

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Roll 17:10A

PHOTO (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)  
Staple to left side of form  
Photo number \_\_\_\_\_

Town Stoneham

Address Central <sup>and</sup> Common Street

Historic Name First Unitarian Church

Use: Original church

Present church

Ownership:  Private individual  
 Private organization

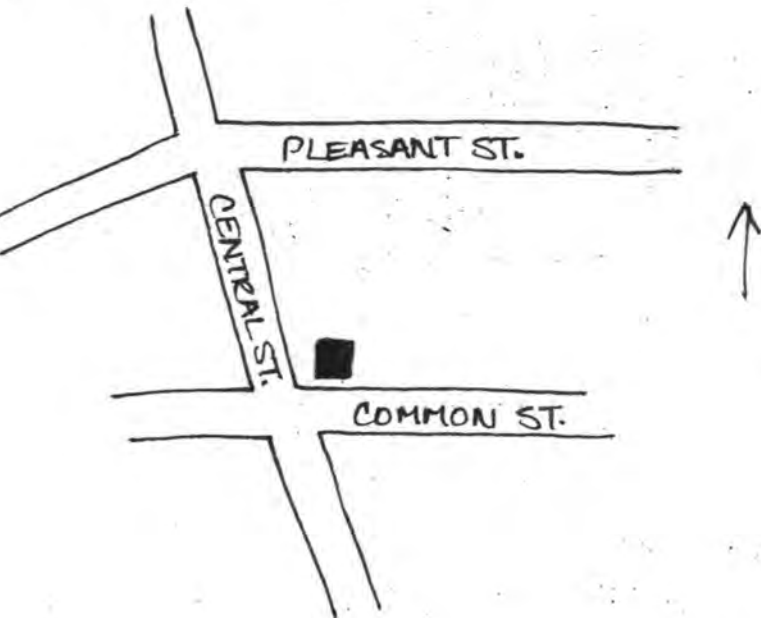
First Unitarian Church

Public \_\_\_\_\_

Original owner First Unitarian Church

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1869

Source documents

Style Stick/Gothic Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_  
roof partly resingled (1970)

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage 8,000 sq. ft.

Setting mix of residential, institutional, and commercial

Recorded by Candace Jenkins with Carole Zellie

Organization Landscape Research

Date May, 1979

Assessor's Map #12-406

UTM: Boston North Quad  
19/327500/4705120

(Staple additional sheets here)

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)**

The First Unitarian Church is the second of three well preserved nineteenth century churches in Stoneham. It is also the town's most stylish example of the Stick Style, or Gothic Revival in wood. Constructed in 1869, it has an L-shaped plan with a prominent steeple and bell tower rising from the intersection. The building is sheathed in clapboards with decorative diagonal and vertical board courses; the main body and tower have asphalt shingle roofs, while the 1½ story side ell preserves its banded slate roof. The main body faces west onto Central Street and contains a central entry with a truss-work porch hood. This is flanked by small, triple, pointed arch windows. At the second story is a large, five part, pointed arch window. The pitched roof is supported on open brackets and exhibits a king post truss in the gable. The tower consists of a two-story base with an entry facing onto Common Street, an open octagonal

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)**

The First Unitarian Church possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. It is significant as Stoneham's most fully developed example of the Stick Style and for its associations with the Unitarian Society. The Unitarian Society was organized in 1858. The present church was dedicated in 1869, during the ministry of E.B. Fairchild. Early photographs show that the original color scheme was in contrasting shades of brown and tan, with a tan body and darker trim, which is characteristic of buildings of the period. The building has suffered few alterations and remains an excellent example of the Stick Style, with exposed rafters, a variety of trusses, and an open spire. It meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

belfry and an octagonal spire with four clock-face dormers.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

- W. Stevens, History of Stoneham, p. 149  
Stoneham (promotional brochure) date unknown, p.15

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received 2/24/84  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 7

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Stoneham Multiple Resource Area  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Farrier, Amasa, Boardinghouse

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4/13/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

22. Farrier, Amasa, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4/13/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

23. First Baptist Church

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4/13/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

24. First Congregational Church

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4/13/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

25. First Unitarian Church

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4/13/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

26. Foley, Michael, Cottage

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4/13/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

27. Foster, Walter K.,  
House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4/13/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

28. Fuller, Enoch, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4/13/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

29. Fuller, William Griffin,  
House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4/13/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

30. Gill, Charles, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 4/13/84  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

First Unitarian Church (Stoneham MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. FEB 28 1984  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/5/85  
Date Due: 3-29-84 - 4-13-84  
Action:  ACCEPT 4-13-84  
 RETURN  
**Entered in the**  RETURN  
**National Register**  REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

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

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Form Prepared By**

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

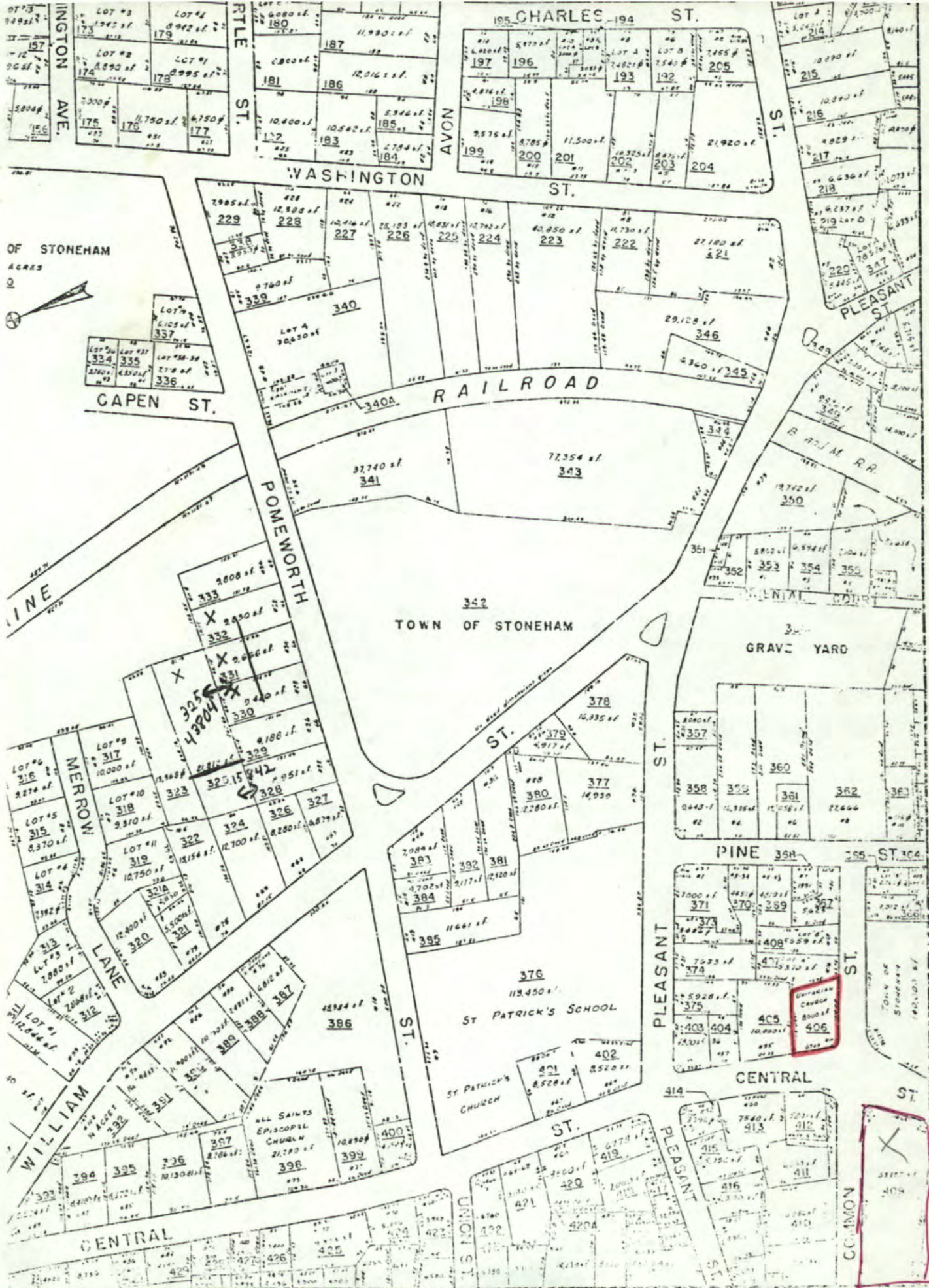
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



First Unitarian Church  
Stoughton MRA, Ma

3616

71



TOWN OF STONEHAM  
ASSESSOR'S MAP

PRESENT DATE  
SCALE 1" = 200'

INVENTORY 1872  
P. 12 Lot 406

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000295