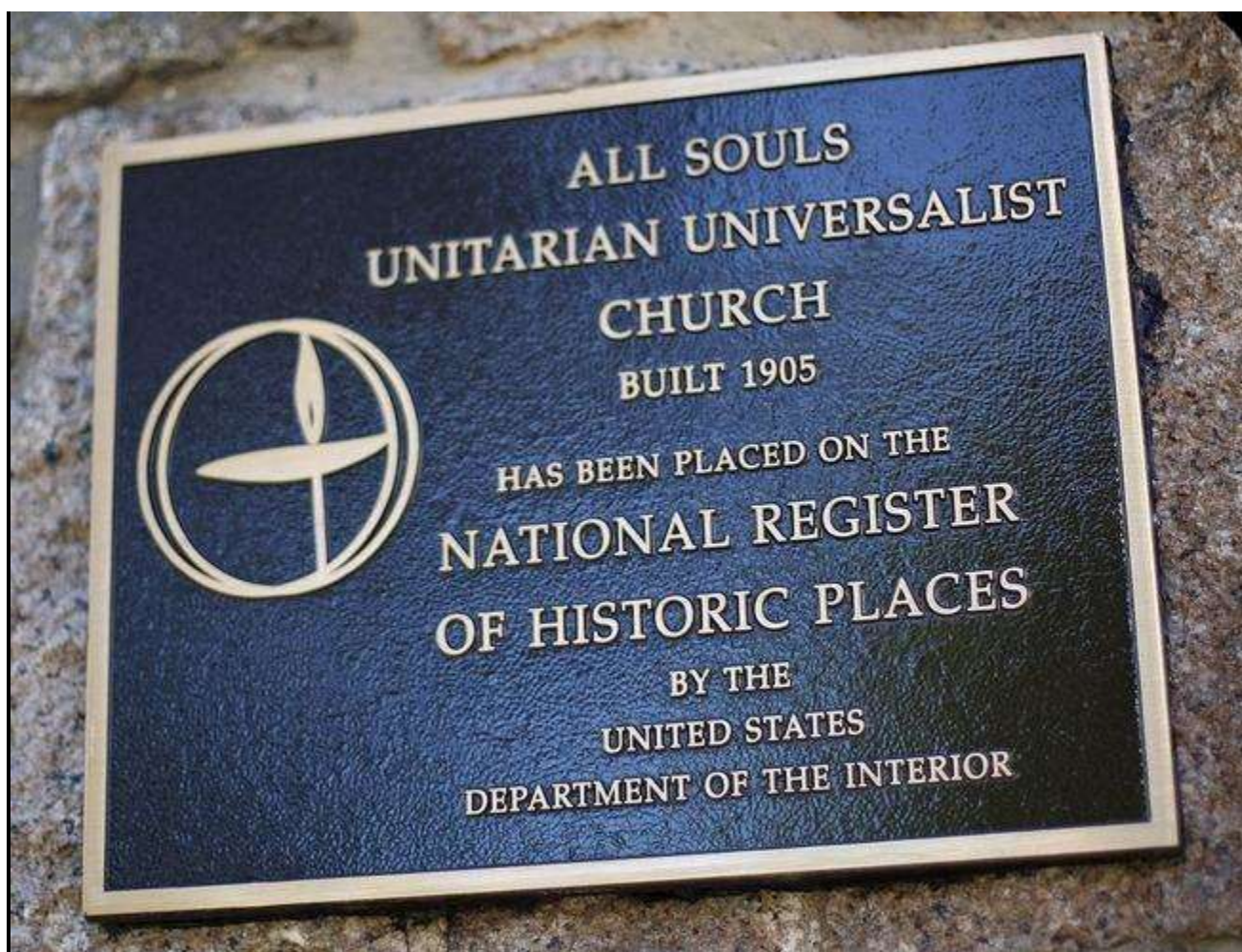


Braintree church receives national designation

All Souls Church in Braintree unveils plaque recognizing it on the National Register of Historic Places.



By **Jordan Tillery**

The Patriot Ledger Posted Oct. 11, 2015 at 7:55 pm Updated Oct 11, 2015 at 10:13 PM

BRAINTREE – A bronze plaque adorns the main stone entrance to All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in Braintree. After five years of research and restoration, the church is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

A crowd gathered on the lawn outside the Gothic Revival-inspired church to watch the unveiling of the plaque Sunday afternoon.

“For the church, this is a marker of the building’s beauty,” the Rev. Steve Wilson said.

Braintree resident Nancy Norton took advantage of the church’s open house. She said she passes the building every day, but had never been inside.

“It’s truly lovely,” Norton said. “I’m in awe of it.”

The church began delving into its roots during its centennial celebration and members realized it might be eligible to become a nationally recognized historic building.

The church was built in 1905 and was designed by Boston architect Edwin Lewis.

To be considered for the Massachusetts Register of Historic Places, which precedes the national recognition, the church needed to replace the gutters and fix parts of the roof, Linda Steiner, chairwoman of the board of trustees, said.

The church joins the General Sylvanus Thayer Birthplace, the original Thayer Public Library and the Blue Hills Parkway as Braintree sites on the National Register of Historic Places.

The celebration was organized in conjunction with the Braintree 375 Celebration Committee. Following the plaque unveiling, the committee held a tour of the historic Elm Street Cemetery near the church.