

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER: JAN 19 1972	DATE: 1972

1. NAME

COMMON: **Trinity Church**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
50, Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Pawtucket

STATE: **Rhode Island, 02860** CODE: **44** COUNTY: **Providence** CODE: **007**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments _____
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Trinity Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
50, Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Pawtucket** STATE: **Rhode Island** CODE: **44**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
137, Roosevelt Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **Pawtucket** STATE: **Rhode Island** CODE: **44**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than one acre**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Not so represented

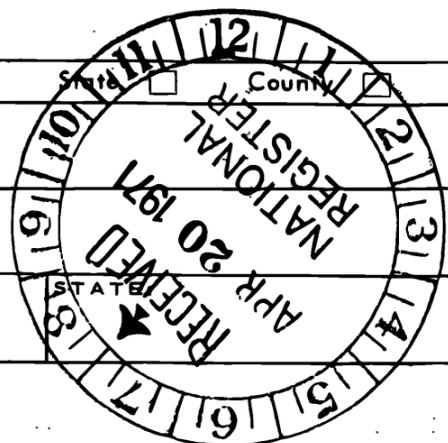
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This church was built from plans drawn in 1850-1851 by Samuel J. Ladd; actual construction began in May, 1852, and reached completion in July, 1853, except for the upper part of the tower, finished in 1854. The building is of stone and timber construction, steeply gabled, and carries a slate roof. The tower is at the north-west (front and entrance) corner and is capped by a peaked hipped roof interrupted on its four sides by gables containing lancet-arched, louvred openings; it contains the church bell. Along the west side of the church body (which for convenience may be said to be on a north-south axis) is built out along its full length an ambulatory or side-chapel extension, shed-roofed. Between the bays of this extension are jogged or stepped stone buttresses, duplicated along the opposite side of the church and at all its angles. On this (west) side only, a series of gabled dormers containing lancet windows is let into the roof of the church proper. Exterior walls are of native grey-beige fieldstone in random ashlar; dressings or cappings are of brown sandstone (now painted, probably to prevent flaking).

The over-all exterior appearance is reminiscent of a modest XIV Century English parish church in the "pointed" style. This no doubt is what was wanted and all that could be afforded in the 1850's by a young congregation in the Pawtucket locale. Like its models, the church is simply and honestly constructed: the only external adornment is in the window and door shapes (of lancet form throughout, excepting small trefoils in the tower and main gables) and in the arrangement of outward forms housing, and indicating, interior accommodation. This church is of course a product of the Gothic Revival, but by its lack of attempted exterior embellishment it actually gains in "period" integrity or character: there are no harsh surface contrasts, and there is no pretentious mechanically produced stone or wood carving.

Internally the original plan gives a long, barn-like, gabled church auditorium, entered from the tower and a cross-hall at the north and having a chancel recess at the south. Its roof is supported by heavy rafters with high collar-beams sustained by braces of pointed-arch form, with a stretch of purlins between eaves and peak. The braces have a simple cut-out adornment of slim triangles above circles near their lower terminations, which are supported on posts projecting slightly from the side walls. These posts define the bays of the auditorium's length. The large and high opening to the chancel is of pointed form, conforming to that of the braces, and the chancel has a tripartite window (one tall, two lower lancet openings) above the altar and reredos. There is a five-part graduated grouping of windows at the opposite or north end. All windows contain stained glass. Below the eaves line, the west side of the auditorium opens, in each bay, to the above-mentioned ambulatory or group of side-chapels through pointed archways.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1850-1854

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Trinity Church has architectural significance (lying in both its exterior appearance and its internal structure and decoration) as a good, intact example of the Gothic Revival in America in its ecclesiastical phase, at the parish-church level. Of this it is indeed a good example, and worthy of preservation--though unpublished, hitherto little known outside its own locale and by an architect of no fame whatsoever. In Pawtucket, however, it is a landmark, being on a hillside site above the river which divides that city. Church and tower, together with the adjacent Slack House of the early 1800's (owned by the church) are visible in a quite picturesque manner from the business section of the city on an opposite embankment.

This church once marked a part of the borders of the most prosperous and architecturally interesting residential section of the city, though this section has been sliced through, ravine-like, by Interstate Route 95, with the loss of many of its best old residences. The occupants of these residences, many of them the guiding and supporting families of Pawtucket and its industries, were over a long period leading members, as well, of Trinity Church's congregation and vestry. Many of them have been important contributors to its maintenance and adornment (extensions, stained glass, hanging lanterns, altar and reredos etc.). Due to continuous and judicious care and taste in maintenance of the structure's fabric, it "is the oldest church building which has held its original form in the city," except of course for the very minor, unobtrusive and sympathetic extensions mentioned in Section 7, "Description."

A small church in a secondary city, Trinity nevertheless can claim national importance in another area--that of the Anglican Rite in this country, for it was here, soon after 1862, that an important and enduring innovation in the church service was made. The Reverend George W. Brown, a man with musical as well as priestly training, "introduced for the first time in this country, on a large scale, purely congregational singing. The church became the center of attraction ... and ... was often crowded to overflow," thus causing the 1865 enlargement. From Trinity Church,

(See Continuation Sheet)



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

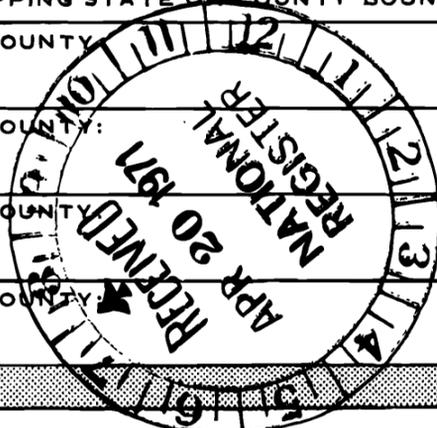
Booth, Mrs. John H., and others: One Hundred Years, 1843-1943, Trinity Church, Pawtucket, Rhode Island (Pawtucket, R. I., 1943).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	41	52	34 N
NE	°	'	"	71	22	52 W
SE	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"			

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Richard B. Harrington, Consultant**

ORGANIZATION: **Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission** DATE: **August 6, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER: **State House, 90, Smith Street,**

CITY OR TOWN: **Providence** STATE: **Rhode Island** CODE: **44**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u><i>Fredrick Wiltonson</i></u></p> <p>Title: <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>April 8, 1971</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>Ernest A. Connally</i></u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>JAN 13 1972</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>William Purdy</i></u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>JAN 8 1972</u></p>
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19/302430/4687 300
 VM Ref
 12-16-75 w/h
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 13 1972

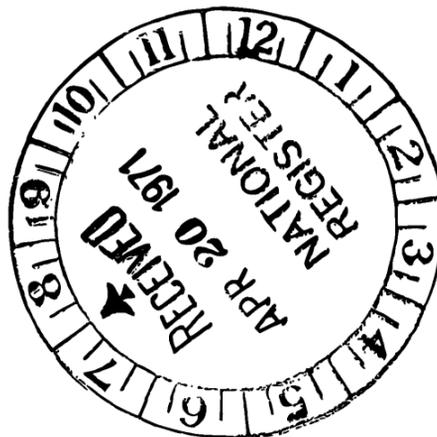
(Number all entries)

7. Description.

The foregoing has described the basic original structure. There have since the 1850's been minor modifications, extensions and improvements, all sympathetically applied. In 1865 a small lateral enlargement was made at the south bay of the west extension. After 1865 the ceiling was handsomely painted with ornamental and emblematic designs on a plain background. In 1902 an attached parish house was completed at the south-west of the church property. In 1908 the organ was removed from its northern loft and relocated in the chancel area; and in 1914 an adjacent choir-room was added. Memorial windows and tablets have been placed from time to time; a reredos installed; ceiling lanterns of appropriate design hung--all enhancing the building but not really changing it.

8. Significance.

then, emanated an important, increased form of vocal and energetic participation in worship, now used by Protestants in this country for more than one hundred years. This gives it a significant place in American church history exceeding even the local importances of its continuing maintenance and use and of its quality as an architectural landmark.



PROVIDENCE QUADRANGLE
RHODE ISLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

BOSTON, MASS. 40 MI.
SOUTH ATTLEBORO, MASS. 2.2 MI.
5300 FEET

6767 IV NE
(ATTLEBORO)

299

25'

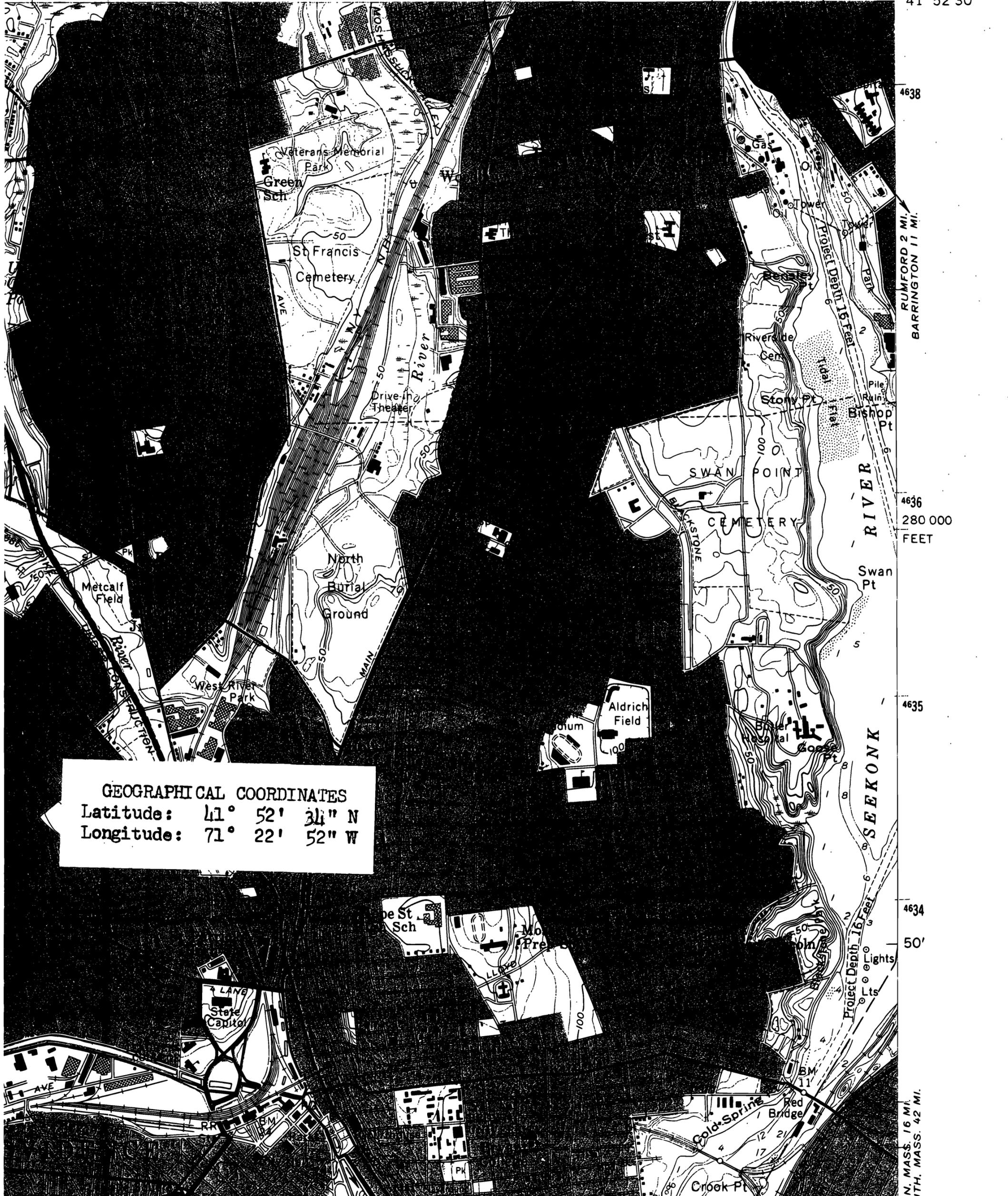
300

WOONSOCKET 12 MI.
LONSDALE 2.6 MI.

301

71° 22' 30"

41° 52' 30"



4638

RUMFORD 2 MI.
BARRINGTON 11 MI.

4636

280 000
FEET

4635

4634

50'

TON, MASS. 16 MI.
OUTH, MASS. 42 MI.

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES
Latitude: 41° 52' 34" N
Longitude: 71° 22' 52" W