

PH0100170

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 31 1975

DATE ENTERED

APR 14 1975

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC New North Church

AND/OR COMMON

St. Stephen's Church (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Hanover Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Boston

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

9th

STATE

Massachusetts

VICINITY OF

CODE

25

COUNTY

Suffolk

CODE

025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING
- 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
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston

STREET & NUMBER

2121 Commonwealth Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Boston

VICINITY OF

STATE

MA 02135

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Suffolk County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Pemberton Square

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

MA 02201

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

February, 1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

MA 02108

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE		
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE <u>1870</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Stephen's Church is located in Boston's North End on Hanover St. between Clark and Harris Streets. Designed in 1804 for the New North Congregational Society (as distinguished from the "Old North" in North Square and burned by the British) by Charles Bulfinch, the church represents Bulfinch's personal restrained, neo-classical style which influenced Boston's and the nation's entire Federal architectural era.

WJ The church reflects the traditional New England Meeting House plan in brick but with some Bulfinch modifications. The tower element projects but is a full three bays wide below the belfry, thus offering the designer surface for his carefully proportioned and balanced articulation. The projecting tower porch has a symmetrical elevation divided at the nave's cornice level by a continuous blind balustrade across the entire facade. Paired brownstone pilasters with Ionic capitals that support a discontinuous entablature, flank the central trabeated wooden entrance under the large second story Palladian window. On the street level between the paired pilasters are additional round headed entry ways. In the tower attic or third story above the balustrade and below an ornate cornice, a recessed arch holding a lunette fills the entire central bay; the pilaster motifs are continued on the attic, but here with composed capitals. Above the cornice are pairs of decoratively carved consoles and urns. The tower continues in a square block which supports the open wooden belfry with aedicular motifs and small domed cupola.

On the nave facade, the side aisle windows are square-headed with flared brownstone lintels with keystones on the ground floor and rounded-headed with keystones on the gallery level; they are set within two story recessed arches. The nave side walls repeat this fenestration pattern without the recessed arches. Brick consoles on the nave facade above the balustrade conceal the slant of the nave's pitched slate roof, while they visually unite the nave and tower.

On the interior, the open nave is covered by a shallow unornamented arch springing from a continuous modillion cornice. The main feature is the gallery supported by a ground floor Doric arcade and its upper Corinthian arcade supporting the ceiling. The long side galleries curve in at the entry wall corners. Access to the gallery is via the vestibule stair.

Alterations to the church have been numerous. In 1862, in the conversion to a Catholic church, the cupola was enclosed, and the altar end of the nave transformed besides other interior changes. Due to the widening of Hanover Street in 1870, the structure was moved back about 16 feet (to where it now stands), a porch added, and either then or a few years later was raised 6 feet to incorporate a lower chapel. Fires in 1897 and 1929 did extensive damage to the interior. The present appearance dates from 1964-65, when complete restoration was completed. Although the exterior work followed Bulfinch's plans, some interior modifications were made to his designs during the reconstruction.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) urban design
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1804

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles Bulfinch

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Stephen's Church is Boston's only remaining church designed by Charles Bulfinch (in 1804) and, as his third church commission in the city, reflects one of the high points of his personal style. The church is also significant as a reflection of changes in the religio-ethnic character of its immediate neighborhood. Finally, the church became one part of an urban design scheme when the commemorative Paul Revere Mall was created in 1926.

Bulfinch's earlier churches outside of Boston (Pittsfield, Taunton) show a rather free interpretation of the tower element on the traditional meeting house format. The Cathedral of the Holy Cross, 1799-1803, the architect's second Boston church commission, introduces elements of the Italian Renaissance tradition - a flat front with lower and attic stories connected by consoles - into his personal style. For St. Stephen's, Bulfinch manipulated the tripartite elements of Holy Cross in a simpler manner on the facade of the St. Stephen's tower, which unlike the Catholic Holy Cross, still projected from the nave according to the Congregational parish tradition. His later churches in Boston, Federal St. and New South (both demolished), fortell the coming vogue of Gothic and Greek Revivals, respectively.

St. Stephen's is the third church building to occupy its site. The Middle Street Meeting House of 1714 lasted until 1730 when the New North Congregational Society rebuilt it. In the 1804 Bulfinch structure, some of the old timber from the 1730 ediface was reused. By 1813 the church had become the home of a Unitarian congregation and had Francis Parkman, father of the historian, as its minister until his retirement in 1849. Only thirteen years later in 1862, the building was sold to the Archdiocese of Boston and renamed St. Stephen's. This change of denomination reflects the changes to the ethnic character of the surrounding neighborhood; Boston's North End, about 1850, had become predominantly populated by Irish Catholic immigrants who were replaced, just after the turn of the century, by the Italian community that has remained. The 1965 restoration sponsored by Richard Cardinal Cushing of the Boston Archdiocese was a tribute to the church's Protestant and Catholic heritage.

In 1926, across Hanover Street, a paved and landscaped mall, roughly oblong in shape, was created by the City to commemorate Paul Revere. St. Stephen's forms the terminus of the south-eastern end with the rear of Christ Church, Salem Street (1723), at the opposite end. The brick enclosing side walls of the Mall, which is open at the ends, visually connect the two churches and form a small pleasant urban park.

Property New North Church **ST. STEPHEN'S** Church Suffolk
State Mass. Working Number 3.31.75.498

TECHNICAL sketch Figures on map wrong CONTROL pl
Photos 1 form is okay OK - 3.31.75
Maps 1
HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
Common rather than historic name
preferred because it is an important church in
North End known as St. Stephen's by Bostonians
and North Enders. **ACCEPT**
LEBOVICH
4-1-75
ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER
ACCEPT
Husband
4/1/75
HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF
ACCEPT
Colz
4.8.75

BRANCH CHIEF
accept
Aug 10
4.10.75

KEEPER
[Signature]
APR 9 1975

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered APR 14 1975
Federal Register Entry 6-3-75 Re-submit _____
INT:2106-74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **MAR 31 1975**

DATE ENTERED **APR 14 1975**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC **New North Church**

AND/OR COMMON

St. Stephen's Church (preferred)

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN **Boston** VICINITY OF _____ COUNTY **Suffolk** STATE **MA**

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT **Atlantic Photo Service, Inc.**

DATE OF PHOTO **1966**

NEGATIVE FILED AT **Archdiocese of Boston**

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO. **1**

**View of St. Stephen's Church looking at Hancock St. facade
and Harris St. side, southeasterly.**

#1081

#

#1081

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATLANTIC PHOTO SERVICE, INC.
COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
669 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, MASS. 02116
TEL. 267-7480-1-2



St. Stephen's Church
(New North Church)
Hanover St., Boston, MA

UTM References:
19/ 330960 / 492200
4692-200



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Mass. Harbor & Land Commission,
and Mass. Geodetic Survey

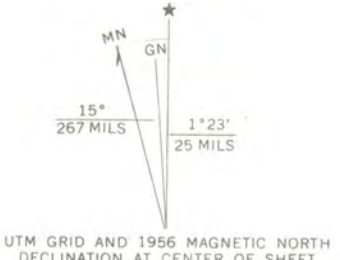
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Culture revised by
photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1955
Field check 1956

Hydrography compiled from USC&GS chart 246 (1956)

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts (Mainland)
coordinate system.
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue

Boundaries in tidewater areas from information
supplied by Mass. Dept. of Public Works

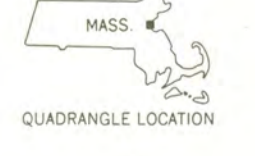
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown



SCALE 1:24,000

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



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———

U.S. Route State Route

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215-W7100/7.5

1956

AMS 6768 I SE-SERIES V814

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED **MAR 31 1975**

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC **New North Church**

AND/OR COMMON **St. Stephen's Church (preferred)**

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN **Boston** _____ VICINITY OF COUNTY **Suffolk** STATE **MA**

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE **Boston Redevelopment Authority - Photogrametric Series**

SCALE **1:100** DATE **1965**

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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



ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH
(New North Church)
HANOVER STREET
BOSTON, MA

SCALE: 1"=100'
UTM: 19/330960/4692200



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 14 1975

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Old Ship Street Historic District	Medford Middlesex County
Fort Sewall	Marblehead Essex County
First Baptist Church, Cambridge	Cambridge Middlesex County
St. Stephen's Church	Boston Suffolk County
Fowle-Reed Wyman House	Arlington Middlesex County
Salem Cross Inn	West Brookfield vicinity Worcester County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy	State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. Edward W. Brooke	Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Hon. Torbert H. MacDonald	Executive Director
Hon. Michael J. Harrington	Massachusetts Historical Commission
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.	40 Beacon Street
Hon. John J. Moakley	Boston, Massachusetts 02108
Hon. Edward P. Boland	

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

4/15/75

Mott

PR

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

129

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: St. Stephen's Church 2 OTHER NAMES: and Harris St. 3 date of entry: 4-14-75 4 county code: 025

5 city / town: Hanover St. between Clark and Boston vicinity of: Boston state: MA county: Suffolk 6 NPS REGION: N. Atlantic

7 OWNER: PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name) 8 ADMINISTRATOR:

9 EXISTING SURVEYS: HABS HAER HML 10 FUNDED? YES NO 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 9 12 SOURCE OF NOMINATION: STATE FEDERAL

13 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NAME: Y 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NAME: less than 15 date, who prepared form? Christina Boulding

16 CONDITION: excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed unexcavated altered unaltered reconstructed excavated original site moved 1870 unknown

17 features: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-4 NOT APPLICABLE-7 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-5 NOT APPLICABLE-8 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-6 NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS: YES - Restricted YES - Unrestricted No Access Unknown 19 ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO 20 SAVED? YES NO 21 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO

22 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric-2 ARCHEOLOGY - historic-1 AGRICULTURE-3 ARCHITECTURE-4 ART-5 COMMERCE-6 COMMUNICATIONS-7 CONSERVATION-8 ECONOMICS-9 EDUCATION-10 ENGINEERING-11 ENTERTAINMENT-26 EXPLORATION-12 HEALTH-27 INDUSTRY-13 INVENTION-14 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 LAW-16 LITERATURE-17 MILITARY-18 MUSIC-19 PHILOSOPHY-20 RELIGION-22 SCIENCE-23 SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30 TRANSPORTATION-25 POLITICS / GOVT.-21 RECREATION-28 SETTLEMENT-29 URBAN PLANNING-31 OTHER (SPECIFY)

23 functions: WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CHURCH CURRENTLY: CHURCH 24 dates of initial construction: 1804 major alterations: restored, 1964-65 historic events: 25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION: Intl. Italia

26 architectural style(s): Federal 27 architect: Charles Bulfinch 28 master builder: 29 engineer:

30 landscape architect / garden designer: 31 interior decorator: 32 artist: 33 artisan: 34 builder / contractor:

35 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL: Archdiocese of Boston under leadership of Richard Cardinal Cushing sponsored 1964-65 restoration

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP
 Brick, ^{2 1/2} stories, modified rectangle, gabled roof, ~~exterior end and interior chimneys~~, 3-story x front center pavillion with ~~square~~ ^{open} bell tower and domed cupola; front center ~~trabeated~~ entrance below lunette and palladian windows ~~with~~ a 3-story recessed arch, flanking round-arched side entrances; articulated by ~~Ionic pilasters supporting discontinuous entablatures~~; blind balustrade and denticulated modillion cornice across front facade above 2nd story, 2-story nave; moved, 1870; restored, 1964-65. Federal. One of few City's only remaining Bulfinch-designed church; successive ownership by Congregational, Unitarian, and Catholic congregations reflects ~~the~~ changes ⁱⁿ the religio-ethnic character of the North End during the 19th C.