

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

JUL 02 1975
RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

JUL 23 1975

DB 75000 278

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC The North Canal

AND/OR COMMON
same**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Parallel to Canal Street

CITY, TOWN

Lawrence

VICINITY OF

Fifth

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE
025COUNTY
EssexCODE
009**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☒ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☒ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The Essex Company

STREET & NUMBER 6 Essex Street

CITY, TOWN

Lawrence

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 01840

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Essex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

381 Common Law Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Lawrence

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1967

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

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 North Canal lies 400 feet north of the Merrimack River and runs parallel to the Merrimack which flows from west to east through the city of Lawrence. To the north of the canal is a heavy concentration of industrial and commercial structures consisting of two- and three-story brick buildings. To the south is an island, artificially formed by the canal and the Merrimack River, on which are located groupings of mill buildings which grew up there as a result of their need for the power supplied by the canal. The North Canal was begun in August 1845 and was put into partial operation in March 1848. Final completion took place in August 1848.

The North Canal is 5300 feet long, and its width is 100 feet at its head and 60 feet at its end. It is four feet deep at the walls and twelve feet deep at the center. The canal bottom slopes one-half foot from head-gate to wasteway to insure a uniform flow. The canal walls are made of undressed granite, partially rough-set, partially set in mortar. The bottom of the canal is covered with granite rubble and a mixture of hardened sand, clay, and gravel, known as "puddle." Seepage is minimal.

At the head of the canal is a rectangular gatehouse of wood frame construction. Built in 1848, this simple building reflects the Greek Revival style in its gable end and corner pilaster details. At the gatehouse 24 headgates control the amount of water entering the six sluice-ways. A dozen headgates leading to the mills remain in situ. A wasteway at the end of the canal controls the amount of water allowed to remain in the canal. There is also a spillway at the eastern extremity of the North Canal. A single navigation lock at the head of the canal has been removed, but the lock walls remain. A set of three navigation locks at the end of the canal have been filled in. The canal is maintained by the Essex Company and is in good running order.

Water from the Merrimack River enters the upper part (western end) of the canal and is emptied into the Spicket River at a point about 100 yards north of the Spicket's junction with the Merrimack. The water is diverted into the canal by means of a granite dam which stretches obliquely across the Merrimack and is located at the western end of the canal.

Bounded by the North Canal, the "Great Stone Dam," the Merrimack River, and a portion of the Spicket River is an island of approximately 49 acres. This area was the site of all but one of the original mills built during the mid-nineteenth century. Each factory received its water power through a piping system known as penstocks which are still in existence. The penstocks ran underneath the mills from the canal to the river. The flow of water through the factory was regulated by a gate on the side of the canal.

To the south of the Merrimack River is the South Canal which was built in stages between 1870 and 1910. Originally the South Canal was three-quarters of a mile long, although in modern times it has been considerably shortened.

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/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☒ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☒ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☒ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1845-1848

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles S. Storror, James B. Francis,
and Charles Bigelow (engineers)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The North Canal figured prominently in the founding of Lawrence and was responsible for the city's development as one of the leading textile manufacturing centers in the United States prior to World War I. The Essex Company, which founded Lawrence in 1847, selected the site for their new town because of its favorable topography for a canal. In 1822 the same company had founded Lowell and had built the textile mills in that city. Samuel and Abbott Lawrence, Patrick T. Jackson, Nathan Appleton, and other prominent manufacturers and investors saw that a power canal could be built at Lawrence which would equal the output of the entire network at Lowell.

The construction of the canal at Lawrence represented the latest state of the art in civil engineering techniques in North America as well as in Europe. With its carefully designed surface area, slope, bottom covering, and waste-way, the North Canal was a vast improvement over the canals which had been built at Lowell in the 1820's and 1830's.

Two of the nation's leading civil engineers designed the canal at Lawrence. The principal engineer (also Agent and Treasurer of the Essex Company) was Charles S. Storror, author of the first American text on hydraulic engineering (1837). Storror's design of the canal at Lawrence, using the latest refinements of European engineering, was a radical departure from earlier American hydraulic construction at Paterson, Lowell, and the Blackstone Valley. Assisting Storror was James B. Francis, builder of the Northern Canal and dam at Lowell and designer of a revolutionary new water turbine. Some of Francis' famous hydraulic experiments at Lowell were made for the hydraulic works at Lawrence. The construction engineer for the Lawrence North Canal was Charles Bigelow, a graduate of West Point and former member of the Corps of Engineers. Bigelow was responsible for building much of Fort Independence in Boston Harbor and also designed several of the mills of Lawrence.

As testimony to the skill of these engineers, the dam and canal at Lawrence have never required more than minimum maintenance from 1848 to the present. No significant repairs have ever been necessary in either structure. The North Canal has in fact remained so effective that a recent study made by the Department of Public Works showed that if necessary it could supply a city nearly twice the size of Lawrence with energy.

Continued -

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Department of the Interior, 10th Annual Census, (GPO, 1885), vol. XVI, Reports on the Water Power of the United States, Part I, pp. 25-30.
H. Wheatland, ed. Standard History of Essex County (Boston, 1878): Robert H. Tewksbury, "History of Lawrence," pp. 210-238.
Records of the Essex Company, 1844-1940. Manuscript housed at the Merrimack Valley Textile Museum, North Andover, Massachusetts.
Maps and drawings housed at the Essex Company, 6 Essex Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 10 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 3224090 4730380

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 19 3224110 4730290

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

✓ C 19 3224090 4730380

D 19 322380 4729700

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

E 19/322360/4729850

F 19/322970/4730300

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Judy Dobbs, National Register Editor, and Peter M. Molloy, Curator, Merrimack Valley

ORGANIZATION

DATE Textile Museum

Massachusetts Historical Commission

25 June 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

40 Beacon Street

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth R. Amazon

TITLE

Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission

DATE 6/25/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7-29-75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE JUL 29 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 02 1975

JUL 29 1975

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Statement of Significance (Continued)

The North Canal supplied water to power virtually all of Lawrence's mills until the 1880's when the growing size of the mills necessitated the use of steam engines. The canal continued in full use, however, until the depression of the 1930's forced many mills to suspend operations. Most of the headgates and penstocks which supplied the mills are still in place and a few are still in use. State law required that the canal be navigable by barges, and Storrow designed a set of locks to accomplish this. In the 1920's the locks were filled in, making the only modification which has taken place at the canal.

The North Canal paralleled the Merrimack River, making it possible to design the city on a grid pattern centered on the canals. Boarding houses and mills lined the canal for its entire length. Shaded by elm trees, the North Canal was a favorite holiday promenade for citizens of Lawrence.

Property

The North Canal

State

Mass.

Working Number

7.2.75.1221

TECHNICAL

*Sketch**Point C**appears incorrect*

Photos

6

Maps

*1**ESSEX*

CONTROL

*pl**7.3.75**Nice!*

HISTORIAN

*Accept**W. R. Love**7/3/75*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*ACCEPT**H. J. Hall**7/7/75*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

*To HAER**Excellent nomination but sorry
South Canal and Great Stone Dam
not included.*

HAER

Inventory

plus 7/11/75

Review

*ACCEPT**plus 8/11/75*

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Accept**Cole**7/11/75*

BRANCH CHIEF

*accept**H. J. Hall**7.25.75*

KEEPER

*[Signature]**JUL 29 1975*

National Register Write-up

9-2-75

Send-back

Entered

JUL 29 1975

Federal Register Entry

Re-submit

INT:2106-74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 02 1975

DATE ENTERED JUL 29 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC North Canal

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Lawrence

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Essex

STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Peter M. Molloy

DATE OF PHOTO 1 February 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Merrimack Valley Textile Museum
North Andover, Massachusetts

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 2

View of upper canal from gatehouse

Direction: East

#106

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 02 1975

DATE ENTERED JUL 29 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC North Canal

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Lawrence

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Essex

STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Peter M. Molloy

DATE OF PHOTO 1 February 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Merrimack Valley Textile Museum
North Andover, Massachusetts

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

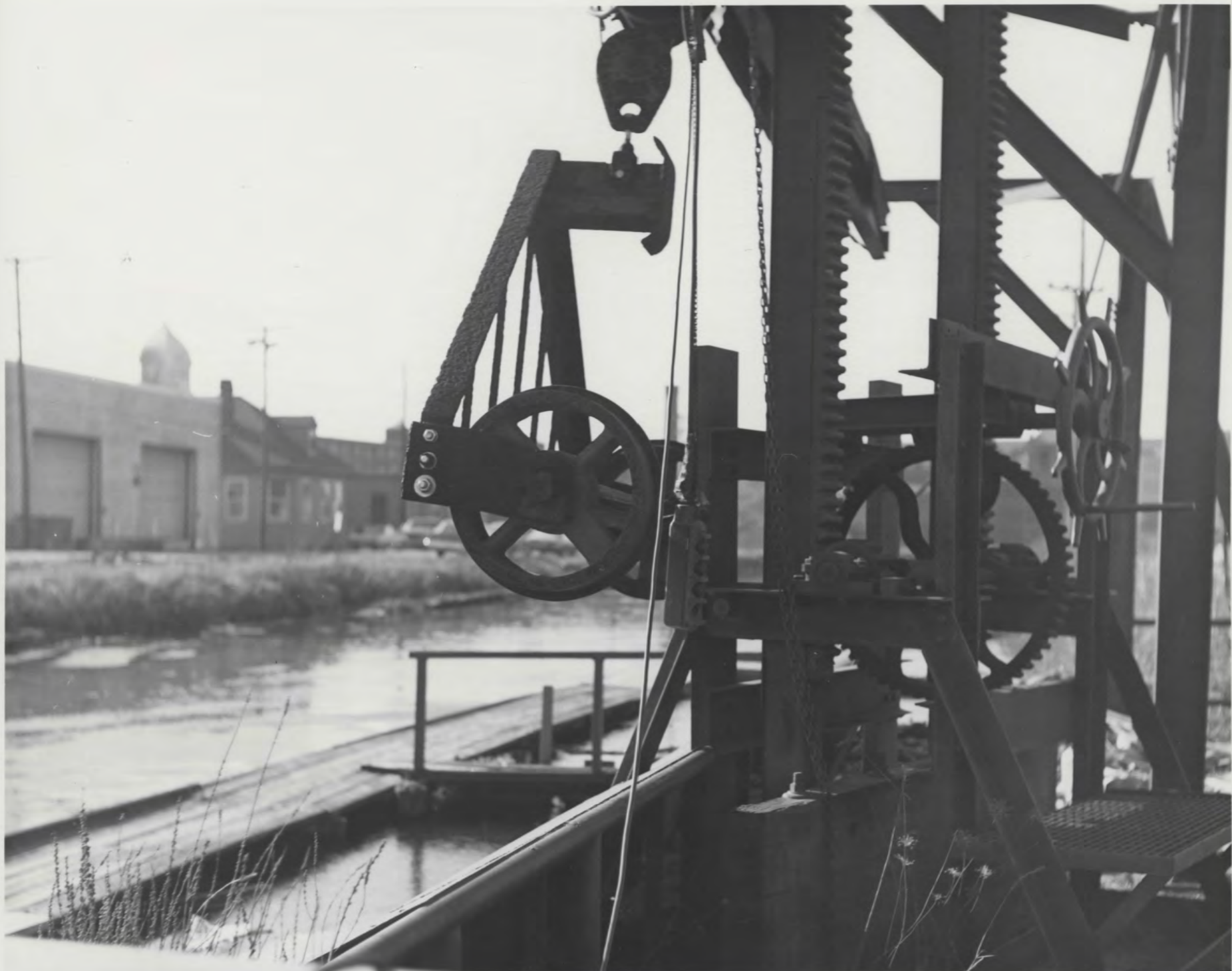
PHOTO NO. 5

View of wasteway

Direction: Southeast

#2066

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 02 1975

DATE ENTERED JUL 29 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC North Canal

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Lawrence

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Essex

STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Peter M. Molloy

DATE OF PHOTO 1 February 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Merrimack Valley Textile Museum
North Andover, Massachusetts

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 4

View of headgate at entrance to wasteway
Direction: Southwest

#3066

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 02 1975

DATE ENTERED JUL 29 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC North Canal

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Lawrence VICINITY OF COUNTY Essex STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Peter M. Molloy

DATE OF PHOTO 1 February 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Merrimack Valley Textile Museum
North Andover, Massachusetts

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 6

View of spillway of wasteway
Direction: Southwest

#4 of 6

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 02 1975

DATE ENTERED JUL 29 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC North Canal

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Lawrence

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Essex

STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Peter M. Molloy

DATE OF PHOTO 1 February 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Merrimack Valley Textile Museum
North Andover, Massachusetts

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 3

View of middle section of canal, in front of former Washington Mill
Direction: West

#506

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



1. NORTH CANAL GATE HOUSE FROM UP RIVER
2. N
3. N
4. P

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-7-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 02 1975

DATE ENTERED JUL 29 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The North Canal

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Lawrence

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Essex

STATE

MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Peter M. Molloy

DATE OF PHOTO 1 February 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Merrimack Valley Textile Museum
North Andover, Massachusetts

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

View of gatehouse from upriver
Direction: southeast

PHOTO NO. 1

#606

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 02 1975

DATE ENTERED JUL 29 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC North Canal

AND/OR COMMON Name

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Lawrence

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Essex

STATE MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE USGS

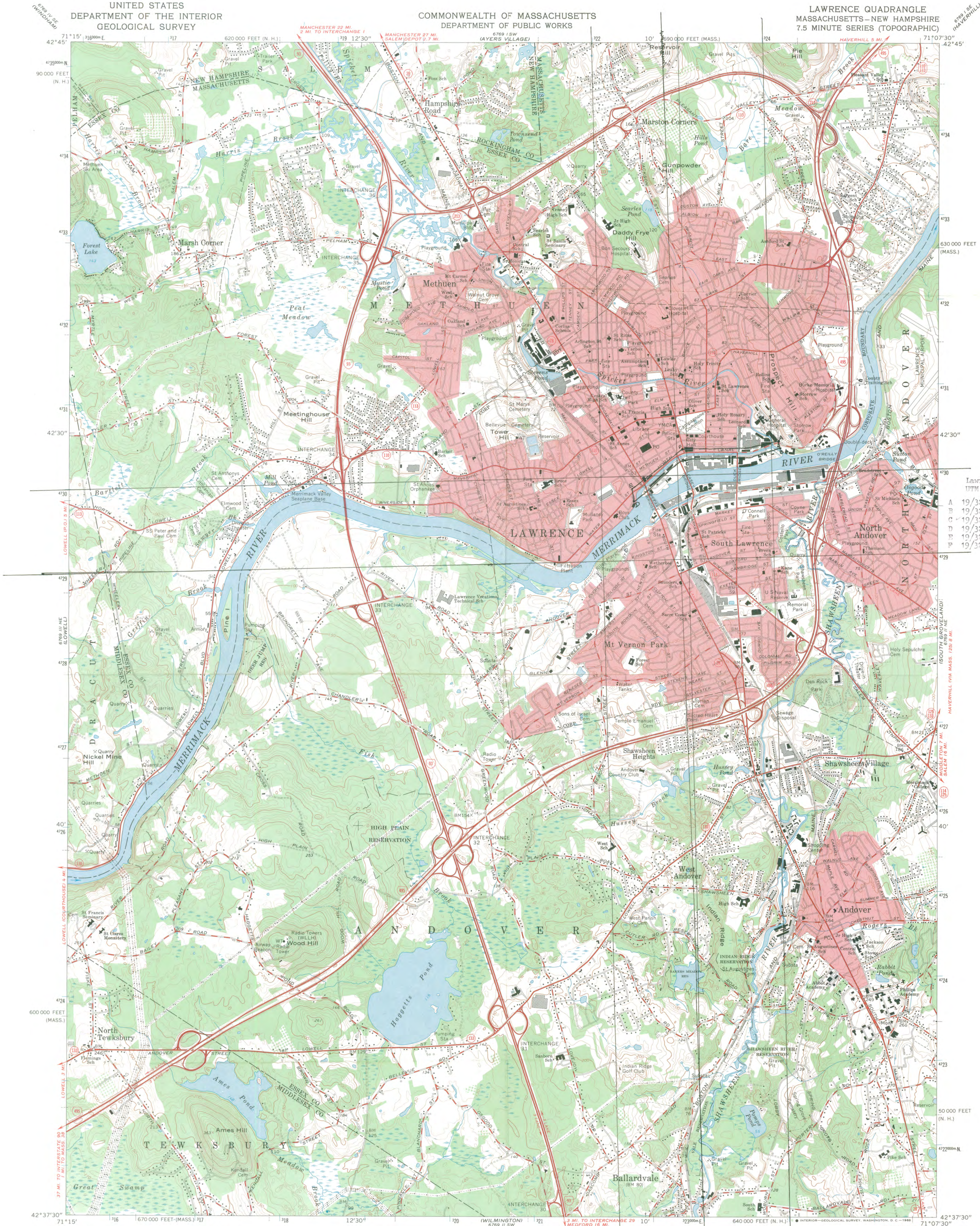
SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1966

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

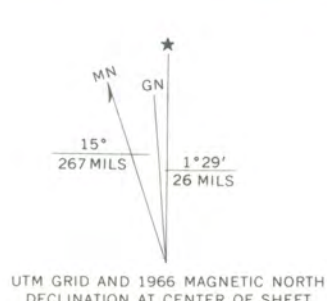
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



Lawrence, North Canal
UTM reference:

A 19/324090/4730380
B 19/324110/4730290
C 19/324130/4730180
D 19/322380/4729700
E 19/322360/4729850
F 19/322970/4730300

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1941 and 1942. Revised 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and New Hampshire coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route ——— State Route ———

LAWRENCE, MASS.—N. H.
N4237.5—W7107.5/7.5

1966

AMS 6769 11 NW—SERIES V814



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 02 1975

DATE ENTERED JUL 29 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC North Canal

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Lawrence

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Essex

STATE MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE Sketch Map

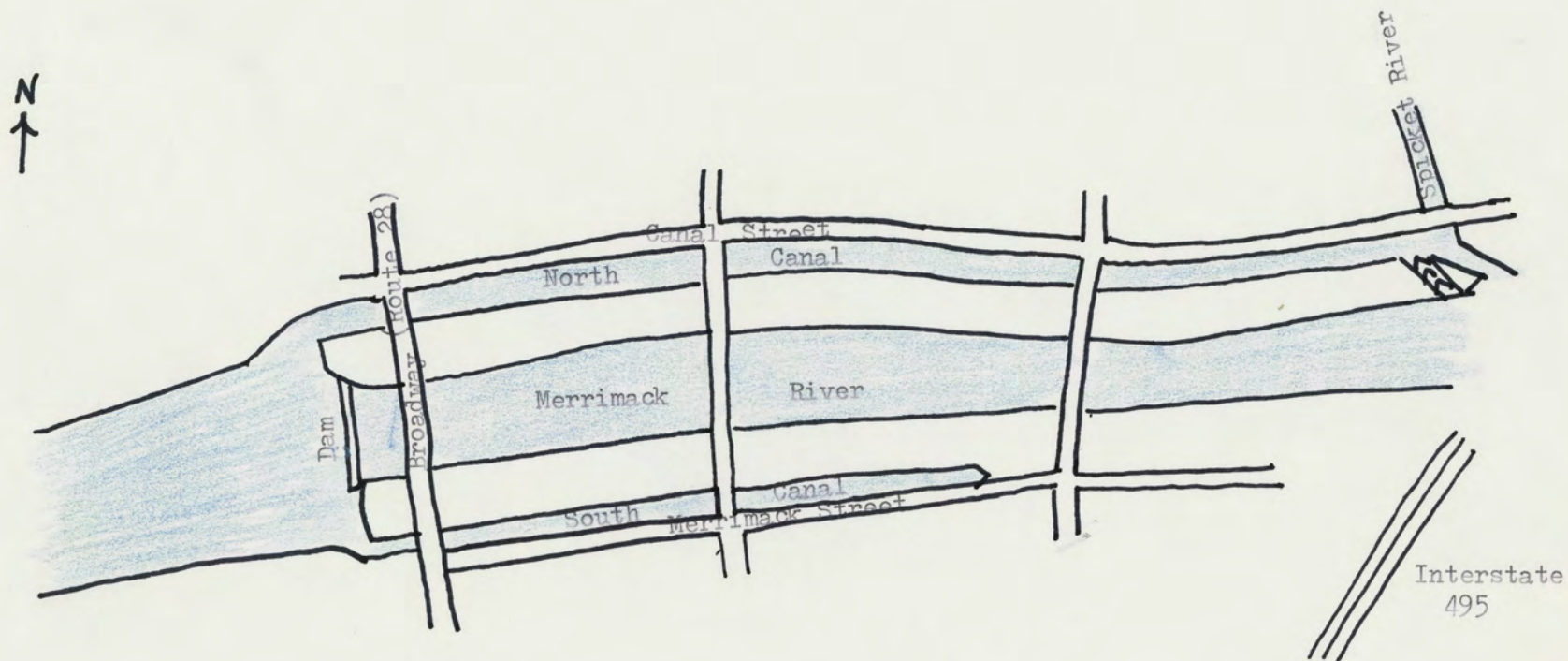
SCALE Not to scale

DATE June 1975

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



Location of the NORTH CANAL, Lawrence, Massachusetts



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Paul Guzzi

Secretary of the Commonwealth

40 Beacon Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108

727-8470

25 June 1975

Mr. William Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

RED FLAG



Dear Bill:

Enclosed is the National Register submission for the North Canal in Lawrence which I discussed with you in our telephone conversation on June 25th. Your immediate attention to this submission is requested because the property is currently threatened. Ordinarily in such an emergency we would hope that the Federal agency would request a designation of eligibility, but under the circumstances we feel that sending the prepared submission for your decision will be as expedient.

The South Canal and Great Stone Dam which are also mentioned in the form will be sent to you later as separate submissions. We need more information on them, and at the present time is of the essence as far as the North Canal is concerned. I hope you concur.

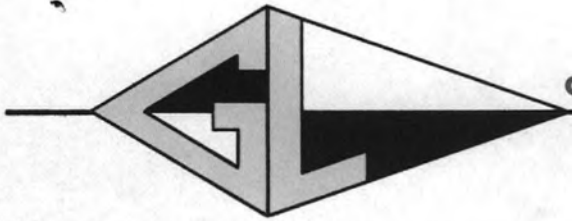
Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely yours,

Betty

Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

ERA/pjj



PR

GREATER LAWRENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SERVING LAWRENCE, ANDOVER, NORTH ANDOVER, METHUEN; & SALEM, N.H.

THREE HUNDRED ESSEX ST.
LAWRENCE, MASS. 01840
(617) 686-9404

June 26, 1975

JUL 14 REC'D
Dr. A. R. Mortensen
Director of Office of Archaeology
and Restored Preservation
3113 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Dr. Mortensen:

By unanimous vote of the Board of Directors of the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, we urge your immediate action to defer any motion relating to the historical designation of canals in the City of Lawrence.

Efforts underway by the public and private sectors to revitalize the Central Business District could be seriously hampered otherwise.

Sincerely,

William L. Lane
President

WLL/1

cc: Governor Michael Dukakis
Congressman Paul Tsongas
Dr. Murtagh, Keeper of National Register



Office of the Mayor, City of Lawrence, Massachusetts

PR



FRED T. EAD
Secretary To The Mayor
Tel. 685-5839

John J. Buckley
MAYOR

June 27, 1975

JUL 14 REC'D

Dr. A. R. Mortensen
Director of Office of Archaeology and
Restored Preservation
3113 L. Street N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Mortensen:

By unanimous vote of the members of the Lawrence City Council,
we urge your immediate action to defer any motion relating to the
historical designation of canals in the City of Lawrence.

Efforts underway by the public and private sectors to revitalize
the Central Business District could be seriously hampered otherwise.

Sincerely,

John J. Buckley
John J. Buckley
Mayor

Alfred A. Donovan
Alderman Alfred A. Donovan

Robert J. Lippe
Alderman Robert J. Lippe

Joseph P. Markey
Alderman Joseph P. Markey

Richard A. Reming
Alderman Richard A. Reming

JJB/ag

H34-PR

JUL 28 1975

Thor
7/23/75
7-23-75
Shull
for
Nerrington
7-28
Wright
7/28

Mr. William L. Lane
President, Greater Lawrence Chamber
of Commerce
300 Essex Street
Lawrence, Massachusetts 01840

Dear Mr. Lane:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the nomination of canals in the city of Lawrence, Massachusetts, to the National Register of Historic Places.

As you may know, the "North Canal" in Lawrence has been nominated to the National Register by the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer. This nomination is being reviewed by the professional staff of the National Register at this time to determine whether it meets the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. We have enclosed materials which describe the National Register program and the criteria for nominations, for your information.

Listing on the National Register is Federal recognition that a property possesses historic values and is worthy of preservation. Inclusion of a property on the Register insures that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is given an opportunity to review and comment upon any undertaking licensed, funded, or executed by a Federal agency that may affect the property. In addition, preservation projects on properties listed in the National Register in accordance with an approved State Historic Preservation Plan, can qualify for either acquisition or development grants-in-aid. Listing has no other effect on the property; it does not affect, in any manner, the range of actions an owner could take, as long as Federal financing is not involved; and it gives no governmental unit any authority or control over the property, its use, or disposition.

Federal agencies are charged under Executive Order 11593 to exercise caution in regard to properties which may meet the National Register criteria and to seek determinations of eligibility on appropriate properties which may be affected by federally funded or licensed

projects regardless of whether or not the State chooses to nominate a property. The State's nomination of the North Canal will assure an expeditious assessment of the property's significance for planning purposes.

Sincerely yours,

/Sgd/ William J. Murtagh

Acting Director, Office of Archeology
and Historic Preservation

Enclosures

cc: Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108 w/c inc.

bcc: Regional Director, North Atlantic Region w/c inc.
Director's Reading File
DI
PH
PR w/c inc.

FNP: J Thorman:fd 7-22-75q

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PR

Thorman
7-28-75
7-28-75
(C Shull
for
Herrington)
Went
7/28

JUL 28 1975

H34-PR

Honorable John J. Buckley
Mayor of Lawrence
Lawrence, Massachusetts 01840

Dear Mayor Buckley:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the nomination of canals in the city of Lawrence, Massachusetts, to the National Register of Historic Places.

As you may know, the "North Canal" in Lawrence has been nominated to the National Register by the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer. This nomination is being reviewed by the professional staff of the National Register at this time to determine whether it meets the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. We have enclosed materials which describe the National Register program and the criteria for nominations, for your information.

Listing on the National Register is Federal recognition that a property possesses historic values and is worthy of preservation. Inclusion of a property on the Register insures that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is given an opportunity to review and comment upon any undertaking licensed, funded, or executed by a Federal agency that may affect the property. In addition, preservation projects on properties listed in the National Register, in accordance with an approved State Historic Preservation Plan, can qualify for either acquisition or development grants-in-aid.

Listing has no other effect on the property; it does not affect, in any manner, the range of actions an owner could take, as long as Federal financing is not involved; and it gives no governmental unit any authority or control over the property, its use, or disposition.

Federal agencies are charged under Executive Order 11593 to exercise caution in regard to properties which may meet the National Register criteria and to seek determinations of eligibility on appropriate properties which may be affected by federally funded or licensed projects, regardless of whether or not the State chooses to nominate a property. The State's nomination of the North Canal will assure an expeditious assessment of the property's significance for planning purposes.

Sincerely yours,

/Sgd/ William J. Murtagh

Acting Director, Office of Archeology
and Historic Preservation

cc: Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108 w/c inc.
bcc: DG-Advisory Council w/c inc.
Regional Director, North Atlantic Region w/c inc.
Director's Reading File, DI, PH, PR-E.O.11593 w/c inc.
J Thorman:fd 7-25-75
FNP: J Thorman:fd 7-25-75
[BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PR

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered JUL 29 1975

Name

Location

North Canal

Lawrence
Essex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Paul Tsongas

Regional Director, North Atlantic
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

PR MMott/row 7/30/75

Copy to Dept of Commerce

Advisory Council on
Historic Preservation
1522 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

April 25, 1978

Mr. Kenneth F. Plumb, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
825 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Mr. Plumb:

This concerns an application being circulated by Lawrence Hydroelectric Associates for a license to construct the Lawrence Hydroelectric project on the Merrimack River in Lawrence, Massachusetts. The proposed project will effect the Essex Dam and the North Canal Gatehouse, Lawrence, Massachusetts, properties that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The South Canal Gatehouse also appears to possess historic and engineering significance, and we understand that you recently requested a determination of eligibility for that property from the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

After you receive a determination from the National Register, you must make a determination of the project's effect on all properties eligible for or included in the National Register. When the Council receives this determination we will work with you to complete the relevant portions of our "Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR Part 800).

After reviewing the license application, it appears that the applicant has been responsive to the historic preservation concerns raised by the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer. The information concerning the project's effect on the wing wall adjacent to the South Gatehouse does not indicate if the wall is to be totally removed or only partially dismantled. This information should be included in future documentation submitted to the Council.

Thank you for affording the Council an opportunity to review the license application. We will retain it in our files in anticipation of future submissions from your agency concerning compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1320) for this project. Should you have any questions concerning this correspondence, please call Sharon Conway at 202-254-3967.

Sincerely yours,

Signed

Myra F. Harrison
Assistant Director
Office of Review and Compliance

cc: HCRS-NR

The Council is an independent unit of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government charged by the Act of October 15, 1966 to advise the President and Congress in the field of Historic Preservation.

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 3/29/77
 Reviewer INITIALS: geoff
 NR DOE July 29, 1975

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: The North Canal

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER parallel to Canal Street

CITY, TOWN Lawrence

STATE Massachusetts

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5th

COUNTY Essex code 009

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR EXTERIOR ENVIRONS
 - Substantially intact-1 - Substantially intact-2 - Substantially intact-3
 - unknown - 4 - unknown - 5 - unknown - 6
 - Not applicable - 7 - not applicable - 8 - Not applicable-9

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - EXCELLENT - DETERIORATED - UNALTERED - ORIGINAL SITE
GOOD - RUINS - ALTERED - MOVED
 - FAIR - UNEXPOSED - Reconstructed - Unknown
 - Unexcavated - Excavated

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
 IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
 IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- industrial

now- industrial

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
 - ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
 - AGRICULTURE
 - ARCHITECTURE
 - ART
 - COMMERCE
 - COMMUNICATIONS
 - CONSERVATION
 - ECONOMICS
 - EDUCATION
 - ENGINEERING - 11
 - EXPLORATION - 13
 - INDUSTRY
 - INVENTION
 - LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
 - LAW/Gov't/politics
 - LITERATURE
 - MILITARY
 - MUSIC
 - PHILOSOPHY
 - POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
 - RELIGION
 - SCIENCE
 - SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
 - TRANSPORTATION - 25
 - OTHER (SPECIFY)
 - entertainment
 - health
 - recreation
 - settlement
 - socio/cultural
 - urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: N.A.

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer: CHAS. S. STORROW -

artist/artisan: ASSISTED BY JAMES B. FRANCIS

builder/contractor:
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER - CHAS. BIGELOW

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role
&
appropriate date)

personal (2) SAMUEL & ABBOTT LAWRENCE AND (3) PATRICK T. JACKSON
AND (4) NATHAN APPLETON - PROMINENT MANUFACTURERS AND IN-
VESTORS - FINANCED CANAL
events

institutional (1) ESSEX CO. - TEXTILE CO. - BUILT CANAL & FOUNDED
TOWN OF LAWRENCE

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

1845-48

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

1870-1910

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

1847

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

10

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

5,300' LONG CANAL SYSTEM, BUILT
OF UNDRESSED GRANITE WITH 21 HEADGATES DIRECTING WATER INTO
6 SLUICEWAYS TO POWER INDUSTRIES ALONG THE CANAL AND ON ISLAND
FORMED BETWEEN THE CANAL AND THE MERRIMACK RIVER, SOURCE OF ITS WATER. TOWN
DEVELOPED BECAUSE OF CANAL AND SUBSEQUENT INDUSTRIES
CONSTRUCTED MID-19TH C.; ~~STILL~~ STILL IN WORKING ORDER.

~~Parallel Merrimack~~ Responsible for city's establishment and influential in its
development as one of leading U.S. textile manufacturing centers prior to WWI;
SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences) ~~parallel Merrimack~~ incorporated latest civil
engineering techniques; still in working order.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: N.A.

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer: CHAS. S. STORROW -

artist/artisan: ASSISTED BY JAMES B. FRANCIS

builder/contractor:

CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER - CHAS. BIGELOW

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role

&

appropriate date)

personal (3) SAMUEL & ADRIAN LAWRENCE AND (3) PATRICK T. JACKS
AND (4) NATHAN APPLETON - PROMINENT MANUFACTURERS AND IN-
VESTORS - FINANCED CANAL
events

institutional (Essex Co. Textile Co. - BUILT CANAL & FOUNDED
TOWN OF LAWRENCE

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

1845-48

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

1870-1910

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

1847

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

10

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

5,300'-LONG CANAL SYSTEM, BUILT
OF UNDRESSED GRANITE WITH 24 HEADGATES DIRECTING WATER INTO

5300#'-long canal system of undressed granite; 24 head gates direct water

into 6 sluiceways to power industries along canal and on island formed

between canal and Merrimack River. Responsible for ~~found~~ founding and

development of Lawrence as one of country's leading textile manufacturing

centers prior to WWI; incorporated innovative civil engineering techniques;

still in working order.

engineering techniques; still in working order.