

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:

Massachusetts

COUNTY:

Essex

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

JUN 18 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:

St. Michael's Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

St. Michael's Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

26 Pleasant Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Marblehead

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Sixth

STATE

CODE

COUNTY:

CODE

Massachusetts

025

Essex

009

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:

The Episcopal Church of Marblehead

STREET AND NUMBER:

Summer Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Marblehead

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Essex County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

Federal Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Marblehead

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE OF SURVEY: 1965

☐ Federal☒ State☐ County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

STATE:

Massachusetts Essex

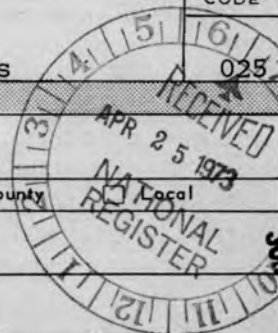
COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





7-DESCRIPTION

(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

St. Michael's Church, 26 Pleasant Street, is situated on a knoll and, before later construction and landscaping surrounded it, was a prominent landmark when seen from the harbor. The church land extends north from Summer Street to Pleasant Street with a small area on Washington Street to the east. The main entrance faces Summer Street and is reached by a semi-circular drive surrounded by lawn and large trees. To the east of the building is a small, early graveyard. The recent parish house is to the west of the church on a lower level and is connected to it by a passageway. Typical of old Marblehead, the nearby houses have all been built in close proximity to the church and each other.

Built in 1714-15, the church is of narrow clapboard with a foundation of native stone. Originally the building was forty-eight feet square; in 1728 it was extended by fifteen feet on the north side. When built the church was of an unusual design, apparently unique among contemporary meeting houses in New England, varying from them in roof design, plan, vaulting, and location of steeple.

Concealed under the present massive hip roof, added in 1728, is the structure of the original roof, a parallel series of three elongated hipped roofs running in the east-west direction, joined to one another by means of a single ridge set perpendicularly along the north-south axis. Heavy beams were hollowed out to form a system of open wooden gutters, set at a steep pitch in the valleys, and designed to provide adequate drainage.

The steeple was placed off-center over the central bay on the western side. The fifty-three foot spire was removed from its bell tower base in 1793. Originally the tower had one narrow round-topped window in each elevation; just prior to 1818 these windows were enlarged and their design changed to a modified Palladian motif.

The square ground plan of the original interior is divided by four central columns into nine equal bays. Above these square bays is an unusual system of vaulting, with a pair of tunnel vaults intersecting to form a groined vault over the central bay. Wooden beams span the distance from the four central piers to the outer walls, thus serving at the same time to support the ceiling and the structure of the roof above. The ceiling above the fifteen foot, 1728 extension is not vaulted; this extension added three bays.

In 1732 the brass chandelier was acquired and in 1763 the gallery was enlarged to accommodate the choir. The porch and double entry steps were added to the south entrance in 1773. All the windows originally had small panes and were set in a double row in each elevation, the upper row round-headed. In 1832 the windows in the south front elevation were removed and replaced with the present small Gothic-arched openings on the upper level only. The side elevation windows are now full length, also Gothic-arched, containing stained glass added in 1888.

Beneath the church is a sepulchre, unusual for this country, where for over one hundred years pew owners and their families were privileged to be

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 18 1973

(Number all entries)

7. (con't) St. Michael's Church, Marblehead

interred.

St. Michael's Church is located near the center of one of Marblehead's two local historic districts, the Old Town Historic District.



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)

1714, 1831

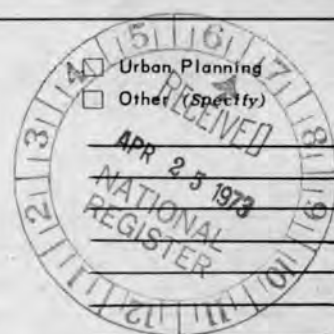
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☒ Religion/Phi-☐ Urban Planning☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Other (Specify)☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Michael's Church in Marblehead is believed to be the oldest Episcopal Church still in use in New England. It was conceived as a return to the Anglican religion in 1714 by dissenters rebelling against the rule of Puritans and other independent religions. The "Benefactors" included thirty captains of vessels with the main contributor Colonel Nicholson, colonial governor of New York, Maryland and Virginia. An initial four hundred and sixteen pounds was raised to establish the church. Shortly thereafter a group of forty one contributed an additional three hundred and seventy three pounds for the building of a "Handsome Church in the Town of Marblehead".

The church was completed in June, 1715 and its first minister, William Shaw, arrived from England a month later. Difficulties soon developed in this predominately Congregational town, where the Anglican parish was forced to contribute to the support of other churches and "meetings", until a ruling was obtained from Governor Shute making such contributions voluntary.

As the parish was poor and had extended itself too far in building the church, it was slow in acquiring the necessary church appointments. A bell was acquired in 1717, the communion service was given in 1724 and the chandelier in 1732. The ministers put out constant appeals for prayer books. Tradition has it that the bell was later cracked from continuous ringing to celebrate the news of the Declaration of Independence. The bell was recast in 1818 by Paul Revere and is still in use.

The congregation increased for a period, its new affluence allowing, in 1728, the purchase of contiguous land and a fifteen foot addition to the building. After his visit in July 1744, Dr. Alexander Hamilton described the church's appointments in enthusiastic detail. The church enjoyed increasing attendance and prosperity, continuing to offer prayers for the royal family, until the time of the American Revolution when many Loyalists were forced to either leave the country or suppress their sympathies.

Attendance decreased until 1818 when the church suspended services. During the 1820's a succession of ministers and a determined Anglican parish kept the church open, despite a move from the nearby Congregational Church to recharter St. Michael's as a Congregational meeting. However, in the years 1827-1831, the church was forced to close again. When it reopened in 1831, extensive repairs were necessary; these interior and exterior alterations transformed St. Michael's into a building of essentially Gothic

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bulletin of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.
Vol. LII, No. 4, Spring 1962, Serial no. 188.
Vol. LIII, No.2, Fall 1962, Serial no. 190.
Church records, St. Michael's Church, Marblehead.
Itinerarium, by Dr. Alexander Hamilton, ed. by Albert B.Hart, St.Louis,1909.
A Topographical and Historical Account of Marblehead by Isaac Mansfield,
Boston, 1802.

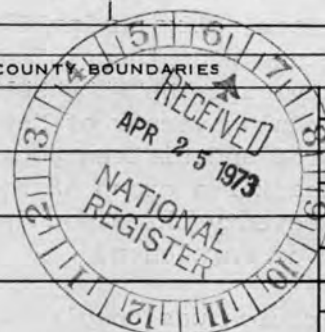
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	42° 30' 15"	70° 51' 05"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"		
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"		
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Elizabeth R. Amadon State Survey Director

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE: February 20, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts 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.X. Davoren
JOHN F.X. DAVOREN, Secretary of the
Commonwealth and Chairman of the
Title Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date April 18, 1973

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

Robert K. Utley
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/18/73

ATTEST:
Bradford
Keeper of The National Register
Date June 4, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
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	JUN 18 1973

(Number all entries)

St. Michael's Church, Marblehead

8. (con't)

Revival appearance. Many of the interior embellishments have since been removed, such as the florid frescoes on the walls and ceilings, but the slip pews and stained glass windows remain.

St. Michael's Church represents the initial introduction of a specifically Anglican-conformist architecture in Congregational-nonconformist New England. Undoubtedly influenced by small English churches designed by Christopher Wren, its unique plan with four central columns and intersecting vaults above was a marked innovation in the history of New England ecclesiastical architecture.



PROPERTY

St. Michael's Church

STATE

Mass

Essex

WORKING NUMBER

4.25.73.2855

TECH REVIEW

Photos

1

Maps

1

8/9/73

CONTROL REVIEW

cm

5-14-

73

OK

HISTORIAN

Accept
5-30-73
C. Shull

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
KH
5/30/73

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

OK 8/7/73
6/4/73

KEEPER

OK 8/7/73
6/4/73

National Register write-up

Send-back

Federal Register entry

8-7-73

Re-submit

Entered

JUN 18 1973



ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
SUMMER ST. MARBLEHEAD
PHOTO + NEG. - SAMUEL CHAMBERLAIN - P.C.
MARBLEHEAD C. 1970

SOUTH + EAST FACADE

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

1. NAME		
COMMON St. Michael's Church	AND/OR HISTORIC same	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS) JUN 18 1973
2. LOCATION		
STATE Massachusetts	COUNTY Essex	TOWN Marblehead
STREET AND NUMBER 26 Pleasant Street		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT Samuel Chamberlain	DATE 1970	NEGATIVE FILED AT St. Michael's Church
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Main entrance, southeast facade facing Pleasant Street



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)

1. NAME

COMMON

St. Michael's Church

AND/OR HISTORIC

NUMERIC CODE *(Assigned by NPS)*

APR 18 1973

2. LOCATION

STATE

Massachusetts

COUNTY

Essex

TOWN

Marblehead

STREET AND NUMBER

26 Pleasant Street

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

U.S.G.S. Marblehead North,
Mass.

DATE

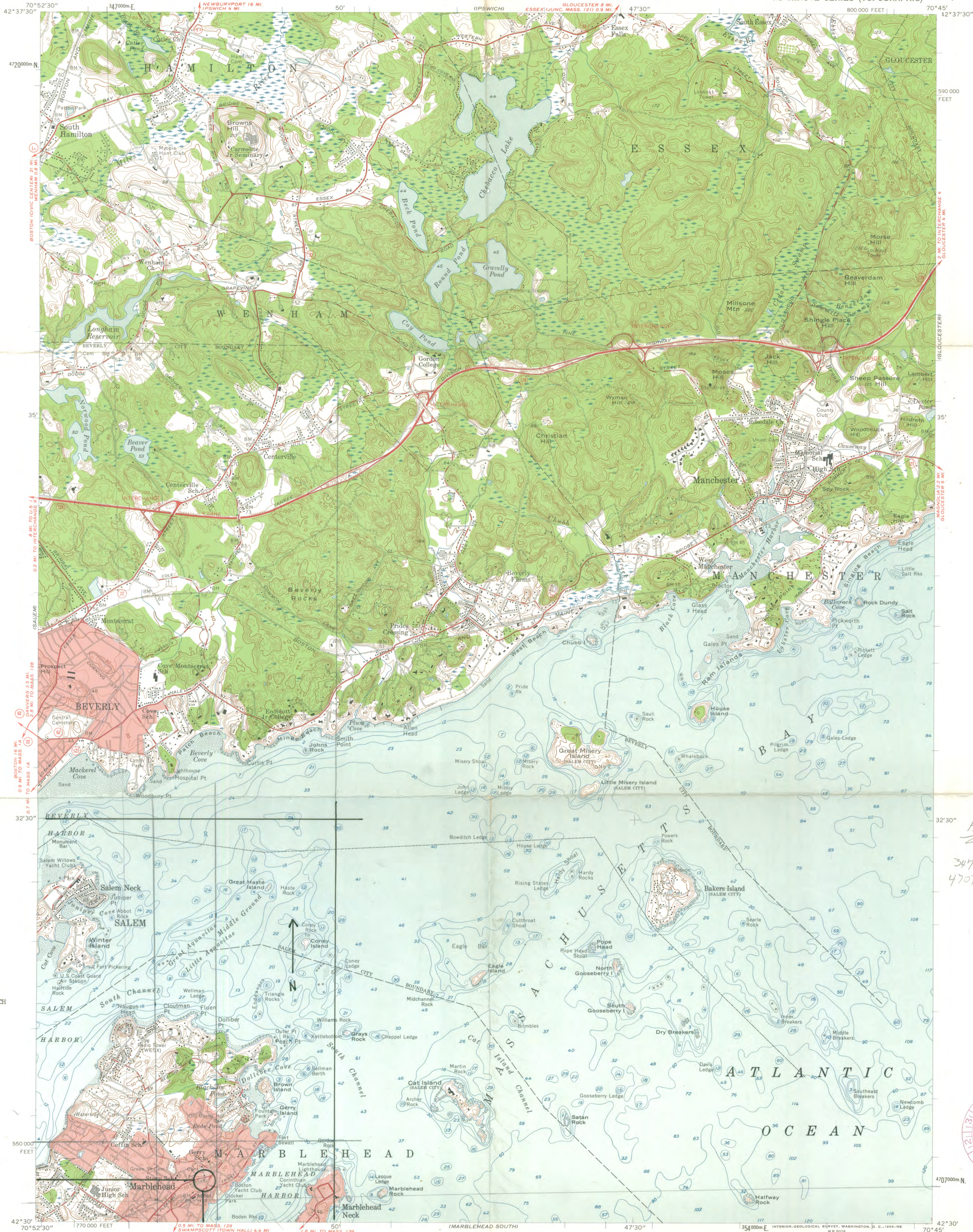
1956

SCALE

1:24,000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW:

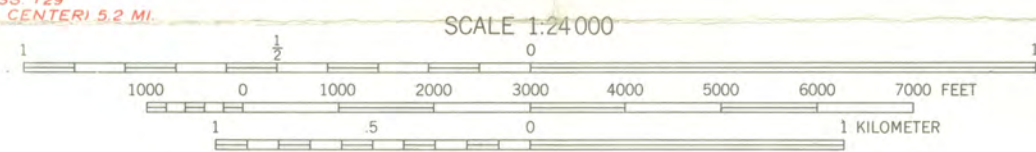
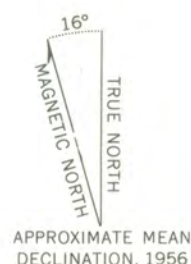




ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
MARBLEHEAD

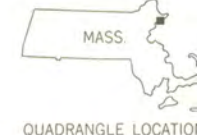
70° 51' 05"
42° 30' 15"

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USC&GS, Massachusetts Harbor and Land Commission,
and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1938. Topography by planetable surveys 1942. Culture
revised by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1955. Field check 1956
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS chart 240 (1956)
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts (Mainland)
coordinate system
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 supplied 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 9 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
○ State Route

MARBLEHEAD NORTH, MASS.
N4230—W7045/7.5

1956

Duplicate
74





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

~~3 Jpg Street~~
40 Beacon Street

Boston, Mass. 02108
(617) 727-8470

April 20, 1973

National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attention: Mr. Jerry Rogers

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Jerry:

Enclosed is the National Register nomination for:

Essex County, Marblehead, St. Michael's Church

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

Cordially,

Bob,

Robert B. Rettig
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered JUN 18 1973

Name

Location

St. Michael's Church

Marblehead
Essex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Director, Northeast Region
PHR, MMOTT: so-p 6/21/73

State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. John F.X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NOTIFICATION OF GRANT-IN-AID ACTION

Do Not
Use
This
Space

1. STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER

74070490

2. (Reserved for use by State central information reception agency)

3. GRANTOR: a. Federal agency

Department of the Interior

b. Organizational unit

National Park Service

c. Administering office - (1) Name

Division of Grants

(2) Address - Street or P.O. Box

18th and C Streets, NW.

City

Washington

State

D.C.

Zip Code

20240

4. FEDERAL AGENCY GRANT IDENTIFIER:

a. Code

25-75-00252-00

b. Title

St. Michael's Church Development

c. Purpose

The church's entrance stairs will be rebuilt; the reredos cleaned;
and several headstones reset.

5. GRANTEE: a. Name

Massachusetts Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon, Exec. Dir., MA Historical Commission

b. Address - Street or P.O. Box

40 Beacon Street

City

Boston

State

Massachusetts

Zip Code

02108

6. GRANTEE TYPE (Check only the single most applicable box)

a. State

b. Inter-
state

c. County



d. City

e. School
districtf. Special
unitg. Community
actionh. Sponsored
organization

i. Other



7. APPLICATION RECEIPT DATE

Year Month Day

76 2 3

8. ACTION DATE

Year Month Day

76 2 23

9. EFFECTIVE STARTING DATE

Year Month Day

76 2 23

10. ENDING DATE

Year Month Day

79 2 22

11. TYPE OF ACTION (Check as many boxes as apply to this action)

a. New
grantb. Continuation
grantc. Supplemental
grant
(identify agency in item 16)

d. Change in existing grant

(1) Increase in
duration(2) Decrease in
duration

(3) Cancellation



(4) Increase(\$)



(5) Decrease(\$)



12. AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION

a. Federal - (1) basic

\$ 2,800

(2) Supplemental

\$

b. State

\$ 2,800*

c. Local

\$

d. Other

\$

13. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM (if none, clarify in item 16)

a. Program Number

15.904

b. Supplemental Program Number

14. AUTHORIZATION

a. Federal Budget Accounts

10-58-1040-0-1-405

b. Public Laws

PL Title Sec.
89 665

PL Title Sec.

PL Title Sec.

c. U.S. Code

16 U.S.C. 470

15. FACILITY LOCATION: (For facility grant actions only)

a. City

26 Pleasant Street, Marblehead

p

b. County

Essex

CD 6

16. REMARKS

*St. Michael's Church