

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received MAR 3 1982

date entered APR 1 1982

1. Name

historic Old South Union Church

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 25 Columbian Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Weymouth

N/A vicinity of

congressional district 12th

state Massachusetts

code 025

county Norfolk

code 021

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment
☐ object	☐ in process	☐ yes: restricted	☐ government
	☐ being considered	☒ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
		☐ no	☐ military
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☐ private residence
			☒ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Old South Union Church

street & number 25 Columbian Street

city, town South Weymouth

N/A vicinity of Columbian Square

state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Norfolk County Registry of Deeds

street & number 650 High Street

city, town Dedham

state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth 5B

title has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1978

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, l Boston

state Massachusetts

7. Description

WEYMOUTH: Old South Union Congregational Church, 25 Columbian St.

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

Old South Union Church (1853) is a fine and unusual example of mid-nineteenth century eclecticism. The building stands at the civic core of the village of South Weymouth, facing Columbian Square.

The main body of the church structure is rectangular in form and plan, with a pedimented frontispiece with a large 3-stage tower and spire. The building is sheathed in clapboards, with flushboarding on the frontispiece and tower.

The ornamentation of the building is a handsome combination of Greek Revival and Italianate forms. The pedimented gable end of the main block contains a raking modillion course; the modillions are repeated on the full entablature which crowns the walls, here accentuated by paired eaves brackets. Small corner quoins further articulate the walls. The tall, narrow windows on this section have 9 over 9 sash with semicircular heads, bracketed sills, and heavy drip moldings.

In contrast to the energetic Italianate details of the main block are the central pavilion and tower, which are more severely Greek. Great panelled Doric pilasters with modillioned capitals support a pediment like that on the main body of the structure. The rectangular windows and main doorway on this frontispiece have simple but very prominent molded architraves, while the doorway on each side of the projection has a Tudor-arched opening.

The focal point of the Old South Union Church is its amply proportioned tower. Constructed in three stages, the tower has a flushboarded and panelled square base with roundfaced clocks and eaves brackets. The octagonal second stage again has flushboarding, panelled sides, and eaves modillions; it also contains four semicircular arched openings spanned at the base by low balustrades. The short third stage is also octagonal, repeating the wall treatment, but with small circular oculi over the arches below, and with a prominent cornice molding arching over the oculi. The tower culminates in an octagonal wooden spire with decorative recessed panels.

The Interior follows the instructions of the Building Committee with its coved ceiling and the specified amount of pews. Most of the details are based on the classic idiom, such as the balustraded choir loft and the facing of the organ loft made up of a Roman arched opening framed with pilasters. The panelled benches, decorated with mahogany finials, are now painted white.

In 1957, a one story brick wing was added to the north elevation. However, as this is attached only by a connector, it does not compromise the original design of the church.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☒ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1854 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old South Union Church is a distinctive illustration of stylistic transition in the mid-nineteenth century. Its role as a cultural and architectural focus of the area meets criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The present church building is the third structure housing the Congregational parish in South Weymouth, established in 1723. Because of the difficulties of attending services in the First Church at North Weymouth (about five miles away), the leading citizens of the southern part of town began the process of parish separation in 1721, culminating in the General Court's official division of the precincts two years later. The parish's first two meetinghouses (1721 and 1785) were located on adjacent sites and no longer stand.

The design of today's Old South Union Church is a striking interplay of forms and shapes. The repetition of arched openings, modillion courses, panelled surfaces, and pedimented gable ends unifies the disparate stylistic elements of the composition. Boldly executed proportions and a clean, clear treatment of surfaces--particularly in the imaginative tower--indicate a highly sophisticated sense of design on the part of the unknown builder.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Nash, Gilbert, Historical Sketch of the Town of Weymouth, Massachusetts from 1622-1844.
Town of Weymouth, 1885.
Weymouth Historical Society, History of Weymouth, Massachusetts, Vols. 1&2, 1923.
Church Records.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 1 acre

Quadrangle name Weymouth

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UMT References

A

1	9	3	3	8	8	0	0	4	6	7	0	8	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Attached map

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

Weymouth Historical Commission

name/title Wendy Frontiero, Preservation Planner with Chester Kevitt, Chairman

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date December 31, 1980

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts 02108

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Rakawa L. Weslowski*

Commission date 2/17/82

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 4/1/82

Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Old South Union Church
State, County: MA, Norfolk
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 3/3/82-610
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83
Date Due: 4-17-82
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4/1/82

Entered in the
National Register

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

photos 2
maps 1

☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

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	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

for NPS use only

C. 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

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USAT 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: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



WEYMOUTH, MA
Old South Union
Church

Looking east
Photo by Chester
Kevitt, 1979
Negative with
photographer at
41 Columbian St.
Photo 1 of 2 Weymouth

OLD SOUTH UNION
CHURCH - LOOKING EAST
TOWARD COLUMBIAN
SQUARE - S. WEYMOUTH

MASS.

MAR 3 1982



WEYMOUTH, MA
Old South Union Ch.

Looking north
Photo by Chester

Kevitt, 1979

Negative with
photographer at
41 Columbian St.,
Weymouth MAR 3 1982
Photo 2 of 2

OLD SOUTH
UNION CHURCH
LOOKING NORTH
SO. WEYMOUTH
MASS

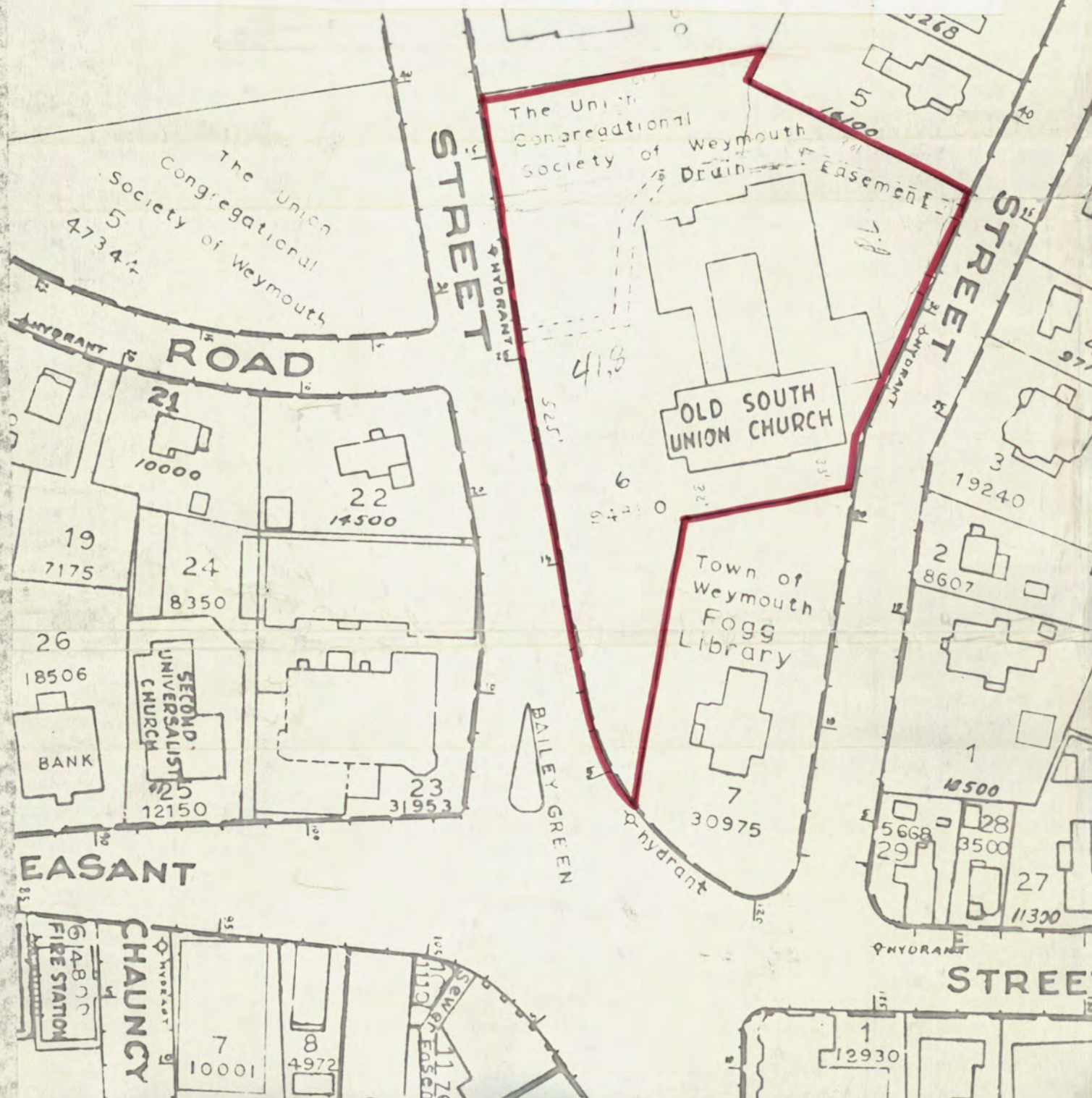
Prepared by: Department of Public Works, Engineering Division

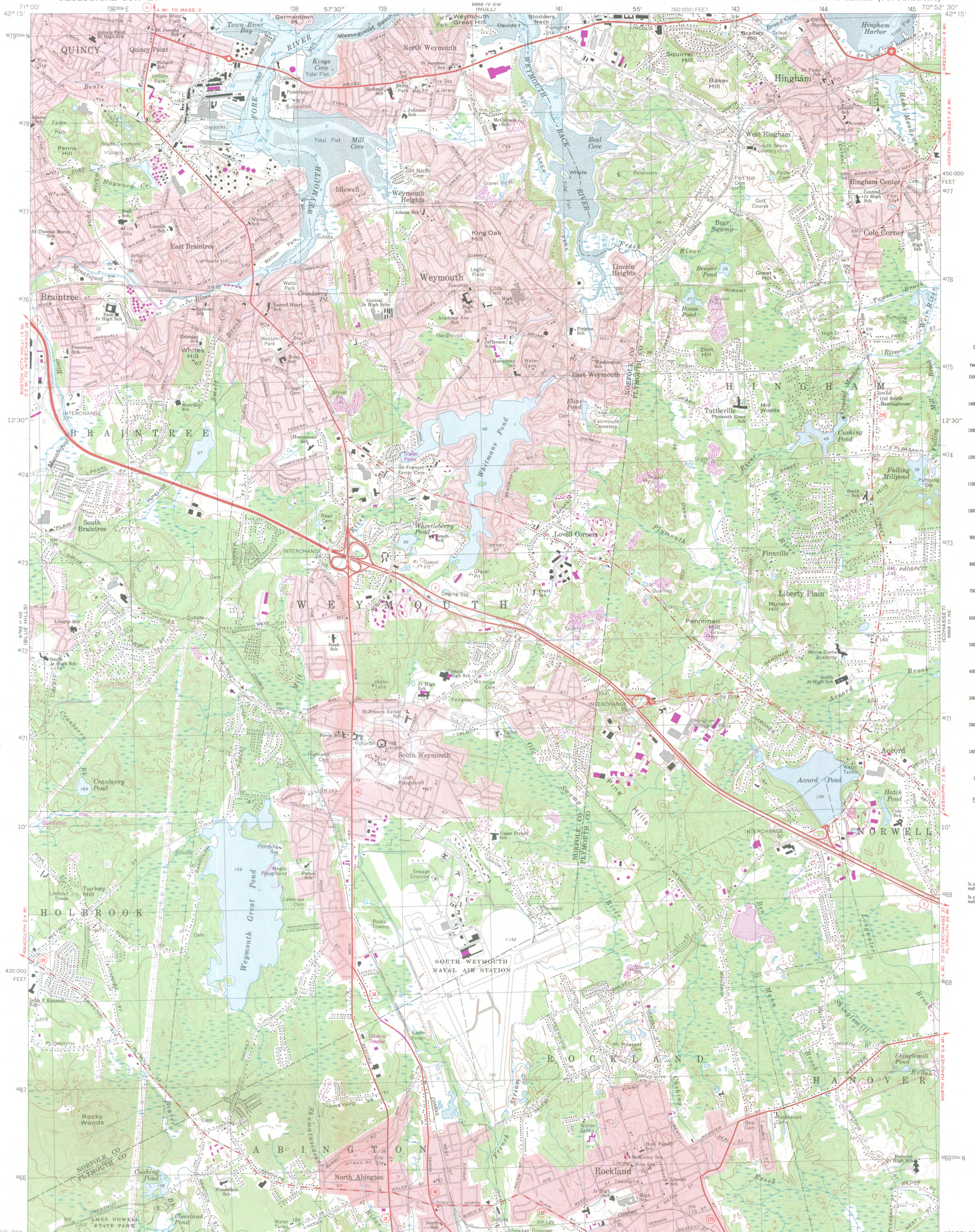
MAR 3 1982

(CONGREGATIONAL) Sheet # 45

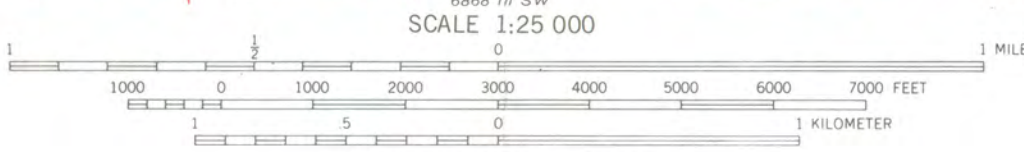
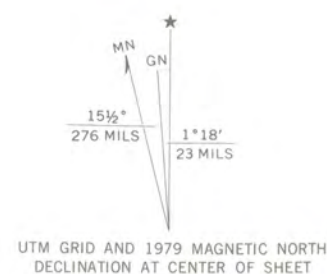
Page # 41

Scale: one inch = 200 ft.





Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
Topography by planimetric surveys 1935. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 246 (1971)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

WEYMOUTH, MASS.
N4207.5—W7052.5/7.5
1971
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6868 III NW—SERIES V814



WEYMOUTH, MA
Old South Union Church
UTM Reference:
19/338800/4670840

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APRIL 1, 1982

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Felton, Nathaniel, Houses	Peabody Essex County
Belcher-Rowe House	Milton Norfolk County
Mills, Davis, House	Needham Norfolk County
<u>Old South Union Church</u>	Weymouth Norfolk County

Notified

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Paul E. Tsongas
Honorable Nicholas Mavroules
Honorable Brian J. Donnelly
Honorable John Joseph Moakley
Honorable Gerry E. Studds

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, NPS
North Atlantic Regional Office, NPS