

PH0058050

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 27 1975

DATE ENTERED APR 21 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

First Baptist Church

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

149 William Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

New Bedford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

12th

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE
025COUNTY
BristolCODE
005**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

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

NAME

First Baptist Church

STREET & NUMBER

149 William Street

CITY, TOWN

New Bedford

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02740

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

Bristol County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Sixth Street

CITY, TOWN

New Bedford

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1974

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT interior	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR exterior	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Baptist Church in New Bedford, built in 1829, is an excellent example of early Greek Revival church architecture. The church is located in the center of New Bedford, near the intersection of William and Sixth Streets. Private residences, a few built in the 1840's but most of them later, lie to the northwest, west and southwest. A vacant lot, once occupied by the YMCA (demolished January, 1975) stands just east of the church; several brick and stone municipal buildings, built in the late 19th century, are clustered around the intersection.

The 2 story white clapboard church rests on a high stone foundation. It has a ridge roof with the gable to the street. The three stage steeple is on the south end over the pilastered and pedimented facade. The facade has six paneled pilasters, four of which extend the full height of the facade and two of which are cut off below the second story by the vestibule. The pilasters support a complete Doric entablature with triglyphs and metopes in the frieze. A plain pediment with modillions tops the entablature.

The vestibule was added in 1856, after the interior of the church was reversed in 1841, placing the pulpit in the north. The south facade has always contained the main entrance, but was originally built with three doors, centered in the three central bays, with a flight of stairs extending the width of the facade rising to the doors. The large one story vestibule, with corner pilasters and complete entablature, has double doors topped by a Roman arch. Intricately molded iron fencing enclosing the yard was also added in 1856.

The first stage of the steeple is built of plain clapboards. The second stage has four arched openings flanked by pilasters, and pilasters at the corners, and is topped by an entablature. The third stage is octagonal, with four louvered panels, and is topped by a weathervane.

The sides of the church are seven bays long. The windows are 12/12 with plain trim and skew back lintels, and contain the original hand blown glass. A two story ridge roof brick building was added to the rear of the northwest side in 1928. It has a plain five bay facade with an entrance on the south east. The addition, used as the education building, has architecture compatible with the church and offers much needed space to the congregation.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1829

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Baptist Church is a significant architectural landmark in downtown New Bedford. The steeple was a landfall for the whaling ships returning to port after months at sea. Members of the congregation have been important to the development of the town, and one member, Lieutenant (later General) Henry Martyn Robert, changed the structure of meetings and conferences around the world.

The architectural significance of the church derives from its early Greek Revival style. Towering above most of the other buildings in mid-nineteenth century New Bedford, the steeple of the First Baptist Church was included in the Seal of the City of New Bedford, designed in 1847. The church has had some alterations, but the integrity of its clean simple Greek Revival lines remains, and the church, when restored, will regain its prominence as a visual and historic landmark in the city.

Members of the congregation of the church have included many prominent New Bedford citizens. The church members took an active role in the anti-slavery movement in the early 1860's and Reverend John Girdwood, pastor during this decade, led the congregation in this effort. Lieutenant Henry Martyn Robert, while in New Bedford on an Army assignment, was an active member of the congregation from 1862-1865, and was a trustee of the church. While moderating a meeting at the church on the subject of the defense of the port, Robert grew tired of the chaos, and vowed to write rules for Parliamentary procedure. The result of this experience was the publication in 1876 of Robert's Rules of Order, a work which became the definitive text on the subject.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Church Records - 1813 to 1894
New Bedford Registry of Deeds

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM OK CD

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	339340	4610840
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Christine Boulding, Assistant Survey Director and Mildred E. Hatch

ORGANIZATION Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE March 1975

STREET & NUMBER 40 Beacon Street TELEPHONE 617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN Beacon Street STATE Massachusetts 02108

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *Elizabeth R. Amador*

TITLE Mass. Historic Preservation Officer

DATE March 27, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

A. R. Mortensen

DATE 4/21/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Charles [Signature]*

DATE 9.18.75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]

Property *First Baptist Church*

Bristol

State *Mass.*

Working Number *4. 7. 75. 617*

TECHNICAL

Photos 1
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK ^{*pl*} *4.8.75*

HISTORIAN

Accept
E. Smith
4-11-75

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
LEBOVICH
4-11-75

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
4-11-75

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Accept
Huntley for
Montgomery 4-18-75

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered APR 21 1975

Federal Register Entry 6-3-75

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR ²⁷ 1975
DATE ENTERED APR 21 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

First Baptist Church

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN New Bedford

____VICINITY OF

COUNTY Bristol

STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Joe Cruz

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Joe Cruz Studio, 229 Phillips Ave., New Bedford

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 1

south facade

#1081

PHOTOGRAPHERS
VENUE

NEW BEDFORD, MASS. 02746
TEL. 617-352-1511

"For The Boyer of Photography"

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#1081

1-768-4

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED ⁰⁷ APR 08 1975
DATE ENTERED APR 21 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC First Baptist Church

AND/OR COMMON
same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN New Bedford VICINITY OF COUNTY Bristol STATE MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

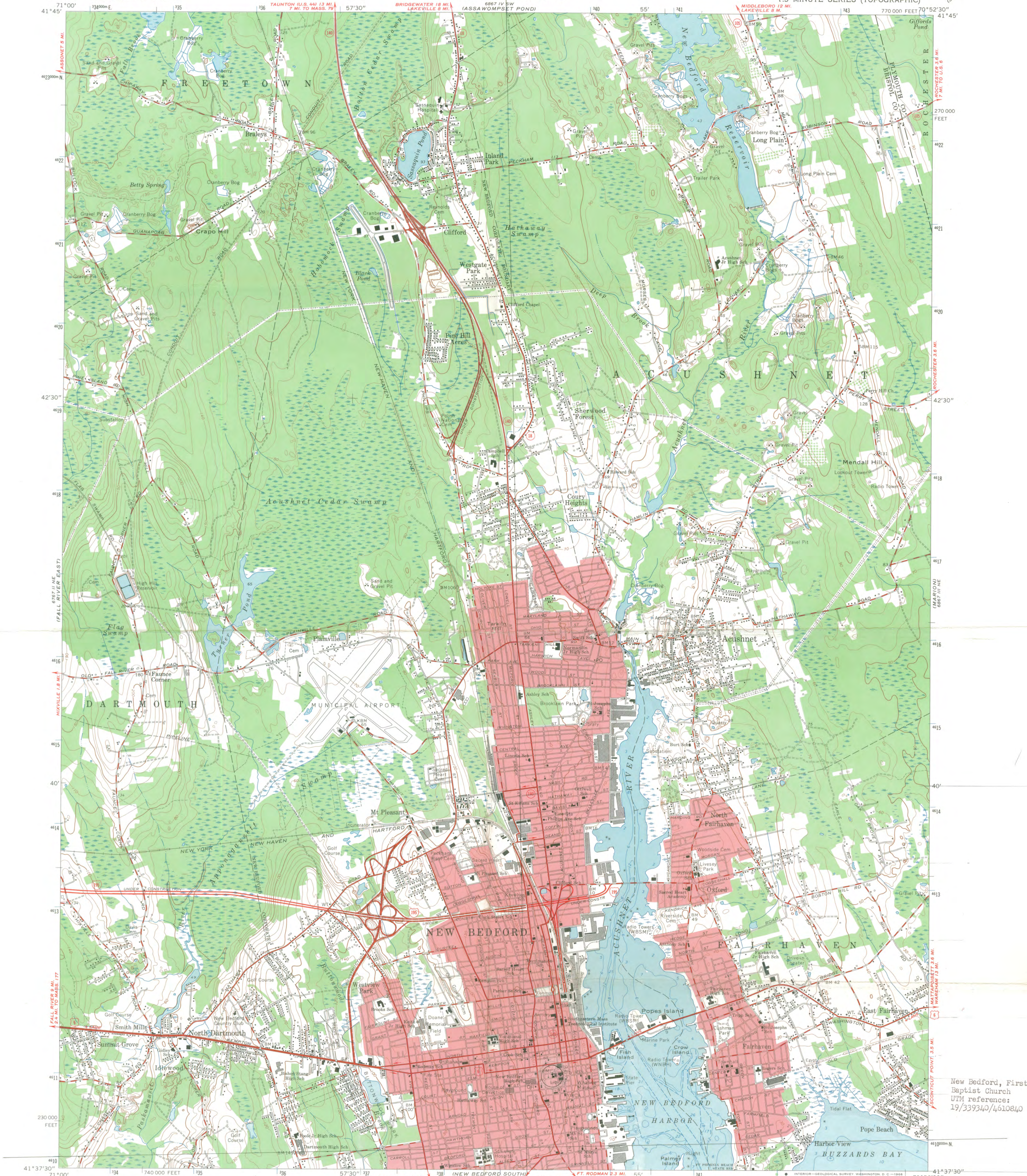
SOURCE U.S.G.S., New Bedford North, Mass., quadrangle

SCALE 1:24,000 DATE 1964

4 REQUIREMENTS

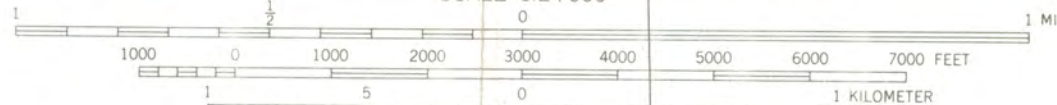
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



New Bedford, First Baptist Church
UTM reference:
19/339340/4610840

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1936. Revised 1964
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 252 (1964)
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 areas 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 ———
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

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

1964

AMS 6867 III NW—SERIES V814



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



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Paul Guzzi

Secretary of the Commonwealth

40 Beacon Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108

727-8470

28 March 1975

Mr. Charles Herrington, Chief
Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Charles:

Enclosed please find four National Register submissions for the following properties:

1. Beverly, Cabot House, Essex County
2. Dennis, West Schoolhouse, Barnstable County
3. Medford, Park Street Railroad Station, Middlesex County
4. New Bedford, First Baptist Church, Bristol County

These properties have been voted eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (the State Review Board) and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Elizabeth R. Amadon.

Please note that the properties covered by these submissions plan to apply for FY '76 grants-in-aid. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia L. Weslowski
Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PLW:pjj
Encl.



CERTIFIED MAIL
APPORTIONMENT WARRANT
NOMINATION

4

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 21 1975

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Unitarian Universalist Church and Parsonage	Medford Middlesex County
City Hall Historic District	Lowell Middlesex County
First Baptist Church	New Bedford Bristol County
Powder House Park	Somerville Middlesex County
Mount Auburn Cemetery	Cambridge Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy	State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. Edward W. Brooke	Mrs. Elisabeth R. Amadon
Hon. Torbert H. MacDonald	Executive Director
Hon. Paul E. Tsongas	Massachusetts Historical Commission
Hon. Jerry E. Studts	40 Beacon Street
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.	Boston, Massachusetts 02108
Regional Director, North-Atlantic Region	

PR

MMott/bsh

4/22/75

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 3/16/77
Reviewer INITIALS: gpofo
NR DOE April 21, 1975

5M
TO BERN
59

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: 10 First Baptist Church

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER 149 William Street

CITY/TOWN New Bedford

STATE Massachusetts

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 12th

COUNTY Bristol code 005

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR: Substantially intact-1, unknown-4, not applicable-7
EXTERIOR: Substantially intact-2, unknown-5, not applicable-8
ENVIRONS: Substantially intact-3, unknown-6, Not applicable-9

-Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - EXCELLENT int., GOOD, FAIR ext., DETERIORATED, RUINS, UNEXPOSED, Unexcavated, UNALTERED, ALTERED, Reconstructed, Excavated, ORIGINAL SITE, MOVED, Unknown

ACCESS - Yes-restricted, Yes-unrestricted, No access, Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- church

now- church

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC, ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC, AGRICULTURE, ARCHITECTURE -4, ART, COMMERCE, COMMUNICATIONS, CONSERVATION, ECONOMICS, EDUCATION, ENGINEERING, EXPLORATION, INDUSTRY, INVENTION, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, LAW/Gov't/politics, LITERATURE, MILITARY, MUSIC, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, RELIGION, SCIENCE, SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN, TRANSPORTATION, OTHER (SPECIFY) PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE, entertainment, health, recreation, settlement, socio/cultural, urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: *Greek Revival*

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role & appropriate date)

a few years
personal (1) HENRY MARTYN ROBERT - MEMBER OF CONGREGATION - WROTE ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER AFTER A CHAOTIC MEETING AT THE CHURCH ON THE DEFENSE OF NEW BEDFORD HARBOR DURING CIVIL WAR
events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): *1829*

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: *1856, 1841, 1928*

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): *1876*

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

less than 1

COMMENTS:

(include architectural information here)

FRAME, CLAPBOARDING, STONE FOUNDATION; 2 STORIES OVER HIGH BASEMENT, RECTANGULAR WITH SIDE WING, GABLED ROOF WITH 2-STAGE ~~BELL TOWER~~ ^{belfry} WITH OPEN ~~ARCHED~~ ^{and} ARCHED BELFRY & ~~LOUVERED CUPOLA~~ ^{1-STORY} INTERIOR CHIMNEY ^{entrance} ~~PROJECTING~~ FRONT CENTER VESTIBULE WITH ROUND-ARCHED DOUBLE-DOORS, PROJECTING FROM MAIN FACADE ARTICULATED BY PILASTERS, CLASSICAL ENTABLATURE, AND FULL PEDIMENT; VESTIBULE ADDED, 1856; ~~2-STORY~~ ^{2-STORY} BRICK WING, ADDED, 1928. GREEK REVIVAL. IMPORTANT LANDMARK ~~IN~~ ^{COMMUNITY} STEEPLE WAS USED AS LANDFALL FOR RETURN-SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

⁽²⁾ ~~THE CONGREGATION~~, HENRY MARTYN ROBERT, ^{member of congregation from 1862-1865} WROTE "ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER" AFTER A PARTICULARLY CHAOTIC MEETING AT THE CHURCH. ^{his definitive work on Parliamentary procedure}