

PH0026671 H/B No LHM

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Mass.	
COUNTY: Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972

#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
First Baptist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Brattle Square Church

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Commonwealth Avenue & Clarendon Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Boston

STATE: Mass. CODE: 025 COUNTY: Suffolk CODE: 025



#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
First Baptist Society

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Commonwealth Avenue & Clarendon Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Mass. CODE: 025

#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Suffolk Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Pemberton Square

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Mass. CODE: 025

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Office of the Secretary, State House

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Mass. CODE: 025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mass.  
COUNTY: Suffolk  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

FEB 23 1972

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Baptist Church is a cruciform building, standing on the corner of Commonwealth, the main ceremonial avenue of the Back Bay, and Clarendon, a cross street. The 176 foot high corner tower, built in the angle between the nave and transept, is its main feature. The tower rests upon four piers connected by great round arches. These form a carriage way opening onto an arcaded entrance porch built out from the end of the transept, flush with the tower, on Clarendon Street.

Three immense rose windows are located in each of the visible ends of the cross-gable roof, all designed by Richardson after European models. The window on the Clarendon Street side is a "Wheel of Fortune" type, with a cross of pilasters applied over the exterior tracery. Later in the 19th century the Baptists added stained glass by Tiffany. His stained glass window of Christ by the Waters, in the south transept, is outstanding.

The Clarendon Street arcade and all the large windows are round-arched, but rows of grouped square headed windows occur beneath the rose windows in the nave and transepts. No buttresses or projections of any kind break the exterior walls and a moderately pitched roof frames the great rose windows.

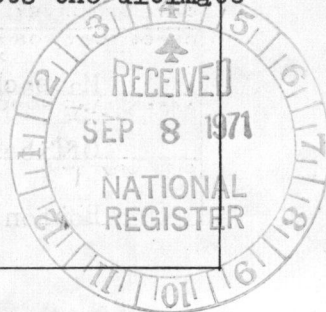
Standing above all and leading ones eyes upward, is the great tower. It is perhaps best seen at a distance, for relations between the church and the tower are less than perfect, and one might wish to see it as a free standing entity. Of the tower Hitchcock wrote: "The upper half of the tower is an extremely ingenious and original creation. The great belfry arches in two orders are perfectly scaled to the whole. The frieze...considering the scale and the distance from which it must always be seen, is equal to that of Rude's Marseillaise on the Arc de l'Etoile or Carpeau's Dance on the Paris Opera. The gilded metal trumpets of the angels...accent the corners of the silhouette against the sky in the most brilliantly picturesque manner conceivable. Yet on top of this frieze Richardson successfully returned to the simplicity and structural quality of the lower part of the tower. Above the strongly shadowed corbel table there is a plain roof of moderate pitch, not quite a flat Italian roof, and certainly not a Gothic spire."<sup>1</sup>

The high walls of the interior provide plenty of room for the galleries added by the Baptists. Whatever might have been planned in the interior in the sense of decoration or painting was never added. In the ceiling the timber trusses are simple and structural. We are left today with "nothing but magnificent space, a prime architectural quality which few appreciate unembellished."<sup>2</sup>

Hitchcock writes further that "The significant character of this church derives from fundamentals. These fundamentals are what distinguish one style of architecture from another: the proportions of exterior mass and of interior space; the relative importance and placing of the elements, structural and ornamental, which break up the main surfaces."<sup>3</sup> Van Rensselaer echoes this in writing that "Romanesque forms are paramount, and, though they are not treated in at all the same spirit which Richardson's later works reveal, they give the building extreme importance as the first which in any way predicts the ultimate course of his development."<sup>4</sup>

1. Hitchcock, p. 115
2. Hitchcock, p. 114
3. Hitchcock, p. 113
4. Van Rensselaer, p. 53.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1872

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art          | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Designed by Henry Hobson Richardson and completed in 1872, the First Baptist Church is his first work which was definitely Romanesque rather than Gothic. With this church, as Hitchcock has written, Richardson "turned the corner of his career. The rest of his great work could easily follow from this beginning."<sup>1</sup> It was the remarkable impression made by this building which brought Richardson an invitation to enter the competition for Trinity Church, perhaps his greatest work, which stands just two blocks away.

It was just after Richardson won the competition for the First Baptist (Brattle Square) Church that Charles F. McKim entered his firm. McKim's first architectural assignment was to complete the working drawings. Another of Richardson's associates, Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, modelled the massive tower frieze, carved in place by Italian stone masons. This sculpture was Bartoldi's first major work in this country, and his colossal figures of Charles Sumner, Longfellow, Emerson, Hawthorne, Lincoln and Garibaldi, included in groupings representing Baptism, Communion, Marriage and Death, established his reputation. Standing at the corners of the tower frieze, the four gigantic angels with thier gilded trumpets, established the church as a favorite 19th century Boston landmark, which Bostonians affectionately labeled the "Church of the Holy Beanblowers."

The First Baptist Society was Founded in 1665 and built its first Meeting House at Salem and Stillman Streets in 1679. The Baptists worshiped in four other buildings before they came to the present First Baptist Church in 1882.

The building was begun in 1870 for the Brattle Square Unitarian Society. Although the interior was still unfinished, the first services were held in 1872, at which time an acoustical failure was obvious. Because of this, and because of the fact that the Unitarians lost the church through mortgage foreclosure, it stood empty between 1875 and 1881. In 1882 it was purchased by the First Baptist Society, which erected galleries in each of the transepts and over the main entrance. This corrected the acoustical difficulties, as Richardson had said it would, and the Church has been in active use by that Society ever since. Both the original rose windows by Richardson and the stained glass by Tiffany, which the Baptists added later, are notable.

Incorporated into the tower are the quoins and cornerstones from the Old Brattle Square Meeting House. One cornerstone is marked "John Hancock, Esq., July 27, 1772," and the other "Jno. Greenleaf. 1772." Both were members and benefactors of the Society. The bell from the Brattle Square Meeting House, cast in 1809, hangs today in the First Baptist tower.

With the destruction of the Church of the Unity in Springfield, only two of the early public buildings which helped Richardson make his name remain. Trinity is one. The other is the First Baptist Church, the building which marks the beginning of his professional maturity, and one which led directly to the rich commissions which Richardson was later to receive.

1. Hitchcock. p. 115.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hitchcock, Henry Russell, The Architecture of H. H. Richardson and His Times, The MIT Press, Cambridge, 1936.  
 Bunting, Bainbridge, Houses of Boston's Back Bay, The Belknap Press of Harvard University, Cambridge, 1967.  
 Van Rensselaer, Mrs. Schuyler, Henry Hobson Richardson and His Works, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1888.  
 Willard, A. R., "Recent Church Architecture in Boston," New England Magazine, February, 1890, Vol. 1, Number 6.  
 Wood, N. E., History of the First Baptist Church of Boston, American Baptist Publication Society, 1899.

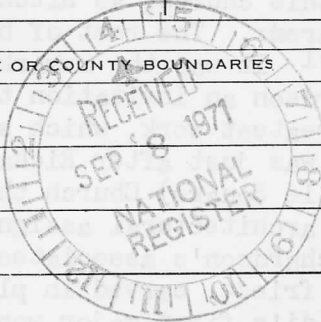
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		42 21 08	71 04 36	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.4

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Tony P. Wrenn

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE: 4/16/69

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Office of the Secretary, State House

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Mass. CODE: 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National  State  Local

Name J. F. X. Dunne  
 Secretary of the Commonwealth and  
 Chairman, Massachusetts Historical  
 Title Commission

Date July 27, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Cannally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**FEB 23 1972**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

William Murty  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UTM REF 9-19-75 Wm  
19/328950/4690700

RECEIPT

PROPERTY

*First Baptist Church* STATE *Mass*

DATE OF RECEIPT

9/8/71

YES

NO

NUMBER

REGISTER NUMBER:

FEB 23 1972

DATA PAGE

PHOTO (S)

PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S)

MAP (S)

MAP DESCRIPTION (S)

LOGGED

ACKNOWLEDGE

9/8/71

✓	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

*Middlesex*

RESUBMIT

*10/18/71*  
REVIEW

*Somebody find the property on this map. Must ask that map be marked with location.*

*OK means 11/8/71*

HISTORIAN

*Obay*  
*Sales*  
*1/7/72*

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT

*Church is at right end of line dividing lot - long, reference on map.*

*OK*  
*Chambus*  
*12-5-72*

ASST. KEEPER

KEEPER

WRITER/EDITOR

*Good form - OK*

*5 Marcusin*  
*1/7/72*

CHIEF, OAHF

*ell*  
*2-23*

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR

*ok*  
*CD*  
*1/7/72*

Federal Register Entry

4-4-72

Annual Edition Entry

Logged FEB 23 1972

Card

FEB 23 1972

COMMENTS:

WORKING NUMBER

9.8.71.4

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

# 8





Boston

First Baptist Church

---

North (Commonwealth Avenue) facade  
and  
East (Clarendon Street) facade.

71. 435

NPS Number

Feb 23, 1972

Title:

First Baptist Church

Loc.

Suffolk County, Mass.  
North & East facade of First  
Baptist Church Commonwealth  
Avenue + Clarendon Street  
Facades

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

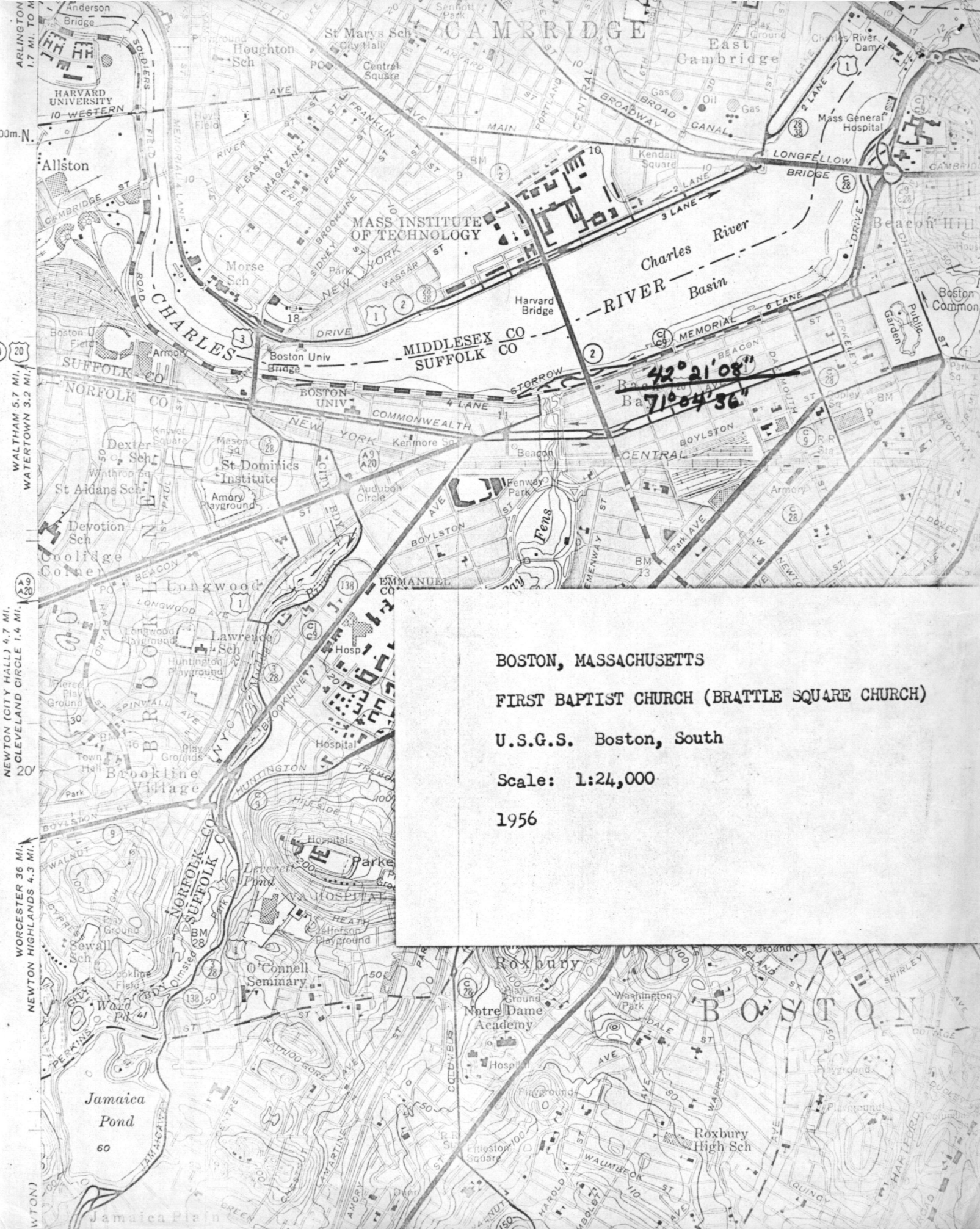
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Mass.	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: <u>First Baptist Church</u>			
AND/OR HISTORIC: <u>Brattle Square Church</u>			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>Commonwealth Avenue &amp; Clarendon Street</u>			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Boston</u>			
STATE: <u>Mass.</u>	CODE <u>25</u>	COUNTY: <u>Suffolk</u>	CODE <u>025</u>
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: <u>U.S.G.S. Boston, South</u>			
SCALE: <u>1:24,000</u>			
DATE: <u>1956</u>			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (BRATTLE SQUARE CHURCH)

U.S.G.S. Boston, South

Scale: 1:24,000

1956

First Baptist Church

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

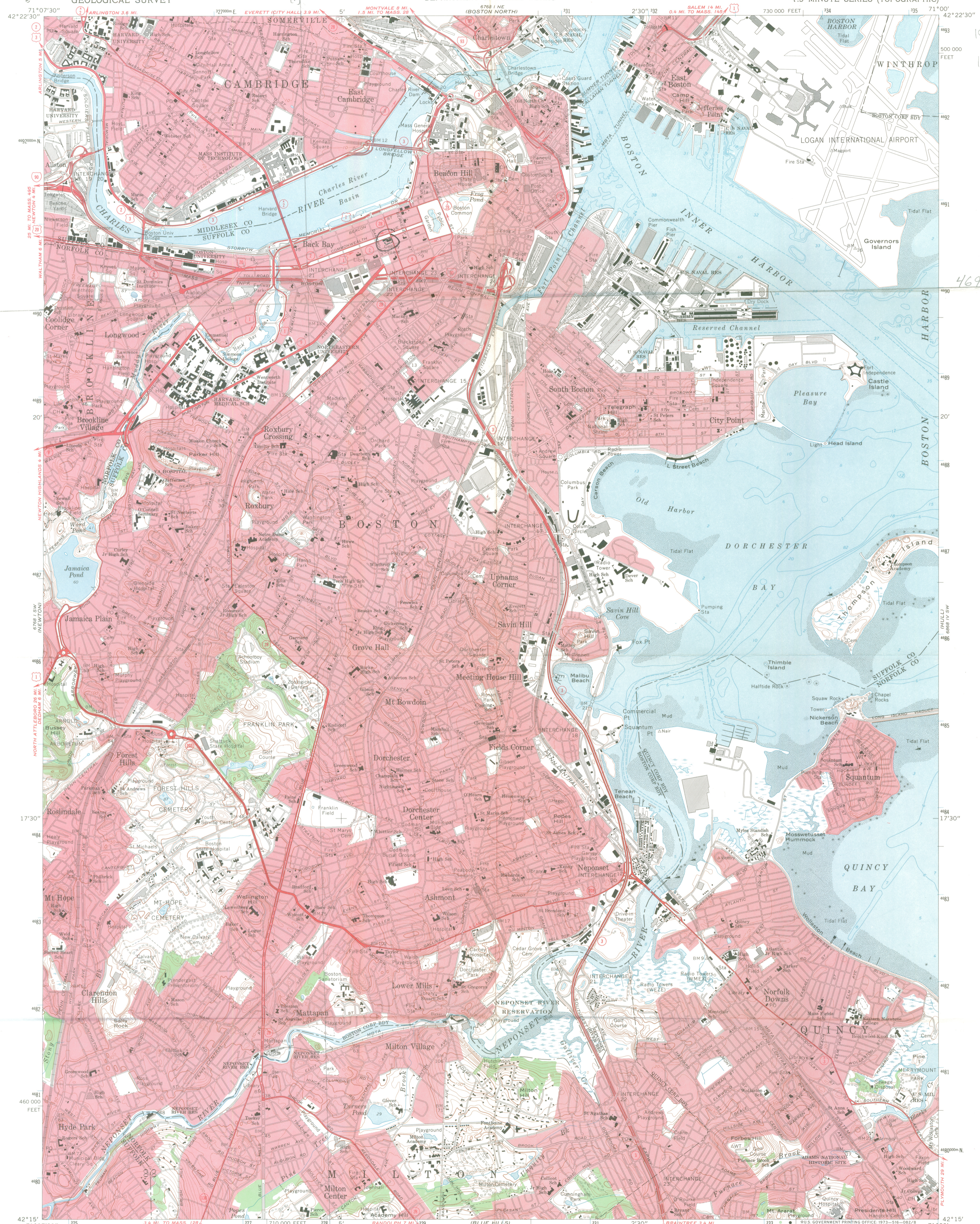
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BOSTON SOUTH QUADRANGLE  
MASSACHUSETTS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

UTM Ref  
W 19 328 950

19 469 070

4690700



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey

Topography by planetable 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 tidewater areas from information supplied by Massachusetts Department of Public Works

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER

SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER

THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242

A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

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 1 SE—SERIES V814

# The First Baptist Church of Boston

110 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116

1665

Telephone: 247-9119

Mrs. Opal Pecht  
Secretary

Mr. Wilbur Wyatt  
Moderator

Mr. Richard Rilee  
Chairman, Board of Deacons

BOSTON OFFICE

JUN 1971  
*Bl*  
*mm*



FNP

June 15, 1971

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
John F. Kennedy Bldg. Room 2400  
Government Centre  
Cambridge Street, Boston, Mass. 02203

My dear Senator Kennedy,

Knowing of your genuine interest in things historical, especially in Massachusetts, I am writing to you to ask for information and possible help.

I am the minister of the historic First Baptist Church of Boston. This 307 year old congregation is situated at Commonwealth Avenue and Clarendon Street in the Back Bay. Our edifice is an early H. H. Richardson designed building and along with our neighbor Trinity Church in Copley Square is a Community treasure.

The maintenance of this magnificent structure is an increasingly heavy burden for our Church. We recognize our privilege and responsibility as owners of this architectural treasure.

Will you kindly tell me of the present status in Congress of the Historic Preservation Grants Bill and the possibility of the authorization of the full amount? Secondly, may I enlist your powerful assistance in helping us to become enrolled in the National Registry of Historic Places? This will make it possible for us to make future application for some assistance in the proper maintenance of our Church.

Respectfully yours,

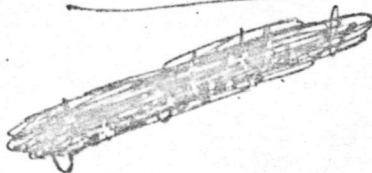
*J. Walter Sillen*

J. Walter Sillen, Minister

JWS/op

c.c. Dr. Richard Hale

Enc: Leaflet on  
The First Baptist Church  
of Boston



United States Senate

8/12

Respectfully referred to:

*Interior  
National Park Service*

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

*Edward Kennedy*  
U.S.S.

Form #2

CL-22992

AUG 19 1971

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Kennedy:

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton has asked us to thank you for your inquiry in behalf of Reverend J. Walter Sillen concerning the First Baptist Church of Boston.

Secretary Morton appreciates your interest in this matter and has asked us to reply at our earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,  
George B. Harzog, Jr.

Director

FNP:DKKellerhouse:amj:8/19/71

CL 22992

R. J. Mullen 8/26  
 S. Bradford 8/26  
 W. Murrah 8/27  
 E. Connelly 8/30  
 T. Wood 9/8  
 9/10  
 Connelly  
 for H & AP 9-10

✓  
 Suffolk Co  
 News

H34-HR

SEP 22 1971

Miller 9-16  
 Whittaker 9/10  
 J. Stewart 9/25

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Kennedy:

It is a pleasure to respond to your inquiry on behalf of the Reverend J. Walter Sillen concerning the First Baptist Church of Boston.

On August 10 the President signed the fiscal year 1972 appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior. It provides for the President's budget request of \$5,930,000 for matching grants to the States and to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for the acquisition and development of historic properties and for historic preservation survey and planning. (The authorization for fiscal year 1972 is \$10 million.) By early fall the State of Massachusetts will be advised of its apportionment for acquisition and development grants. Further details of the grants-in-aid program are contained in the enclosed fact sheet.

In regard to enrolling the First Baptist Church of Boston in the National Register, we are enclosing a brochure which will explain the latter's operation and purposes. This program is administered by the National Park Service through State Liaison Officers appointed by the Governors. The State Liaison Officers are responsible for the conduct of surveys, the preparation of statewide historic preservation plans, the application for grants, as well as for the nomination of properties for inclusion in the National Register. Action to list the First Baptist Church of Boston on the National Register would originate in the office of the State Liaison Officer, the Honorable John F. I. Davoren, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston, Massachusetts 02133. At present Dr. Richard W. Hale, Jr., is Acting Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. We note that Mr. Sillen has already contacted him.

✓ BASIC RETAINED IN HR

mk  
 9/8  
 9/15  
 CL-22992

Grants-in-aid are meant for properties included in the National Register, the applications being consistent with an approved State historic preservation plan. Since grants are made to the States, a State has a responsibility to ensure that historic properties receiving Federal assistance are properly maintained.

We hope this information will be useful to you and Mr. Sillen. Your interest in historic preservation is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) J. E. N. Jensen

Associate Director

**Enclosures**

cc:

Hon. John F. X. Davoren  
Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
State House  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133 )w/c of inc.

Dr. Richard W. Hale, Jr.  
Acting Chairman, Massachusetts Historical  
Commission  
Office of the Secretary, State House  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133 )

CL  
Director, Northeast Region )  
HR )  
LS )

FNP:RJMullen:ljp:9/3/71  
RETYPE(2nd Pg.):maj:9/15/71

↑  
*Permite: E. A. Conrally*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON OFFICE

Nov 30 5 35 PM '71

United States Senate

11/19

116



November 15, 1971

Respectfully referred to:

Department of Interior  
National Park Service

DEPT. OF INTERIOR  
NOV 30 8 45 AM '71  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

National

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

secretary  
in Dr. Richard Hale,  
employed for about twenty  
years on the following  
projects of the  
Department were most

*Edward Kennedy*  
U.S.S.

. When you have  
in. You are among  
and your staff have  
I can in some

son.

Form #2

urs,

*J. Walter Sillen*

The Rev. J. Walter Sillen

JWS/op

# The First Baptist Church of Boston

1665

110 Commonwealth Avenue

Boston, Massachusetts 02116

J WALTER SILLEN, Minister

Telephone 247-9119



November 15, 1971

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
John F. Kennedy Bldg. Room 2400  
Government Centre  
Cambridge Street  
Boston, Mass. 02203

RE: First Baptist Church Listing on National  
Register of Historic Places

My dear Senator Kennedy,

On November 3, 1971 I had a good visit with Secretary John F.X. Davoren at the State House. He called in Dr. Richard Hale, the Massachusetts Archives Curator, and we conferred for about twenty minutes. Dr. Hale said he was going to Washington on the following day and would present our case to the proper officials of the Department of the Interior. He and Secretary Davoren were most encouraging.

I feel that I have gone about as far as I can. When you have opportunity, a follow up on your part will put us in. You are among the busiest of men, I know, and the interest you and your staff have taken in this amazes and delights me. I hope that I can in some way show my appreciation.

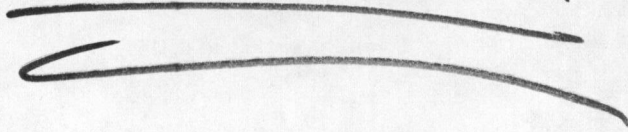
With every good wish for a joyous Holiday Season.

Respectfully yours,

The Rev. J. Walter Sillen

JWS/op

DO NOT FILM



Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Kennedy:

We are pleased to acknowledge your inquiry in behalf of  
the Reverend J. Walter Sillen concerning the First  
Baptist Church of Boston.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and will  
provide you a reply at our earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

Director

cc:  
LS) w/c of inc.

FNP:MCampbell:rmt:12/1/71

Suffolk  
MS

MARVISIN  
Mortough  
Utley

Parcel 12/16  
Whittier 12/16

DEC 18 1971

H34-RR

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Kennedy:

Thank you for your inquiry in behalf of the Reverend J. Walter  
Sillen concerning the nomination of the First Baptist Church  
of Boston to the National Register of Historic Places.

The nomination form for the property was submitted to the National  
Register office on September 8 by the Honorable F. X. Davoren and  
is now in the process of review by the professional staff. When  
a property is listed in the National Register, letters of notifica-  
tion are sent to the two Senators and the Representative concerned,  
and a copy of the correspondence is forwarded to the State Liaison  
Officer with the understanding that he will notify the owner of  
the action taken.

Review of the nomination will be expedited. Your interest in  
historic preservation is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest Allen Connally

Director

Enclosure

Office of Archeology  
(Constituent's letter returned)  
and Historic Preservation

cc:  
Hon. John F. X. Davoren  
Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
State House  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133 w/c of inc.

Director, Northeast Region )  
I - Mr. Winge)  
HR)  
LS)

FNP:SAMarusin:ljp:12-14-71

(BASIC RETAINED IN HR)

M. Miller  
12/16

8

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered FEB 23 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Merrell Tavern	South Lee Berkshire County
Northborough Town Hall	Northborough Worcester County
First Baptist Church	Boston Suffolk County
Old County Court House	Plymouth Plymouth County
Trinity Rectory	Boston Suffolk County
St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Lanesborough Berkshire County
Crowninshield House	Boston Suffolk County
First Universalist Church	Provincetown Barnstable County
Griswold (Major Joseph) House	Buckland Franklin County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
Hon. Edward W. Brooke  
Hon. Silvio O. Conte  
Hon. Harold D. Donohue  
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.  
Hon. Hastings Keith

State Liaison Officer  
Hon. John F. X. Davenport  
Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical  
Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
State House  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Director, Northeast Region  
HR NRowland:mm 2/16/72