

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**



920

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 404-410 Washington Street N/A not for publication

city or town Boston N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Suffolk code 025 zip code 02135

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith B. McDonough

Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Office

7/3/97
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register

☐ removed from the
National Register

☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

8/21/97

Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church
Name of Property

Suffolk, MA
County and State

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

2

0

buildings

sites

structures

objects

2

0

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

RELIGION: church-related residence

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

COMMERCE: professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK, STUCCO

roof ASPHALT, STONE: slate

other Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Boston (Brighton), (Suffolk County)
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 1**7. DESCRIPTION**

The Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church complex survives as an early-twentieth-century landmark with the tower and steeple rising approximately 70 feet above the roof, and serving as a focus of Brighton Center. The present structure is the third church of this congregation to occupy this prominent site. The complex occupies a 3,293 square foot lot at the corner of Dighton and Washington Streets on the western end of Brighton Center. The site is relatively flat with a stone retaining wall at the back of the property. The complex consists of a two-story Colonial Revival church on the eastern half of the property with a two-story Colonial Revival parsonage, on the western half set back 80 feet from Washington Street. The surrounding buildings on Washington Street are typically one, two, or three story commercial buildings dating from the turn-of-the-century to the present. The older buildings tend to be wood-frame while the newer are masonry. The neighborhood behind the complex to the south is residential, consisting of typically two-story wood-frame homes from the mid-nineteenth-century to the present.

The two-story gable-roofed side-aisle church, with an entry steeple and Greek Revival portico, was constructed on the foundation of the previous Gothic Revival church which burned in 1921. The wood-frame structure is covered with red brick walls of Flemish bond, and an asphalt shingle roof which replaced slate in 1994.¹ Windows are typically 12-over-12 double-hung sash. The gable ends and facade of the building are covered with stucco. The parsonage was designed to match the church, being two stories tall, with red brick walls of Flemish bond and a slate roof. As with the church, the gable ends of the roof are covered with stucco.

The main entrance fronts Washington Street to the north. An iron fence with gate runs along the street separating church property from the sidewalk. This fence becomes a hedge in front of the parsonage. Two coniferous and two deciduous trees frame the front of the church and a combination of five coniferous and deciduous trees dot the open yard in front of the parsonage. The back of the property is lined with unequally spaced coniferous trees. A chain-link fence runs along the eastern edge of the property separating it from Dighton Street.

Church, 1922 (Contributing building)

The symmetrically laid out church, oriented in a north-south direction consists of the auditorium to the north, and the social hall and vestry to the south. The auditorium is a two-story gable-roofed rectangle, three bays wide and six bays deep, and the social hall is a combination two-story, 't'-shaped gable-roof

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¹ "Annual Report of the House Chairman" Annual Report of Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church,

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and one-story flat roof covering a square plan, seven bays deep, attached to the back end of it. The north facing facade is dominated by a vestibule, one bay deep, and portico projecting out from the front. The porch of the portico is reached by a shallow rise of five steps.

Four giant order fluted Doric columns support the full entablature and pediment of the portico, and two fluted pilasters with Doric capitals frame the ends of the facade. The central bay has a pair of doors with fret motif transom. The surround has floral corner blocks and supports a simple entablature with dentil. Centered above the door is a three-part window. The center section is a 9-over-9 double-hung sash while the outer two sections are 6-over-6 double-hung sash. Two single doors without transom flank the center pair, and mimic them in design. The protected facade and gable are finished in stucco.

A wood-frame three-tier tower with steeple rises up above the vestibule. The massing consists of a square base covered with shiplap siding, a square bell house adorned with classical elements, an octagonal steeple base covered with shiplap siding, and a spire topped with a weathervane. Each face of the base is adorned with a clock while each face of the bell house consists of a round-top opening framed by Doric columns on pedestals supporting a full entablature and pediment above. An open balustrade spans between the column pedestals. The corners of the bell house are articulated by pilasters with Doric capitals, on a raised base, supporting a simple entablature which wraps the tier. Each side of the spire base contains an oval window divided into 12 lights.

Two header courses of brick, aligning with the architrave of the portico, wrap the auditorium creating a frieze above. The simple wood cornice of the portico entablature continues as the eave of the roof. A copper gutter is attached to it, running the length of the roof.

The two-story social hall portion of the building is shorter than the auditorium with the section of roof closest to the auditorium being perpendicular to it. One story sections, with flat roofs, wrap the end of the 't' and cover the rest of the square shaped plan. The gable ends are divided into three bays with windows typically being 6-over-6 double-hung sash. The flat portion of roof originally had a three foot balustrade around its perimeter edge. The southernmost portion remains and is solid wood paneling while the open balustrades of the northern sections no longer remain.

The front doors of the building enter into a small one-story vestibule which leads to the auditorium. The auditorium is a two-story space with a shallow vaulted ceiling, and raised pulpit at the southern end of the space, on center with the entrance doors. The raised platform is reached by four steps. Directly behind the pulpit is the choir gallery and pipe organ. The pipes are framed by Corinthian columns supporting an open-bed pediment with segmental top. Two sets of steps with open balustrades flank the entrance doors, leading to the three-sided balcony which is supported by Doric columns and looks down upon the central portion of the church. All floors were originally specified as oak, but the aisles and

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pulpit have since been carpeted over. Typical Colonial Revival details of notice are the white painted wood pews with mahogany trim, raised wood-paneled balustrade at the balcony edge, urn caps on stair newel posts, and plaster cornice molding supported by a frieze of acanthus leaves.

Two doors flank the pulpit and enter into small vestibule which can also be reached from the exterior. The social hall and vestry are reached from these vestibules. The social hall is a two-story space on access with the auditorium. A stage is located on the southern end, and pocket doors along the east and west walls open into the vestry rooms. A balcony runs along the northern end and half of the east and west walls. A raised wood-paneled wainscoting wraps the room and is identical to the paneled balustrade at the balcony edge. The woodwork in this room is stained. All floors were originally specified as oak, but have since been carpeted over.

Two sets of stairs from the social hall go to the banquet room and kitchen which are located in the basement beneath the auditorium. These spaces are original from the Gothic Revival Church and were rehabilitated after the fire. A paneled wainscoting, consisting of canvas framed in wood, wraps the banquet room. The oak floor has been recently refinished. All interior spaces retain their original integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feel.

Parsonage, 1922 (Contributing building)

The symmetrically laid out parsonage is a two-story, three bay wide, double pile plan with a side-gabled roof. A one-story vestibule with flat roof projects from the center bay of the north facing facade, and is reached by four concrete steps. A one story addition with flat roof extends from the east end. The window on the north side of the addition creates a fourth bay on the first floor of the facade. Windows are typically 6-over-6 double-hung sash and a wood door with lights, flanked by two 4-over-4 double-hung sash windows, provides access into the vestibule.

The first floor of the east elevation is fenestrated with a three-part window on the northern end. The center window is a fixed pane picture window while the outer two sections are double hung. The southern end was originally designed to be a porch, but has since been converted to a finished room and unlike the rest of the house, this section is covered with clapboards painted white to match the trim of the house. One double-hung window is centered within the clapboard wall. The southern elevation is similar to the north facade, being divided into three bays with a door providing access into the house located in the center bay. Later alterations include the addition of aluminum storm/screens to windows, and an aluminum storm door for energy efficiency.

The interior is a typical center hall plan with study and kitchen being to the west and the living room and original dining room to the east. A set of stairs in the hall leads to the second floor and three bedrooms and a bathroom. A back stair provides access directly to the kitchen. The floors were originally wood throughout, but have since been carpeted over. Door and window casings are flat boards with corner blocks. A simple wood crown molding is found in the hall, living room, and office. The living room has

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a fireplace with brick surround and painted wood mantel. The stair balustrade is made up of spindles for the balusters, a clustered newel post, and mahogany rail. All interior spaces retain their original integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feel.

Archaeological Description

The Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church is located at the corner of Washington and Dighton Streets in Brighton. At some point this parcel was cut out of a hillside and graded to its present flat condition. A mortared and dry laid retaining wall as well as a rock outcrop support the hillside at the rear of the lot. The property is occupied by two paved parking lots, the church, the parsonage, and two small, landscaped, yard areas.

No prehistoric sites are recorded where the Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church stands. Seventeen prehistoric sites are located within a one mile radius of the parcel, however most of these sites are located on or near the banks of the Charles River. Considering the land-use history of the parcel, the property has a low potential for the presence of prehistoric sites.

A low to moderate potential exists for the location of historic archaeological survivals on the Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church parcel. Washington Street was originally a Contact Period trail. Cartographic evidence shows the "Cattle Fair" on the property in the late 1700's (Hales, 1819). A "public worship house" is indicated on the 1830's map (Hales, 1830). An 1885 map of the property shows the Brighton Evangelical Church and a wood shed (Bromley, 1885). A fire destroyed the church in 1921, and a new church was constructed on the old foundation and was dedicated in 1922. A potential exists for the recovery of archaeological survivals related to activities that may have taken place in the yard areas. These activities may have included fund raisers such as bazaars or fairs, social gatherings such as church picnics or special events, and possibly ecumenical related activities. Evidence of the fire might also be detected in the archaeological record; however it is possible that the area was cleared prior to the rebuilding of the church structure.

(end)

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.)

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1922-1946

Significant Dates

1922

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Architect/Blackall, Clapp, and Whittemore

Builder/C.S. Allen & Company

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Brighton Historical Society

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church
Name of Property

Suffolk, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 322370 4690540
Zone Easting Northing

2. 19 322450 4690550
Zone Easting Northing

3. 19 322440 4690490
Zone Easting Northing

4. 19 322370 4690490
Zone Easting Northing

 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tobin N. Tracey, Historical Architect, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date June 1997

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church

street & number 408 Washington Street telephone 617-254-4046

city or town Brighton state MA zip code 02135

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Boston (Brighton), (Suffolk County)
Massachusetts**Section number 8 Page 1**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church complex is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, meeting criteria A and C at the local level. A religious property, it meets criterion consideration A for its architecture. The present church complex is the third church to be constructed on the site, the first house of worship having been built on the site in 1827. It was the second congregation organized and founded in the town of Brighton, and is representative of the early-nineteenth-century schism between Evangelical and Unitarian factions of New England's Congregational Church.

Historically, the site falls under the category of social history because it was used by many of the residents moving into the growing community as a social gathering spot. It has always served as a focal point in the changing and growing Brighton Center, and the present church survives as an early twentieth-century landmark. When the land was first purchased, the surrounding area was used mostly for agricultural purposes, but by 1946 it was a busy urban center with few signs of the original agricultural center remaining.

Architecturally, the church complex is an excellent local example of Colonial Revival ecclesiastic architecture, and a rare example by the Boston architectural firm of Blackall, Clapp, and Whittemore. It is relatively unaltered from its original construction and retains its integrity of location, setting, materials, and workmanship.

SOCIAL HISTORY

The 1922 Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church building has remained as one of the few early-twentieth-century landmarks in Brighton Center. It stands as a beacon of stability, representing both the prosperity of the early part of the twentieth century and a surviving institution from Brighton's early days.

As early as 1775, Jonathon Winship and his son Jonathon Winship II were operating cattle yards on Washington Street to feed the Revolutionary Army which was headquartered across the river in Cambridge. During this time period Brighton was a part of Cambridge and called Little Cambridge. In 1807 the two towns separated, and Brighton became its own municipality on February 24 of that year. Around 1820 the cattle yards were relocated to the north of Washington Street, bounded by Market Street on the east and Parsons Street on the west. Hastings Tavern, now non-extant, was located on the northeast corner of Washington and Parsons Streets, adjacent to the yards. The Cattle Fair Hotel was built on the northwest corner of Washington and Market Streets in 1830.

Across Washington Street to the south, the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture located its fair grounds and exhibition hall permanently in 1818. The exhibition hall was located at the top of Dighton Street on land purchased from Abiel Winship overlooking the cattle yards to the north.

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The first church established in the town of Brighton was the First Church of Brighton, originally called the Third Parish Church of Cambridge, around 1783. At that time each town was served by a single, tax-supported, orthodox church. By the latter part of the eighteenth century the "Great Awakening" had started. This was a movement brought about by the dissent of parishioners that threatened to split the church into many fragments. In 1827, a group of twenty-five parishioners, led by Captain Nathaniel Griggs, split apart from the First Church out of dissatisfaction with the preaching of the Reverend Foster at the First Parish Church. The original journal of the Congregational Church states:

The old Minister, Dr. Foster, was a Unitarian - his preaching produced very little effect. Being situated in high life, his visits were complained of as being partial; he became unpopular, his meetings were little attended, his influence small. The dissatisfaction with Dr. Foster and the division in his parish led to the introduction of evangelical preaching.²

The new group of parishioners first sought to form a Baptist church, as that was the faith of Captain Griggs. The Baptist Church however did not feel that they would be welcome in Brighton, and thus the Congregational Church was formed. (The first Baptist Church finally arrived in the 1850s.³) The new congregation raised funds, purchased land, and constructed a church which was dedicated on September 13, 1827. The land was at the corner of Washington and Dighton Streets, where the current church stands, directly across the street from Hastings Tavern and the Cattle Fair Hotel. In his History of the Foundation of The Brighton Evangelical Congregational Society, William Marchione states:

No social problem of the 1820s caused the evangelical denominations greater concern than the prevalence of heavy drinking in American society. The Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church would fight a long and vigorous battle against alcohol, which was readily available in Brighton's many taverns, inns and hotels.⁴

Of the original twenty-five members, nineteen were women. It was not uncommon for Protestant churches of the nineteenth century to have more women members than men. The church served as a social outlet for women at this time in society. The woman's domain was typically the home, while the man's was the outside world. Women played an important role within the church, raising funds for

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² Records of the Evangelical Congregational Church, 1827-1863, p. 1.

³ William Marchione, "A Complete History of Allston-Brighton," The Brighton Allston Item, 17 August 1984, p.25 (A).

⁴ William Marchione presented a paper to the members of the Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church on May 16, 1987 for the church's 160th anniversary celebration. It was reprinted on June 3, 1990, in the program for The Services of Installation and Dedication, for the installation of Rev. John T. Eller.

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interior furnishings, carpeting, and painting. In 1841, the original 60 foot long by 47 foot wide wood frame structure was enlarged by raising it and making a larger vestry, a choir loft, and adding a bell tower. A newspaper article recounting the history of the church states:

Donation parties were in vogue in those days, and women had a large part in those gatherings. They met early at the homes in the afternoon for sewing meetings, sometimes returning home at tea time, and sometimes remaining for the simple tea, to which the husbands and fathers came.⁵

In 1831 the first parsonage was constructed behind the church, on land it owned, at a cost of \$2,200.⁶ The church was in financial difficulty and could not afford to build the parsonage, so one of the church deacons, Thaddeus Baldwin, offered to pay for it if the church would deed him the land. He then agreed to deed the land back to the church when they were capable of paying for the parsonage. After the deacon died, three members of the congregation purchased the property with the same agreement to deed it to the church once they could afford to purchase it. It became evident that the church was never going to be able to purchase the parsonage and it was finally sold to a private citizen. That Greek Revival house is extant, however it is greatly altered.

In 1844, the grounds of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture were sold, divided up, and the exhibition hall moved to the southeast corner of Washington Street and Chestnut Hill Avenue. Brighton was beginning to grow as a community and between 1860 and 1870 it went from having 70 percent of its land devoted to farming to approximately 20 percent of its land devoted to farming. The train had arrived, and people that could afford to, moved out of Boston to the suburbs. The commute from Brighton Center was only about 3 ½ miles. Brighton was eventually annexed by Boston in January 1874. The Cattle Fair Hotel was prospering at this time, having been enlarged in 1852. People moving from Boston were mostly businessmen of the upper-middle class. The Cattle Yards were thriving and wealthy cattle dealers were building homes in the developing neighborhoods.

In 1867, the congregation had grown to such an extent that it was decided to build a new church on the site of the original. Many records were lost in the 1921 fire so it is not clear if the 1827 structure was sold and moved or if it was torn down. An article from 1921 discussing the history of the church stated "... the old edifice was removed across the street and a new church erected on the same site. Gas lights and an organ and later a piano were among the new furnishings ..."⁷

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⁵ "Pageant Recently Presented Gives Historical Facts," The Recorder, 17 June 1921.

⁶ Brighton Evangelical Church, 1827-1927, (Brighton, MA: The Item Press), p. 11.

⁷ Op cit. The Recorder, 17 June 1921. Discussions with William Marchione, of the Brighton Historical Society, indicate that this article may have been confused with the moving of the First Parish Church. No other records have been found to confirm this and there is no indication of which piece of land the wood-framed church was moved to.

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The new church was designed by George Fuller. Mr. Fuller was a successful young architect who had graduated from Yale. His father, Granville Fuller, had designed the Brighton Town Hall in 1841. Granville Fuller had joined the Congregational Church on April 26, 1839.⁸ The new church was Gothic Revival with a nave, side aisles, two unequal spires, and buttresses. The cost was approximately \$29,000. Historic photographs show it being located in the same spot as the first church, however it is unclear if the old foundation was used or a new foundation was built. This structure was enlarged in 1902 to accommodate its growing membership. The interior was rehabilitated, a banquet hall and kitchen put in the basement, and the chapel enlarged. The women of the church were active in raising funds for the furnishings of the church and the rehabilitation. Between 1867 and 1902, they raised over \$6,500 through bake sales and fairs.

The church was not only a social place for the women of the community, but also for the youth. In the last decade of the nineteenth-century, the Junior Endeavor Society was created. This organization met once a week and provided social activities for the youth of the church. They also raised money and volunteered for local charities. The 1903 Annual Report of the Society listed the average attendance for the previous year as 72 per Sunday.

In 1881, the Brighton Cattle Yards were closed and moved closer to the railroad. This land was divided up into residential house lots. The Cattle Fair Hotel was torn down in 1898 and one-story commercial buildings built along Washington Street during the first decade of the twentieth-century. An electric streetcar route was added down Washington Street, past this new neighborhood and the church in 1890, bringing more people to Brighton. This influx of people caused two new Congregational churches to form as outgrowths from the Evangelical Church. In 1886 the Allston Congregational Church was incorporated and in 1903 the Faneuil Congregational Church was incorporated.

On Sunday January 16, 1921, a devastating fire broke out and destroyed the church and most of its contents. The congregation quickly gathered and decided to rebuild on the foundation of the burned church. They had maintained a house of worship on the site for nearly 100 years and it was one of the few surviving institutions from Brighton's early days as a community. A building committee was

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⁸ Church records list Granville Fuller as a lumber dealer. He was chairman of the Building Committee, on the Parish Committee for many years, and a teacher in the Sunday School. When Granville Fuller died in 1892, he left an endowment of \$10,000 to the church. His son, Granville A. Fuller, was appointed as a trustee to oversee the endowment. This endowment has grown and still provides funding for the church.

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formed consisting of George E. Brock, Will S. Fuller, James T. Knowles, Frank G. Newhall, and Henry H. Sullivan. All five men were active in the church and prominent members of the community.⁹ The present Colonial Revival Church was completed and dedicated on June 25, 1922. At the same time that the church was being rebuilt, the land to the west of the church was purchased for a new parsonage. This was designed in the Colonial Revival style to match the church.

It was a prosperous time for the church, its membership having grown to 402 by the beginning of 1922.¹⁰ Between 1880 and 1930, Brighton's population had grown tenfold.¹¹ It started leveling off in the 1920s because land was diminishing, and it slowed even more during the depression. Religion was an important part of the community life, as is evident from the construction of ten new churches between 1893 and 1921, and a hub for social activity. Historic photographs from the 1920s show dinners in the Banquet Hall in which not a seat was to be had. Many newspaper articles discussed church related activities, such as the Women's Association or the Men's Club. The 1940 Annual Report listed a membership of 447.

The 1922 design included a Social Hall with stage on the south end of the church. This, along with the Banquet Hall in the basement, allowed for numerous community activities. Records of the Board of Deacons list public lectures, choral activities with other churches, the Boy Scouts, and plays presented for the public. In addition to this, outreach programs to help the needy in the community were occurring. A 1926 listing in the Records of the Board of Deacons lists the approval that "we pay \$10 per month from the Deacon's fund towards the aid of Adelle Nadekian for the remainder of the year." There is also discussion of the delivery of food baskets to the elderly and shut-ins, and money was raised and donated to local missions and hospitals.

The year 1929 brought the beginning of the depression and according to William Marchione "... Allston-Brighton was relatively well-off in the depression years."¹² The population of Brighton increased sixteen percent between 1930 and 1935, houses were still being constructed at a greatly reduced, but steady rate, three large screen motion picture theaters were constructed, and the church continued as a hub of social activity. The weekly church bulletin listed a dinner for the Men's Club in

(continued)

⁹ The Boston Directory for the Year Commencing July 1921 lists George E. Brock as president of the Home Savings Bank; Will S. Fuller, grandson of Granville Fuller (1839 member of the church), working for Granville Fuller and Son lumber business; James T. Knowles working for Chamber of Commerce and in 1922 vice president of [581 Washington]; and Henry Sullivan as a mechanical engineer. No occupation was given for Frank Newhall.

¹⁰ "One of the Grandest Ever Held, Ninety-fifth Annual Meeting of the Brighton Congregational Church so Characterized," The Item, 14 January 1922.

¹¹ Op. Cit. William Marchione, p. 36 (A)

¹² Ibid. p. 37 (A)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetBrighton Evangelical Congregational Church
Boston (Brighton), (Suffolk County)
MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 6

1933 which a Mr. George R. Glendening, President and Treasurer of Banker & Tradesman would be speaking. He was going to be speaking on the latest activities in the business world and people were encouraged to purchase tickets early because a large crowd was expected. Also listed in a church bulletin from 1933 was a church outing to the Stowe Golf Course in Stowe, MA. It was to be an all day outing "... to help in creating a spirit of good fellowship among the church people ..."¹³

This sort of social activity and community outreach has continued and grown throughout the twentieth century. While Brighton has continued to change with the ethic background of today far different from what it was in 1900, the Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church has remained as one of the few early twentieth-century landmarks and a symbol of Brighton Center.

ARCHITECTURE

The present Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church complex of church, social hall, and parsonage, is locally significant as an example of Colonial Revival ecclesiastical architecture. When the Gothic Revival church was destroyed by fire on January 16, 1921, the congregation looked upon the unfortunate incident in a positive manner and saw it as their opportunity to build a modern house of worship that would "... exhibit the best traditions of the New England Meeting House."¹⁴ They also purchased the land to the west of the church to build a new parsonage. By the 1920s the Colonial Revival was second only to the Gothic Revival as the preferred style for new American churches.¹⁵

The Colonial Revival movement had actually begun in the Boston area as early as the 1870s. The architecture firm of Ware and Van Brunt did some rehabilitation work to Harvard Hall, preserving the original 1764 Colonial detailing. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology was encouraging its architecture students to make measured drawings of significant Colonial structures by the mid-1870s. The nation's centennial celebration heightened the public's interest in the past, and architecture publications began to publish Colonial era designs as proof that interest in the older buildings survived. In 1876 American Architecture urged "that before it is too late a record should be secured of what is interesting among these relics."¹⁶ In 1877, Charles Cummings addressed the AIA Convention and read a paper on the problems of the modern church. He felt that the architecture of the church should represent the religion that worshipped within. Therefore, he theorized that the Protestant church needed to emulate the simple form of eighteenth century meetinghouses. As in other parts of the country, the Colonial Revival in Boston took root with houses and didn't really start to evolve as a style for church architecture until the beginning of the twentieth century.

(continued)

¹³ "The Messenger," 14 May 1933.

¹⁴ Op. Cit. Brighton Evangelical Church, 1827-1927, p. 10.

¹⁵ William Rhoads, The Colonial Revival, (New York: Garland Publishing Inc.) p. 200.

¹⁶ Ibid. p. 76.

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetBrighton Evangelical Congregational Church
Boston (Brighton), (Suffolk County)
MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 7

The period of 1880-1950 "marks almost precisely the period which Boston church architecture achieved such excellence that it decisively shaped the ecclesiastical architecture of the country."¹⁷ Many of these churches were Colonial Revival and drawings and photographs of them were published in national magazines, such as American Architect and Building News. In 1916 The White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs was first published, and these quickly became idea books for practicing architects. Each year a competition was held that dealt with common building concerns of the time. In 1922, the competition was for "A Country Church and Sunday-School Building with Residence for the Minister." First and third prize, as well as fifth mention, went to Boston architects. All three designs were of the Colonial Revival style. Early examples of Colonial Revival Churches erected in the Boston area include the 1916 Second Unitarian Church in Brookline and the 1917 Our Savior American Lutheran Church on Paris Street, East Boston.

It is not surprising then, that the Evangelical Congregational Church was interested in the Colonial Revival or that they hired the Boston architectural firm of Blackall, Clapp, and Whittemore. The firm had already designed the Wilbur Theater (1914) and Colonial Theater (1900) along with several residences in the Colonial Revival Style. They also had extensive experience in church design including Tremont Temple in Boston (1896), Temple Adath Israel in Boston (1903), designs for a church in Everett, MA (1905), and designs for the First Baptist Church in Melrose, MA (1906) to name a few.

Clarence Blackall had studied architecture at the University of Illinois followed by three years of training at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris from 1878-1880. He returned to work in New York before settling in Boston in 1884. He was a leading draftsman for Peabody & Stearns when he became the first American student to win the Rotch Traveling Scholarship. After traveling and studying in Europe for two more years, he returned to Boston and started a partnership with James Clapp and Charles Whittemore in 1889.

Blackall would have studied the Colonial Revival while working at Peabody & Stearns. Peabody had been one of the men that recorded local Colonial buildings in the 1870s, and had also attended the Ecole des Beaux Arts where he was trained in the design principles of classical architecture. Other architects from his generation, with similar training, considered the American Georgian as the classical style of America, and thus incorporated those design principles into new Colonial Revival designs. Not all Beaux Art trained architects approached their work in this scholarly manner. In his dissertation Rhoads states: "Blackall and many others in the profession were more or less indifferent to the choice of historical styles."¹⁸ This is evident in Blackall's ecclesiastical designs in which no two churches appear to be of the same style.

(continued)

¹⁷ Douglass Shand Tucci, Church Building in Boston 1720-1970, (Concord: The Rumford Press) p. 9.

¹⁸ Op Cit. The Colonial Revival, p. 389.

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetBrighton Evangelical Congregational Church
Boston (Brighton), (Suffolk County)
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The design for the Evangelical Congregational Church was similar to many Colonial Revival churches being built at the time. The typical design included a gabled portico supported by giant order Doric columns in front of a rectangular shaped gabled church with a steeple. Other nearby churches besides the Brighton church with this design include, the Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church in Arlington (1921), the First Baptist Church in Weston (1923), and the First Church of Christ Scientist in Newton (1924-27). The prospectus for the new Brighton church stated that "architectural details have been adapted from the best known examples of Colonial churches . . ."¹⁹ The church's tiered frame steeple is reminiscent of the 1809 steeple design for the Park Street Church by Peter Banner. The original design for the church showed a shorter tower without a steeple. Instead of a steeple there was a domed top which was typical of early Colonial Revival design as is seen on the Congregational Church in Williamsburg, MA (1902).²⁰

The church is rectangular in plan, two stories high, with 12-over-12 double hung sash windows, and red brick. The entrance is from the gable end, and tripartite in design with a central entrance door flanked by two less ornate entry doors. This design, along with the Weston (1923) and Newton (1924-1927) churches, was a predecessor of what was to be common by the 1930s. In his article on the Colonial Revival in the 1930s, David Gebhard states:

Whether it was a small post office in a mid-western town, a school in New England, or a collegiate building in the Pacific Northwest, the characteristic design was a red brick structure whose facade presented a balanced composition, accentuated usually by small-pane windows, central ornamental entrances, and the roof surmounted by a cupola and spire.²¹

William Rhoads points out in his dissertation that the use of brick, stone, and iron in place of wood as the main material is a result of the classical Beaux Arts training of many architects designing in the Colonial Revival style. These materials give a greater sense of monumentality than wood.

Attached to the back of the church is a two-story social hall with stage and vestry. It is also of red brick with a gable roof, the gable being perpendicular to the church. Churches were active social centers at the beginning of the twentieth century and it was common to include a social hall with the design of the church. To complete the complex, a parsonage was also included in the design. It sits to the west of the church, set back from the street, and is a red brick, rectangular shaped, two-story, gable roofed house with 6-over-6 double hung sash windows. The White Pine Series competition problem for 1922 was:

(continued)

¹⁹ Prospectus for Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church, 1921.

²⁰ This church was one of two Massachusetts churches discussed in a May 3, 1902 article in American Architect and Building News entitled "Remodeled Colonial Churches." Both churches were being remodeled and many Georgian details were incorporated to the design.

²¹ David Gebhard, "The American Colonial Revival in the 1930s," Winterthur Portfolio, Autumn 1987, p. 142.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church
Boston (Brighton), (Suffolk County)
Massachusetts**Section number 8 Page 9

A Church building proper, to seat approximately 350, and to contain a gallery large enough to accommodate a double quartette. This gallery may be at either end of the auditorium. . . . A Sunday-school Building directly connected with the Church, but not necessarily arranged to open into it. Main Auditorium to seat approximately 225, with stage suitable for simple entertainments. Eight classrooms, 100 square feet each, will be needed for the various grades of the Sunday-school. These may be partitioned from the main seating space by curtains or by folding screens, or may be separate rooms. . . . A Kitchen and Pantry, 800 square feet connected with the Auditorium. . . . A Manse, or residence for the minister, to contain, on the ground floor, Living-room, Study, Dining-room, Kitchen, and Pantry. On the second floor, four Bedrooms and two Baths.²²

The Evangelical Congregational Church complex contains all of the components of this program. Blackall, Clapp, and Whittemore could have taken their design and placed it directly on the site plan for the competition, made some minor alterations, and submitted it as an entry.

On the interior, the church is a simple side aisle church with balcony on three sides. The balcony has a raised panel front and is supported by Doric columns. The raised pulpit has a choir gallery behind it with a pipe organ being the focus of attention. The all white interior is reminiscent of many eighteenth-century churches. The atmosphere is typical of several eighteenth-century churches in Boston including both the Old North Church and Old South Church.

The church and parsonage retain their architectural integrity and remain relatively unaltered from the time of their construction.

By the 1960s, Brighton had started to become overcrowded and the physical deterioration, along with the decline in public education, encouraged the middle class to move to more affluent neighborhoods. This brought a decline in membership to the church and the 1960 Annual Report listed the official membership as 271 with the average attendance at 108. Civic groups started to emerge to try and help revitalize the area and help the local residents. Many of these groups are what help the church survive today.

In 1985, the residing minister moved into his own residence and the parsonage was rented as office space to generate income. Today it houses the church office, minister's study, a law office, and three physical therapist's offices.

The 1994 Annual Report listed the official membership at 80, but interviews with members indicate that only about 50 of those people are active. These members are of all different backgrounds and they speak at least five different languages. Free meals are served to the low income and homeless each Wednesday

(continued)

²² Russel F. Whitehead and Frank Choteau Brown, The White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs; reprint Lisa C. Mullins and Roy Underhill, Blueprints for Americas Past, (The National Historical Society)

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Continuation Sheet****Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church
Boston (Brighton), (Suffolk County)
Massachusetts**Section number 8 Page 10

evening and approximately 75 people show up. Food baskets are handed out each Friday and Saturday to around 25 families. The church rents out their Banquet Hall and Auditorium to several other organizations including area schools, the Girl Scouts, and the local Catholic Church. The money raised from this, along with an endowment left by past members, is what allows the congregation to survive debt free today.

Archaeological Significance

It is unlikely that any prehistoric sites would survive on the Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church parcel. Most of the known prehistoric sites in the area are located along or near the banks of the Charles River. Prior to the property being graded, the land would have sloped significantly and would not have been an ideal location for prehistoric activities.

A low to moderate potential exists for the recovery of historic archaeological remains. These survivals could provide evidence relating to the use of the structure as a religious, educational, and social facility. Because of the land-use history of the parcel, specifically the initial grading of the hillside, and the possible clearing and clean up activities after the fire, the potential for the recovery of archaeological survivals is limited.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church
Boston (Brighton), (Suffolk County)
Massachusetts

Section number 9 Page 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHY REFERENCES

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(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
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Boston (Brighton), (Suffolk County)
Massachusetts**Section number 9, 10 Page 2, 1

"One of the Grandest Ever Held, Ninety-fifth Annual Meeting of the Brighton Congregational Church so Characterized," The Item, 14 January 1922.

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(continued)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATAVerbal Boundary Description

The property is bounded by Washington Street to the north, the Greater Boston Bank to the west, a stone retaining wall to the south, and Dighton Street to the east. The boundaries are identified on the accompanying map.

(end)

Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass all land historically known as the Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church Complex. The property includes the church, parsonage, and grounds.

(end)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Suffolk

DATE RECEIVED: 7/24/97 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/05/97
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/21/97 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/07/97
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 97000920

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 8/21/97 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



1. BRIGHTON EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2. SUFFOLK COUNTY, MA
3. TOBIN TRACEY, PHOTOGRAPHER
4. APRIL 13, 1996
5. TOBIN TRACEY, NEGATIVES
6. CHURCH, NORTH AND EAST ELEVATIONS, LOOKING
SOUTHWEST



1. BRIGHTON EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2. SUFFOLK COUNTY, MA
3. TOBIN TRACEY, PHOTOGRAPHER
4. APRIL 13, 1996
5. TOBIN TRACEY, NEGATIVES
6. PARSONAGE, NORTH AND EAST ELEVATIONS,
LOOKING SOUTHWEST



1. BRIGHTON EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2. SUFFOLK COUNTY, MA
3. TOBIN TRACEY, PHOTOGRAPHER
4. APRIL 13, 1996
5. TOBIN TRACEY, NEGATIVES
6. AUDITORIUM, RAISED PULPIT AND CHOIR GALLERY,
LOOKING SOUTH



JOE HOGAN
Attorney At Law
782-5152

410
Washington St.
Brighton Center

1. BRIGHTON EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2. SUFFOLK COUNTY, MA.
3. TOBIN TRACEY, PHOTOGRAPHER
4. APRIL 13, 1996
5. TOBIN TRACEY, NEGATIVES
6. PARSONAGE, NORTH ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH



1. BRIGHTON EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2. SUFFOLK COUNTY, MA
3. TOBIN TRACEY, PHOTOGRAPHER
4. APRIL 13, 1996
5. TOBIN TRACEY, NEGATIVES
6. AUDITORIUM, BALCONY AND DOORS TO ENTRANCE
VESTIBULE, LOOKING NORTH



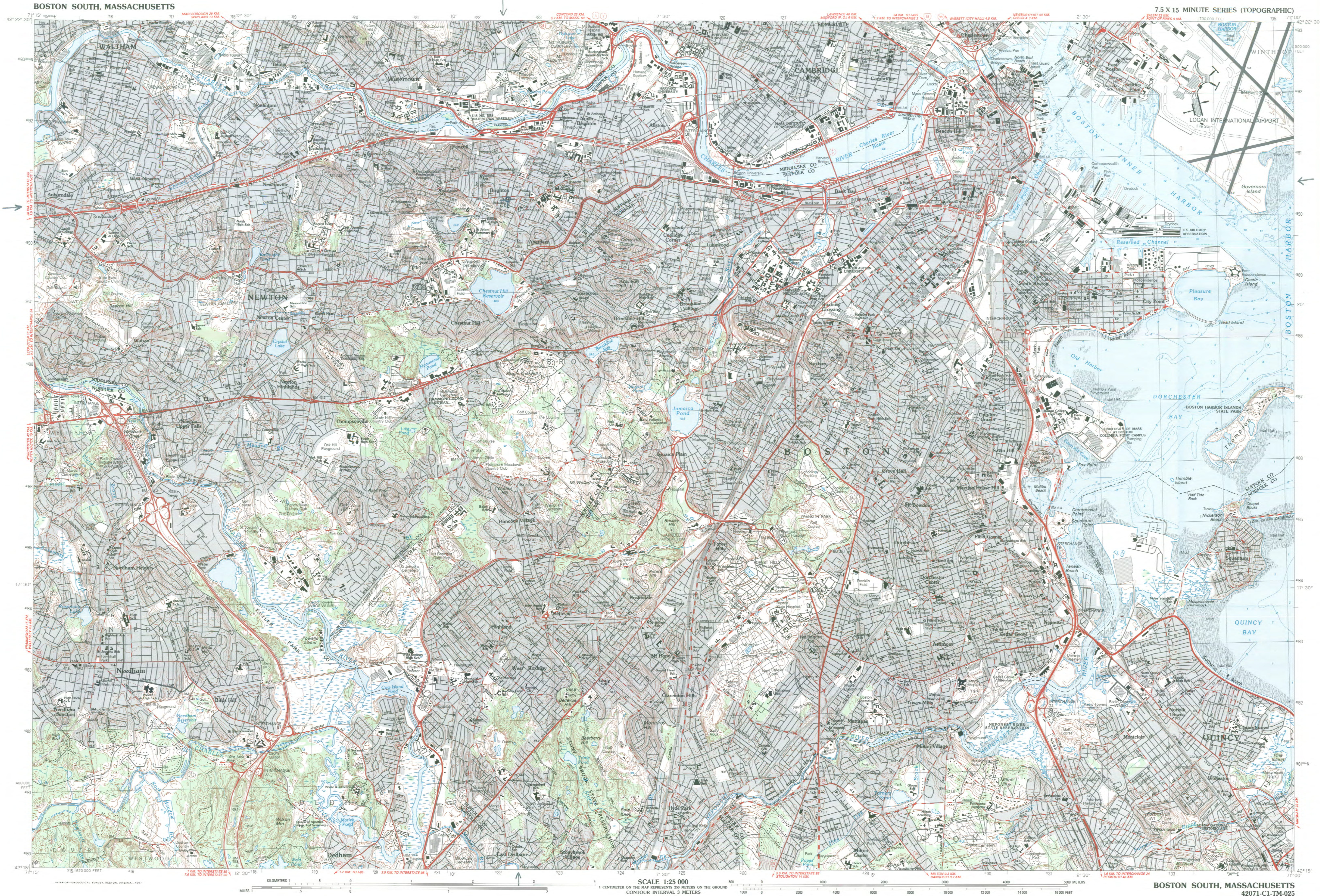
1. BRIGHTON EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2. SUFFOLK COUNTY, MA
3. TOBIN TRACEY, PHOTOGRAPHER
4. APRIL 13, 1996
5. TOBIN TRACEY, NEGATIVES
6. CHURCH, NORTH AND WEST ELEVATIONS, LOOKING SOUTHEAST



1. BRIGHTON EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
2. SUFFOLK COUNTY, MA
3. TOBIN TRACEY, PHOTOGRAPHER
4. APRIL 13, 1996
5. TOBIN TRACEY, NEGATIVES
6. CHURCH, N. ELEVATION, LOOKING
SOUTH



1. BRIGHTON EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2. SUFFOLK COUNTY, MA
3. TOBIN TRACEY, PHOTOGRAPHER
4. APRIL 13, 1996
5. TOBIN TRACEY, NEGATIVES
6. CHURCH, ENTRANCE DOORS, LOOKING SOUTH



Boston South
MASSACHUSETTS
BRIGHTON EVANGELICAL CONGREG. CHURCH
1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map
404-410 WASHINGTON ST.

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

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

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1987

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1978. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1987. Supersedes Newton and Boston South 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1970.
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 13270 (1982) and 13272 (1982). This information is not intended for navigational purposes.
Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 19.
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, maintained since 1927 North American Datum.
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 42 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
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS
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 2.9 METERS

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Feet	Diagram		1	2	3
1	3.281			1	2	3
2	6.562			4	5	
3	9.843			6	7	
4	13.124			8		
5	16.405					
6	19.686					
7	22.967					
8	26.248					
9	29.529					
10	32.810					

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.281
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

UTM grid convergence (1983) at center of map
Diagram is approximate

ISBN 0-607-00135-6
9 780607 001356

Topographic Map Symbols

Symbol	Description
—	Primary highway, hard surface
- - -	Secondary highway, hard surface
— · — · —	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
...	Unimproved road, trail
—+—+—	Route marker: Interstate (I), U.S. State
—+—+—	Railroad: standard gauge; narrow gauge
—+—+—	Bridge: drawbridge
—+—+—	Footbridge; overpass; underpass
—+—+—	Railroad 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 section corner
—+—+—	U.S. public lands survey: range, township, section
—+—+—	Range, township, section line: location approximate
—+—+—	Free or sold 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
—+—+—	Soundings; depth curve
—+—+—	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; wooded
—+—+—	Scrub; mangrove
—+—+—	Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

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

BRIGHTON EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

[illegible]



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

July 3, 1997

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church, 404-410 Washington Street, Boston
(Suffolk Co.), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Since the city of Boston is a participant in the Certified Local Government Program, the owners of the church were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60 to 120 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: David Burke, Brighton Evangelical Congregational Church
Boston Landmarks Commission
Thomas M. Menino, Mayor, City of Boston
Tobin N. Tracy, Ann Beha Associates, Preservation Consultant