodeled. Renovations there involved lowering the foundation to create a two-story building, and adding a new bell tower and steeple plus the present Greek Revival-style portico.

The first Baptist meetinghouse at the western edge of the town center had served the congregation for sixty-six years. The last service was held in the building on the last Sunday of September in 1838. Medfield historian William S. Tilden, later a member of the Baptist Church, recorded that during the last years of its existence as a meetinghouse, the building:

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First Baptist Church of Medfield  
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was the only place in town which could be obtained in which to hold temperance or anti-slavery meetings, on account of the bitter hostility of many of our townsmen to these reforms; and even then [the meetings] were often annoyed and interrupted. [Tilden, *Reminiscences*]

Jonathan Gleason, who built the congregation's new church at 438 Main Street, purchased the old church building at 584 Main Street (1772, MHC #27) and remodeled it for use as residences and a mechanics shop. Goddard and Hoisington, tinsmiths, acquired the building in 1843. In 1910, Fred Smith, another Medfield carpenter and builder, purchased the building and converted it entirely to residential use. The building reportedly retains the original thirty-one-foot-square meeting room from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. [Tilden, *Reminiscences*; DeSorgher, 342-343; Medfield directories]

The new Baptist church, dedicated October 3, 1838, contained fifty pews and an upstairs gallery for the choir. Initially, only the sanctuary, or upper level, of the church was finished. Twenty-four members joined the Baptist Church in 1841, and this "small revival" caused the congregation to finish a room in the basement for the Wednesday evening prayer meeting, previously convened in private residences throughout the town. The new church held the first Baptist church bell in Medfield, as well as the town's first church organ, which was installed in the gallery in the 1850s. [Tilden, *Baptist Church*, 31-33; Priest, 10] In 1893, the bell on the Baptist Church was used as the town fire alarm. In other years, the bell of the First Parish Unitarian Church was used for that purpose. [DeSorgher, 135]

The Baptist Church enjoyed a surge in its membership in 1858, during the pastorate of the Rev. J. W. Lathrop. Forty-five members were added to the church that year, the largest number in any year of its existence to that time. Among them were Joseph H. Baker, who co-owned a carriage-making business on Meetinghouse Pond off Frairy Street, and his wife, Anna; Thomas L. Barney, a storekeeper of long standing in Medfield who later set up shop across South Street from the Baptist church; John E. Bullard, a piano-forte manufacturer in Boston who started a painting and paper-hanging business in Medfield, and his wife, Sarah; and Francis D. Hamant, a descendant of one of Medfield's original thirteen settlers. [Articles of Faith; Tilden, *History of Medfield*, genealogies]

William S. Tilden (1830-1912), and his wife, Olive, also were baptized into the Baptist Church in 1858. A largely self-taught musician who served as choir director of the Baptist Church for over fifty years, Tilden was a professor of music, a local historian and author of the *History of the Town of Medfield, Massachusetts 1650-1886* (1887), and a charter member and president of the Medfield Historical Society (formed 1891). Both of his parents were members of the Baptist Church in Medfield. In 1879, Tilden represented the towns of Medfield, Needham, Dover, and Norfolk in the 9<sup>th</sup> Norfolk County district in the Massachusetts General Court. He also served as a trustee of the Medfield Public Library, a member of the town's School Committee, and director of the Medfield Brass Band. An organist and trustee at the Baptist Church for many years, Tilden also was the first person to serve as superintendent of the church's Sunday School (1875-1878). Tilden bequeathed \$1,600 to the Church, and left his books and manuscripts to the Medfield Historical Society. [DeSorgher, 12, 282, 366-367; *Year Book*]

By the time the First Baptist Church marked its centennial in 1876, the congregation had completed an extensive renovation of its Greek Revival-style building, which produced the present Victorian Gothic exterior (Photo #1). The Victorian Gothic style was introduced to Medfield in the early 1870s, with the construction in 1872 of the first Town Hall on Main Street. Destroyed by fire in 1874 and subsequently rebuilt, the Town Hall was a high-style rendition of the

(continued)

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Victorian Gothic, executed in red brick with stone trim. During the Late Industrial period (1870-1915), three churches at Medfield's town center adapted the Victorian Gothic mode to wood-frame construction: the First Baptist Church, with its renovations dating to 1874; the Orthodox Church (now The United Church of Christ), 486-496 Main Street (MHC #3), which lost its original church to fire in 1876 and rebuilt in 1877; and St. Edward's Roman Catholic Church, 458 Main Street (1892-1893, MHC #4), Medfield's first Catholic church building. These three churches, as well as the Town Hall, ranged just over two blocks of Main Street, making the town center a focus for Medfield's institutional architecture in the Victorian Gothic style.

Of the four Victorian Gothic-style institutional buildings on Main Street in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the First Baptist Church is the best preserved. The Town Hall burned again in 1923, and was rebuilt and subsequently remodeled (459 Main Street, 1923/1998, MHC #5). The Orthodox Church (later known as the Second Congregational Church of Medfield and then The United Church of Christ) undertook major renovations in the late 1950s and 1991 that eliminated the Victorian Gothic façade and produced a Colonial Revival-style appearance. St. Edward's was demolished in 1985.

In its centennial year, membership of the First Baptist Church numbered 139. One individual who made a significant contribution to the success of the remodeling project completed two years earlier was Deacon George Cummings. Though a member of the Baptist Church in Cambridge, Deacon Cummings (d. 1881) resided in Medfield and worshipped with the Medfield church. He contributed one-half of the \$12,500 spent to remodel the building in 1874, and one-half the cost to build the church a new parsonage in 1880. In addition to supporting the Baptist Church in Medfield, Deacon Cummings also supported the establishment and operation of the public library in Medfield. [Tilden, *Baptist Church*, 34; Priest, 5; Tilden, *History of Medfield*, 259-266]

Medfield town historian Richard P. DeSorgher notes that the social life of many in late 19<sup>th</sup>-century Medfield centered on the local churches. This activity took the form of church suppers, socials, ladies' sewing groups, youth groups, and choral groups. Long-time church member William S. Tilden (see above) directed music at the church for fifty years. The first youth group, the Baptist Young People's Union, was formed in 1903, and had several active years before its dissolution, but re-organized in 1919. In 1908, the young people of the Baptist Church formed the Excelsior Literary and Society Club. [DeSorgher, 28, 116-117, 321; Priest, 5] To counter religious, particularly anti-Catholic, prejudice in Medfield in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, clergy from the town's Unitarian, Baptist, Congregational, and Catholic churches formed a Clergymen's Club. [DeSorgher, 18] Membership in the Baptist Church numbered 159 in 1893 and 171 in 1901. [DeSorgher, 138, 241]

Continued improvements were made to the Baptist church property in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries; some improvements were funded by gifts to the church. In 1890, fencing enclosing the grounds of the Baptist Church was replaced with granite curbing, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Barney. Barney (see also above) was baptized into the church in 1858. [DeSorgher, 94; *Year Book*] In 1905, the church made improvements to the sanctuary (Photo #s 4 and 7), then known as the audience room. New oak pews, the gift of long-term church members Mr. and Mrs. William S. Tilden, were installed. The American Furniture Company of Boston provided these curved pews, "the lines of which are such that the use of cushions is made unnecessary." [Undated newspaper clipping (1905)] Also at that time, the church installed new carpets (no longer extant), the "unsolicited gift" of Colonel Edwin Vinald Mitchell and family. [*Year Book*] Mitchell, who was not a member of the Baptist congregation, was president of E. V. Mitchell Company of Medfield, the second largest straw and felt hat factory in the United States and successor to the Excelsior Straw Works in Medfield.

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First Baptist Church of Medfield  
Medfield (Norfolk Co.), MA

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The same year Mitchell made this gift to the First Baptist Church, he presented a cabinet organ to Medfield's Episcopal Church for placement in the newly constructed Church of the Advent, 28 Pleasant Street (1905, MHC #247). Finally, the Baptist Church completed its 1905 renovations to the sanctuary with the installation of a highly decorative tin ceiling (Photo #6), manufactured by the Pennsylvania Metal Ceiling and Roofing Company of Philadelphia. The ceiling, described in a period account as rococo in design, was considered water, fire, and dust proof. Nearly two hundred people, including three former pastors of the First Baptist Church, gathered for the rededication service held at the end of the renovation project. [Undated newspaper clipping (1905)]

During the Early Modern period (1915-1940), the First Baptist Church strengthened its role in the community, celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and recovered from separate fires in the parsonage and meetinghouse. The Baptist Church in Medfield was part of the Framingham Baptist Association, formed in 1872 and comprising the Baptist Churches from fifteen area towns. In 1920, the association's 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary was observed at the Medfield church. [DeSorgher, 467] In 1916, the pastor of the church joined other Medfield clergy in an annual religious service for the graduating class of Medfield's high school. [DeSorgher, 414] Eight years later, with the reconstruction and refurnishing of Medfield's Town House nearing completion after the latest in a series of devastating fires, graduation exercises for the high school were held in the Baptist church, located one block away. [DeSorgher, 514]

The First Baptist Church celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1926, and several former pastors participated in the service marking the event. Just one year after a fire badly damaged the roof of the parsonage at 40 South Street (1881, MHC #254), the church sustained considerable damage in a fire in January 1927. While repairs were made, services were held for five Sundays at Thayer Hall in Monks' (Thayer's) Block, 481 Main Street (MHC #14) at the west corner of Main and North Streets. A Moller pipe organ was purchased, installed, and dedicated on Sunday, November 13, 1927. [Year Book] A photograph of the front of the sanctuary, published in the church's 1931 *Year Book* and showing furnishings on the raised dais and the organ adjacent, demonstrates that the appearance of the sanctuary has changed little since then. The present church bell, installed in 1939, came from a church in the former Enfield, Massachusetts, one of the "drowned towns" in the Swift River Valley that were cleared and flooded to create the Quabbin Reservoir. [Priest, 10]

From 1945 to 1960, the town of Medfield grew faster than any of the five towns that share its borders, nearly doubling its population. Faced-paced growth continued over the following decade, as the town's population, excluding patients and staff at the Medfield State Hospital, climbed 63% between 1960 and 1970. [Historic Preservation Plan] The membership roll of the First Baptist Church reflected this unprecedented growth in the town. In 1957, between one-third and one-half of the membership was new to the church. [Priest, 7] From the late 1950s to the late 1960s, the congregation considered the need to expand church facilities, including the feasibility of moving to a new site. Insufficient space for the church school, which then numbered over 100 students, and lack of parking were cited as reasons for considering a move. ["Baptists seek new location."]

After deciding to remain at the present Main Street site, in 1969-1970 the First Baptist Church built the Fellowship Hall and educational wing (Photo #8) onto the east side of the church. The wing is placed unobtrusively at the northeast corner of the historic church, in the approximate location of horse sheds that once occupied the eastern edge of the lot and were removed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Architect of the wing, which was dedicated in 1971, was Arland Augustus Dirlam. Dirlam (1905-1979) traveled on an Appleton Fellowship from Harvard University (1929-1931), where he received a Master of Architecture degree in 1931. He established his first architectural practice in 1932 in Malden.

(continued)

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Medfield (Norfolk Co.), MA**

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Dirlam specialized in church design, though he also worked on municipal and residential projects, particularly in Malden and Marblehead, where he resided. Over 1000 design projects, including renovations, are credited to him, among them the First Baptist Church in Belmont (MHC #72, 1935 sanctuary addition), First Congregational Church in Hopkinton (1939, MHC #188), and Plymouth Congregational Church in Framingham (1968, MHC #9). [MHC inventory; Harvard University Graduate School of Design web site]

The First Baptist Church in Medfield is part of the Boston Southwest Baptist Association of The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts, to which it has belonged since 1963. [American Baptist Churches web site; Priest, 7]

**Archaeological Significance**

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to contribute important information relating to the architectural details, layout, and congregation associated with the second house of worship for Medfield's Baptist congregation. Construction features, trash pits, and general artifact finds in close proximity to the church may contribute important information relating to architectural details of the original church structure, structural changes, and the general layout of the church, outbuildings, and occupational related features on the property. Detailed analysis of the contents from occupational-related features may also contribute important, social, cultural, and economic information related to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century church congregation and by extrapolation the overall Medfield community. Any archaeological information that might survive from the horse sheds may contribute information on 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century transportation methods and technologies within the Medfield community.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

First Baptist Church of Medfield  
Medfield (Norfolk Co.), MA

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(continued)

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Medfield (Norfolk Co.), MA

Section number 9 Page 2

---

Massachusetts Historical Commission. Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth. Inventory forms for Medfield, including First Baptist Church, 438 Main Street, Medfield (MHC #2), prepared by The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. for the Medfield Historical Commission, June 1997, as amended by Ancelin Wolfe/K. K. Broomer, July 2000; also Maker Index entries for Arland A. Dirlam.

----- National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Dwight-Derby House, 7 Frairy Street, Medfield. Prepared for the Friends of the Dwight-Derby House, Inc. (Kathleen Kelly Broomer, consultant). Listed in the National Register January 2002.

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(end)

First Baptist Church of Medfield  
Name of Property

Norfolk County, Massachusetts  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	19	309730	4672890	3.			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2.				4.			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
					_ See continuation sheet		

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathleen Kelly Broomer, Preservation Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC  
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 2003  
street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone (617) 727-8470  
city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name First Baptist Church of Medfield  
street & number 438 Main Street telephone 508-359-2285  
city or town Medfield state MA zip code 02025

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503. NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

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National Park Service

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property is shown on the accompanying detail of the Town of Medfield assessors' map.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary encompasses the parcel continuously associated with the church since its construction in 1838.

(end)

**Photographs**

Historic Name: First Baptist Church  
Location: 438 Main Street, Medfield, Massachusetts  
Photographer: K. K. Broome  
Date: Spring 2002  
Location of Negatives: First Baptist Church, Medfield

Photo #	View
1	Main Street (north) elevation. View SW.
2	South Street (west) elevation. View N/NE.
3	Junction of Greek Revival-style original block (1838, center), Victorian Gothic-style façade addition (1874, right), and Colonial Revival-style education wing/Fellowship Hall (1969-1970, left). View S.
4	Sanctuary. View S/SE from gallery.
5	Stair hall adjacent to main entry. View SE.
6	Sanctuary detail of tin ceiling with cove cornice. View E.
7	Sanctuary detail. View SE.
8	Education wing/Fellowship Hall addition, north elevation. Historic church at right. View S.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: First Baptist Church of Medfield

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Norfolk

DATE RECEIVED: 7/28/03      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/28/03  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/13/03      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/11/03  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03000921

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: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    9.11.03 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered on the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



First Baptist Church of Medfield  
438 Main Street  
Medfield, Norfolk Co., Mass.

Photo: KK Broome  
Neg: First Baptist Church  
Spring 2002

Photo #1 - View SW  
Roll I / Neg 10



First Baptist Church of Medfield  
438 Main Street  
Medfield, Norfolk Co., Mass.

Photo: KK Brochner  
Neg: First Baptist Church  
Spring 2002

Photo #2 - view N/NE  
Roll I / Neg. 3



F Y APR 2002

First Baptist Church of Medfield  
438 Main Street  
Medfield, Norfolk County, Mass.

Photo: KKBroomer

Neg: First Baptist Church  
Spring 2002

Photo # 3 - detail, views.  
Roll I/Neg. 17



First Baptist Church of Medfield  
438 Main Street  
Medfield, Norfolk County, Mass.

Photo: KK Broomer  
Neg: First Baptist Church  
Spring 2002

Photo # 4 - Sanctuary, view S/SE  
Roll II / Neg. 13

F V APR 2002

911111 NNNN 24397



First Baptist Church of Medfield  
438 Main Street  
Medfield, Norfolk County, Mass.

Photo: KK Broomer  
Neg: First Baptist Church  
Spring 2002

Photo # 5 - main stairhall detail, view E  
Roll II / Neg. 24



First Baptist Church of Medfield  
438 Main Street  
Medfield, Norfolk County, Mass.

Photo: KK Broome

Neg: First Baptist Church  
Spring 2002

Photo #6 - detail, tin ceiling, view E  
Roll II/Neg. 19



First Baptist Church of Medfield  
438 Main Street  
Medfield, Norfolk County, Mass.

Photo: KK Broomer  
Neg: First Baptist Church  
Spring 2002

Photo #7 - sanctuary detail, view SE  
Roll II / Neg - 5



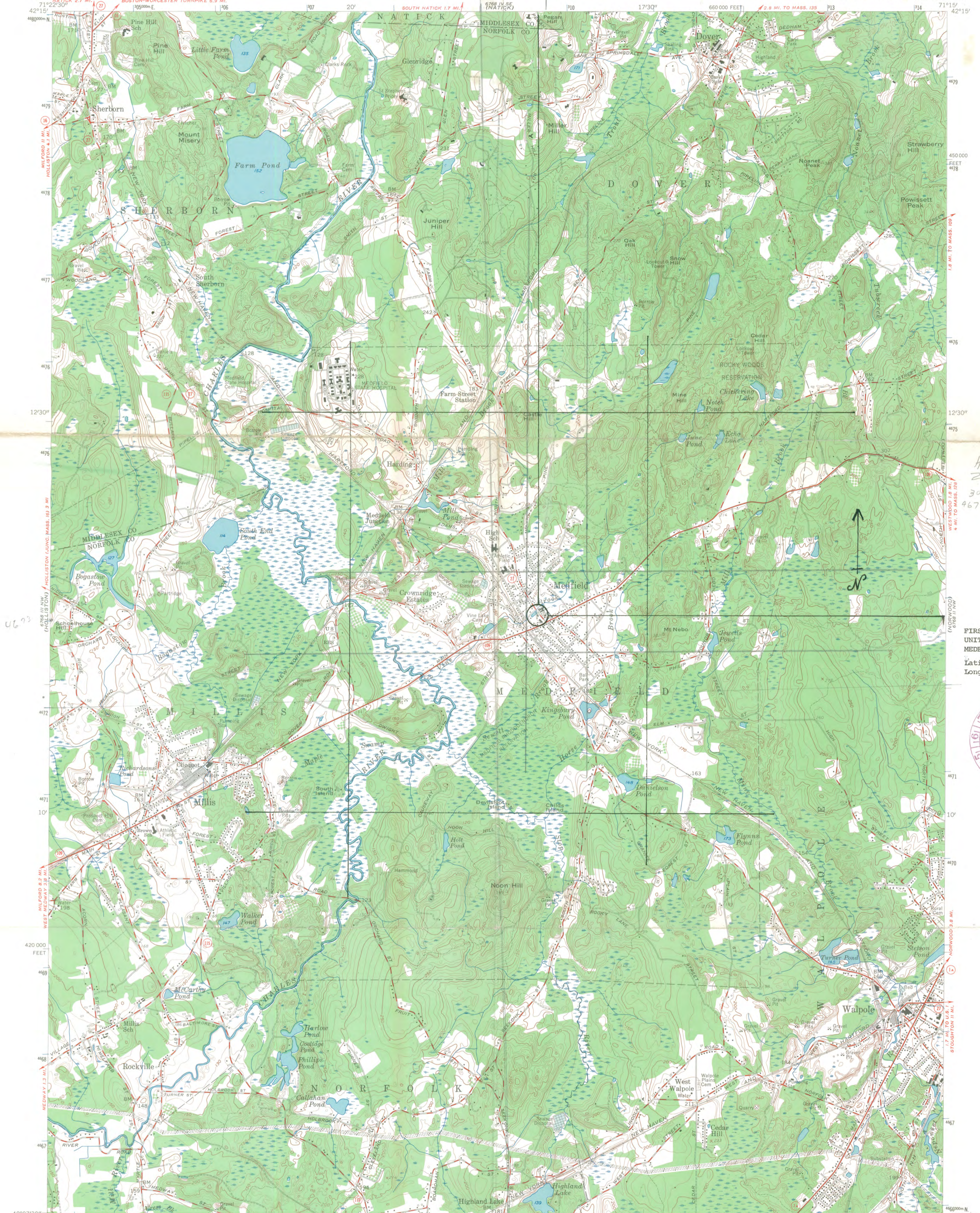
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First Baptist Church of Medfield  
438 Main Street  
Medfield, Norfolk County, Mass.

Photo: KK Broomer  
Neg: First Baptist Church  
Spring 2002

Photo #8 education wing / fellowship hall, view S  
Roll I / Neg. 13

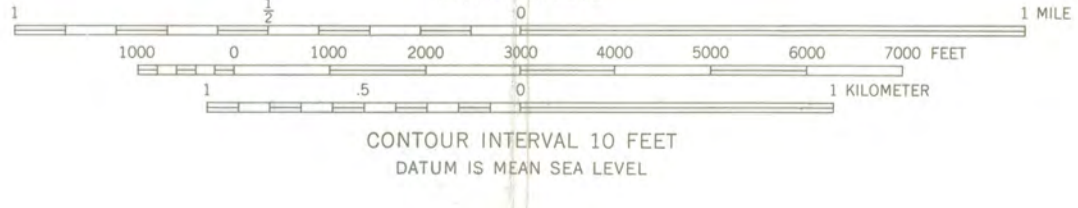
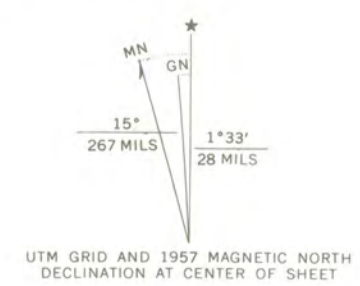


HB  
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4672920

FIRST PARISH CHURCH  
UNITARIAN,  
MEDFIELD  
Latitude: 42° 11' 14.4"  
Longitude: 71° 18' 25"



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, Massachusetts Harbor and Land Commission  
and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1937-1938  
Culture revised 1957  
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



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
State Route	

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



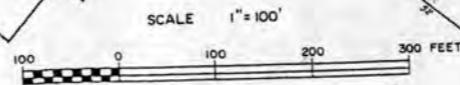
MEDFIELD, MASS.  
N4207.5-W7115.7/7.5

1957  
AMS 6768 III NE-SERIES V814



PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE  
 MEDFIELD BOARD OF ASSESSORS  
 BY  
 AVIS AIRMAP INC.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
 438 MAIN STREET, MEDFIELD  
 SHEET 43 PARCEL III



TOWN OF MEDFIELD ASSESSORS MAP  
 SHEET 43

— NOTE —  
 These Maps Are Not Intended  
 For Use In Conveyancing





**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission



July 23, 2003

Ms. Carol Shull  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, NW 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

First Baptist Church, Medfield (Norfolk), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property in the Certified Local Government community of Medfield were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60 to 90 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

*Betsy Friedberg*  
Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Daniel Temple, Medfield Historical Commission  
Paul Rhuda, Chair, Board of Selectmen  
Kathleen Kelly Broomer, Preservation Consultant  
Timothy Sullivan, Planning Board Chair  
First Baptist Church  
Richard Reinemann, Medfield CLG  
Daniel W. Nye  
Barbara Palson

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128  
[www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc](http://www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc)