

**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 8 1980

date entered DEC 3 1980

**1. Name**

historic Water Shops Armory

and/or common Same

**2. Location**

street &amp; number 1 Allen Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Springfield \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 2nd Massachusetts

state Massachusetts code 025 county Hampden code 013

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Henry R. DeLeo &amp; Carlo S. Rovelli

street &amp; number 141 Meadow Brook Avenue

city, town West Springfield \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street &amp; number 50 State Street

city, town Springfield state Massachusetts

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of The Commonwealth has this property been determined eligible?  yes  nodate 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town 294 Washington Street, Boston state Massachusetts 02108

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" 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 date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Water Shops Armory Complex is a manufacturing complex of four brick buildings built by the United States Armory on the western end of Water Shops Pond at its outlet to the Mill River. The complex is located approximately one mile south of the main armory or Hill Shops. (NHL)

The Water Shops Armory buildings date from 1857 to 1941, with new buildings or additions constructed as the demand arose. All new construction successfully attempted to retain the scale and detailing of the 1857 Main Shop. All were designed by U.S. Army personnel. The buildings are clustered on a land area of approximately five acres, bounded northerly by Hickory Street, easterly by Water Shops Pond and southerly and westerly by Allen Street. Three main construction periods are present; 1857-1861 when the main shop, forge shop, and storehouse, nos. 201a-e and 202, were built; 1902-1906 during which the main shop was extended over the canal, no. 201f, 1940-1941 when several additions to the main shop and two new manufacturing buildings, nos. 204 and 205, were erected.

The main building, no. 201a, (photo #1) was built in 1857 to consolidate three previous shops along the Mill River at the site of the Upper Shop. This building is seventeen bays long and five bays deep, fronting west on Allen Street. The tall two story building has a pitched roof with stepped gable ends. Supporting piers between every other bay extend above the roof line. A central entryway highlighted the original building and has since been duplicated by new construction to the south. It is set in a rectangular two story, flat roofed porch, five bays long and two bays deep. A third story square clock tower is tied visually to the entryway by brick piers, coupled at the corners. These piers again extend beyond the roof and are incorporated into an iron balustrade. Originally an octagonal fourth story completed the entry tower but was removed in the twentieth century.

Windows of the first floor are tall, rectangular, double-hung sash, 12/12, with fan lights. Each is capped with a decorative metal arched hood mould with a keystone. Those of the second story are 16/16 lights with metal arched window-heads, also with a keystone. Brownstone is used for the sills and as trim at the foundation. Two courses of brick along the cornice line are slightly stepped to create an entablature, while a third course is laid with an outward facing corner to give the effect of a cornice.

This building is located east of the forge shop at the eastern edge of the complex and is parallel to the main shop. It is of one and a half story brick construction with a pitched roof and stepped gables. This building also retains the scale and detailing of the main shop. The five entrances in the facade are highlighted with rusticated door surrounds. The effect of quoining is achieved from the brick work which is capped by a large stone hood, arched over the door. The upper side of the hood is stepped and incorporates a keystone. A small addition to the north of this building is most probably from the Civil War period. It is distinguished by four very large oculi in the main facade. Two garage-sized doors are placed in the facade with surrounds similar to those of the main storehouse, no. 202.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1 ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Description

A small brick storehouse, no. 213, (photo #8) was built in 1880 on a slight rise of land near the southern boundary of the grounds. This windowless building has four recesses along its long sides. A two piece arched metal door is placed in the western end. The entablature is patterned brick and it is incorporated into a bottom broken pediment on the entrance end.

A bridge has existed across the pond at the eastern end of the facility since before 1899. The present bridge of steel "I" beams and steel grate road surface with an iron railing probably dates from 1890-1941. The bridge sits on two concrete piers.

The final building occurred in the complex during 1940-1941 with the erection of an extension to the storehouse, no. 204, (photo #10) and an additional manufacturing building along the south side of the pond, no. 205 (photo #9). The areas between the main shop, machine shop, and tempering shop (no. 201 a, d, e respectively) were enclosed also during this period. The forge shop and machine shop connecting building (no. 201c and b) were expanded to a full two stories during World War II.

The construction from this period utilizes wide bay, fixed frame windows with small panes, set in a metal frame. Brick piers are used between every bay, a proportion corresponding to the alternating piers of the older buildings which have narrower bays. Several brick courses are stepped along the entablature and blend in with the piers.

An addition (no. 201f) (photo #1) to the main shop was begun in 1902 and replicated the original building. It extended to the south across the Mill River canal some twenty-nine bays. While this extension was somewhat longer than the first building, the entryway and tower were placed in the same relative position as the first structure. A new entry block (no. 201g) was built at the mid-point of the long facade between the towers. This ten bay long rectangular flat roofed building was again identical to the original in scale, design and detail.

The main facade along Allen Street presents a long symmetrical front. The vertical elements provided by the rhythmic piers and the twin towers provide a balance for the long facade. Architectural historian, Henry-Russell Hitchcock, cited this building as an example of the trend toward the picturesque yet with "a discipline usually lacking in the more pretentious architecture of the day"<sup>1</sup>.

As part of the consolidation of all shops in one location a new dam was built to increase water fall to thirty-five feet. A retaining wall of rock-faced cut granite was also constructed along the edge of the pond (photo #4). William Birnie, a local man with extensive experience building dams and bridges, was contracted for the project. The retaining wall is continued westerly from the dam spillway and forms a canal which passes beneath building no. 201F and Allen Street.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 2

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

Description

An archway, also of granite block provides support for the building. Most of the retaining wall has been reinforced with concrete above the water line.

By 1858 the main shop was extended to the east along the side of the pond. A one and a half story brick building was built perpendicular to the main shop (no. 201b) (Photo #6) and connecting it with the forge building (no. 201c) (photo #69), erected at the same time. A machine shop (201d) and tempering shop (201e) (photo #10) were also built about this time to the east of the main shop and parallel to it. These buildings retain the scale, design, and detail of the main shop. Several additions dating from the early days of World War II have altered these buildings.

The final construction during this period occurred in the early days of the Civil War, 1860-1861, when the main storehouse, no. 202, was built. (photos #2, #3).

<sup>1</sup>"Springfield Architecture 1800-1900"; Henry Russell Hitchcock; 1934; typescript, Springfield Library Art Room, catalog for an exhibition of photographs

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Building #201-1857, 1902  
 #213-1880; #204, 205-1941 Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Watershops Armory Complex possess integrity of location, design, setting, and materials and is significant as the principal heavy manufacturing site of small arms for the U.S. Military services and as a research and design facility which led to the development of several important new armaments. The complex is also significant as a distinctive example of industrial architecture as well as a unified grouping of buildings that appear much as they did during their major period of significance.

The Watershops Armory Complex was the heavy manufacturing facility for the U.S. National Armory Hill Shops, located one mile north. Raw materials were converted into various gun components and transported to the Hill Shops via Walnut Street for assembly and testing. The Hill Shops were built on the site of a Revolutionary War arsenal, established by General Henry Knox in 1777, on a bluff of land overlooking the Connecticut River. The Armory Square Hill Shops are a National Historic Landmark and the westerly portion is now a National Historic Site.

The Water Shops are located just east on the Mill River on the site of A Revolutionary War powder mill operated by two local men under contract with the government. This site was eventually purchased by the federal government following the official establishment of the U.S. Armory at Springfield in 1794. By 1817 the Springfield Armory had acquired land and established workshops at the three water falls on the Mill River, at which time they were designated the Lower, Middle, and Upper Watershops. The land for the Upper Watershops, the site of the present Watershops complex, was purchased in 1809, and a dam was built across the Mill River shortly afterwards so as to utilize it as a power source.

Major changes occurred at the Springfield Armory during the 1850's. Commandant James Wolf Ripley, latter Chief of Ordnance for the Union Army instituted a reorganization plan whereby the three workshops were consolidated into one. By 1857, the Lower and Middle Watershops were sold, the Upper Water shops were demolished, and the present main building was under construction. This building forms the cornerstone for the present Watershops Complex.

The concentration of all the heavy manufacturing at the Watershops necessitated an increased head of water. A new dam along with extensive excavations and a canal lined with "freestone" were constructed, the total cost reported to be one million dollars.<sup>1</sup>

The new dam increased the waterfall to thirty-five feet. Three "immense turbine water-wheels, having a united power equal to three hundred horse,"<sup>2</sup> were installed to provide power to the works.

The Armory incorporated many technical innovations throughout the early nineteenth century that led to the establishment of an assembly-line system for the mass production

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Atlantic Monthly: "the Springfield Armory"; October 1863; pp. 436-451  
 Frisch; Michael H; Town into City, Harvard University Press; 1972; Cambridge MA  
 Green, Mason; Springfield 1636-1886: History of Town and City; C.A. Nichols & Co;  
 1888; Boston.

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

# 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property 4.6 acres

Quadrangle name Springfield South

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	8	7	0	1	5	2	0	4	6	6	3	0	3	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The northern boundary is the southern line of Hickory Street. The eastern boundary runs perpendicular to Hickory Street., approximately 245 feet along a retaining wall to the pond, thence running roughly west about 107 feet to eastern edge of a bridge.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See Continuation Sheet #5)

state	code	county	code

# 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 Patricia Zaleski    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

*for filing*  
Candace D. Skell

date 12-3-80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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CONTINUATION SHEET 3

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Significance

of precision parts. By 1820 the Armory became one of the first to install Thomas Blanchard's lathe which quickly turned out irregular patterns in wood. The lathe was used to produce gunstocks, an operation which had previously been done by hand. Another important device was an English invention for forming barrels by rolling them after they were heated white hot by a coal furnace. The first of these machines, along with a skilled artisan to operate it, was installed in the Watershops in 1858. The system proved much more efficient and economical than the previous method of welding and had the added advantage of reducing barrel failures.

The barrel rolling machine and other reorganizations such as the recently constructed Watershops buildings allowed the Springfield Armory to radically step up production during the Civil War. The only other federal armory, Harper's Ferry, was captured early in the conflict and the burden of supplying the Union forces was born by the Springfield Armory. At the outset of the war the Armory was producing approximately one thousand rifled muskets a month which was increased to twenty-six thousand at the height of the war. An additional equal amount was produced by private contractors, with at least half the production coming from the immediate Springfield area. The Watershops added six barrel rolling machines and found it necessary "to put in a steam engine of two hundred horse-power". A contemporary account of the extent of the works at the Watershops cites the "five miles of leather belting in use."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Atlantic Monthly; October, 1863; p. 438

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid, p. 419.

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3 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET 4 ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Bibliography

Hitchcock, Henry Russell "Springfield Architecture 1800-1900, Catalog for an Exhibition of Photographs; typescript; 1934; Springfield Library Art Room

Longham, Peter, Western Massachusetts and the Arms Supply in the Civil War; Washington; 1958.

Springfield Daily Republican, "Development of Small Arms, over a Century at the Armory; December 1, 1901; p. 8.

Whittlesey, Derwent; "A History of the Springfield Armory"; PhD Thesis; University of Chicago; 1920; typescript, Springfield Library Local History Room.

Whittlesey, Derwent. "Abstracts from Original Sources made for the purpose of writing a History of the Springfield Armory"; typescript; Volumes 1-8; 1920; Springfield Library Local History Room.

Wright, Henry; The Story of Western Massachusetts; Lewis Historical Publishing Co.; 1949; New York.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 5                      ITEM NUMBER 10                      PAGE 1

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Verbal Boundary Description

thence south on the eastern edge of the bridge across the pond. The boundary then follows the center of a road which curves to the south west and continues along the middle of the road roughly west about 170 feet from the eastern edge of building no. 205 to a point. The boundary then runs perpendicular to the road, about 119 feet to the northern side of Allen Street. The remainder of the southern and western boundary is formed by the curve of the north east side of Allen Street, to the point of beginning at the southeast intersection of Allen and Hickory Street. Also refer to the attached map. The nomination is confined to the Armory grounds.

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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

Item number 10

Page 2

MAP KEY

<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Building Name</u>	<u>Construction Date</u>
201a	Main Shop	1857
201b	Connector	1858
201c	Forge Building	1858
201d	Machine Shop	1858
201e	Tempering Shop	1858
201f	Machine Shop addition	1902
201g	Machine Shop entry	1902
202	Main Storehouse	1860-61
204	Storehouse addition	1940
205	Manufacturing	1940
213	Storehouse	1880
	Canal	1857
	Dam	1857-1902
	Bridge	1940

Property

*Water Shops Amory*

*DOE  
1/3/81*

State

*MA, Hampden*

Working Number

*11.3.80.2724*

**TECHNICAL**

Photos

*10*

Maps

*1*

**CONTROL**

**HISTORIAN**

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

**BRANCH CHIEF**

*Significant as the principal heavy manufacturing site of small arms for the U.S. military since design complete. That developed several important new armaments. Shall*

**KEEPER** *12-8-80*

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered **DEC 3 1980**

Federal Register Entry

*2.2.82*

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_



Water Shops Armory  
Springfield, Mass

Fred Clark  
June 1979

*Hampden Co.*

1 of 10  
Main Elevation (west)  
Allen St., view east

NOV 3 1980  
DEC 3 1980



Water Shops Armory  
Springfield, Mass

Fred Clark  
June 1979

*Hampden Co.*

2 Of 10  
Building #202 from bridge  
view north

DEC 3

1980

NOV 3

1980



Water Shops Armory  
Springfield, Mass

Fred Clark  
June 1979

*Hampden Co.*

3 of 10  
building #202 view southeast

NOV 3 1980

DEC 3 1980



Water Shops Armory  
Springfield, Mass

Fred Clark  
June 1979

*Hampden Co.*

4 of 10  
Retaining wall and raceway  
below big #20if view southeast

DEC 3

NOV 3 1980

1980



Water Shops Armory  
Springfield, Mass

Fred Clark  
June 1979

5 of 10  
Pond and interior of  
complex view west

*Hampden  
County*

DEC 3

NOV 3

1980

1980



Water Shops Armory  
Springfield, Mass

Fred Clark  
June 1979

*Hampden  
Co.*

6 of 10  
Building #213 view east southeast

1980

NOV 3

1980

DEC 3



Water Shops Armory  
Springfield, Mass

Fred Clark  
June 1979

6 of 10  
Water Shops Pond and bridge  
view east

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Water Shops Armory  
Springfield, Mass

Fred Clark

*Hampden  
Co.*

7 or 10

Dam and building #205 view  
east southeast

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Water Shops Armory  
Springfield, Mass

Fred Clark  
June 1979

*Hampden Co.*

9 of 10  
Building #205 view northeast

NOV 3 1980

DEC 3 1980



Water Shops Armory  
Springfield, Mass

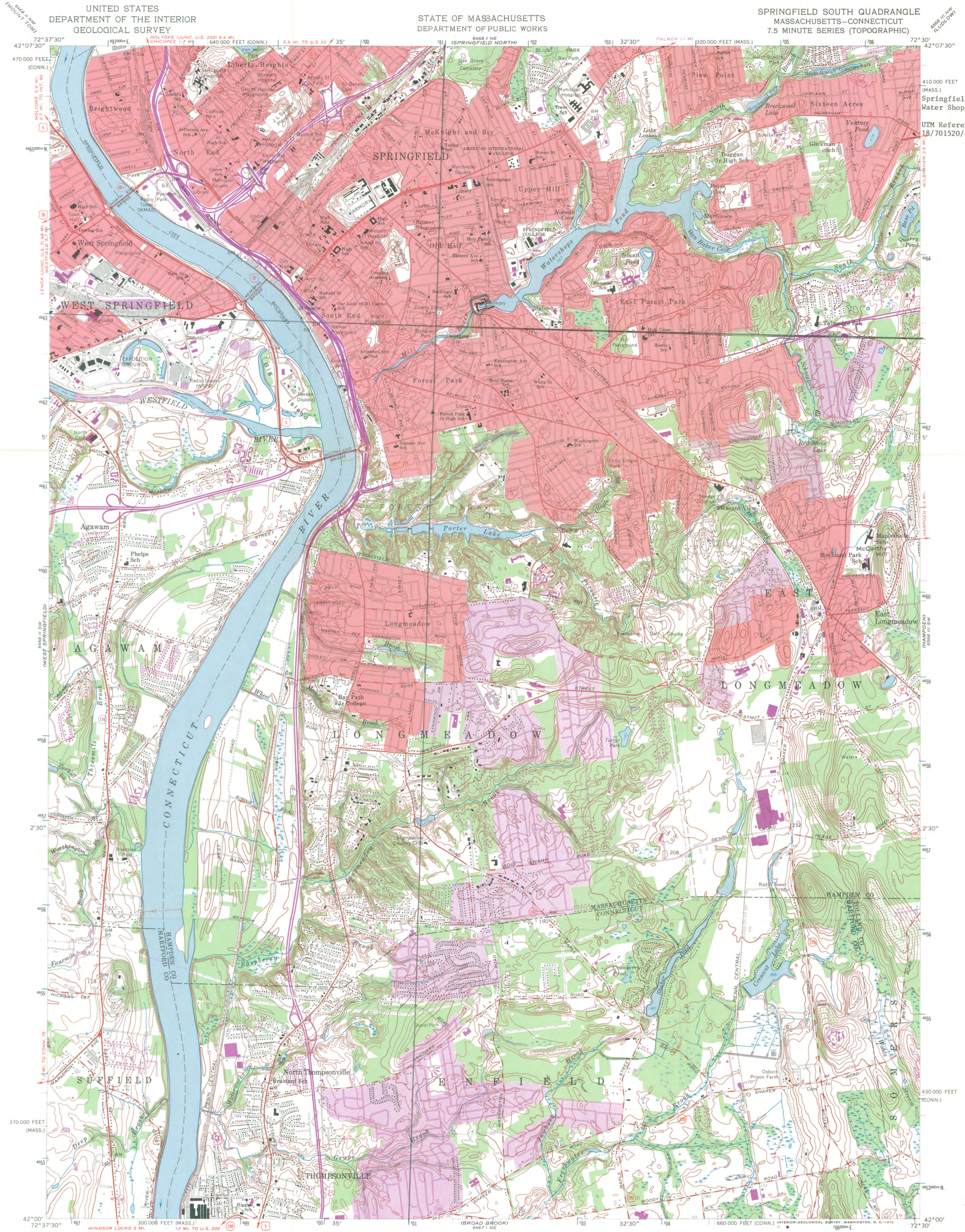
Fred Clark  
June 1979

*Hampden  
Co.*

10 of 10  
Hickory St. Elevation view  
southeast

NOV 3 1980

DEC 3 1980



UTM References:  
18/701520/4663030

Mapped, 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

Polycyclic projection. 1927 North American datum

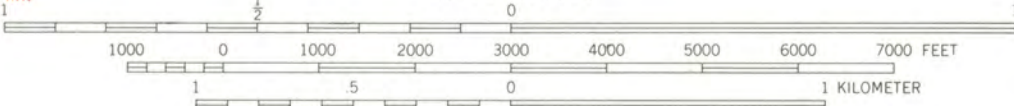
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone, and Connecticut coordinate system

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



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

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

PHOTOREVISED 1970  
AMS 6468 II SE-SERIES V814

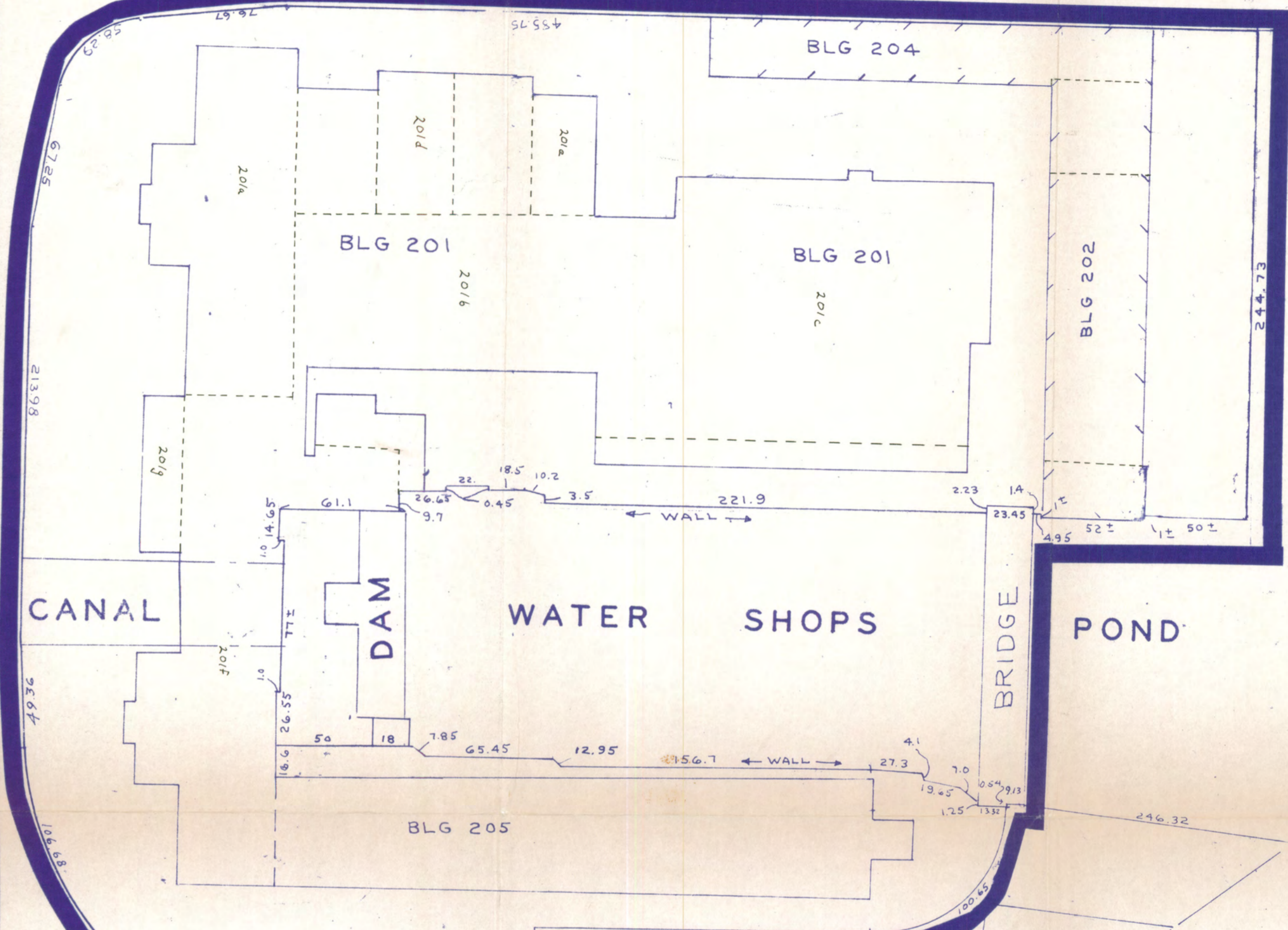


DEC 3 1980

754

705

HICKORY STREET



OAKLAND ST.

ALLEN

MALDEN ST.

STREET

754

DATA COMPLETE TO 1/1/2017  
 PROPERTY SURVEY JULY 2017  
 RECORDING DEPARTMENT  
 DRAWN BY [unclear] CHECKED BY [unclear]  
 TRACED BY ENKLION  
 REVISED BY [unclear] REVISIT BY [unclear]



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
Spauling Block	Webster Worcester County
Shumway Block	Webster Worcester County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul Tsongas  
Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Honorable Silvio O. Conte  
Honorable Garry E. Studts  
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.