

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:

Mass.

COUNTY:

Suffolk

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FEB 23 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:

Trinity Rectory

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

Congressional District 8

STREET AND NUMBER:

NE corner Clarendon and Newbury Streets

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE

Mass.

CODE

25

COUNTY:

Suffolk

CODE

25

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

(Check One)

- ☐ District ☒ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ Public
☒ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☒ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
☐ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☒ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☒ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify) _____
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious _____
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Trinity Church in the City of Boston

STREET AND NUMBER:

Copley Square

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

Mass.

CODE

025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Suffolk County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

Pemberton Square

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE

Mass.

CODE

025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Inventory of the historic assets of the Commonwealth

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

Office of the Secretary, State House

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

Mass.

CODE

025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☒ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Trinity Church Rectory (1879), a three story red brick structure, is located on the northeast corner of Clarendon and Newbury Streets. Its pitched roof with transverse gables is broken by two dormers of unequal size over the main facade, and by smaller twin dormers over the south elevation. A large exterior chimney is centered on both the north and the south facades, while a third interior chimney breaks through the main roof to the south of center. The rectangular plan of the house leaves enough space for a very small garden between the narrow south facade and Newbury Street. A small courtyard with brick wall encloses the land between the Rectory and an alley to the north.

The most prominent feature of the Trinity Church Rectory's main facade is the deeply recessed entrance porch spanned by a low, broad arch of brownstone. As eye-catching and characteristic as the arch may be, it is the placement of the second story windows that is of primary importance in Richardson's plan. Placed at irregular intervals in the red brick facade, these seven windows dictate the placement of every other element in the front elevation. At each end of the house a decorative panel of cut brick separates a pair of these windows to form a unit of design which aligns itself with the banks of windows on the first story and with simple gables in the third story. The brick panel between the pair of windows on the north side of the main facade is wider than that on the south, allowing space for four mullioned first floor windows on the north side but only three on the south. Two more of these windows, flanking another decorative panel, are placed symmetrically over the wide arch of the recessed entrance porch. These windows establish the position of the larger of the two roof dormers facing Clarendon Street. The final second story window dictates the position of a single mullioned window on the first story and the smaller or the two dormers on the roof.

In spite of the use of similar elements in both gabled ends of the ^{main} facade, the southone is considerably larger than the north. This difference is evidenced by the wider course of mullioned windows, a larger panel of brick decoration and a broader gable with round arched window. The heavy copper downspout gives the south section the appearance of a projecting mass, isolating it and giving it a visual weight and emphasis. The arched entrance and the larger dormer window directly above it have been positioned slightly to the left of the vertical axis in order to balance the two sections. Horizontal unity is stressed by the four string courses of smooth brownstone running across the facade, at the base (the water^{table}), mullion, and top of the first story windows, and at the level of the main cornice. Repetition of window shapes across entire stories further emphasizes the horizontal unity of the surface. Although the windows vary in shape from floor to floor, the size of the panes is consistent throughout.

The most striking feature on the Newbury Street elevation is the bay extending up to the cornice line. Curved planes connect the front wall of the projecting side chimney to the south facade of the building. Windows in these curved planes allow the chimney piece to function as a bay window. The shape of the first and second story windows of the front facade is reiterated in this side with a pair of windows flanking the chimney on both floors. On the roof a single hipped dormer is visible on each side of the chimney. The opposite end of the roof is adorned with a similar chimney; however, the curved planes visually connecting the chimney to the wall of the building are absent. The brownstone string courses are continued

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Suffolk	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972

(Number all entries)

7. Description (continued)

around the building as are occasional strips of red brick set in patterns. With the exception of a few details in brownstone, the entire facade of the Rectory is built of hard red brick from a brickyard in North Cambridge, also the source of bricks for Richardson's Sever Hall (1878-80) at Harvard.

A third floor was added to the Rectory in 1893. With the exception of the three brick panels and the chimney bay, the design of the existing second storey is repeated in this addition. The roof was rebuilt as accurately as possible. There have been no further additions or alterations to the Rectory.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1879-1880

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☒ Architecture☐ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☐ Political☒ Religion/Philosophy☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Humanitarian☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rectory of Trinity Church in Boston is the work of Henry Hobson Richardson, considered the first great architect to work in a truly national idiom. This red brick townhouse is typical of the architect's American, or Richardsonian Romanesque style. The Rectory is the first in a series of excellent houses built by Richardson in the 1880's and, according to Professor Bainbridge Bunting, it is "certainly the best of Richardson's Back Bay dwellings."

As the result of a competition, Richardson was chosen architect for Trinity Church, on which work began in 1872. The current rector of Trinity Church was Phillips Brooks. Most often remembered for his carol, "O Little Town of Bethlehem," Brooks was also one of the great clergymen of his day and later became sixth Bishop of Massachusetts. During the building of the Church, he and the architect formed a close friendship, and in 1879, two years after the completion of Trinity Church, Richardson was given the commission for Brooks' new residence, the Trinity Rectory.

1. Bunting, Bainbridge, Houses of Boston's Back Bay, Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1967, p. 214.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hitchcock, Henry Russell, The Architecture of H. H. Richardson and His Times, Cambridge, M.I.T. Press, 1966.
 Bunting, Bainbridge. Houses of Boston's Back Bay, Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1967.
 Van Rensselaer, Marianna Griswold, Henry Hobson Richardson. Boston, 1888.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	42°	21'	05"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	72°	04'	33"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: ca. 1/2 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>Anne R. Wardwell, Survey Director</u>		DATE <u>August 30, 1971</u>
ORGANIZATION <u>Massachusetts Historical Commission</u>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>State House</u>		
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Boston</u>	STATE <u>Mass.</u>	CODE <u>025</u>

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name John F. X. Donovan
 Secretary of the Commonwealth and
 Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
 Title Commission

Date July 27, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Gruenewald
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date FEB 23 1972

ATTEST:
William M. H. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date JAN 27 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

VTM REF 0119-23
 19/389010/4690700

Suffolk

RECEIPT

PROPERTY

Trinity Rectory

STATE

Mass

DATE OF RECEIPT

9/8/71

YES

NO

NUMBER

REGISTER NUMBER:

FEB 23 1972

DATA PAGE

PHOTO (S)

PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S)

MAP (S)

MAP DESCRIPTION (S)

LOGGED

ACKNOWLEDGE

9/8/71

RESUBMIT

REVIEW

HISTORIAN

"If it's Richardson, it has to be good."

Olney

OK means
11/8/71
Larles
1/25/72

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT

OK Chambers
1-12-72

ASST. KEEPER

KEEPER

OK 1/27
5/1/72
OK 1/6/72

WRITER/EDITOR

CHIEF, OAHF

OK 2-23

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR

OK
CD 1/17/72

Federal Register Entry

4-4-72

Annual Edition Entry

Logged FEB 23 1972

Card FEB 23 1972

COMMENTS:

WORKING NUMBER 9.8.71.2

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

H 8



Boston

Trinity Church Rectory

the front (west), Clarendon Street facade
and

the side (south), Newbury Street facade

71. 433

NPS Number

Feb. 23, 1972

Title:

Rectory of Trinity Church
in the City of Boston

Loc.

Suffolk County, Mass.
Front (west facade) facing
Clarendon Street and side
(south) facing Newbury
Street.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

NEWBURYPORT 34 MI.
EVERETT (CITY HALL) 3.9 MI.
6768 I NE
(BOSTON NORTH)
CHELSEA (CITY HALL) 1.7 MI.

327000m E 328 329 2'30" 332 6.6 MI. TO U.S. 1 730000

SOMERVILLE
CAMBRIDGE
East Cambridge
Beacon Hill
BOSTON
INNER
HARBOR

Charles River
RIVER Basin
Back Bay
Fens
Simmons College
Wentworth Institute
High School

Mass General Hospital
Boston Common
Frog Pond
Public Garden
Armory
North Eastern Univ
Washington St
Albany St
Dover St
Tremont St
Massachusetts Ave
Hawthorne St
Riverside St
Washington St
Albany St
Dover St
Tremont St
Massachusetts Ave
Hawthorne St
Riverside St

Longfellow Bridge
Summer Tunnel
Toll
Immigration Sta
U.S. Naval Res
Camp Hill
Jeffries Point
Bird Island Flats
Dolphins
Fish Pier
Commonwealth Pier

RECTORY of TRINITY CHURCH in the
City of Boston

U. S. G. S.: Boston South, Mass. 1956

Scale: 1 : 24000

RECTORY of TRINITY CHURCH in the
City of Boston
U. S. G. S.: Boston South, Mass. 1956
Scale: 1 : 24000

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

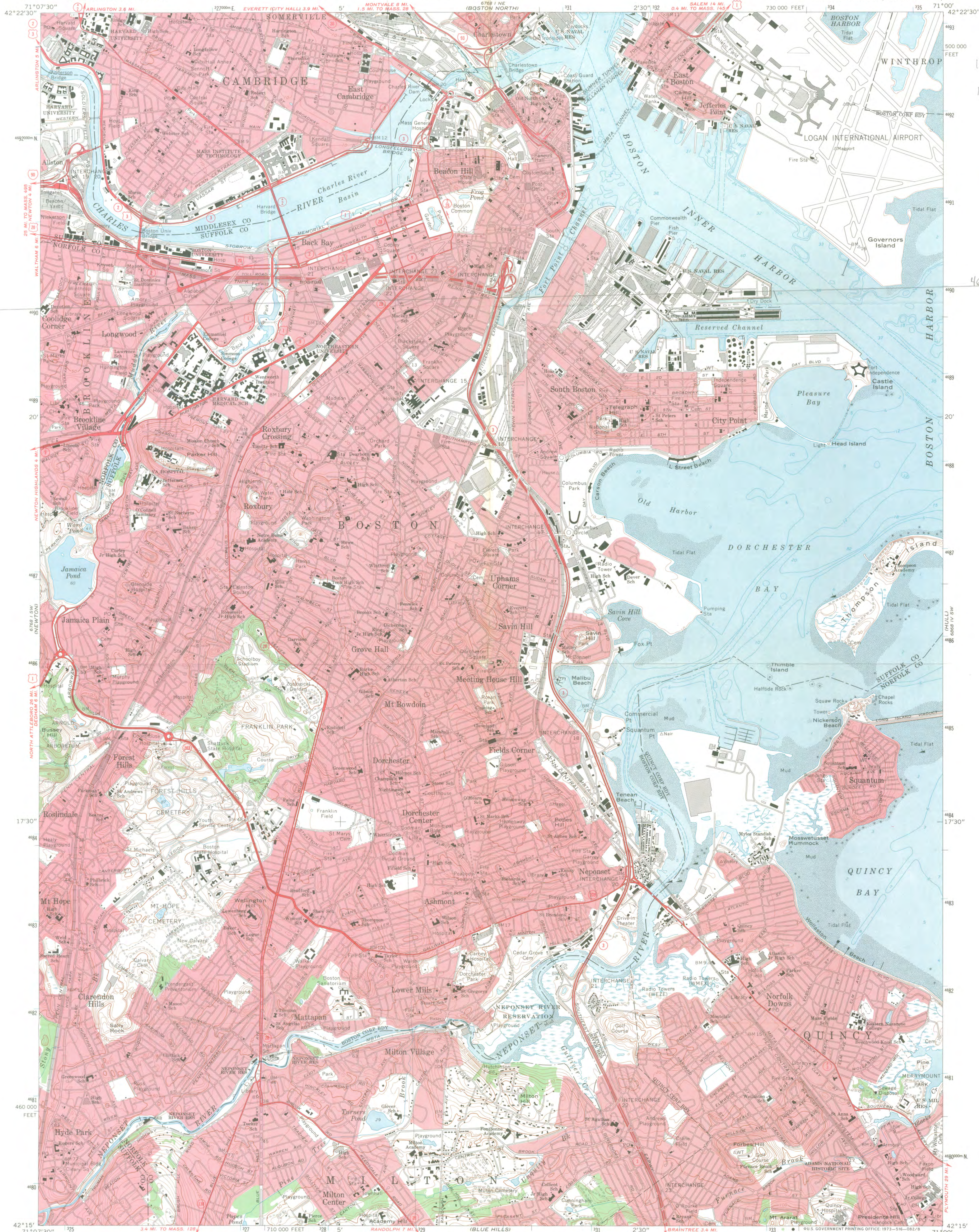
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

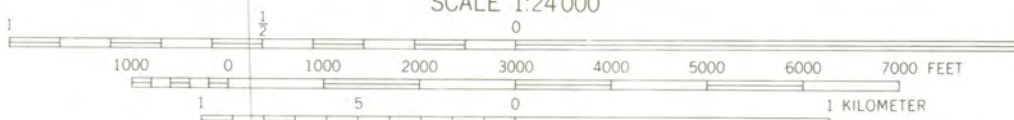
1. NAME			
COMMON: Rectory of Trinity Church in the City of Boston			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: NE corner Clarendon and Newbury Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Boston			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Suffolk	CODE 025
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. Boston (south) Massachusetts			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1956			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 246
and 248 (1971). 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
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Boundaries in tidalwater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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 9.5 FEET

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

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

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215—W7100/7.5

1970

AMS 6768 I SE—SERIES W814

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered FEB 23 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Merrell Tavern	South Lee Berkshire County
Northborough Town Hall	Northborough Worcester County
First Baptist Church	Boston Suffolk County
Old County Court House	Plymouth Plymouth County
Trinity Rectory	Boston Suffolk County
St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Lanesborough Berkshire County
Crowninshield House	Boston Suffolk County
First Universalist Church	Provincetown Barnstable County
Griswold (Major Joseph) House	Buckland Franklin County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Silvio O. Conte
Hon. Harold D. Donohue
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Hon. Hastings Keith

State Liaison Officer
Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
Office of the Secretary
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Director, Northeast Region
HR NRowland:mm 2/16/72