

PH0100692

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 6 1975

DATE ENTERED APR 14 1975

ref no 90000692

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC First Baptist Church, Cambridge

AND/OR COMMON
Same**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Magazine and River Streets

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

VICINITY OF Central Square Eighth Mass.

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

25

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
☐ DISTRICT	☐ PUBLIC	☒ OCCUPIED	☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☒ BUILDING(S)	☒ PRIVATE	☐ UNOCCUPIED	☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ STRUCTURE	☐ BOTH	☐ WORK IN PROGRESS	☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☒ RELIGIOUS
☐ OBJECT	☐ IN PROCESS	☒ YES: RESTRICTED	☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
	☐ BEING CONSIDERED	☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED	☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
		☐ NO	☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME First Baptist Church, Cambridge

STREET & NUMBER

5 Magazine Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

VICINITY OF Central Square Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Cambridge and Third Streets

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYSTITLE Survey of Architectural History in Cambridge; Historic
American Buildings Survey

DATE

Local, 1967; HABS, 1969

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Cambridge Historical Commission; Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge, Mass.; Washington, D.C.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT
XX GOOD
—FAIR

—DETERIORATED
—RUINS
—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

XX UNALTERED
—ALTERED

CHECK ONE

XX ORIGINAL SITE
—MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Set off by itself on a triangle of land at a major intersection, the First Baptist Church is the focal point of Cambridge's Central Square. Built of brick in the Gothic Revival style, the church was designed by the prominent Boston firm of Hartwell and Richardson, and constructed in 1881.

Extensively surveyed by HABS in 1968, the church is in nearly original condition. The two-story L-shaped building faces north and is conceived in two parts. The church proper, with its central entrance portico, vestibule, and northeast corner tower, runs north-south. Second floor balconies project out 12'. The southern part of the building runs east-west, the west end projecting out beyond the west wall of the church proper. This section contains a parish hall, office, study, kitchen, and meeting rooms on the first floor, with meeting rooms and access to the church balconies on the second floor. The two sections of the church are connected by a hall with stairways. The interior retains its fine woodwork, stained glass windows, elaborate ventilator grates and some original gas fixtures. Original wall and ceiling colors have not been changed.

Set on a foundation of grey granite blocks, the two-story church is topped by a grey slate ridge roof with bands of red slate. The exterior brickwork is basically common bond but there are also wide and narrow bands of basketweave, sawtooth and recessed brick on all elevations. Terra cotta decorations, in the form of leaves and flowers, are found on drip molds (above all windows) and finials (which top each gable and spire). Buttresses of various heights encircle the building.

The Gothic gabled center entrance portico contains a double wooden door with tracery above. It is reached by a straight flight of 12' long granite stairs. To either side of the gable and on the east and west sides of the portico is a lancet window. Above the portico is a large rose window. On the northeast corner of the facade is a 190' tower with bell and clock topped by an octagonal spire. [The bell is located in a lancet opening in the upper third of the tower, below the clock.] Three narrow lancet windows are paired on the front of the tower above the first story single lancet window. At the northwest corner of the church, between the projecting one-story nave elevation and the main church facade, is a small angular bay with two lancet windows.

The nave, on both the east and west sides, has 5 tall lancet windows with geometrical stained glass. Above these is a band of 18 small clerestory lights.

The ell, which runs east-west at the south end of the main structure, is encircled with lancet windows and has two entrance porticos, similar to the main entrance, on its north and south elevations. A small narrow spired cupola projects from the roof apex near the western end of the ell. A few copper ventilator windows are found in various places near the roof ridge on both sections 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/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1881 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Hartwell and Richardson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Baptist Church is significant as a local landmark on a prominent urban site and as the best example of a Gothic Revival church in the City of Cambridge. The church was designed by Hartwell and Richardson.

The building itself replaced two former Baptist churches on the same property. The original First Baptist Meetinghouse was built in 1817 but burned in 1866. It was replaced the same year with a brick Gothic Revival church designed by S. S. Woodcock. Unfortunately, this church burned in 1881, but, as before, was replaced in the same year. Though of a similar design and partially built on the same foundation, the 1881 structure was larger than its precursor and its walls were especially constructed with fire retardation in mind. The 19th century Baptist parish in Cambridge was a large one and both the 1866 and 1881 churches seated 1,000 people.

Central Square has suffered considerable decline through the 20th century, and has lost a good deal of its 19th century fabric through demolition and/or exterior defacement. While a few noteworthy buildings remain in the Square, they are irregularly spaced throughout. Set off by itself on a triangle of land at a major intersection, the First Baptist Church is both a visual landmark and a reminder of higher architectural standards and more prosperous times.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cambridge Historical Commission, Survey of Architectural History in Cambridge, Volume 3, Cambridgeport. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1971, pp. 81-82, 84-85.

American Architect and Building News, Vol. 12 No. 366 (30 December 1882)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5 acre *UTM OK CD*

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 26620 4692200
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Green Street on the north; Magazine Street on the east;
Franklin Street on the south; and River Street on the west.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Patricia Weslowski, Survey Director and Mindy Arbo, Cambridge Historical Commission
ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission February 13, 1975
STREET & NUMBER DATE

40 Beacon Street (617) 727-8470
CITY OR TOWN TELEPHONE

Boston Massachusetts
STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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 National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Elizabeth R. Armon 2-28-75

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

4/14/75

DATE

APR 9 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property First Baptist Church, Cambridge

Middlesex

State Massachusetts

Working Number 3.6.75.346

TECHNICAL

Photos 1

Maps 1

CONTROL

OK 3.6.75

HISTORIAN

Accept
W.R. Luce
3/10/75

THIS NOT THE "BEST" EXAMPLE OF GOTHIC REVIVAL CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, BUT IT IS ARCHITECTORALLY SIGNIFICANT AND IS THE FOCAL POINT OF CENTRAL AND POSSIBLY THE MOST IMPRESSIVE SITING IN CAMBRIDGE.
SA

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
LEBOVICH
3-7-75

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
4-8-75

BRANCH CHIEF

accept
Hungo
4.10.75

KEEPER

Wm
APR 14 1975

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered APR 14 1975

Federal Register Entry _____

6-3-75

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 6 1975

DATE ENTERED APR 14 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

CAMBRIDGE

VICINITY OF

CENTRAL
SQUARE

COUNTY

MIDDLESEX

STATE

MASS.

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

B. ORR

DATE OF PHOTO

1969

NEGATIVE FILED AT CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION, 57 INMAN STREET, CAMBRIDGE,
MASS.

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

NORTH ELEVATION

#1081

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN CAMBRIDGE

____ VICINITY OF CENTRAL
SQUARE COUNTY MIDDLESEX STATE MASS.

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE USGS QUADRANGLE "BOSTON SOUTH, MASS."

SCALE 1:24,000

DATE 1970

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

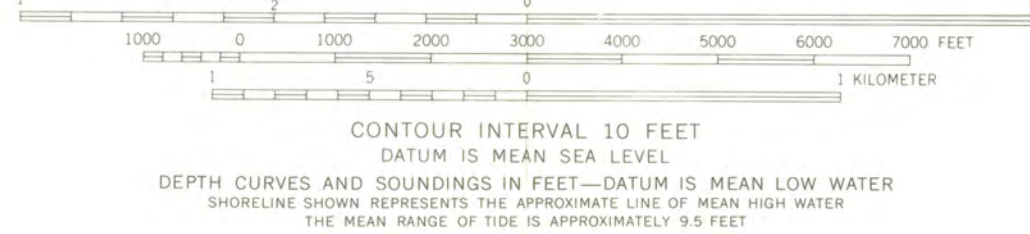
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BOSTON SOUTH QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Cambridge, First
Baptist Church
UTM references:
19/326620/4692200



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by plane-table surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 246
and 248 (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
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Boundaries in tidalwater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215—W7100/7.5

1970

AMS 6768 I SE—SERIES V814

4/15/75

Mott

PR

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTERSTATE MASSACHUSETTSDate Entered APR 14 1975

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Old Ship Street Historic District	Medford Middlesex County
Fort Sewall	Marblehead Essex County
First Baptist Church, Cambridge	Cambridge Middlesex County
St. Stephen's Church	Boston Suffolk County
Fowle-Reed Wyman House	Arlington Middlesex County
Salem Cross Inn	West Brookfield vicinity Worcester County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Torbert H. MacDonald
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Hon. John J. Moakley
Hon. Edward P. Boland

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 3/23/77
 Reviewer INITIALS: *geoff*
 NR DOE April 14, 1975

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: *10* First Baptist Church

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER *Sts.* Magazine and River ~~Streets~~
 CITY/TOWN *✓* Cambridge CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8th
 STATE *✓* Massachusetts VICINITY OF COUNTY Middlesex code 017

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME): *HABS; G.*

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
 SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

<u>INTERIOR</u>	<u>EXTERIOR</u>	<u>ENVIRONS</u>
<i>✓</i> Substantially intact-1	<i>✓</i> Substantially intact-2	<i>✓</i> Substantially intact-3
- unknown - 4	- unknown - 5	- unknown - 6
- not applicable - 7	- not applicable - 8	- Not applicable - 9
- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0		

CONDITION -	- EXCELLENT	- DETERIORATED	<i>✓</i> UNALTERED	<i>✓</i> ORIGINAL SITE
	<i>✓</i> GOOD	- RUINS	- ALTERED	- MOVED
	- FAIR	- UNEXPOSED	- Reconstructed	- Unknown
		- Unexcavated	- Excavated	

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district?

YES

NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?
 IF YES, NAME:

YES

NO

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?
 IF YES, NAME:

YES

NO

ADAPTIVE USE:

YES

NO

Saved?

YES

NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- *as church*

now- *same*

SIGNIFICANCE:

<i>✓</i> - ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	- CONSERVATION	- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<i>✓</i> - RELIGION	- entertainment
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	- ECONOMICS	- LAW/Gov't/politics	- SCIENCE	- health
- AGRICULTURE	- EDUCATION	- LITERATURE	- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	- recreation
<i>✓</i> - ARCHITECTURE - 4	- ENGINEERING	- MILITARY	- TRANSPORTATION	- settlement
- ART	- EXPLORATION	- MUSIC	- OTHER (SPECIFY)	- socio/cultural
- COMMERCE	- INDUSTRY	- PHILOSOPHY		- urban & commun
- COMMUNICATIONS	- INVENTION	- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT		planning

Claims

"first" YES NO

"oldest" YES NO

"only" YES NO

Do not film

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: LATE GOTHIC REVIVAL

architect/m-builder: ² HARTWELL & RICHARDSON
engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role

&

appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

1881

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

1/2

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

BRICK, GRANITE FOUNDATION, TERRA
COTTA ORNAMENTATION; 2 STORIES, L-SHAPED, ^{INTERSECTING} GABLED SLATE ROOF;
FRONT CENTER GABLED POINTED-ARCHED ENTRANCE PORTAL WITH
PAIRED DOUBLE ² DOORS AND LEADED TRANSOMS, ^{2nd story} SURMOUNTED BY ELA-
BORATE ROSE WINDOW; ^(leave in) ~~FADE~~ CORNER BELL AND CLOCK TOWER WITH POINTED-
ARCHED ~~BUTTRESS~~ OPENINGS, BUTTRESSES, and TALL BROACHED SPYRE;
SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences) ^{BRICK} ADDITIONAL BUTTRESSES, DECORATIVE ~~BRICK~~
^{basilica} ~~BANDING~~; ORIGINAL INTERIORS ^{Excellent} ~~BEST~~ EXAMPLE OF LATE GOTHIC
REVIVAL IN THE CITY; WORK OF PROMINENT BOSTON ARCHITECTS HART-
WELL & RICHARDSON ^{and} ~~HABS, &~~