

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Faneuil Hall Market; Quincy Market

AND/OR COMMON

Quincy Market

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

North and South Market Streets

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Boston

\_\_ VICINITY OF

Eighth

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Massachusetts

025

Suffolk

025

**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 - primary**

NAME

City of Boston (Boston Redevelopment Authority)

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Boston

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Suffolk County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Suffolk County Court House, Somerset Street

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Faneuil Hall Market: Historical Study

DATE

1969

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                                 RUINS  
 FAIR                                  UNEXPOSED  
preservation work in process

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Designed by the noted Boston architect Alexander Parris and constructed in 1826-27, Faneuil Hall Market (Quincy Market) and its flanking rows of stores on North and South Market Streets constitute one of the most impressive and large-scaled market complexes built in the United States during the first half of the 19th century. The site for the complex, on the waterfront immediately east of Boston's historic Faneuil Hall, was created by filling the Town Dock and building over the wharves between it and Long Wharf (see accompanying development plan). Subsequent filling has moved the waterfront some three blocks further to the east and the Fitzgerald Expressway, constructed in the 1950's, has effectively broken the visual link between it and the market complex. All three buildings in the complex are currently being repaired and restored to their original appearance under the supervision of the Boston Redevelopment Authority.

Still virtually unaltered, the Faneuil Hall Market is a 2-story rectangular granite structure, consisting of two long gable-roofed wings extending east and west from a higher 2-story center section topped by a large saucer dome with lantern. The Market is 535 feet long and 50 feet deep; its center portion, which projects slightly on the north and south elevations, is 74½ feet long and 55 feet deep. At the end of each wing is a portico comprised of four large Doric columns which support a pediment with a circular window in the center of its tympanum. Perhaps the most notable exterior feature of the Market is the serial post-and-lintel structural system of the wings. Instead of laying up stone blocks in the traditional horizontal pattern, Parris set narrow monolithic granite slabs on end to produce a row of piers and capped each with another slab as the lintel. The succession of narrow bays thus defined allowed a much larger window area than had previously been possible with solid bearing walls. Doors and first floor windows in the wings are round-arched; second floor windows are square-headed. The center section of the Market is rusticated on the first floor with square-headed windows and doors recessed in blind arches; the tall second floor windows are round-arched. A stone parapet encloses the roof and dome.

Internal support for the Market is provided by cast iron columns set at regular intervals along a central aisle which runs the length of the first floor. The areas on either side of the aisle are divided into a total of 128 stalls. The second floor originally contained seven large halls or exhibit rooms, all directly connected, which have since been divided into offices.

Though the commercial structures which flank the Market on the north and south were substantially altered during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, these later elements have already been removed by the current restoration and both have essentially returned to their original appearance. The front elevations and full first floors of both buildings are constructed of granite; end and rear elevations (above the first floors) and party walls are brick. The north structure is 520 feet long and 55 feet deep and that on the south measures 530 by 65 feet. Both are 4½ stories with gabled roofs broken by chimneys at the ridge and jerkin-head dormers set just above the eaves. Party walls divide each building into 22 4-bay stores. Doorways and first-floor shop windows are set into a post-and-lintel system which repeats that of the Market wings. On the first elevations, second floor windows are round-arched while those on the third and fourth stories return to post-and-lintel framing; all other windows (rear and end elevations above the first story) have flat arches.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1825-1826

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Alexander Parris

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Designed by the noted Boston architect Alexander Parris and erected in 1826-27, the 2-story granite Faneuil Hall Market (Quincy Market) and its flanking  $4\frac{1}{2}$ -story brick and granite commercial structures constitute one of the most impressive and large-scaled market complexes built in the United States during the first half of the 19th century. In addition the central building illustrates the successful use of two major structural innovations of the period: cast iron columns for interior support and a massive serial post-and-lintel system for exterior walls allowing a much larger window area than had previously been possible. Until recently, the Market and commercial structures were in only fair condition and the latter had been considerably altered; however, all three are currently undergoing extensive restoration under the supervision of the Boston Redevelopment Authority. Upon completion of this project, the buildings will continue to be used for commercial purposes.

### Historical Background

Faneuil Hall Market is frequently identified as Quincy Market in honor of Josiah Quincy, the man responsible for its construction. A man of means, culture, and public dedication, Quincy served as Mayor of Boston from 1823 to 1828. His success in that office was such that for over half a century thereafter his administration remained the standard by which subsequent mayors were judged. Perhaps his most enduring accomplishment was the construction of the Faneuil Hall Market.

By the time Quincy took office, Boston's existing market facilities in Faneuil Hall (completed 1742; enlarged 1805-06) were obviously inadequate; temporary wooden sheds cluttered the immediate area and on market days farmers' carts completely obstructed all adjacent streets. To remedy the situation Mayor Quincy undertook a major piece of city planning, proposing construction of a new market immediately east of Faneuil Hall on a site to be created by filling in the Town Dock and building over the wharves between it and Long Wharf to the south (see accompanying development plan). Mayor Quincy held a public meeting to consider his proposal on January 13, 1824; despite opposition from some influential citizens the plan was approved and shortly thereafter was endorsed by the Massachusetts legislature.

Quincy's original plan had called for the construction of a traditional market house--a long one-story structure comprised of a gabled roof supported by brick piers--similar in plan to the New Market in Philadelphia. However, Alexander Parris, the architect retained by the Mayor and City Council, produced a much grander and more radical design which proposed the construction of a long central two-story market house flanked on the north and south by equally long  $4\frac{1}{2}$ -story commercial buildings, the market to be of granite, the flanking buildings of granite and brick.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Hamlin, Talbot F. Greek Revival Architecture in America (New York, 1944).  
 Kilham, Walter H. Boston After Bulfinch, An Account of Its Architecture, 1800-1900  
 (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1948).  
 Quincy, Josiah. A Municipal History of the Town and City of Boston During Two Centuries  
 (Boston, 1852).  
 Windsor, Justin. The Memorial History of Boston (4 volumes, Boston, 1881).

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 4.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	330760	4691590	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the National Historic Landmark designation for the Faneuil Hall Market, including that structure and the flanking rows of commercial stores, are defined as follows (see accompanying development plan for street alignment): beginning at the intersection of the southern curblineline of Clinton Street and the western curblineline of Commercial Street; thence, southerly along said western curblineline to its intersection with the northern curblineline of Chatham Street; thence, westerly along said northern curblineline to its intersection with the eastern curblineline of Merchants Row. (cont'd)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Polly M. Rettig, Historian, Landmark Review Project; original forms prepared by S. S. Bradford, 1/20/67, and Charles W. Snell, 6/29/70.

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

7/28/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, N.W.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

District of Columbia

## 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 National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

N/A National Historic Landmark

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

8/16/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

((NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS))

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CONTINUATION SHEET Faneuil Hall Market ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Thus far the Boston Redevelopment Authority's restoration of the complex has concentrated on the flanking structures; work on the Market itself is scheduled to begin in the near future. The present appearance of the project indicates that care is being taken to maintain the architectural (design) integrity of all three buildings.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Faneuil Hall Market ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The cornerstone of Faneuil Hall Market was laid on April 27, 1826, and the complex was opened for business the following year. The entire project, involving the creation of six new streets, the extension of a portion of the Boston waterfront, and the expenditure of more than \$1,100,000, was accomplished without any special taxes or any debt on the part of the city. The 128 stalls in the market and the stores in the flanking structures carried an extensive selection of food products and within a short time became the food distribution center not only for Boston but for most of New England. In addition, the large rooms on the second floor of the market building, known collectively as Quincy Hall, were frequently the site of commercial fairs and exhibitions such as the triennial fairs of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association.

Faneuil Hall Market and its flanking buildings continued to be used primarily for commercial purposes until the early 1970's. During that period sloping shed roofs were added to the first floor of the long north and south elevations of the market but otherwise it remained relatively unchanged. The flanking buildings suffered more serious alteration and some individual store units were heavily Victorianized. All three buildings are currently being repaired and restored to their original appearance under a plan prepared by the Boston Redevelopment Authority for renewal of the area surrounding Faneuil Hall. Upon completion of the project, the buildings will return to commercial use.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Faneuil Hall Market ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Whitehill, Walter M. Boston, A Topographical History (second edition, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1968).

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CONTINUATION SHEET Faneuil Hall Market ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

thence, northerly along said eastern curblin to its intersection with the southern curblin of Clinton Street: thence, easterly along said southern curblin to the point of beginning.