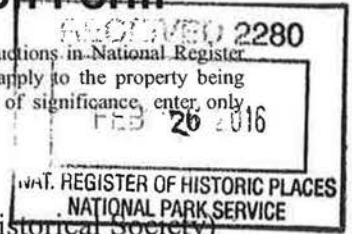


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: First Baptist Church of Northborough (Northborough Historical Society)

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 52 Main Street

City or town: Northborough State: MA County: Worcester

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<u>Brona Simon</u>	<u>February 18, 2016</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title: Brona Simon, SHPO	Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
_____ Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

4/12/16
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion/church

Recreation and culture/museum

Social/clubhouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and culture/museum

Social/clubhouse

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian/Italianate

Mid-19th century/Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: weatherboard, granite, asphalt shingle

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Known since 1959 as the headquarters of the Northborough Historical Society, the First Baptist Church of Northborough, 52 Main Street, Northborough (1860, NBO.12, Photos 1-12), occupies a corner parcel on Main Street (US Route 20) in a mixed-use suburban area at the eastern end of the town center. Built by a local carpenter, Richard W. Newton, the historic main block of the building exhibits characteristics of the Italianate and Greek Revival styles, and has been expanded to the rear. Additions provided a new baptistery and pastor's study (1905, H. F. Walker, architect and builder); adaptively reused a portion of the originally detached horse sheds (mid 19th century) for storage; and established an archive room (1965, Cole & Lizotte, architect and builder) for the historical society. The spire of the original 125-foot-high steeple was destroyed in the Hurricane of 1938 and never rebuilt. George Stevens & Company of East Cambridge, MA, built the pipe organ, which was installed in 1873 and restored in 2013. The historical society maintains the building in its original form, with some modifications in use: the former vestry on the first floor provides a meeting room for the society and local organizations, and the former auditorium above hosts a museum. The vestry and auditorium are minimally changed from their original appearance. The building maintains its historic integrity, and is in excellent condition because of regular maintenance by the historical society.

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Narrative Description

Northborough is a suburban town, located at the eastern edge of Worcester County in the Boston-Worcester corridor. The town is bordered by Berlin on the north, Marlborough (Middlesex County) on the east, Westborough on the south, and Shrewsbury and Boylston on the west. The town center occupies a valley, open to the south and bounded by highlands to the north, east, and west. The Assabet River provides the principal drainage; two of the town's four major brooks, Howard Brook and Cold Harbor Brook, flow into the Assabet at the town center. Main Street (US Route 20) defines the east-west axis of the town center, largely following the Connecticut Path, a regional native trail improved as the Post Road during the Colonial period, and later named Main Street. South Street (State Route 135) connects the town center to points south.

Occupying a 0.37-acre parcel, the building is set approximately 40 feet south of Main Street and approximately ten feet east of School Street. Displayed on the front lawn, on the Main Street side, are several historic and contemporary objects, described below. Paved parking at the rear of the parcel is accessible from School Street. The building encompasses a **main block** (1860), **rear addition** (1905), part of an original horse **shed** (mid-19th century), and **archive** (1965). These four connected components are described separately in the following sections; see also plans in Figures 1 and 2.

Main Block (1860; Richard W. Newton, builder)

Consisting of two stories on a raised basement with a pedimented gable roof, the main block (Photos 1, 2, 4, and 12) is 41 feet across and 61 feet deep. A two-story, gabled projection centered on the façade is the surviving portion of the original 125-foot steeple; the building lost its spire, belfry, and upper portion of the tower during the Hurricane of 1938 (Figures 3 and 4). The granite foundation is exposed at the base of the building; under the tower, as viewed from a basement crawl space, the inner foundation is brick. Most of the exterior of the building is clad with clapboards that butt into decorative quoins at the corners. The tower is clad with flushboard siding. Slate was added as roofing material during renovations in 1926, and apparently was in place when the steeple blew down in the 1938 hurricane.¹ The slate has been replaced with asphalt shingles. Two interior-wall brick chimneys at the rear are original.

Three bays across the façade and three bays deep on the side elevations, the main block retains its original center entry, recessed in a round-arched opening with paneled reveals, paired wood doors, and a blind fanlight. A secondary entry on the School Street (west) elevation, dating to 1874, contains a single paneled door. Windows on the façade, set in attenuated, round-arched openings with molded surrounds, contain 9/9 wood sash. On side elevations, the first floor (vestry level) has double-hung, 8/8 wood windows, and above, the auditorium displays double-hung, 12/12 wood windows. Most of the windows retain weights and original panes of wavy glass. Original louvered window shutters have been removed, except on the arched windows at the front. Shutter brackets are still intact on some of the windows.

The building displays massing similar to that of many historic New England churches, combined with Italianate and Greek Revival detailing. Character-defining features include the pedimented façade gable, gable returns on the rear elevation, overhanging eaves, a wide frieze (clad with clapboards), and corner quoins. The round-arched openings on the façade are associated with the Italianate style. The original square tower projected above the roof ridge and featured an octagonal spire. After the Hurricane of 1938 toppled the steeple above the cornice line (see Figures 3 and 4), the window opening over the entry was

¹ Pieces of slate still litter the floor of the attic near the former steeple.

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repaired and the tower capped with a new gable roof at the pediment level of the main block. A segmental-arched panel sign for the Northborough Historical Society is mounted over the main entry.

Most of the building is made of softwoods, largely white pine, probably cut and sawn locally for the post-and-beam frame, wall joists, and siding. Exposed beams and joists in the basement, as well as beams, rafters, and joists in the attic, consist mostly of white pine cut with a circular saw. Vertical two-inch-by-seven-inch studs support the walls, and two-inch-by-six-inch rafters support the roof. Vertical iron tie rods attached to trusses in the attic provide some of the support for the ceiling in the upper-level auditorium (Photo 3).

On the interior, an **entry vestibule** at the front of the building (see Figures 1 and 2, Photo 5) connects the vestry on the first floor and the church auditorium above. Access to the vestibule from the outside is through two large doors that swing inward and outward. On each side of the vestibule, curved staircases with molded handrails and turned posts and balustrades lead to the auditorium. A reinforcing beam and wood supporting posts were installed between the staircases in the vestibule, probably in 1891. These posts display Victorian Gothic brackets. In the entry vestibule and other interior spaces, walls and ceilings are finished with wood lath and plaster, and the floor is pine boards of various widths.

Two doors open to stairs that lead, three steps downward, from the vestibule into the **vestry** (see Figure 1 and Photo 6). This area originally had classrooms near the front (north end) and an open area toward the back (south end). A baptistery was added near the south end in 1872, and moved to the north end in 1874, giving the room its current northerly orientation. The baptistery can still be seen in a crawl space under a platform (Photo 7). Other modifications in 1874 included enclosing two rooms at the back for a kitchen, and moving the exterior door on the south elevation about ten feet south. As remodeled, the exterior entry opens into a small vestibule (former closet), which connects both to the main vestibule and the vestry. Most door openings contain four-paneled wood doors. Painted wainscoting covers the lower walls. Support columns are wood. Electric lighting was added in 1909; fluorescent fixtures date to the late 20th century. The historical society installed interior storm windows after 1960. See also **Improvements Since the Period of Significance**.

In the **auditorium** on the second floor (see Figure 2, Photos 8-11), the south end, with the pulpit platform, is the front of the room, and the north end, with the choir loft and organ, is the back. Panels behind the pulpit platform are made of American chestnut, as is the wainscoting, comprised of horizontal beaded boards around most of the auditorium. Woodwork at the front of the choir loft was painted to simulate wood grain (faux graining). Electric lighting was added to the auditorium in 1919. The original lighting fixtures are still in place. Pews were removed shortly after purchase by the historical society to make room for a museum, which opened in 1962. Paneled interior shutters were added to the windows in 1999 to protect the historical exhibits from direct sunlight.

Filling part of the choir loft is the George Stevens & Company pipe organ, installed in 1873 (Photo 9). The two-manual, thirteen-rank organ, with slider chests and mechanical key action, was designed to be manually pumped, and was later equipped with an electric motor and blower. The cabinet is made of black walnut. Gold leaf was added to the pipes in 1926. The organ has been a functional musical instrument throughout its lifetime, and was restored by the historical society in 2013. Andover Organ Company, Inc. of Methuen, MA, restored the air reservoir and pipe work. The organ is played periodically, providing music for concerts and for enjoyment by museum visitors.

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Rear Addition (1905; H. F. Walker, architect and builder)

This two-story rear addition (Photo 4) is 28 feet across and twelve feet deep, with clapboard cladding, an asphalt-shingle gable roof, slightly overhanging eaves, and gable returns that complement the design of the 1860 main block. The east slope of the gable roof matches the pitch on the east slope of the gable roof over the adjacent shed (see below), yielding a continuous slope. The addition has two entries: one recessed beneath an integral porch with a columned corner support, and the other shielded beneath a pitched canopy—also on columns—added in 2008 to cover a new doorway access from the wheelchair ramp into the main block. This is the only exterior addition since the period of significance, and does not compromise the integrity of the historic construction. Windows contain 6/6 wood sash. Inside, the vestibule's tin ceiling is covered with stamped-metal tiles. Wainscoting in this addition, consisting of pine beadboard, covers the lower walls of the first and second floors and the stair hall. The first floor also includes a furnace room, originally likely a classroom. The second floor of the addition included a room for the baptistry (removed in 1959) and pastor's study behind the pulpit platform. A short stairway, now blocked, once provided access to the baptistry. The pastor's study and a small closet are now used for storage.

Shed (Mid 19th century)

At the southeast corner of the main block (see Figure 1, Photos 4 and 12), a surviving segment of a one-story, gabled horseshed connects the first story of the 1905 rear addition to the archive (1965). The shed has clapboard siding, an asphalt-shingle roof, a rough stone foundation on the east side, and an entry bay with overhead door on the west side, set in a wide, segmental-arched surround. Sanborn fire insurance maps show the juncture of the footprints on the 1905 addition and adjacent horseshed has existed since at least 1910. The rest of the original long, multibay building was demolished between 1928 and 1941. Construction features in the attic of the shed indicate that the roofline of the adjacent rear addition was extended to cover the shed after the addition was built in 1905, but the date of this modification is not known. A continuous roof slope has existed since at least 1965 (see Figure 5). Men's and women's restrooms occupy the northern end of the shed, and the rest of the space is unheated and used for storage. Original rough lumber used for post-and-beam construction is exposed.

Archive (1965; Cole & Lizotte Corporation, architect and builder)

The historical society built a one-story addition at the south end of the shed to serve as an archive for historical documents (see Figures 1 and 5, Photos 4 and 12). The archive has a poured-concrete foundation, faced with rough stone on the east elevation. Walls and ceiling are built of fire-retardant concrete blocks and slabs. The exterior is covered with clapboards to match the rest of the building. The sole opening in the walls is the entry, which incorporates a paneled and glazed door. To the right of the entry is a bronze plaque that reads HARRIET D. PROCTOR / MEMORIAL / 1965.

Other Resources

Six objects have been installed on the front lawn of the parcel since the early 1960s. The Naylor Vickers & Co. No. 970 Bell (1859), two granite millstones (19th century), and the Northborough Bicentennial Time Capsule/Monument with Plaque (1966) were in place during the period of significance, and are therefore contributing. According to its markings, the steel bell is No. 970, cast in 1859 by Naylor Vickers & Company of Sheffield, England. Apparently original to the First Baptist Church, the bell was

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replaced in 1891, relegated to use as a water trough (inverted) off-site, and returned to the property in 1965. The millstones were installed in 1962, a gift from the Northborough Lumber Company to the Northborough Historical Society. A time capsule buried in recognition of the town's bicentennial in 1966 is near the northeast corner of the steeple, with the location identified by a bronze plaque mounted on a wedge-shaped granite monument, about twelve inches high. Two other objects on the lawn are noncontributing by virtue of their addition to the nominated parcel after the period of significance: a ca. 1895 flagpole from the town's Hudson Street School property, installed here in 1983; and the Northborough Historical Society standing sign, installed about 2004.

Improvements Since the Period of Significance

Improvements to the building were mainly to address safety concerns and ensure that plumbing and wiring are in accordance with modern codes. A sprinkler system installed in 1990 for fire protection services the entire building, including addition, shed, and archive. Improvements in 2008 and 2010 included an exterior wheelchair-accessible ramp and doorway at the rear of the 1905 addition, construction of two wheelchair-accessible bathrooms, and a kitchen outfitted in accordance with modern building codes (see Figure 1). A pipeline to the town sewer replaced a cesspool at the north end of the shed during this period of renovations.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known on the First Baptist Church property, sites may be present. Five ancient sites are known in the general area (within one mile), all located on terraces bordering tributary streams of the Assabet River. Environmental characteristics of the church property represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of ancient sites. The church is situated on a level to moderately sloping outwash plain at the base of a drumlin located less than 1,000 feet to the west. Soils in the area are sandy and well drained. Drainage in the area is through the Assabet River and its tributary stream, Cold Harbor Brook. Given the information presented above, the small size of the nominated area (0.47 acres), our state of knowledge for Native American subsistence and settlement systems in the Berkshire region of western Massachusetts, and the effects of construction activities on any potential sites located on the nominated property, a low potential exists for locating significant ancient Native American resources on the First Baptist Church property.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the First Baptist Church property. Structural evidence may survive from the original First Baptist Church at its first and second sites. The meetinghouse was moved to its second site in 1828. The building was moved to the southwest corner of School and Summer streets to make room for the new and larger church. Evidence of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) and structural evidence of barns, stables, and outbuildings may also exist on the nominated property. Similar types of archaeological features may also exist with the second church, built in 1885.

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**First Baptist Church of Northborough
 (Northborough Historical Society)
 Data Sheet**

<i>Assessors # - Parcel ID</i>	<i>MHC #</i>	<i>Historic Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Style</i>	<i>Resource Type</i>	<i>Status</i>
215/063.0- 0097-0000.0	NBO.12	First Baptist Church	52 Main Street	1860/1905/ 1965	Greek Rev./ Italianate	B	C
		Naylor Vickers & Co. No. 970 Bell		1859/1965	---	O	C
		Granite Millstones		19 th C./1962	---	2 O	2 C
		Northborough Bicentennial Time Capsule/Monument with Plaque		1966	---	O	C
		Hudson Street School Flagpole		ca. 1895/ 1983	---	O	NC
		standing sign		ca. 2004	---	O	NC

Total contributing resources: 5 (1 buildings, 4 objects)
 Total noncontributing resources: 2 (2 objects)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Religion

Social History

Period of Significance

1860-1966

Significant Dates

1938 (loss of steeple in hurricane)

1959 (acquisition by Northborough Historical Society)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Newton, Richard W. (main block)

Walker, H. F. (rear addition)

Cole & Lizotte Corporation (archive)

Stevens, George & Company (organ)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

First Baptist Church of Northborough, 52 Main Street, Northborough (NBO.12, Photos 1-12), is a well-preserved building at the town center, and has been an important presence in the community for more than 150 years. The building is significant for its associations with the local Baptist Church, from 1860, and as the headquarters of the Northborough Historical Society, from 1959 to the present. Constructed by Richard W. Newton as the Baptist Society's second house of worship on this site, the wood-frame church includes additions at the rear, built during the period of significance. The First Baptist Church is a prominent illustration of Italianate institutional architecture at the town center. The building retains its original 1873 pipe organ, built by George Stevens & Company of East Cambridge, MA, and restored by the Northborough Historical Society in 2013. Taken together, additions and modifications to the building trace the growth of the Baptist church and the historical society in Northborough. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the First Baptist Church of Northborough meets Criteria A and C, and Criteria Consideration A (used for religious purposes), of the National Register of Historic Places at the local level.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Architecture A prominent building at the town center, the First Baptist Church is a well-preserved example of mid 19th-century institutional design in Northborough, and architecturally significant for its Italianate detailing. Adapted to meet the changing needs of the First Baptist Church and, later, the Northborough Historical Society, the building incorporates improvements at the rear that date to the period of significance: the addition of a baptistery and pastor's study (1905), preservation of a portion of the mid 19th-century horsesheds, and construction of an archive room (1965) for the historical society. The church auditorium retains, in the choir loft, the George Stevens & Company pipe organ (installed 1873), which was restored in 2013. In its architectural design, First Baptist Church recalls the damage the town sustained in the Hurricane of 1938, displaying a gable roof capping the truncated tower on the façade, which was installed following the destruction of the upper two thirds of the steeple.

Religion The First Baptist Church retains its historic associations with Northborough's first Baptist Society, which organized in 1827 and built its first meetinghouse on this site the following year. This building, the second on the site, reflects the growth of the Baptist church by 1860, and its expanding presence in the community thereafter. After a merger with the town's Evangelical Congregational Church in 1948, the consolidated churches moved to another location at the town center, with this building surviving as enduring evidence of one of Northborough's earliest religious societies.

Social History Through its associations with the First Baptist Church and the Northborough Historical Society, this building illustrates trends in Northborough's population and development during the period of significance. Improvements made to the church, including construction of successive bapsteries, a pipe organ, and a pastor's study, reflect a congregation that was growing in size and position in the community during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The building's history and preservation illustrate connections among church members and the Northborough Historical Society that helped facilitate the founding of the historical society in 1906, its use of the church vestry from 1948 onward, and its

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acquisition of the property in 1959. A museum of Northborough history, opened in the former church auditorium in 1962, and an archive for historical documents, constructed in 1965, adds to the building's significance.

Northborough was part of the Marlborough grant (1660), set off with Westborough (1717), and established as the second parish or precinct of Westborough, at the northern end of the town (1744). Thirty-seven families were present, and a meetinghouse was constructed in 1746 near the site of the present Unitarian Church, 40 Church Street (1947-1950, NBO.77). Northborough was a successful, dispersed agricultural community during the Colonial period, with a developing commercial center and industrial activity at water sites. The population numbered 594 shortly before the district of Northborough was established in 1766; this district became a town in 1775 [*MHC Town Report*, 1, 3].

By the Federal period, the radial road network at the town center converged at a point southeast of the meetinghouse, with concentrated development in the Main Street (US Route 20) and South Street (State Route 135) corridors. A primarily agricultural economy, numerous waterpower sites, and the extensive road system contributed to the support of four gristmills and five sawmills by 1826. Production of cotton and woolen cloth and yarn, textile machinery, and boots and shoes all were present during the Federal period. Though bypassed by the Boston and Worcester Turnpike (1806) through the southern tip of the town, the town center experienced significant growth during the Early Industrial period, as development of the commercial, residential, and institutional center extended easterly along Main Street, connecting the Agricultural Branch Railroad (1855) at the center to the small shops and factories along the Assabet River. Part of a branch line from South Framingham to Clinton, the railroad was operated initially by the Boston & Worcester Railroad, and later the Boston, Clinton & Fitchburg line [*MHC Town Report*, 4, 6; *MHC Central Mass. Report*, 127; Karr, 284-286].

The Baptist Society formed in Northborough in 1827 as an alternative to the tax-supported Church of Christ, and to invoke a more conservative Christian theology.² Its establishment marked the first split with the traditional church in Northborough. Asaph Rice, one of the original leaders of the society, was a brother of Luther Rice, a prominent Baptist missionary and promoter of religious education. Luther Rice established the first national Baptist periodical and founded Columbian College in Washington, DC, which became George Washington University. Before organizing in Northborough, Baptists attended meetings of Baptist churches in Shrewsbury and Boylston (from 1812) and later Westborough (from 1814), as well as meetings held in dwellings of members in Northborough. Baptists in Northborough, as elsewhere in New England, were fervent abolitionists. In 1839, and again in 1842, the church adopted resolutions denouncing slavery. In 1866, at the end of the Civil War, the church voted a collection for the Freedmen. Temperance was also a prominent social issue with Northborough Baptists from at least 1843 [Pease; Wolf; Kent 130-131; *Images*, 23]. Although often derided for their social convictions, the Baptists arguably set the tone for a strong social conscience in the community that has carried over to present.

An increase in Northborough's population, from 992 in 1830 to 1,602 in 1855, led all three ecclesiastical societies then present in the town to expand their respective houses of worship. In 1848, the Unitarians remodeled their second meetinghouse (1808, demolished). The Evangelical Congregational Society, formed in 1832, built a meetinghouse the same year (71 Church Street, NBO.2), and expanded further

² The town's Congregational meetinghouse on Church Street was associated with the Church of Christ in Northborough from 1746 to 1832, after which the society came to be known as the Unitarian Church. The same society was incorporated in 1911 as The First Congregational Unitarian Church of Northborough [Kent, 119].

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with a new church in 1847 (23 Main Street, NBO.103). The Baptist Society, having established its first meetinghouse on the present site in 1828, moved the building to the southwest corner of School Street and Summer Street to make room for construction of the new, larger, church. The first building was converted to a dwelling (demolished).

The simple lines of the 1860 building and its modestly adorned interior reflect the limited financial resources and frugal character of parishioners during the lifetime of the church, typical of many churches in rural New England. The Rev. Silas Ripley was pastor at the time of construction [Kent, 137]. Built using conventional post-and-beam methods by a local carpenter, Richard W. Newton, the building is similar in design and massing to many New England steepled churches [Kidder Smith]. The architect is not known, but the builder probably had access to basic plans such as those published by Asher Benjamin in 1797. Lumber was probably supplied by one or more of several waterpowered sawmills in Northborough that were active in 1860, and bricks in the interior foundation structure probably came from one of two brickyards in Northborough that were active at the time of construction. The church was dedicated on November 28, 1860, eight months after its approval for construction [Kent, 139; Valentine], and is among the more prominent buildings with Italianate-style features in Northborough.

Richard W. Newton (1816-1896) of Northborough was described as a housewright in the 1855 state census, and as a carpenter in the 1865 state census. In addition to the First Baptist Church, he built an Italianate-style house at 15 Summer Street (ca. 1855, NBO.198) and the William J. Potter House, 45 Summer Street (1884, NBO.322). Town records show Newton was an active citizen, serving as a selectman (1860-1863) and on the first board of library directors (1868).

The bell displayed on the property's front lawn is the original bell of this church, cast in 1859 as No. 970 by Naylor Vickers & Company, a steel factory in Sheffield, England. Approximately 171 Naylor Vickers bells have been identified in North America, almost all in the United States, having been exported as a sideline to the company's main business of iron and steel. Naylor Vickers had established a sales office in Boston by 1850, and maintained the office for more than 35 years, with other offices in New York and Philadelphia. The steel bell was cracked by "violent ringing on some public occasion," thereafter emitting a harsh tone, and exchanged for a new, larger bell in 1891. The steel bell was inverted and used as a watering trough for many years at the corner of South and Summer streets, and returned to this parcel in 1965 as an historic object displayed on the front lawn ["Naylor Vickers in North America"; Kent, 319; *Worcester Telegram*].

Horsesheds, which predated 1860, were built in a double line near the rear of the church prior to construction of the current building. They originally housed 23 horses, and were later used to shelter cars [Pease]. Part of a horseshed was connected to the southeast side of the main block and 1905 addition. The shed was extended northward after 1905, and now provides space for men's and women's restrooms. The rest of the shed structures were demolished between 1928 and 1941.

Interior improvements were made to First Baptist Church from 1872 to 1874. The vestry on the first floor was the location for two of the three consecutive baptisteries in the church during its history: the first installed at the southern end of the room in 1872, and the second installed at the northern end of the room in 1874. Baptism by full immersion is an important component of the faith of American Baptists. The second baptistry, below the pulpit platform, is still visible in the crawl space beneath the vestry (Photo 7). The shift in the position of the baptistry allowed a kitchen to be installed at the southern end of the main block in 1874 [Pease]; a portion of this space still serves a kitchen use (see Figure 1).

First Baptist Church of Northborough
Name of Property

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A major addition to the auditorium during this period was the George Stevens & Company pipe organ, built in the choir loft at the northern end of the room. George Stevens (1803-1894) and his brother, William Stevens, from Norway, Maine, were apprentices to organbuilder William M. Goodrich in Boston, who also trained Elias and George Greenleaf Hook, founders of E. and G. G. Hook organ company. George Stevens took over Goodrich's business in 1833 in collaboration with William Gayetty, but the partnership ended in 1835. Stevens reportedly built over 800 instruments in his career, mostly one- and two-manual organs for small churches. Fewer than 75 organs built by George Stevens & Company survive. Thirty-five examples of the company's work have been identified in Massachusetts, including an organ built in 1851 for Northborough's First Parish (building demolished, location of organ unknown). George Stevens based his business in East Cambridge, MA, and served as mayor of the City of Cambridge in the early 1850s [Bush and Kassel; Pipe Organ Database; Northborough Historical Society]. The faux graining treatment of the front of the choir loft in this building was a popular decorative technique of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Installation of a new, larger bell in the belfry in 1891 appears to have precipitated construction of the Victorian Gothic-style reinforcing beam and supporting bracketed posts in the church vestibule (Photo 5). Pease (1927) stated that "additional support was found to be necessary for the belfry and steeple," but he does not identify the supporting beam in the vestibule directly. Given its location in the vestibule—spanning the ceiling between the staircases—the beam would have provided limited, if any, support to the steeple, but may have been needed to support the additional weight of the organ above and associated stones used as ballast on the bellows.

In 1905, during the pastorate of the Rev. Charles Stanley Pease, the First Baptist Church built a rear addition 28 feet wide, twelve feet deep, and two stories high to provide for a baptistery at the auditorium level. This was the third and final location of a baptistery in the building. The architect and builder of the addition was H. F. Walker, a carpenter and builder from Marlborough, who had worked on the interior finishes of the First Baptist Church in that town (22 Mechanic Street, 1887, MRB.81). The auditorium interior also was newly decorated, with paneling on the wall behind the pulpit platform and wainscoting around the room executed in American chestnut, a popular building and finishing material until the early 20th century, when a blight destroyed much of the chestnut growth in the region [Pease; Kent, 138]. The addition also included a pastor's study on the second floor.

The Rev. Charles Stanley Pease (1862-1941) served as pastor of the First Baptist Church from 1903 to 1910, and again from 1922 until his retirement in 1934. Greatly beloved by members of the church, he also "enjoyed the respect and admiration of the townspeople irrespective of their church affiliations." Born in Middlefield, MA, Mr. Pease was a graduate of Colby College (1891), and earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree at the Newton Theological Seminary (1894) and a Master's degree at Colby (also 1894). He served as pastor for Baptist churches in New Jersey and Conway, MA, before coming to Northborough. Mr. Pease was one of the founders of the Northborough Historical Society in 1906, and took a deep interest in the affairs of the town [Kent, 138; Zeta Psi, 274; *Images*, 61].

Construction of the 1905 addition was the last substantial change made to the First Baptist Church until the late 1930s. During the Hurricane of September 1938, the church lost about two-thirds of its 125-foot-high steeple when the spire, belfry, and upper part of the tower toppled to the ground (see Figures 3 and 4). The steeple was never replaced, and what remained of the tower was capped with a gabled roof. The missing steeple is a reminder of one of the most devastating storms to hit New England in recorded history. The 1891 bell that fell with the steeple was later sold, but the purchaser was not recorded.

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In 1948, facing declining membership and financial support, the First Baptist Church merged with the Evangelical Congregational Church to form Northborough's Trinity Church. The vestry in this building served as the chapel for Trinity Church until improvements were made to accommodate the consolidated churches at the former Evangelical Congregational Church, located one block west of the nominated property, at 23 Main Street (NBO.103). An early occupant of the vacated vestry space was the Northborough Historical Society, then housed nearby in the crowded basement room of the Gale Library, 34 Main Street (1895, NBO.34). The historical society purchased the First Baptist Church building, along with the organ, late in 1959 [Ellis], at which time the baptistery was removed.

The Northborough Historical Society was formed in 1906 to "preserve the local and general history of Northborough and the genealogy of Northborough families; to make antiquarian collections and to insure the continuous and adequate care of collections and their accessibility and effective use for cultural and educational purposes" [*Bylaws*]. Gilman B. Howe was the society's first president. A ceremony held in the building's auditorium early in 1960 marked the transfer of the property to the historical society. In attendance was Alice Bowes Brigham Kimball, who had once been the church organist, and later (from 1941 to 1952) served as president and curator of the historical society. Alice Kimball taught music at Northborough schools, played the organ at various churches, and directed many musical programs in town [Ellis; "Past Presidents;" *Images*, 61]. The museum in the church auditorium opened in 1962.

In 1965, the historical society constructed an archive addition at the rear of the building, adjacent to the former horseshed that connected to the main block and 1905 addition. Cole & Lizotte Corporation of Northborough was the architect and builder. The fireproof addition featured concrete-block walls, a reinforced concrete ceiling, and a stone masonry veneer applied to the concrete foundation. Also included in the construction was installation of an overhead door in the existing shed opening [Northborough Historical Society files].

Longtime Northborough resident Edwin W. Proctor (1887-1977) endowed construction of the addition in memory of his deceased sister, Harriet E. Proctor. Edwin Proctor graduated from Harvard University, studied at the Sorbonne in Paris, and taught French at schools in Chicago, Santa Barbara, CA, and Wallingford, CT (Choate School). Mr. Proctor convened a building committee—Mr. and Mrs. David Benton, Waldo H. Bemis, and Clarence E. Buckley—to design the addition and supervise the construction. The archive was dedicated on January 27, 1966. In 1967, Proctor (who resided at 154 Whitney Street) gave the town a tract of more than 70 acres for recreational purposes, including the Edmund Hill woods. In addition to the Northborough Historical Society, Proctor was active in the town's Lions Club and Youth Commission, was a trustee of the Northborough Public Library, and a member of the Worcester Horticultural Society [*Images*, 63; Historical Society files; Ellis, "Ten Noteworthy People"].

Through the historical society, the building is still the site of many social, cultural, and educational activities. Many historical artifacts and documents relating to Northborough's history are housed in the museum (former church auditorium), the shed, and the archives. To mark the town's 200th anniversary, the historical society buried a time capsule on the front lawn in 1966. Regular meetings in the former vestry feature presentations on topics of local and regional historical interest. Several local organizations rent the meeting hall (former vestry) for regular meetings, and the adjacent kitchen and restroom spaces at the rear of the building have been renovated to provide universal access. In 2013, the historical society contracted with Andover Organ Company of Methuen, MA, to restore the George Stevens & Company pipe organ in the auditorium. Fundraising by the historical society, gifts, and municipal monies from the Community Preservation Act funded the restoration work.

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Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important evidence related to the exact location of the foundation for the First Baptist Church, and the extent to which the second church reused the foundation from the first church for its new site. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may indicate the social, cultural, and economic characteristics for the parishioners of the First Baptist Church, from the construction of the first church (1828), to the second church, built in 1860. The first building was converted to a dwelling that has been demolished. Construction features associated with both the first and second churches may contribute evidence of construction activities related to the first and second meetinghouse construction. Occupational and construction features may also contribute important evidence related to the architectural details for each building, especially the first, the less documented of the two meetinghouse structures.

First Baptist Church of Northborough
Name of Property

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First Baptist Church of Northborough
Name of Property

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Northborough Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NBO.12

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

First Baptist Church of Northborough
Name of Property

Worcester County, MA
County and State

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 42.31948 Longitude: -71.63870
2. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 19 Easting: 282558 Northing: 4688621
2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the nominated property is shown on the accompanying Town of Northborough tax map, sheet 63.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the property associated with the First Baptist Church of Northborough (Northborough Historical Society) during and since the period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Forest P. Lyford, Northborough Historical Society, with Kathleen Kelly
Broomer, preservation consultant, and Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director,
MHC
organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission
street & number: 220 Morrissey Boulevard
city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125
e-mail: betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us
telephone: (617) 727-8470
date: February 2016

First Baptist Church of Northborough
Name of Property

Worcester County, MA
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:	First Baptist Church of Northborough (Northborough Historical Society)
City or Vicinity:	Northborough
County:	Worcester
State:	MA
Photographer(s):	Ellen Racine, Northborough Historical Society (as noted); Kathleen Kelly Broomer, Preservation Consultant (as noted)
Date of Photographs:	August 2014 (Racine photos 1-10); August 2015 (Broomer photos 11-12)
Location of Digital Files:	Massachusetts Historical Commission, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1 of 12 | First Baptist Church, façade and west (School Street) elevation. View SE. Racine photo.
<i>MA_Worcester County_First Baptist Church of Northborough_0001</i> |
| 2 of 12 | Detail of foundation, siding, and quoins, main block. View E from NW corner of building. Racine photo.
<i>MA_Worcester County_First Baptist Church of Northborough_0002</i> |

First Baptist Church of Northborough
Name of Property

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- 3 of 12 Attic trusses and tie rods. View S from north end of attic. Racine photo.
MA_Worcester County_First Baptist Church of Northborough_0003
- 4 of 12 Rear elevation, showing (left to right) main block, addition, shed, and archive. View NE from SW corner of parcel. Racine photo.
MA_Worcester County_First Baptist Church of Northborough_0004
- 5 of 12 Vestibule. View W from east stairway. Racine photo.
MA_Worcester County_First Baptist Church of Northborough_0005
- 6 of 12 Vestry, detail of baptistery platform. View NW. Racine photo.
MA_Worcester County_First Baptist Church of Northborough_0006
- 7 of 12 Baptistery visible from basement crawl space beneath platform in vestry. View SW. Racine photo.
MA_Worcester County_First Baptist Church of Northborough_0007
- 8 of 12 Auditorium, pulpit platform, and American chestnut baptistery panels. View S. Racine photo.
MA_Worcester County_First Baptist Church of Northborough_0008
- 9 of 12 Auditorium, choir loft, and organ. View NW. Racine photo.
MA_Worcester County_First Baptist Church of Northborough_0009
- 10 of 12 Auditorium, detail of American chestnut wainscoting. View W. Racine photo.
MA_Worcester County_First Baptist Church of Northborough_0010
- 11 of 12 Auditorium. View S toward pulpit platform from choir loft. Broomer photo.
MA_Worcester County_First Baptist Church of Northborough_0011
- 12 of 12 East elevation, showing (left to right) archive, shed, and main block. View SW. Broomer photo.
MA_Worcester County_First Baptist Church of Northborough_0012

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

First Baptist Church of Northborough
Name of Property

Worcester County, MA
County and State

Figures

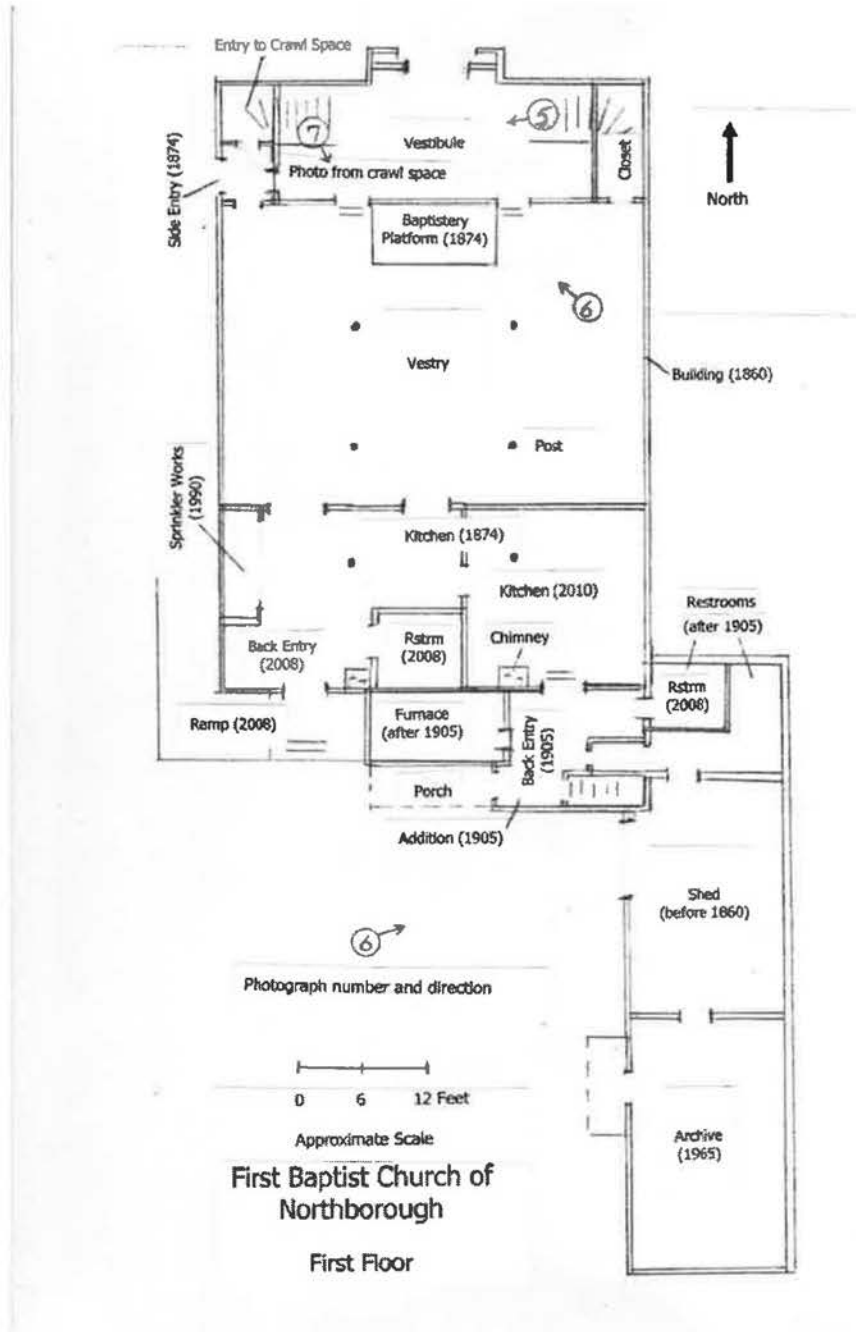
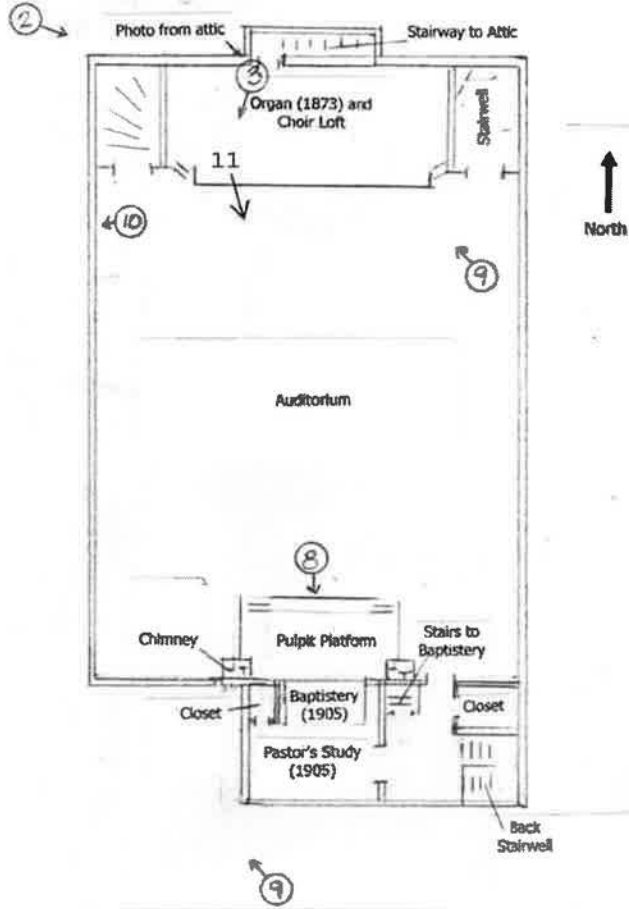


Figure 1
First-floor plan drawn by Forest P. Lyford
for the Northborough Historical Society, 2014
(interior photographs are keyed to plan)

First Baptist Church of Northborough
Name of Property

Worcester County, MA
County and State



Photograph number and direction

0 6 12 Feet

Approximate Scale

**First Baptist Church of
Northborough**

Second Floor

Figure 2

Second-floor plan drawn by Forest P. Lyford
for the Northborough Historical Society, 2014
(interior photographs are keyed to plan)

First Baptist Church of Northborough
Name of Property

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County and State



Figure 3

First Baptist Church of Northborough from a postcard posted in 1911.
Courtesy Northborough Historical Society.

First Baptist Church of Northborough
Name of Property

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County and State



Figure 4

First Baptist Church of Northborough after the Hurricane of 1938 toppled the spire, belfry, and upper part of the tower.
Courtesy Northborough Historical Society.

First Baptist Church of Northborough
Name of Property

Worcester County, MA
County and State



Figure 5

Construction of archive for the Northborough Historical Society in 1965.

Also shows part of the original horseshed at left.

Courtesy Northborough Historical Society.

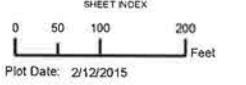
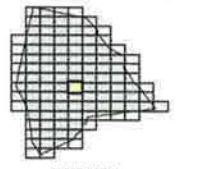
Tax Map
63
NORTHBOROUGH
MASSACHUSETTS



LEGEND

- PROPERTY LINE
- OLD PROPERTY LINE
- RIGHT-OF-WAY
- PRIVATE RIGHT-OF-WAY
- PANEL NUMBER
- 66.35 AC ACREAGE
- 66.35 AC (C) CALCULATED ACREAGE
- 160 SURVEY DIMENSION
- 160 (D) DEED DIMENSION
- 160 (S) SCALE DIMENSION
- 2225 STREET NO.
- (2) SURVEY LOT NO.
- ZONE LINE
- GROUNDWATER OVERLAY DISTRICT
- CITY/TOWN LIMIT
- EASEMENT
- HYDROLOGY
- METALAND LINE
- BUILDING
- POOL

THIS MAP IS PREPARED FOR THE INVENTORY OF REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH AND IS DERIVED FROM RECORDS DEEDS PLATS TAX MAPS SURVEYS PLANNING MAPS AND OTHER PUBLIC RECORDS AND DATA. USERS OF THIS MAP ARE HEREBY NOTICED THAT THE TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH MAKES NO WARRANTY OR GUARANTEE OF THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS MAP. THE TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH AND ITS EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS ASSUME NO LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN.

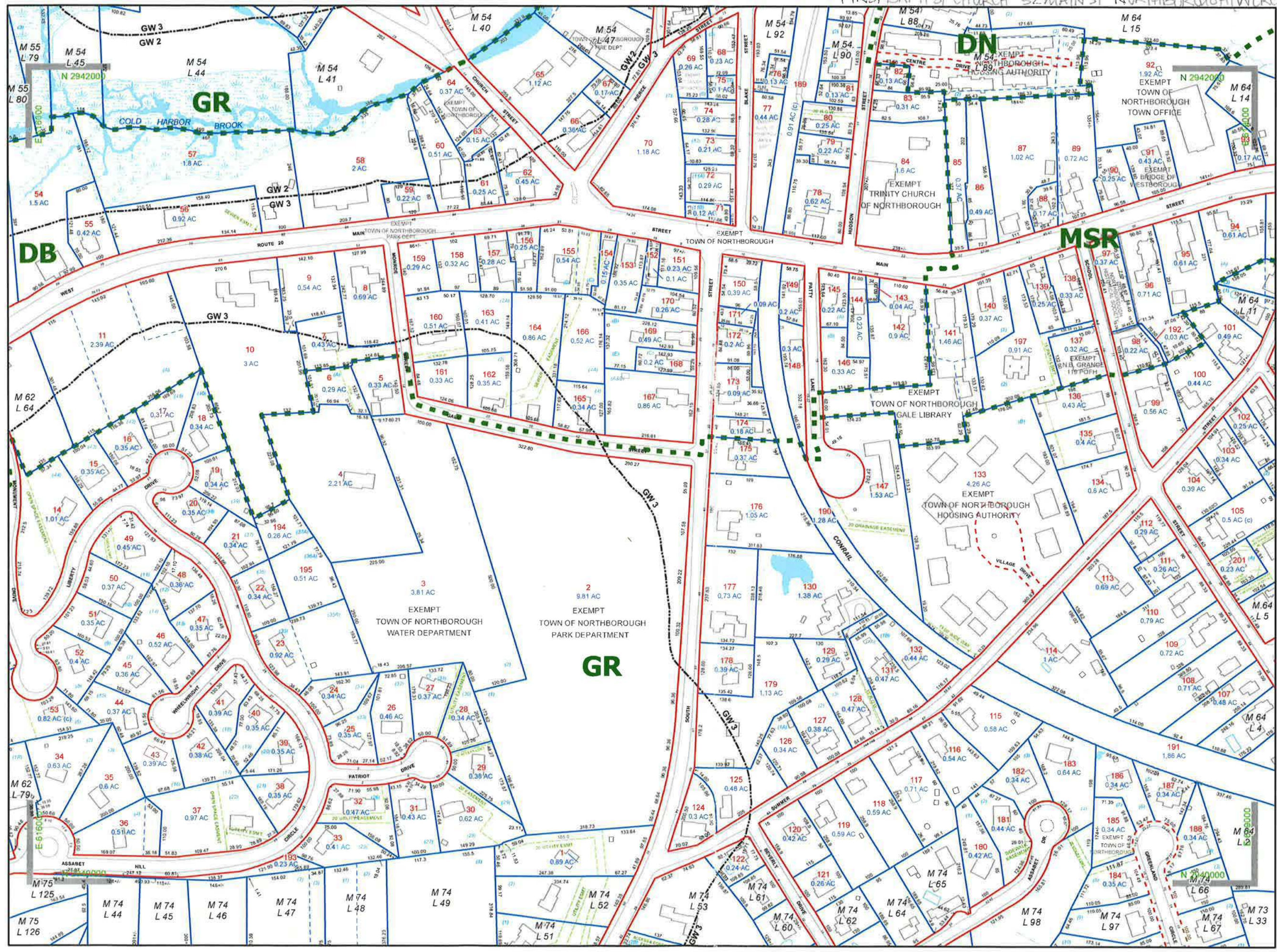


Plot Date: 2/12/2015

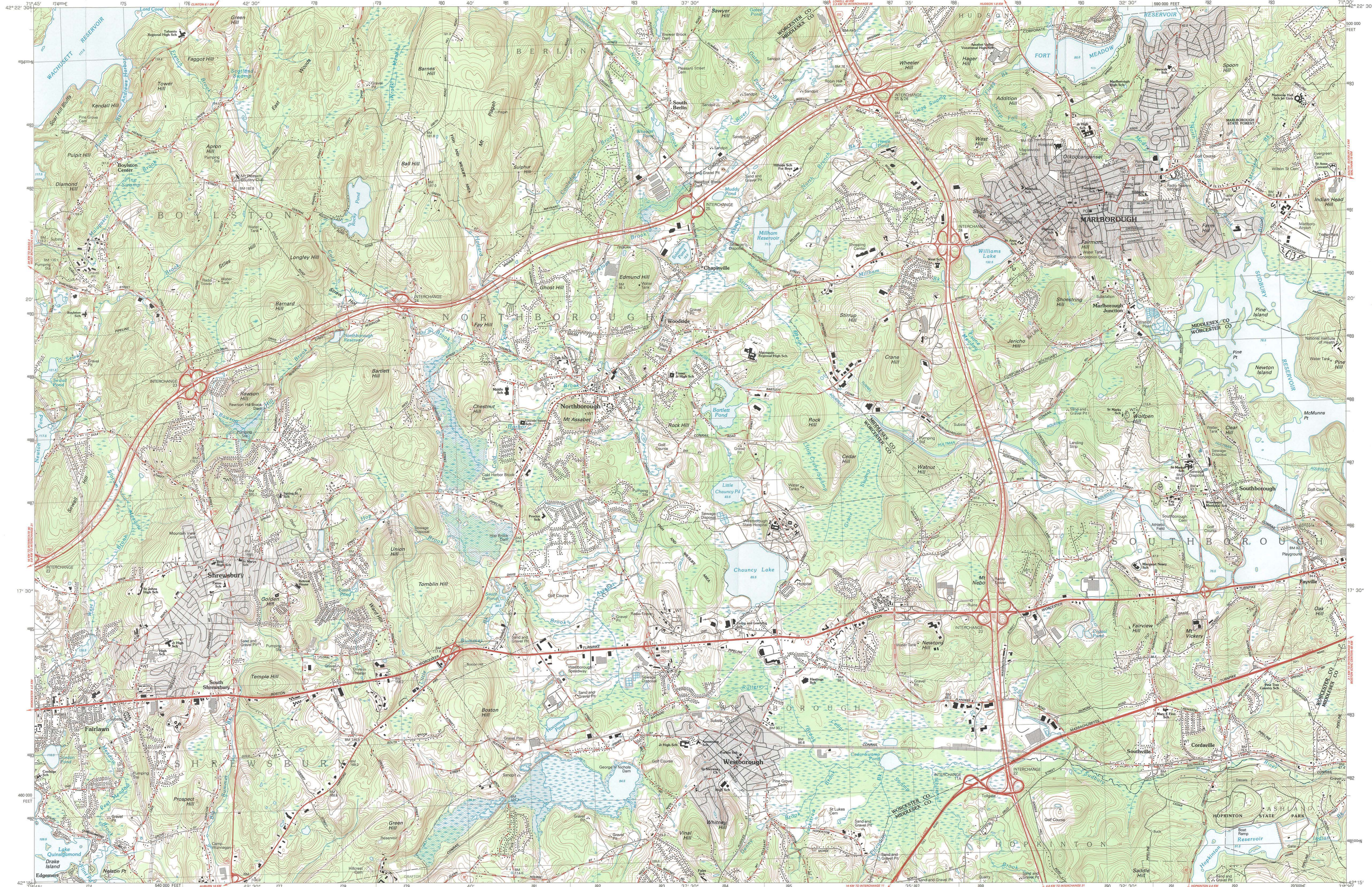
Date of Revisions:

2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014
2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013
2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012
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1983	1983	1983	1983	1983	1983
1982	1982	1982	1982	1982	1982
1981	1981	1981	1981	1981	1981
1980	1980	1980	1980	1980	1980

HIGHEST PARCEL NUMBER: 201
GROUNDWATER OVERLAY DISTRICTS: 3, 2
ZONING DISTRICTS: DN, DB, MSR, GR

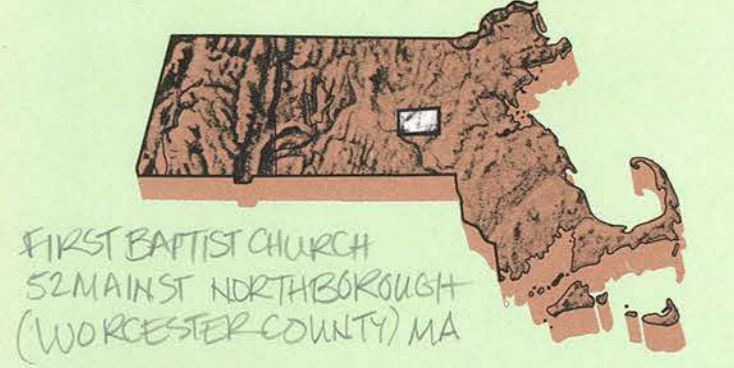


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
52 MAIN ST NORTHBOROUGH
(WORCESTER COUNTY) MA
19 282520 4688410



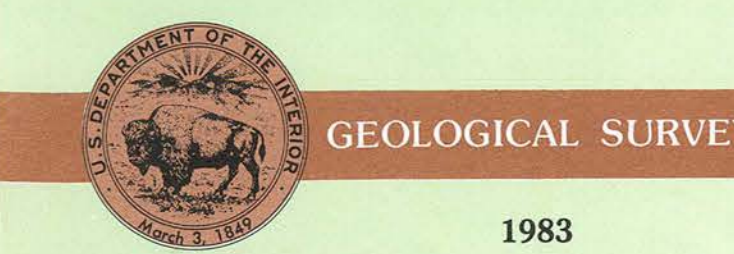
Marlborough MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



1983

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works. Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey. Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1980. Field checked 1982. Map edited 1983. Supersedes Shrewsbury and Marlborough 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1969.

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19: Universal Transverse Mercator. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south and 40 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks. There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5617
3	9.8425
4	13.1234
5	16.4042
6	19.6850
7	22.9659
8	26.2467
9	29.5276
10	32.8084



Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road, trail
- Route marker: Interstate, U. S. State
- Railroad: standard gauge, narrow gauge
- Bridge: drawbridge
- Footbridge; overpass; underpass
- Bull-top area: only selected landmark buildings shown
- House: barn; church; school; large structure
- Boundary:
 - National, with monument
 - State
 - County, parish
 - Civil township, precinct, district
 - Incorporated city, village, town
 - National or State reservation, small park
 - Land grant with monument; found station corner
 - U. S. public lands survey; range, township, section
 - Range, township, section line: location approximate
- Fence or field line
- Power transmission line, located tower
- Dam; dam with lock
- Cemetery; grave
- Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument
- Windmill; water well; spring
- Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
- Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
- Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
- Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand
- Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate
- Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
- Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small
- Submerged marsh; marsh; swamp
- Land subject to controlled inundation; wetland
- Scrub; vineyard
- Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request



1851 NORTHBOROUGH 1906
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SCHOOL ST

WYBLED WAKE II
DR. THOMAS WYBLED
1800-1870

HAYS







NO UNAUTHORIZED
PARKING
VIOLATORS WILL BE
PROSECUTED
BY THE TOWN OF...















Mark
Fidrych:

Northborough's
Most Famous
Bird...

FIDRYCH
20

Visit



NORTHBOROUGH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Northborough Historical Society
CLOSED
FOR THE
SUMMER

&a20CUNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
&a30CNATIONAL PARK SERVICE

&a22CNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
&a29CEVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY First Baptist Church of Northborough
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 2/26/16 &pW DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/28/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/12/16 &pW DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/12/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000157

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 4/12/16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

&a4L

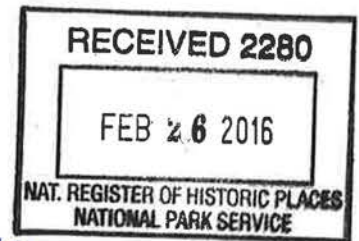
RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

February 18, 2016

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

First Baptist Church of Northborough, 52 Main Street, Northborough (Worcester), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the properties in the district were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Brian Smith, Northborough Historical Commission
Norman D. Corbin
Forest Lyford, Northborough Historical Society
Jeff Amberson, Northborough Board of Selectmen
Kathleen Broomer, consultant
Theresa Capobianco, Northborough Planning Board