

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

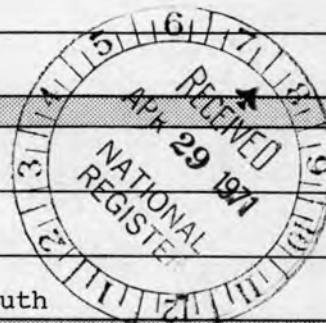
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Mass.

COUNTY:
Plymouth

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
10.7.20.0005	7/1/70



1. NAME

COMMON: Plymouth Rock

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

Cong. District 12

STREET AND NUMBER:
Water Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Plymouth

STATE: Mass. CODE: 025 COUNTY: Plymouth CODE: 023

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☒ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☒ Museum	☒ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☒ Other (Specify) historical site ☐ Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Works

STREET AND NUMBER:
100 Nashua Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Mass. CODE: 025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Commonwealth of Massachusetts - Treasurer's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Mass. CODE: 025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of the historic assets of Massachusetts

DATE OF SURVEY: 1963 ff. ☐ 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:
MassCOUNTY:
Plymouth

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☒ Moved ☐ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Plymouth Rock is situated at the foot of Cole's Hill on the edge of Plymouth Harbor where it is protected from the water by a granite seawall. In 1774, when an attempt was made to move the Rock, it split nearly in half. One portion remained in the original location; the other portion was moved twice, until the two halves were brought together near the original site in 1880.

McKim, Mead and White designed a classical canopy to be placed over the stone for the tercentenary celebration of the landing of the Pilgrims. This gray granite canopy, dedicated on November 29, 1921, is 34' x 18' and 25' high. Sixteen monolithic columns support its full entablature which is surmounted by a parapet.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) "1620" 1741

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Plymouth Rock, a large granite boulder now incised with the date 1620, is the traditional symbol of the landing of the Pilgrims to found the first permanent English settlement in New England. The Rock was identified in 1741 by the 91-year old Elder Thomas Faunce, who said that some of the original Pilgrim settlers had pointed out this rock as the site on which they had come ashore. No mention of a specific landing place is made in the official Pilgrim records; however, the value of the Plymouth Rock as a historic symbol over-rides the question of its authenticity as the landing place.

In 1774, an attempt was made to move the Rock from the beach to the Plymouth town square for the annual celebration of "Forefather's Day," honoring the first settlers. The Rock split, breaking roughly in half. The free half was placed on the square where it remained for several decades; the in-place half was forgotten. The Pilgrim Society was formed in 1821 to honor "those intrepid men who first stepped on Plymouth Rock." The Society on July 4, 1834, again moved the upper half of the Rock, from the town square to a position in front of Pilgrim Hall, the Society's headquarters. The two halves of the Rock were brought together in 1880; they now rest at the foot of Cole's Hill under a canopy designed by McKim, Mead and White and presented to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by the National Society of Colonial Dames.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ferris, Robert, ed. Explorers and Settlers, Washington, D.C. 1968.

Willison, George F., Saints and Strangers, New York, 1945.

Pratt, Richard, Houses, History and People, N.Y: M. Evans & Company, Inc., 1965

U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, Plymouth Rock Massachusetts. Washington, D.C. 1966.

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				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	0	00		0	0	00	41	0	57
NE	0	0	00	0	0	00				
SE	0	0	00	0	0	00				
SW	0	0	00	0	0	00				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than an 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:
Anne R. Wardwell , Survey Director

ORGANIZATION
Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE
April 20, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE
Mass.

CODE
025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

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

Date April 20, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
7/1/70

Date _____

ATTEST:
William Sturtevant
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UTM REF
191363000/4440070

Advance Nominations

DATE OF RECEIVING 6/11/70

DATA PAGE

PHOTO (S)

PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S)

MAP (S)

MAP DESCRIPTION (S)

LOGGED

ACKNOWLEDGED

6/18/70

OK

I only have reservations about #2 (Plymouth Rock); already a part of NHL. But perhaps this legendary site would qualify under Sec. 2.3(F); think of generations of American schoolchildren.
Conference

6/18/70

Gamble
6/24/70

OK

OK

Chambers

OK

Adm
6/25/70



8/4/70

6.11.70.1-
6.11.70.24

Advance nomination

Plymouth

PROPERTY		Plymouth Rock		STATE	mass
REGISTER NUMBER		10.7.20.0005		7/1/70	
DATE OF RECEIPT	4/29/71	YES	NO	NUMBER	
DATA PAGE		✓			
PHOTO (S)		✓			
PHOTO DESCRIP (S)		✓			
MAP (S)					
MAP DESCRIPTION (S)		✓			
LOGGED					
ACKNOWLEDGE	4/29/71				
RESUBMIT					
REVIEW I wouldn't mind discussing this on general principles before saying yes or no for sure. Very likely for Exception F, ok Hume 7/1/71					
HISTORIAN Would accept under exception F 57 Marysine 6/29/71					
PALEONTOLOGIST well-written, <u>ok</u> as commemorative nomination. Ok Charles 7-9-71					
ARCHITECT Exception F was made for this. Ok Wm 7/29/71					
ASST. KEEPER					
KEEPER Ok Wm 7/29/71					
ENTRY					
CHIEF, OAHF OK 8-5					
EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR Good picture of the canopy, what about the rock? OK CD 7/13/71					
Federal Register Entry		9/7/71		Date	
Annual Edition Entry					
Logged					
Card					
COMMENTS:				WORKING NUMBER 6.11.70.2	
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:					



#12



Plymouth, Mass

Plymouth Rock
Water St

Photo: 4/71 - MHC-71.247

NPS Number 70-7-20-0015

Title: Plymouth Rock

Loc.

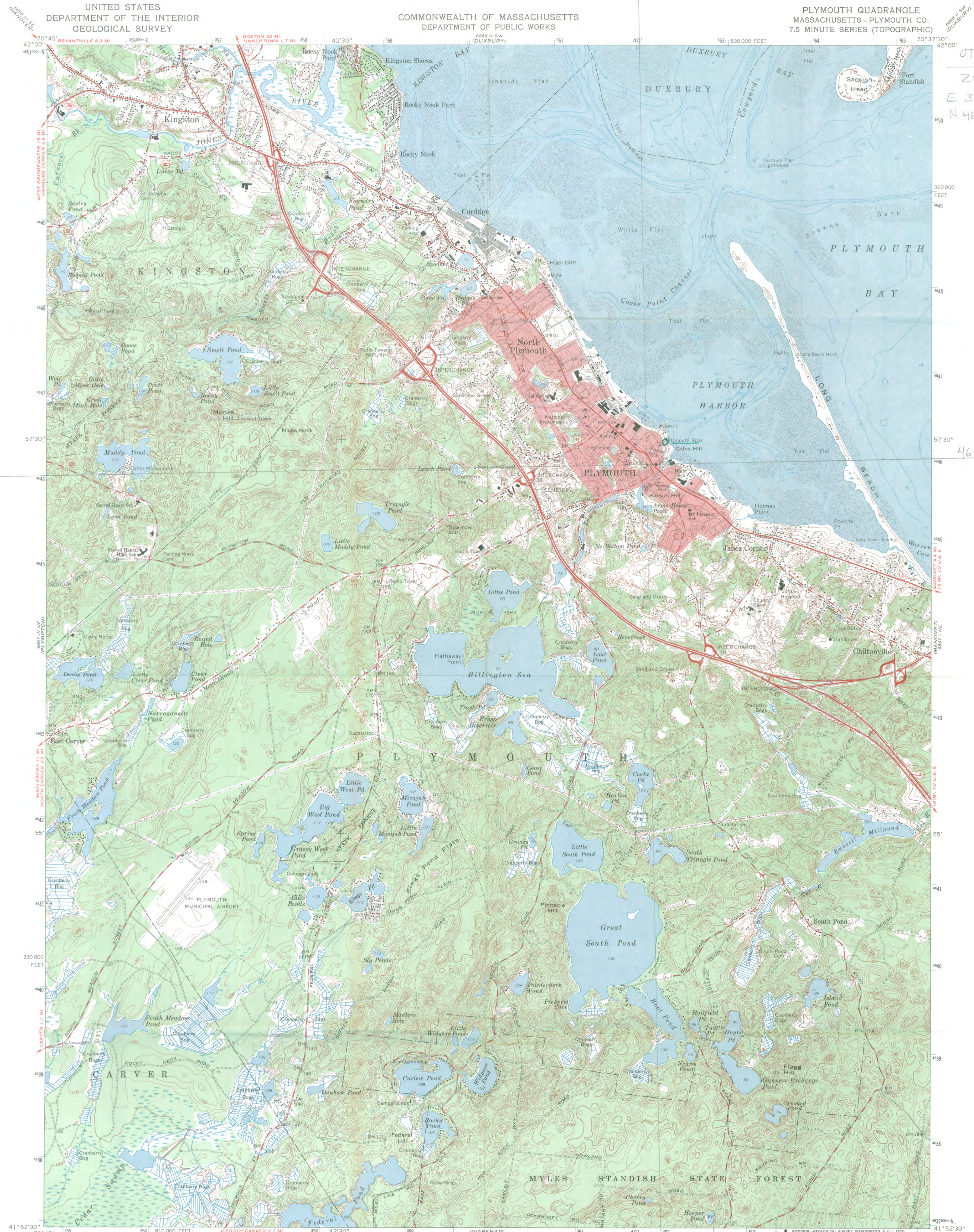
Plymouth Co., Mass.

West and South views

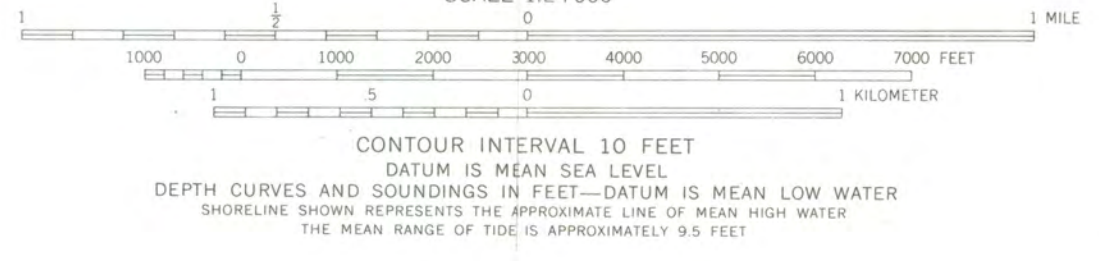
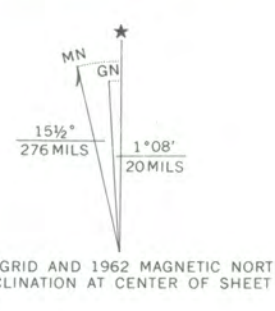
①

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PLYMOUTH ROCK
OTM 7c F
Zone 19
E 362230
N 46462835
WM
9-18-75



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1934. Revised 1962
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 245 (1960)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown



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

PLYMOUTH, MASS.
N4152.5—W7037.5/7.5
1962
AMS 6867 I NW—SERIES V814



Plymouth Rock

U.S.G.S. PLYMOUTH, MASS

Scale: 1:24,000

1962

(MANOMET)
6867' N.E.

Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

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 Mass.	
COUNTY Plymouth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

10. 7. 20. 0005 7/1/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Plymouth Rock			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Water Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Plymouth			
STATE: Mass.	CODE 025	COUNTY: Plymouth	CODE 023
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. Plymouth, Mass.			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1962			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

State House, Boston 02133

Fed. Reg.

John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

June 4, 1970

Dr. William Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
Department of the Interior
801 19th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20006



Dear Dr. Murtagh:

In Massachusetts we wish to avail ourselves of pre-submission of state-owned properties for the Register. These four properties have been passed on by the Massachusetts Historical Commission at their March 17 meeting.

70.7.20.0004 1. Quincy Homestead, 34 Butler Road, Quincy, Norfolk County, which is already a state landmark

70.7.20.0005 2. Plymouth Rock, Water Street, Plymouth, Plymouth County. This is already part of the Cole's Hill National Landmark, but should, for obvious reasons be separately listed in the Register.

Then come two properties which are not located by streets, but which can be located by latitude and longitude.

70.7.20.0006 3. Moswetusset Hummock, Quincy, Norfolk County, 42 deg. 17 20 N, 71 1 20 W, the Indian seaside site which, with a change in spelling, gave the Commonwealth its name. On Squantum Street, c. 1,000 feet Northeast of intersection with Morrissey Blvd.

70.7.20.0007 4. Dighton Rock, Berkeley, Bristol County, 41 deg. 48 51 N, 71 06 42 W., is famous for its mysterious inscriptions ever since Cotton Mather transcribed them in the late 17th century. 1 mile west of Bayview Ave. in Dighton Rock State Park

These sites are in the following Congressmens' districts:

- 1, Quincy- Representative James A. Burke
- 2, Plymouth-Representative Hastings Keith
- 3, Quincy--Representative Burke
- 4, Dighton--Representative Margaret Heckler

(over)

Yours sincerely,
Richard W. Hale /s/
Richard W. Hale, Acting Chairman
Massachusetts Historical Commission

RWH/s

H30-HR

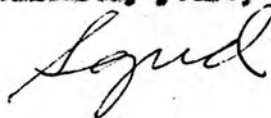
JUL 6 1970

Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Mr. Davoren:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Edward M. Kennedy and Edward W. Brooke and the appropriate Representatives have also been notified. Please withhold any publicity on this until you have received a carbon copy of the Congressional correspondence.

Sincerely yours,



Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology
and Historic Preservation

Enclosure

JUL 1 1970

Entered in the National Register _____

cc:

HR

RGamble:MM

6/26/70

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

Properties added to the National Register of Historical Places

MASSACHUSETTS

Quincy Homestead
Plymouth Rock
Neswetusset Hummock
Dighton Rock

Norfolk County, Massachusetts
Plymouth County, Massachusetts
Norfolk County, Massachusetts
Bristol County, Massachusetts

H30-HR

JUL 14 1970

Hon. Hastings Keith
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Keith:

We are pleased to inform you that Plymouth Rock in Plymouth County, Massachusetts, has been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Massachusetts and has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Edward M. Kennedy and Edward W. Brooke have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Hon. John F. X. Davoren, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, Massachusetts 02133, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

Director

Enclosure

JUL 1 1970

Entered in the National Register _____

cc:

Hon. John F. X. Davoren, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Chairman,
Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

6/26/70

HR
RGemble:mm

cc:
Director, Northeast Region
Lt.-Mr. Melvin
T



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

State House, Boston 02133

John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

July 16, 1970

Miss Elizabeth Dipple
Office of Archeology and
Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
801 19th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C., 20006

Dear Miss Dipple:

This is to confirm the data I telephoned to you.
Moswetuset Hummock's address is Squantum Street, Quincy,
about 1000 feet northeast of its intersection with Morrissey Boulevard.

Dighton Rock: Dighton Rock State Park, Berkeley, one mile west of Bay View Avenue.

Also enclosed is a photocopy of the clipping from the Worcester Telegram about Elm Park, about which I spoke to you. It reached me by chance from friends in Worcester.

Thank you for your help on this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard W. Hale Jr.".

Richard W. Hale Jr.

Acting Chairman
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

RWH/st



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
State House, Boston 02133

John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

The Office of Archeology and Historic
Preservation

National Park Service
801 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Attention: Mrs. Sally Marusin

REGISTERED MAIL

Dear Sirs,

Enclosed are National Register submissions for:

Plymouth Rock, Plymouth, Massachusetts



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

Sincerely yours,

Richard W. Hale Jr.

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

RWH:aw