

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

0041

JAN 17 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name THE THOMAS DONACHY SCHOOL
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 68 SOUTH STREET not for publication
city, town NEW BEDFORD vicinity
state MA code 025 county BRISTOL code 005 zip code 02740

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Karen A. Taimage 1/17/89
Signature of certifying official Date
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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): _____

Beth Sarge 3-2-89

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use THOMAS DONAGHY SCHOOL, NEW BEDFORD, MA

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: grammar school

MOTHBALLED AT PRESENT - PROPOSED
CONVERSION TO HOUSING UNITS.**7. Description**Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

ROMANESQUE REVIVAL

foundation GRANITE

walls BRICK

roof SLATE

other COPPER ROOF TRIMMED DOWN SPOUTS &
GUTTERS.

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Thomas Donaghy School is a 12-room, 2 1/2-story brick structure with full basement and attic. The school is located on the north half of a city block. The school's lot is completely surfaced with asphalt, which is badly cracked. The northeast corner contains concrete piers of the foundation for portable classroom(s). The property is rimmed with a squared granite curbing next to a concrete sidewalk. The school is set back approximately 50 feet from the street on three sides. The site is bound by Purchase Street on the west, South Street on the north, Acushnet Avenue on the east. The southeast corner borders a vacant lot, the southwest, a house with backyard. The school is oriented on a north-south axis with the main entrances on the north and south ends. The surrounding land is used for residential purposes. The thickly settled streetscape is made up of buildings dating from the mid 1800s to the early 1900s. Route 18 is located two blocks to the east.

The building's plan is rectangular in configuration with slightly extended portions at the center of the east and west elevations. The main roof area of the building is hipped, although the front and rear sections have been truncated with a central flat area occupied by chimneys and ventilation shafts. The pitched areas of the roof are covered with slate requiring some attention, with copper flashings, gutters, and conductor system that are in poor condition. Many of the conductors are completely missing. There is a regular placement of dormers on the roof line. The chimneys, the corbelled tops of which are deteriorated, are four to the north of the central area, two to the south.

Walls and cornice are brick with a granite watertable above the basement windows separating the cellar level and a granite foundation course at ground level. Brick and mortar are in good condition. The sills of all windows are granite. Brick walls in the lower sections are marred and spray-painted with graffiti. The foundation is constructed of hammered granite. The walls are joined to the roof by a corbelled brick cornice.

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New Bedford, MA

The north elevation has a brick surface in a running bond pattern with central arched entrance with a heavy corbelled brick architrave. Double wooden doors with side and transom lights are in fair to good condition. Above the entrance is a large round window; directly above this window in the hipped roof is a two-window dormer. To either side of the entrance are four square basement windows with granite foundation forming a continuous sill; above, a granite watertable forms a continuous lintel. Directly above these windows are four long segmental-arched windows on the first floor and again on the second floor. A band of corbelled brickwork runs along the length of the building just below the tops of the first and second floor windows; at each window, it rises to form the lintel. The sills are granite. Windows are double-hung wood sash, 4/1 on the interior and 4/2 on the exterior storm window. Sashes and storms are in fair to poor condition. Basement windows are wood inswing four-light hoppers. All windows are presently covered with plywood.

The west elevation has a central pavilion that projects out from the main surface approximately ten feet. To the north end of this area are two basement windows above which are two first floor windows and two second floor windows; the latter have a half-round arched top. South of these windows are five more windows identical in size and shape. In the center of this section is a three-window dormer in the hipped roof. To each side of this extended area are five windows aligned from basement to second floor and two-window dormer in the roof. These windows and surface treatment are the same as those on the north facade. The south elevation is identical to that of the north and the east elevation identical to the west facade.

Entrance is gained on both the north and south sides of the building by a staircase to a landing midway between the basement and first floor. Wooden stairs rise to a central corridor with hardwood floors, painted, smooth-faced brick walls, and twelve-foot ceiling with unconcealed sprinkler pipes and electrical conduit throughout. Corridors are the same on first and second floor; the basement corridor is brick walled with a cement floor and plaster ceiling. Walls and ceiling vary in condition from fair to poor due to water damage. There is no third floor corridor. Doors on the first and second floor are paneled wood and frosted glass. Above the doors are clear glass transoms. First and second floors have six classrooms each ranged around the central corridor (four at the outer corners with nine windows each). In addition, there are two adjoining teachers' rooms. All rooms have hardwood floors, plaster walls above wainscoting to sill height, and chalkboards. Plaster walls and wood floors are in fair condition. Ceilings have square-patterned tin ceilings partially or completely falling down. Classrooms have built-in wood cabinets projecting from the walls and two doorways to a common corridor.

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Thomas Donaghy School
New Bedford, MA

Archaeological Description

No prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the property or in the general area. In general, the potential for prehistoric or historic sites is low as a result of the size of the parcel and related effects from construction for the full basement, paving around the school, and overall intense development in the area.

8. Statement of Significance THOMAS DONAGHY SCHOOL, NEW BEDFORD, MA

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

community planning and development

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1905-1935

Significant Dates

1905

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

SAMUEL C. HUNT

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Donaghy School, built in 1905, retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Built in response to the exploding population brought about by the industrialization of New Bedford, the Romanesque Revival-style structure is a fine example of a new era in construction of educational facilities. The Donaghy School fulfills criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

In those decades immediately before and after 1900, New Bedford experienced an enormous population growth due mainly to the cotton textile mills' nearly insatiable demand for laborers. The development of the mills began in the later 1840s in New Bedford, but it was completely overshadowed by the unparalleled success of the whaling industry. By the 1870s, however, the whaling industry was in its death throes and the cotton textile mills (and other assorted industries, including whaling's nemesis, petroleum) were carrying New Bedford's economic fortunes to grand heights once again.

New Bedford's population exploded with her rapid industrialization, jumping from 40,000 in 1890 to over 120,000 in 1920, for the mills required workers, and the workers brought their families. The families needed housing and their children need schooling. The south central area of the city, where the Thomas Donaghy School is located, experienced an enormous influx of new population as it was near the site of major mill complexes: the Hathaway Manufacturing Co., the Potomska Mill Corp., the City Manufacturing Corp., and the Morse Twist Drill Machine Company. Earlier homes of the whaling era were converted to accomodate more families, and new multi-family buildings were thrown up as population pressures used the available space.

Now located within a largely minority neighborhood (particularly Cape Verdean), the Donaghy School was not built as a response to any nationality's

9. Major Bibliographical References

THOMAS DONAGHY SCHOOL, NEW BEDFORD, MA

Ellis, Leonard, History of New Bedford and Vacinity.
Mason & Co., Publishing
Syracuse, N.Y. 1892

Pease, Zephaniah, Louis Historical Publishing Co.
New York, N.Y. 1918

City Documents
School Reports
Superintendent Of Schools Reports
...1860-1920

 See continuation sheet**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested HPCA # 10780 MA
 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Specify repository:

GENEOLOGY ROOM/NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

10. Geographical DataAcreage of property 1.18 ACRES

SCALE 1:25000

UTM References

A
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

USGS QUAD: NEW BEDFORD SOUTH, MA

 See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

Property is located on Lot 49 Plat 30. Beginning at the Southwest corner of South Street and Acushnet Avenue then running south on Acushnet Ave. 277.53 ft. to the north boundary of Lot 269 then west along this line 187.16 ft. to Purchase Street, then north on Purchase St. 277.17 ft. to the southeast corner of Purchase and South Streets. East 188.12 ft. to the point of beginning. Property is located on New Bedford South, MA USGS quadrangle. See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Entire lot purchased by the City of New Bedford from the heirs of Thomas Donaghy for the location of a school and playground.

 See continuation sheet**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title William Swan, Pres. Planner with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director of Mass. Historical Comm.
organization Preservation Planner / Mass. Historical Comm. date 1/5/83
street & number 80 Boylston St. telephone 617-727-8670
city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116

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New Bedford, MA

influx, but simply to the staggering growth in the city's population. Initially, the school's population was dominated by English and French Canadians. Typically, the enrollment of the Donaghy School over time reflects the major nationalities that immigrated to New Bedford: Portuguese (the dominant surname group), French and French-Canadian, Irish, English, Russian, German, and Jewish, among others. Before the 1870s, New Bedford's schools were largely of wooden construction. By the time of the Donaghy School's construction, "modern" schools were typically planned: brick, 2 1/2 stories, with ten or twelve large, well-ventilated classrooms off a central corridor. There was considerable discussion in New Bedford of the problems of properly ventilating classrooms, and the Donaghy School was designed with one of the most widely accepted solutions at the time: large central ventilation shafts running vertically from the cellar with controllable openings near the floor and ceiling of each classroom. In theory, this would permit stale, foul air to be replaced with fresh air without the cold drafts from open windows. The success of this system seems to have been very limited, although the design concept was incorporated in many schools in New Bedford and surrounding communities.

Prior to the turn of the century, the School Committee and Superintendent of Schools spent most of their time, it would seem, requesting new buildings and modern equipment to properly instruct the ever-booming school-age population. The problems and pressures only increased with the arrival of the new century. In January 1905, the Superintendent of New Bedford Schools reported:

There has not been a period during (the last decade) when it has not been necessary to hire private buildings for school purposes. Besides these there are several other classes that are colonized and others that are overcrowded.

The Donaghy School was completed in 1905. It was designed and built by a politically active and locally prominent architect, Samuel C. Hunt. Public schools designed by S. C. Hunt include the H. M. Knowlton School (no longer standing), R. I. Ingraham School (Rivet and Acushnet Avenue), John H. Clifford School (Ashley Blvd. and Coggeshall St.) and the James Congdon School (Hemlock and Thompson Streets); all are similar in design to the Thomas Donaghy school.

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Thomas Donaghy School
New Bedford, MA

Samuel C. Hunt (1858-1908) was born and educated in New Bedford. At age sixteen, he was apprenticed to learn carpentry and rose to become a construction foreman. He further advanced himself by studying architecture in Boston. In the 1870s and 1880s, he became a well-established contractor/builder in the area. By 1891 he was a full-time architect, designing many private residences and public buildings. His most prominent works in New Bedford are the Registry of Deeds, the Touraine Hotel, and the restoration/renovation of the former Public Library in 1906 after it had been burned. The latter was, under his guidance, converted into the City Hall, which remains today.

Although closely identified with New Bedford politics in the last two decades of this life, Hunt actually held public office (as an Alderman) only from 1895-1896. He was involved in the development of many housing tracts in the north end of New Bedford and in the nearby town of Fairhaven.

His local importance and influence can be more readily judged by the fact that during his active years as an architect, he was the principal architect for New Bedford public buildings, accounting for the design of seven out of the thirteen school buildings constructed between 1890 and 1908. Further, he was involved in the design of other public buildings, such as fire stations.

The school was named for a respected city merchant upon whose land it was built. Thomas Donaghy (1826-1904) was a New Bedford merchant who traveled to California in the '49er gold rush days. He returned to New Bedford to conduct a boot and shoe business on the southwest corner of Union and Water Streets, in the busy waterfront portion of the city. His establishment remained in business for many years, virtually the entire second half of nineteenth century, and was such a popular gathering spot that in its time it was a local landmark. Mr. Donaghy served on the New Bedford Common Council for two years (1879-1880) and for two years on the Board of Alderman (1882-1883). Well-known and well-liked, Mr. Donaghy refused the persuasions of his friends and supporters to run for Mayor of the City; he preferred his private business and his activity in Episcopalian Church affairs.

The Donaghy School was nearly overcrowded the day it was opened. But such was the plight of most of New Bedford's schools. However, this substantial building, typical of Samuel Hunt's designs, remained in active use serving the community until 1977, when it was closed, replaced by a larger elementary school designed to serve a larger school district. Vacant since 1977, the former school is presently being rehabilitated and converted into moderate-income housing. There will be 24 one- and two-bedroom units. The interior corridors will remain intact, and schoolrooms will be partitioned to create the apartments. The project will follow the Secretary of Interior's Standards of Rehabilitation.

GRINNELL

PARK - R

PLEASANT

WASHINGTON

SOUTH

COUNTY

PURCHASE

ACUSHNET AV.



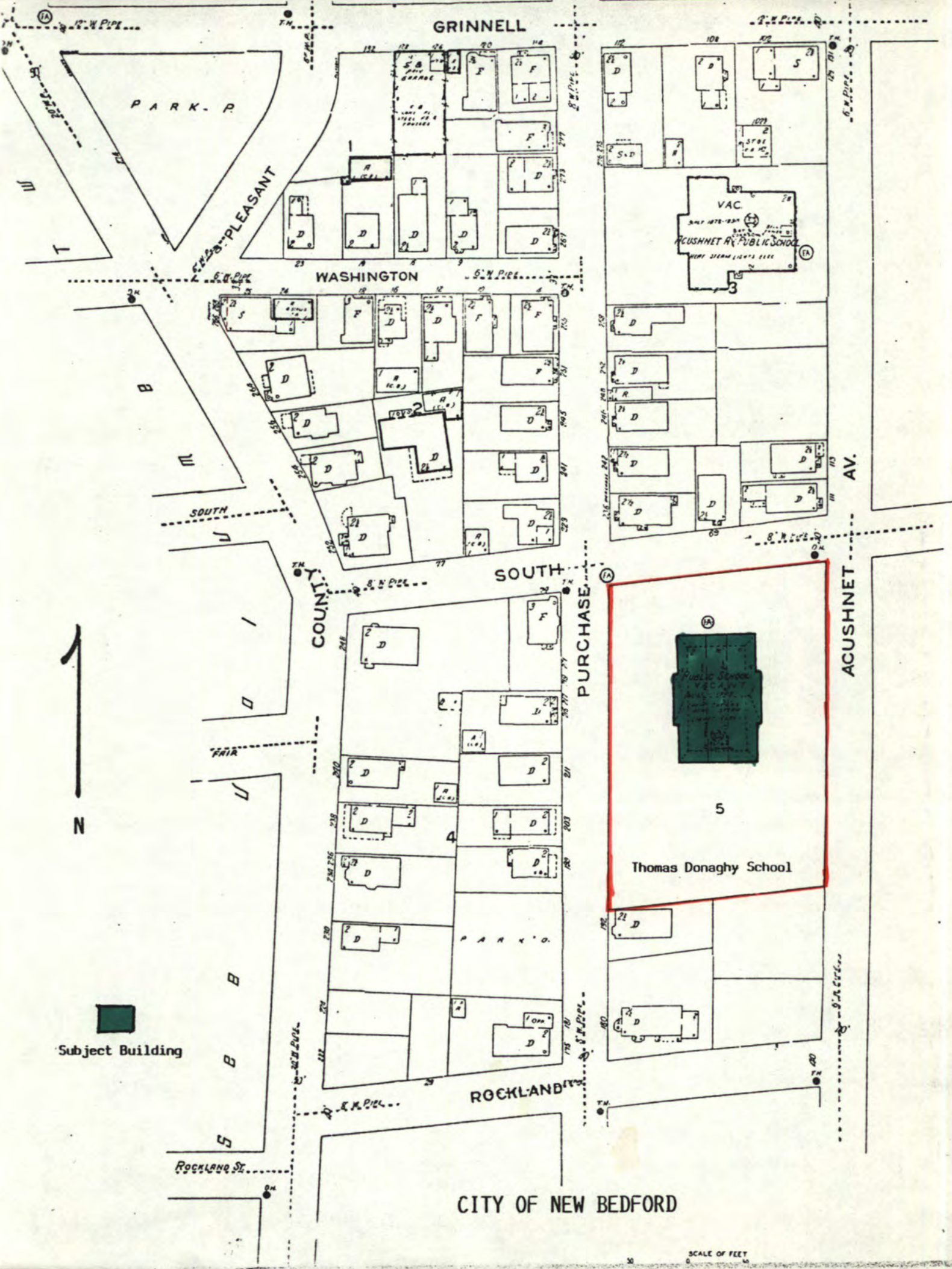
5

Thomas Donaghy School

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

Subject Building

SCALE OF FEET



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Donaghy, Thomas, School

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 1/17/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/01/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/17/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/03/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000041

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: Y PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/2/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Locally significant school, both architecturally as the design of Samuel C. Heath, and historically for association with community's rapid growth in response to industrialization at the turn of the century.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C
REVIEWER Savage
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 3/2/89

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

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph
 completeness
 clarity
 applicable criteria
 justification of areas checked
 relating significance to the resource
 context
 relationship of integrity to significance
 justification of exception
 other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



Cupid

1914

-Thomas Donaghy School
-68 South Street
-New Bedford, MA
-W.A. Swan
-Feb. '87
-O.H.A.N.D.
-North Elevation
looking South

-Thomas Donaghy School
-68 South St.
-New Bedford, Ma.
-W.A. Swan
-Feb '87
-O.H.A.N.D.
-North elevation looking
South.



-Thomas Donaghy School
-68 South Street
-New Bedford, MA
-W.A. Swan
-Feb. '87
-O.H.A.N.D.
-Central Section of
West elevation
looking East

-Thomas DONAGHY School
-68 South Street
-New BEDFORD, MA
-Feb '87
-W.A. Swan
-O.H.A.N.D.
-central section of West
Elevation looking east

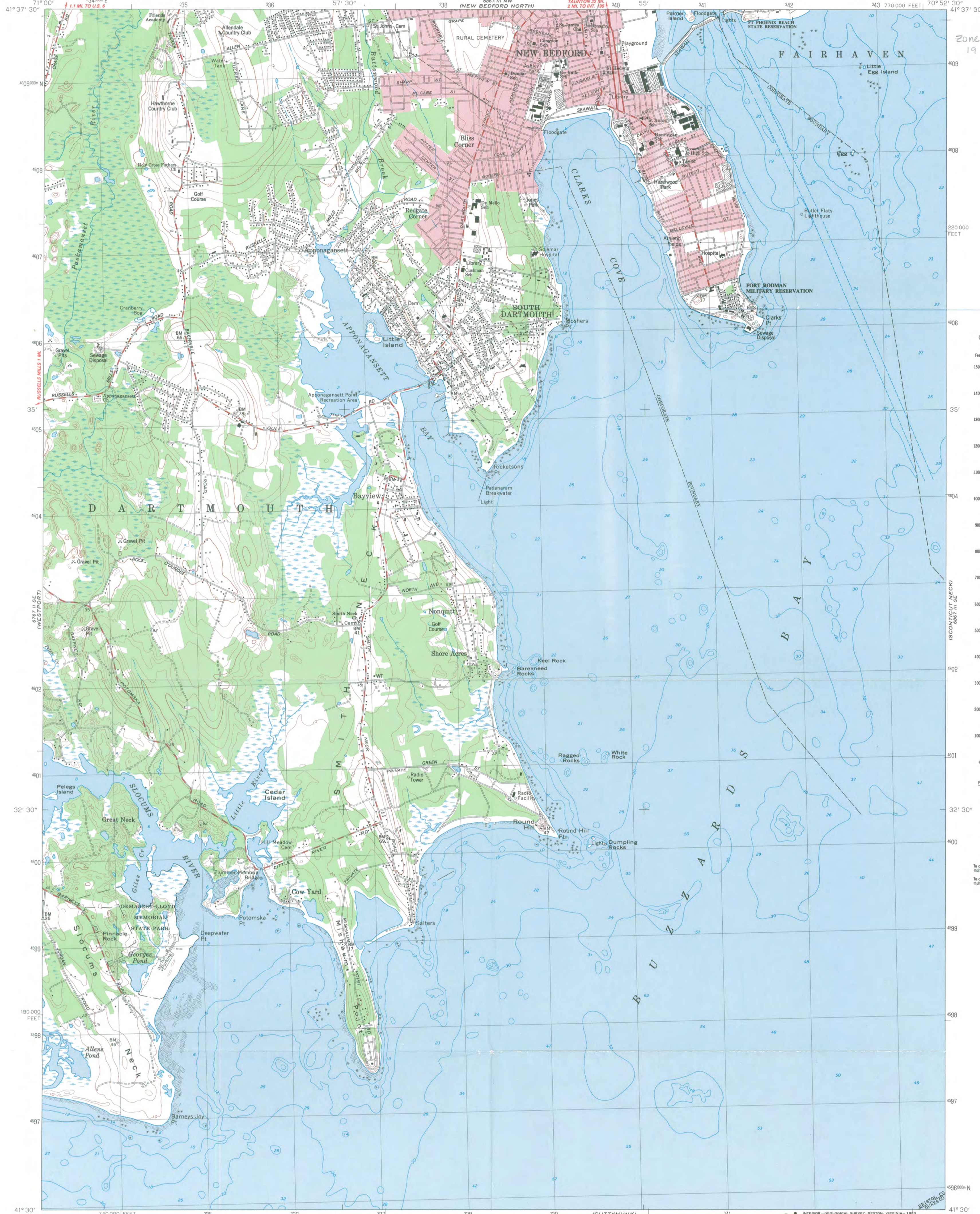
Thomas Donaghy School

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

NEW BEDFORD SOUTH QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Zone Easting Northing
19 339750 4609600



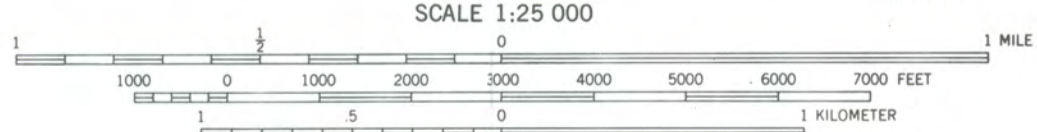
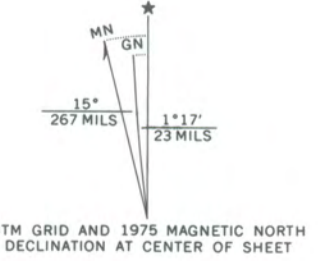
CONVERSION
SCALES



Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 0.3048
To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1936. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1975
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS 237 (1973),
249 (1974), and 252 (1973). This information is not intended for
navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information furnished by
Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Map photoinspected 1977
No major culture or drainage changes observed



SCALE 1:25 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
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
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NEW BEDFORD SOUTH, MASS.
N4130—W7052.5/7.5
PHOTOINSPECTED 1977
AMS 6867 III SW—SERIES V814



JAN 17 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

January 9, 1989

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination form:

The Prescott Town House, Petersham, MA
The Franklin Block, Brockton, MA
The Thomas Donaghy School, New Bedford, MA (HPCA # 10780 MA)

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination form.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure:

BF/di