

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JAN 25 1985
date entered FEB 21 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Bigelow School

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 350 West Fourth Street n/a not for publication

city, town Boston (South Boston) n/a vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Suffolk code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	n/a in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant school

4. Owner of Property

name Urban Renaissance Properties

street & number 50 Berkeley Street

city, town Boston n/a vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Suffolk County Registry of Deeds

street & number Pemberton Square

city, town Boston state MA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title 1) Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 #SB-536 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state MA

7. Description

Bigelow School , Boston, MA

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>n/a</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bigelow School is located at the corner of West Fourth Street and E Street in the South Boston neighborhood of Boston. The surrounding neighborhood is characterized by smaller one and two family detached frame residences built primarily between 1860-1900. One block to the west is the "D" Street Housing Project. The school's designer was City Architect Charles J. Bateman; it was constructed in 1901 in the Classical Revival style.

The building is an approximately 50,000 square foot structure on four floors including a raised basement. The building which has a footprint of roughly 12,500 square feet sits in a school yard of 44,139 square feet. The structure is sited to the extreme right of the property with minimal front and side yard setbacks. The building is a stunted U in plan with the recessed open service court at the rear. Classrooms are located off a central lobby. The fourth floor, typical of period schools, has a sizable assembly hall and stage. The building is made of tan brick with masonry lintels, stills and stairs, and decorative elements, generally of Warsaw bluestone.

The school is treated as a symmetrical block (nine bays by twelve bays) with the raised basement separated by masonry belt courses, and first floor with brick executed in a rusticated and voussoir pattern. The two upper floors are smooth-faced tan brick with rusticated quoins at corners and projecting entry elements. It has a flat roof.

The main entrance facade, on Fourth Street (photo #1 & 2), is arranged in a tripartite scheme each with three bays. Steps lead to an inset central entry porch with banded brick piers that support a classicizing entablature with name plate. On the upper floors full order pilasters flank paired windows separated at floor levels by balustrades; the centerpiece is completed with a triangular pediment breaking the neoclassical cornice. The lateral bays have regular fenestration system of single, double hung windows with flared lintels set with keystones.

The side elevations, on E Street (easterly, photo #3) and along the parking and play yard (westerly, photo #4) are regularly organized. Side entrances at ground level (beside smaller windows indicating interior stairways) interrupt the regular fenestration pattern similar to that on the Fourth Street elevation. The E Street elevation differs slightly with a projecting doorway in a pedimented frame.

On these side elevations, quoins subtly set off the main block from the "U" ends at the rear of the building (photo #5). These terminate in 4 bay wide elevations, articulated by corner quoins and the same fenestration pattern as on other elevations. The recessed service court has an irregular window pattern, fire escape, chimney, and other such appurtenances.

There have been few changes to the building exteriors. Wooden screens, typical of Boston schools, exist; doors have been converted to metal clad fire-proof type. Deterioration is largely limited to window frames and sash and spalled blue stone ornament.

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date entered FEB 21 1985

Continuation sheet

Bigelow School

Item number

7

Page 1

Given the size of the school yard, it is possible that significant archaeological remains may have survived. Expected resources would include foundations and features from early to mid 19th century residences and evidence of the original 1850 school.

8. Significance

Bigelow School, Boston, MA

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1901

Builder/Architect Charles J. Bateman

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bigelow School retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship. Built in 1902, it is significant as one of the most representative examples of a Classical Revival School and as a representative example of Charles J. Bateman, noted Boston Architect, who served as City Architect from 1893-94 and again in 1898. As such, it meets criteria A & C of the National Register of Historic Places.

By the turn of the century, South Boston had developed into a highly cosmopolitan community, containing a diverse population characterized by strong religious traditions. The area housed more churches, both Catholic and Protestant, than any other region of its size in America. A total of 23 schools supported a population of 70,000 in 1900. Ten years later the population peaked at over 100,000. (Today the population is 40,000 and the population decline has resulted in numerous school closings.)

The emergence of Classical Revival architecture in the late 19th c. was heralded by the Boston Public Library, 1888-95, whose construction influenced a series of monumental classical building designs, including Symphony Hall, 1900, South Station, 1899, and the New England Conservatory, 1901.

The Classical Revival period coincided with demographic shifts in Boston as the City became more of a pluralistic society, accomodating the increased immigrant population especially the Irish. These changes also affected the architecture of public schools in Boston, with design reforms led by Edmund Wheelwright, City Architect in 1891 and 1895. As architect and author on the subject, Wheelwright's works influenced his colleague's school designs in forthright function and stylistic simplicity. Bateman's Bigelow School reflects these principles.

A view of the Bigelow was contained in the 1901 edition of Toomey's History of South Boston: "This building is one of the finest in the city, having, besides seventeen school rooms, a science room, exhibition hall, gymnasium, shower-bath room, lunch room, teachers' room, masters' room, sub-master's rooms and library. The building is constructed of buff brick and Warsaw Bluestone trimmings and is fitted with all of the most modern facilities for heating, lighting and ventilating."

Charles J. Bateman who served as City Architect in 1893-94 and again in 1898 was the architect for the building. Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1851, Bateman was educated at Cambridge public schools and at M.I.T. While at

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Gillespie, C. B. Illustrated History of South Boston.
- Hamlin, A. D. F. Modern School Houses. New York, 1910.
- Toomey, John H. History of South Boston. Boston, 1901.
- Tucci, D. S. Built in Boston, Boston, 1978.
- Wheelwright, E. M. School Architecture Boston, 1901

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property one acre

Quadrangle name Boston South

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A 19 331332 4690689
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification The property is bounded to the northeast by Silver Street, to the Southeast by E Street, to the Southwest by West 4th Street, and to the Northwest by the property line of Assessor's parcel #7225 which it is.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Zimmerman, Director of by Urban Consulting Associates of Boston & Preservation Planning Boston Landmarks Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date May, 1984

street & number 294 Washington St. telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state MA 02109

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Valerie A Talmage

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date January 7, 1985

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

for Deborah Dyer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only
received
date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Bigelow School
Boston, MA

Item number 8; 6

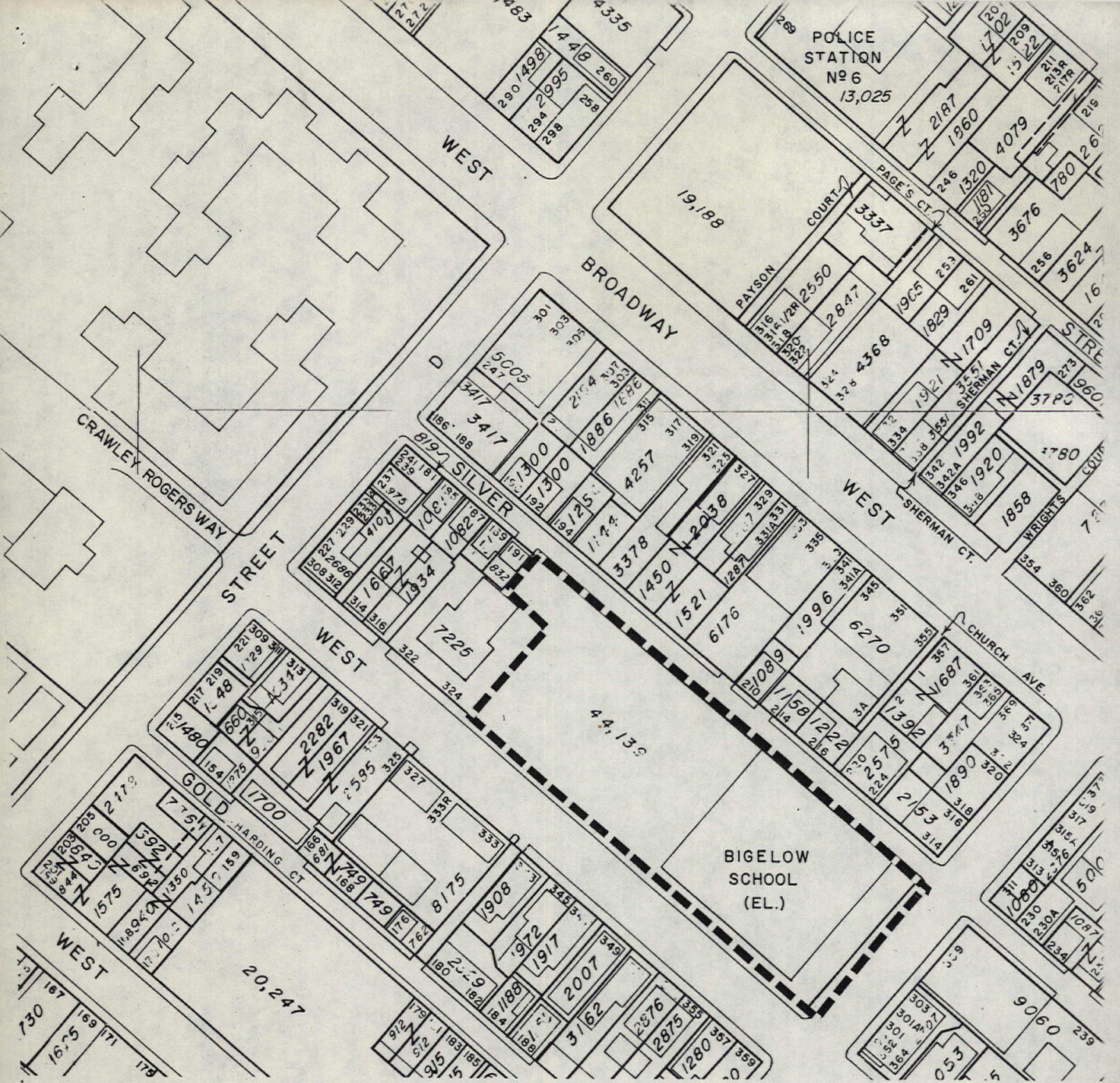
Page 1

M.I.T., he worked for the firm of Faulkner and Clarke. His first position upon graduation was with George Ropes of Kansas. In 1876 Bateman began his own practice in Boston where he practiced until 1932. Bateman was a tremendously prolific and diverse architect who was very active during Boston's high growth period from 1880-1910. In his private practice he designed several period homes, from single family to large multi-family buildings including wooden triple deckers in Roxbury and Dorchester and brick row houses in the South End, Beacon Hill, Charlestown and the North End. He did some institutional work while in private practice, including the original Carney Hospital in South Boston, St. Cecilia's in the Back Bay, St. Catherine's in Charlestown and the Church of the Most Precious Blood in Hyde Park. While serving as City Architect, his works included Roxbury High School, the George Putnam School, Auburn Street School, Hamel Street School, The O Street school and the Charlestown Fire-house. By the time he retired in 1932, Bateman had made a significant contribution to Boston's architecture having built a variety of styles in nearly every neighborhood of the City. A public school building has been standing on this same site for one hundred and thirty-four years. The first school was built in 1850 and was named for the Honorable John P. Bigelow who was then Mayor of Boston (1849-51). Bigelow also served as Secretary of State and as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. The original Bigelow school was for girls and was taught by a master and seven female assistants. Mr. Frederick Crafts was the first master, and was succeeded by Mr. Joseph Hale in August, 1852. In 1899 the original building was razed to make room for the present structure.

The present school closed in 1976 and will be rehabilitated into housing under the provisions of the Economy Recovery ^{tax} Act of 1981.

Section 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

- 2) South Boston Preservation Survey
 - 1981 local
 - Boston Landmarks Commission
 - Boston, MA



BIGELOW SCHOOL
 350 WEST FOURTH STREET
 SOUTH BOSTON

City of Boston
 Topographic & Plainimetric Survey
 Sheet 23 N - 13 E
 1" = 100'



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Bigelow School
Suffolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JAN 25 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.4.86
Date Due: 2/24/85 - 3/11/85
Action: ACCEPT 2-21-85
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	
	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below _____

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*) _____

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

Bigelow School
Suffolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



BUILDING FRONT AND EASTERLY SIDE
(Corner of E & 4th)

BIGELOW SCHOOL
350 W. 4TH ST.

JOHN WEIS #1
3110184

SO. BOSTON

"FRONT & EASTERLY"



THREE TIERED ENTRANCE WAY
4th STREET

BIGELOW SCHOOL
- 350 W. 4TH ST.
SO. BOSTON

JOHN WEIS
3/16/84 #2 -
"THREE TIERED ENTRANCE"

THREE TIERED ENTRANCE
4TH STREET



EASTERLY FACADE AND ENTRANCE
E STREET

BIGELOW SCHOOL
350 WEST FOURTH
So. BOSTON

JOHN WEIS
3/10/84 #3
"EASTERLY FACADE"



WESTERLY FACADE AND ENTRANCE
(Existing Parking Lot Side)

BIGELOW SCHOOL
350 W. 4TH ST.
SO. BOSTON

JOHN WEIS
3/10/84 #4
"WESTERLY FACADE"



BUILDING REAR
(From West Broadway)

BIGELOW SCHOOL
350 W. 4TH ST.
SO. BOSTON

JOHN WEIS #5
3/10/84
"BUILDING REAR"



BICELOW SCHOOL
350 WEST FOURTH STREET
SOUTH BOSTON

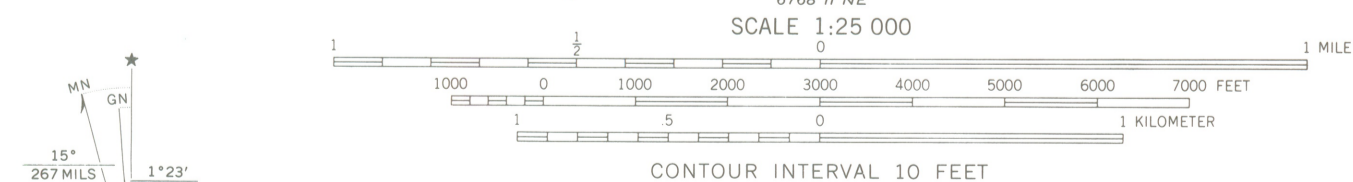
U.S.G.S.
Boston Quadrangle
Scale: 1" = 25,000'
UTM: 19/331332/4690689

CONVERSION SCALES

Feet	Meters
15000	4500
14000	4267
13000	4000
12000	3700
11000	3413
10000	3048
9000	2743
8000	2438
7000	2134
6000	1829
5000	1524
4000	1219
3000	914
2000	609
1000	305
0	0

To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetabe surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USCGS 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,
zone 19
Boundaries in tidewater 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	Light duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215-W7100/7.5
1970
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6768 1SE-SERIES V814