

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

For HCRS use only

received NOV 3 1980

date entered

DEC 3 1980

1. Name

historic Gunn and Hubbard Blocks

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 463-477 State Street _____ not for publication

city, town Springfield _____ vicinity of 2nd congressional district

state Massachusetts code 075 county Hampden code 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
____ district	____ public	☒ occupied	____ agriculture
☒ building(s)	☒ private	____ unoccupied	☒ commercial
____ structure	____ both	____ work in progress	____ educational
____ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	____ entertainment
____ object	____ in process	☒ yes: restricted	____ government
	____ being considered	____ yes: unrestricted	____ industrial
		____ no	____ military
			____ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple - See attached sheet

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number 50 State Street

city, town Springfield state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Assets in
the Commonwealth

has this property been determined eligible? ____ yes ____ no

date 1979 ____ federal ☒ state ____ county ____ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town 294 Washington Street, Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent

☐ good

☒ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Gunn and Hubbard Blocks are located directly opposite the Springfield Armory (NHL) at the southeast corner of State and Walnut Street.

The Gunn Block (473-477 State Street) and Hubbard Block (463-471 State Street) are three story brick buildings with pitched roofs. The two blocks are similar in scale, design, and materials and adjoin by a fire wall. The Gunn Block is seven bays long and three bays deep. The original section of the Hubbard Block (467-471 State Street) is also seven bays but it is not quite as broad. The ground floors of both have been altered by later store fronts but the upper stories remain intact.

The Hubbard Block also has an addition to the west of four bays (463-465 State Street), which continues the original scale, materials and design.

The Gunn block is slightly trapezoidal in shape resulting from being fitted into the intersection of State and Walnut Streets. Four chimneys originally arose from each corner of which three remain. The one at the northeast corner has been removed and capped. A central entryway provides access to the upper floors. The simple cornice on the front of the block is extended along the eastern end and forms a pediment with the roof lines. A semicircular window is placed within the pediment and is presently partially enclosed with wood. Several windows and a door on the eastern facade have been bricked in. Where they are not, they generally contain 1/1 sash.

The Hubbard block and the half-block extension to the west are similar in proportion and design to the Gunn Block. The cornice on the Hubbard block and its western extension varies, however, and is created by brick corbelling. The facade of the original Hubbard Block is covered by stucco and one window on each the second and third floors are bricked in. The Hubbard Block has a central entryway, while the entryway of the half-block is set in its easternmost bay. Four chimneys are placed at each corner in the Hubbard block, as in the Gunn block, while the extension has only two chimneys on the western end. The western elevation is plain brick unbroken by windows.

Fenestration is primarily 2/1 or 1/1 large panes, however, the third floor of the western section contains four 6/6 windows. Brownstone lintels and sills are used as well as brownstone trim around the entryways.

The Gunn and Hubbard Blocks are presently occupied by a tavern, small stores and residents.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED **NOV 3** 1980

DATE ENTERED **DEC 3** 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

Property Owners

463-465 State Street

Joseph Yelinick & Henry E. Crosby
463 State Street
Springfield, MA 01109

467-471 State Street

Edward F. & Irene E. Barbeau
128 Woodland Road
Springfield, MA 01129

473-477 State Street

Salvatore & John P. Scibelli
339 Porter Road
East Longmeadow, MA 01028

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/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☒ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1830–35 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Gunn and Hubbard Blocks possess integrity of location, design and materials and are significant as the center of commerce for the Hill area and as one of the only three masonry blocks remaining from the early nineteenth century in Springfield.

Between 1820 and 1840 the Hill area of Springfield, roughly centered around the intersection of State and Walnut Streets, was vying with the more traditional commercial center along Main Street. The growth on the Hill was largely due to the presence of the U.S. Armory. Walnut Street had been opened in 1810 to connect the Hills shops with the Water Shops. The Hill area was also involved in overland trade along Boston Road (later State Street) which passed through the area. As many as six stage lines were reported to use this route in 1836, many of which stopped at the Rockingham House a hostelry at the southeast corner of State and Walnut Streets.

The Gunn Block was built circa 1830 to house the flourishing trade in "West Indies Goods" coffee, rum, molasses, sugar, and spices of Elisha Gunn. The goods were shipped from Boston by boat on the Connecticut River to Springfield from whence Gunn shipped goods as far east as Charlton. The coming of the railroad in 1839 drastically cut into Gunn's business and permanently fixed the commercial center of Springfield downtown.

Elisha Gunn continued to carry on a thriving trade as a wholesale distributor of provisions. The business was carried on by his sons who became involved in the retail trade and later a liquor market.

Asahel Hubbard had the block that bears his name (463-471 State Street) built circa 1835 as an investment. Hubbard was an inspector of arms at the Armory. His most prominent tenant was Jonathan Bangs who owned a flour and grain mill on the Mill River and used the store as a retail outlet. Bangs also moved downtown in the 1870's where his store was one of the most successful in the City.

The second floor of the Gunn Block contained a large hall, named Gunn's Hall, which was used for meetings and social events. The hall was used by the Hampden Lodge of Free Masons and by the Armory workers wishing to organize and promote their own welfare. A series of meetings held in the hall in 1856 resulted in a vote by residents of the "Hill" Indian Orchard, and the Watershops to separate from Springfield and form a town to be called "Delano". The main grievance was that the area paid more tax than it received in services. The incident was a clear indicator of the struggle for prominence between the Hill and the Main Street Area.

While the main commercial area shifted downtown, the area around the Gunn and Hubbard Blocks remained the center of neighborhood activity in the last half of the nineteenth century. The blocks housed neighborhood merchants during this period. With the growing importance of Winchester Square (NR) one half mile east in the 1890's the focus of the neighborhood shifted away from the Gunn and Hubbard Blocks.

9. Major Bibliographical References

King's Handbook of Springfield; Moses King, ed.; James D. Gill; Springfield, MA; 1884.
Plan of Springfield; George Colton; Springfield, MA; 1835.
Progressive Springfield; October, 1891; pp. 135-142; "Armory Hill"
Springfield Daily Republican; October 17, 1859, p.4.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property One-fourth

Quadrangle name Springfield South

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 18 700280 4664340
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the southwest intersection of State and Walnut Street, thence southwesterly along the southeast line of State Street approximately ninety-five and 12/100 (95.12) feet to a point; thence perpendicular in a southeasterly direction approximately (cont.)

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

Fred Clark, Springfield Historical Commission
name/title for Candace Jenkins, Evaluation Director

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 1980

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

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Peter H. Wesloski 10/20/80

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date

For HCRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 12-3-80

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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CONTINUATION SHEET 2 ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Verbal Boundary Description (Continued)

one-hundred twelve (112) feet to a point, thence generally northeasterly one hundred and seventeen and 46/100 (117.46) feet to the southeast line of Walnut Street, thence northwesterly one hundred and 36/100 (100.36) feet along the southeast line of Walnut Street to the point of beginning. Also refer to the attached map.

STATE ST.

WOODWORTH AVENUE

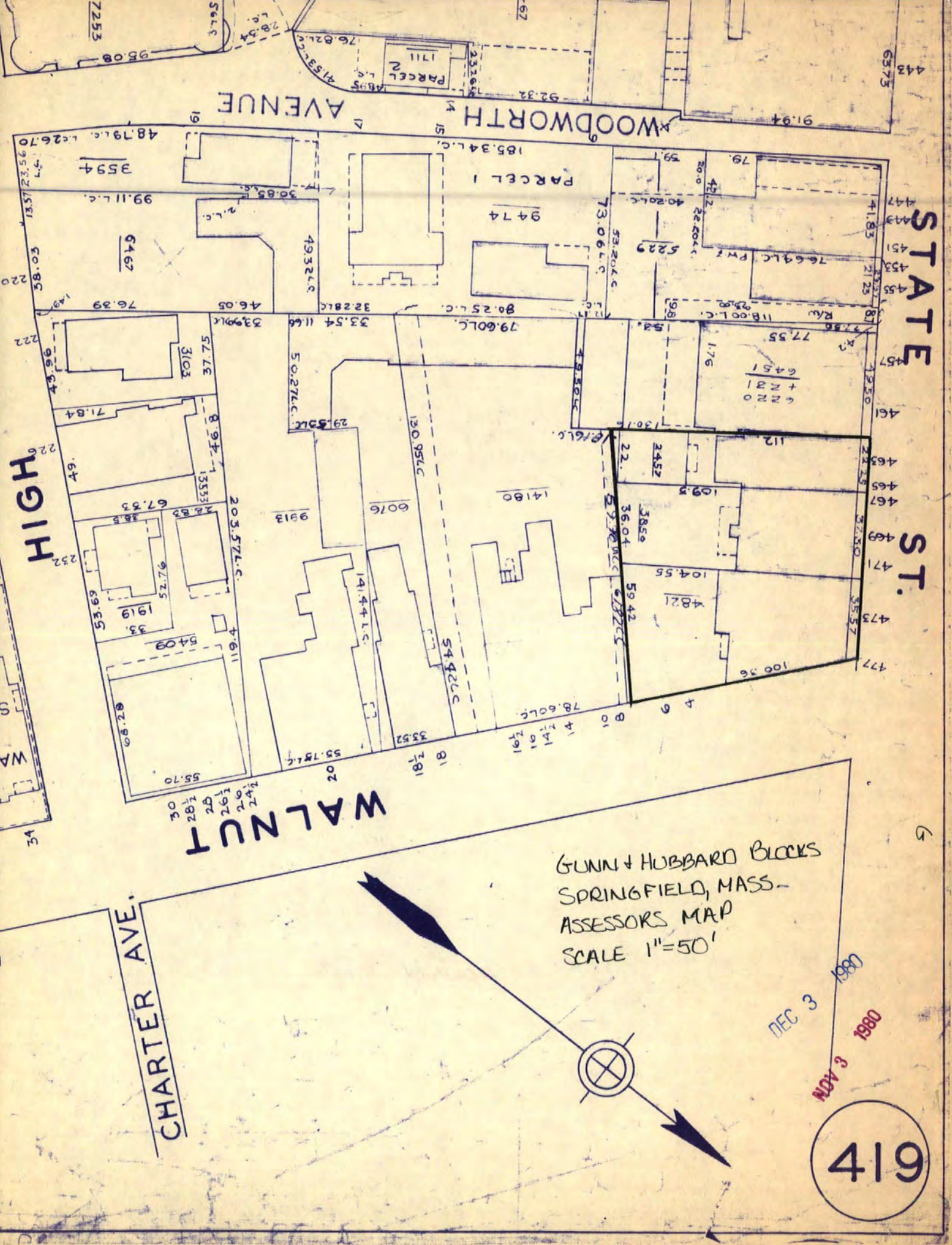
WALNUT

CHARTER AVE.

GUNN + HUBBARD BLOCKS
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
ASSESSORS MAP
SCALE 1"=50'

DEC 3 1986 6 AM

614



Property Gunn and Hubbard Blocks
State MA, Hampden Working Number 11.3.80.2725

DOE
1/3/81

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 1
Maps 1

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

^{19th} Commercial blocks significant as center of commerce for hill area and only remaining 19 c. masonry block in Springfield. Accept Shue 12.3.80

BRANCH CHIEF
KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered DEC 3 1980
Federal Register Entry 2.2.82 Re-submit _____



Gunn & Hubbard Blocks
Springfield, Mass.

Fred Clark 1979
Springfield Historical Commission

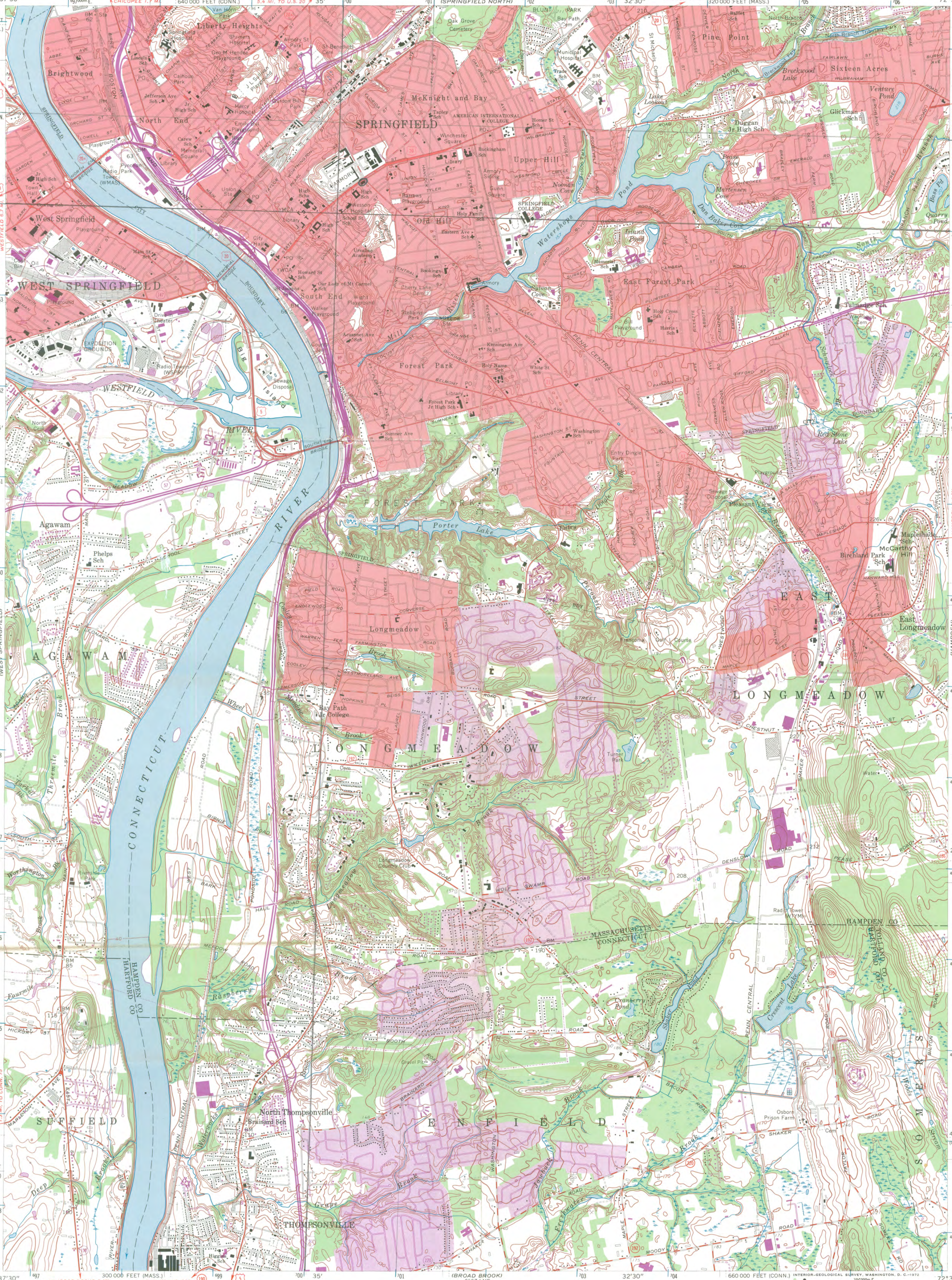
Photo #1 of 1
State Street facades facing southwest

NOV 3 1980

DEC 3 1980

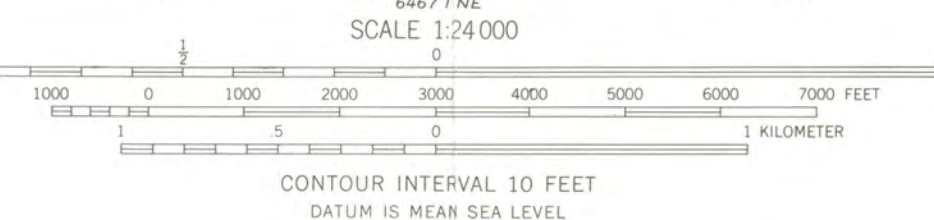
1980

410 000 FEET
(MASS.)
Springfield, Mass.
Gunn & Hubbard Blocks
UTM References:
18/700280/4664340



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey,
and Connecticut Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1933 and 1942
Culture revised from aerial photographs by photogrammetric
methods. Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1958
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10 000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Connecticut coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
Connecticut Highway Department from aerial photographs
taken 1970. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U. S. Route ——— State Route ———

SPRINGFIELD SOUTH, MASS.-CONN.
N4200 - W7230/7.5

1958
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 6468 II SE-SERIES 7814



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered DEC 3 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Holyoke Canal System	Holyoke Hampden County
Tack Factory, The	Norwell vicinity Plymouth County
Eddy Block	Webster Worcester County
Water Shops Armory	Springfield Hampden County
Gunn and Hubbard Blocks	Springfield Hampden County
Spaulding Block	Webster Worcester County
Shumway Block	Webster Worcester County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul Tsongas
Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Silvio O. Conte
Honorable Gerry E. Studds
Honorable Edward P. Boland

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR Byers/bjr/1/6/81

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.