

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name New Bay Diner Restaurant

other names/site number Route 66 Diner (preferred); Mountain View Diner #532 (The Diners of Massachusetts MPS)

2. Location

street & number 950 Bay Street n/a not for publication

city or town Springfield n/a vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Hampden code 013 zip code 01109

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director 10/8/03
Signature of certifying official/Title Gara H. Metz, Executive Director Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet,
☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register
☐ removed from the
National Register
☐ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson Beall

12/4/03

Route 66 Diner
Name of Property

Hampden, Massachusetts
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	building
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Twentieth-Century Commercial Architecture:

The Diners of Massachusetts

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Stainless Steel Diner

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick and concrete

walls stainless steel

roof rubber membrane

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Route 66 Diner

Name of Property

Hampden, Massachusetts

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☒ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Period of Significance

1957

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Mountain View Diners (Signac, N.J.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Route 66 Diner
Name of Property

Hampden, Massachusetts
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 18 702110 4666980
Zone Easting Northing

2.
Zone Easting Northing

3.
Zone Easting Northing

4.
Zone Easting Northing
— See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathleen Kelly Broomer, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date October, 2003

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Donald Roy

street & number 950 Bay Street telephone 413-737-4921

city or town Springfield state MA zip code 01103

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503. NPS Form 10-900 OMB No.

1024-0018
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

The Diners of Massachusetts MPS
Route 66 Diner
Springfield (Hampden Co.), MA

Section number 7 Page 1

7. Description

Route 66 Diner, 943 Bay Street, Springfield (1957) (MHC# 4379), is a fine example of a post-World War II stainless steel diner in Massachusetts. The Route 66 was diner #532 manufactured by Mountain View Diners of Signac, New Jersey. The diner is located in a mixed-use area east of the city's central business district, adjacent to the former Penn Central/Boston & Albany Railroad right-of-way, now used by freight and Amtrak trains. The diner occupies a level lot and there is parking at the sides of the building.

The Route 66 is seven bays wide and about two bays deep, excluding the rounded front corners. The steel-frame diner has a brick and concrete foundation, stainless steel cladding with horizontal bands in red, and a rounded hipped roof clad with rubber membrane. A parapet wall of corrugated steel encircles the diner at the roofline. Steel also is used for decorative effect at the projecting rounded corners, in window-height panels on the end elevations, and in panels flanking the center entry (inside the entry vestibule). An entry vestibule on the façade is a common feature on stainless steel diners from the post-World War II era. Here, however, the steel and glass vestibule does not display the same stainless steel wall surface as the rest of the diner and appears to be a later addition. The doors are steel and glass systems, with an original steel door in the secondary entrance on the east (right) elevation. Windows in the diner contain fixed plate glass, and there are flared stainless steel pilasters between the windows. Rooftop signs facing oncoming traffic from the east and west read *ROUTE 66 DINER*, with the letters of the last word outlined in neon.

There is a one-story, concrete block annex at the rear, housing the kitchen and restrooms. A typical feature of post-World War II diners, the block likely was constructed in 1957 when the diner was installed on this site. Its presence does not compromise the integrity of the factory-built.

On the interior, the manufacturer's tag survives above the main entrance, and reads *MOUNTAIN VIEW DINERS, SERIAL #532, SIGNAC, NEW JERSEY*. The diner has a full-length counter with staff entrances at the center and on the left (west) side. Seating consists of seventeen stools at the counter and six booths lining the front (south) wall. The cooking is done in the kitchen in the rear block, which is reached by way of a steel door behind the counter at the center of the diner. To the left (west) of the counter is the steel-door entrance to restrooms.

The interior retains original stainless steel finishes and terrazzo tile. Behind the counter, the back bar features steel wall panels with a sunburst motif, and steel and glass cabinets. Centered over the kitchen entrance is a stainless steel-rimmed clock, mounted on a "quilted" steel surface and flanked by stylized pilasters. Both booths and the seats of the steel counter stools are upholstered in vinyl. The monitor ceiling is finished in plastic and wood laminate; ceiling fans are later additions. Tables in the booths have laminate tops. The counter is replacement laminate with a counter apron of floral-patterned sheet tile. Walls have the same floral-patterned sheet tile finish as the counter apron. The floor retains its terrazzo tile in brown and beige.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are located on the nominated property, sites may be present. Two sites are located in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the property represent locational criteria (soil drainage, slope, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable indicators for the presence of ancient Native American

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**The Diners of Massachusetts MPS
Route 66 Diner
Springfield (Hampden Co.), MA**

Section number 7/8 **Page** 2/1

sites. The diner occupies a well-drained, level lot adjacent to wetlands in the Blunt Park locale. The area lies within the Connecticut River drainage. In general, however, the potential for the recovery of significant cultural resources, both ancient Native American and historic is low because of the small size of the nominated property (less than one-quarter acre) and impacts associated with construction of the diner and utilities on the property. The diner is located between Bay Street and the Penn Central/Boston & Albany right-of-way. No prior structures were reported on the property.

(end)

8. Statement of Significance

Manufactured by Mountain View Diners of Signac, New Jersey, the Route 66 Diner, Springfield (1957) is the city's last diner and one of only about six Mountain View diners remaining in Massachusetts. The Route 66 is believed to be the second-to-last diner built by Mountain View before the company ceased operations in 1957. For these reasons, the Route 66 is of exceptional significance. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, Route 66 Diner meets Criteria A and C and Criteria Consideration G of the National Register at the state and local levels.

The Route 66 Diner was manufactured in 1957 and shipped to the present Springfield site the same year. The 1949 Springfield directory suggests that there was no earlier diner at this Bay Street address. The diner is listed in the city's 1964 directory, at which time it was known as the New Bay Diner Restaurant. The use of the term "restaurant" in the diner's name reflected a period trend in the diner industry toward providing a family-oriented dining establishment that emphasized table and booth, rather than counter, service. By drawing families, diners could provide an alternative to, and therefore better compete with, the booming fast food chains. In 1964, Anthony Viamare, a resident of Granby, was the president of the business corporation, and Joseph R. Gabrielle, a resident of Skyridge Lane in the Sixteen Acres section of Springfield, was the treasurer. By 1968, only Viamare is listed in the city's business directory, still as the president of the diner business. Donald A. Roy acquired the diner in 1988, and operates the business under the present name. Its name refers not to the road on which it is located, but to historic US Route 66, which began in 1926 and crosses eight states from Illinois to California.

Historically, the eastern end of Bay Street in Springfield, where the Route 66 Diner is located, has been an area of mixed uses. About the time that the diner was installed, other businesses at the eastern end of Bay Street included a dining and catering service, a scrap iron operation, an excavating contractor, an automobile dealership, a frozen foods company, a blacksmith, a mold and tool operation, a long-distance moving company, and an electronic equipment business. Bordering the diner property on the north is the old Penn Central/Boston & Albany Railroad right-of-way, now carrying freight traffic and Amtrak. Directly across the street to the south is Blunt Park (1928, MHC #900), one of Springfield's four regional park facilities. To the east is Roosevelt Avenue (1933-1938), a major cross-town parkway.

The Route 66 is the last diner in Springfield. In the early 1960s, shortly after the diner's installation on Bay Street, there were three other diners in the city. Diners were located in the downtown commercial district on Taylor Street and Lyman Street. The third diner was located on Boston Road in the eastern end of the city.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

The Diners of Massachusetts MPS
Route 66 Diner
Springfield (Hampden Co.), MA

Section number 8/9/10 Page 2/1

Mountain View Diners manufacturing facility was located on the Newark-Pompton Turnpike in Signac, New Jersey, from 1939 to 1957. Founders of the company were Henry Stry, a building contractor, and Les Daniel, who had been a foreman for another diner builder. According to diner historian Richard Gutman, Mountain View is known for having built some very stylish and unusual diners in the years before and after World War II, and in the 1950s was the most aggressive marketer of diners in the country, outselling other manufacturers. The company attempted to go public in June 1956, and was out of business the following year. [Gutman, 234-235] The Route 66 reportedly is the second-to-last diner built by the Mountain View company. [Garbin]

Route 66 Diner is one of about six Mountain View diners surviving in Massachusetts, all of which are believed to date to the 1950s. The Route 66 appears to be the latest of these diners, and bears a strong resemblance on the exterior to the Pig & Whistle Diner, 226 North Beacon Street, in the Brighton neighborhood of Boston (1952).

(end)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Diner Finder Deluxe: Massachusetts. Watertown, MA: Coffee Cup Publications, 1991.
Gutman, Richard J. S. *American Diner Then and Now*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1993.
Information provided by Randy Garbin, publisher of *Roadside Magazine*, September 17, 1999.
Information provided by Larry Gormally, historian in Springfield, Mass., September 24, 1999.
Manufacturer's tag and menu, Route 66 Diner, Springfield, Mass.
MHC inventory form for Pig and Whistle Diner, 226 No. Beacon Street, Brighton (Boston). 1978.
Price & Lee's Springfield Directories, 1949, 1964, 1968, 1968.
Springfield Survey Continuation Project, Vol. I: Narrative Histories for Bay and Pine Point Study Areas (prepared by Kathleen Kelly Broomer for the Springfield Preservation Trust). June 1991.

(end)

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown on the accompanying detail of the City of Springfield assessors' map #8603.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the parcel historically associated with the diner since its installation on the site in 1957.

(end)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY New Bay Diner Restaurant
NAME:

MULTIPLE Diners of Massachusetts MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Hampden

DATE RECEIVED: 10/20/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/19/03
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/05/03 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/04/03
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03001244

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: Y
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 12/4/03 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



ROUTE 66
DINER

Diners of Mass. MPS

Route 66 Diner

950 Bay Street

Springfield, Hampden County, Mass.

KK Broomer

Neg: MHC

September 2001

Photo 1 of 2



Diners of Mass. MPS

Route 66 Diner

950 Bay Street

Springfield, Hampden County, Mass.

KK Broomer

Neg: MHC

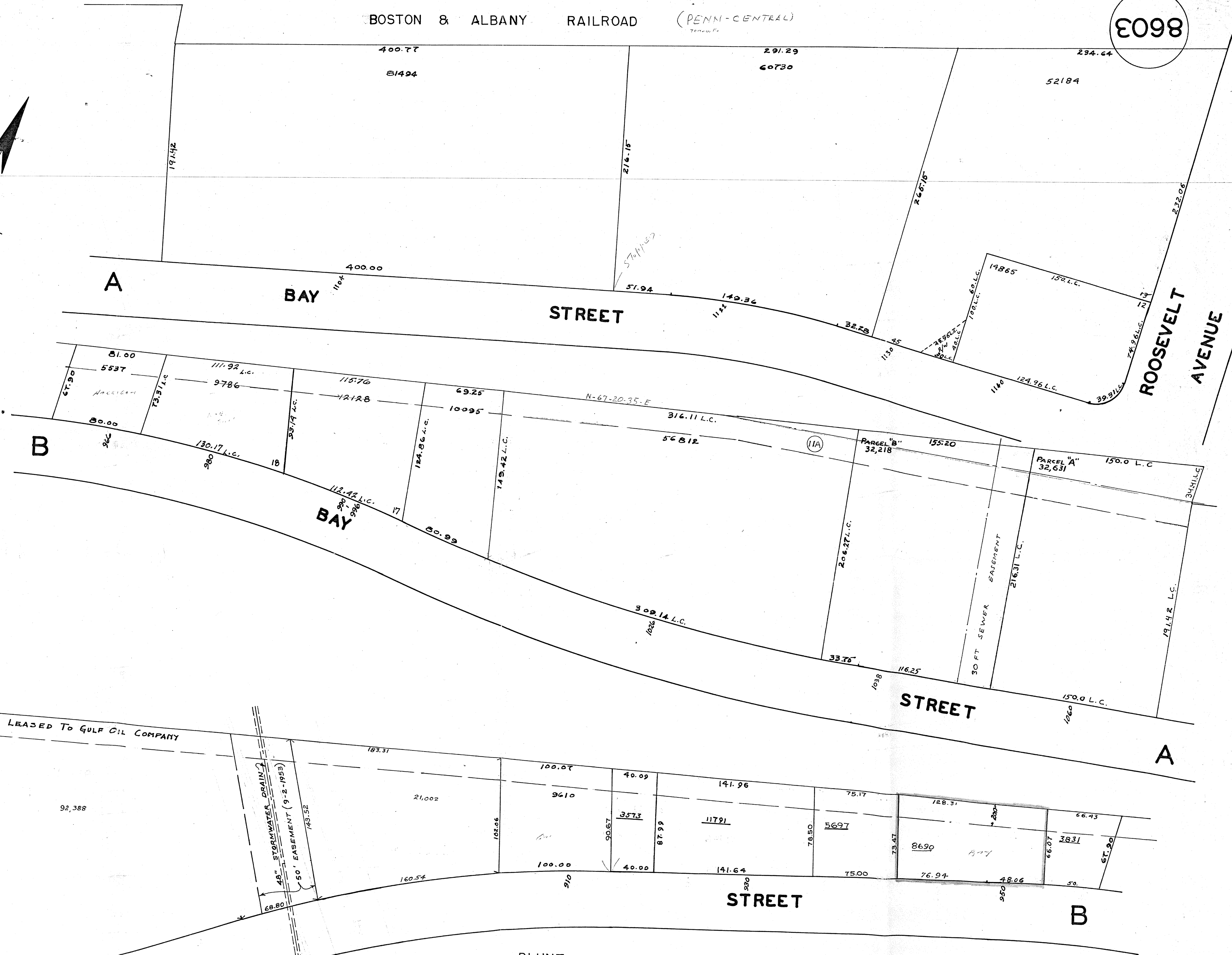
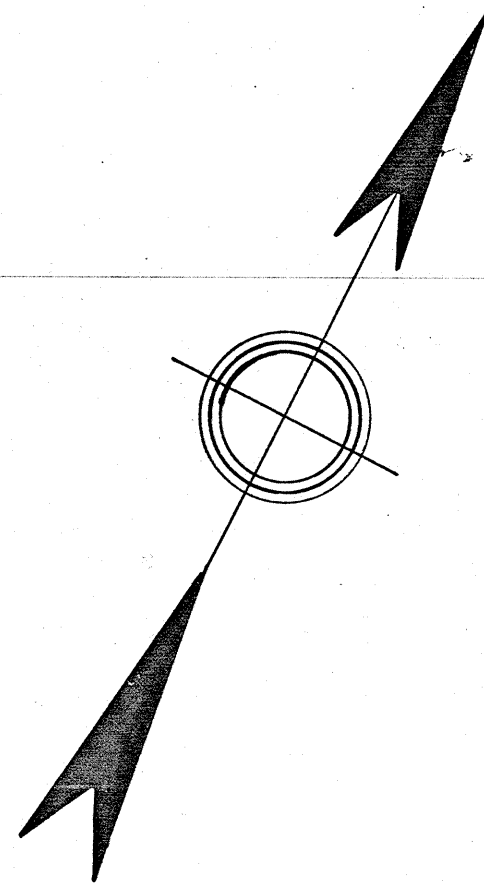
September 2001

Photo 2 of 2

8603

BOSTON & ALBANY RAILROAD (PENNI-CENTRAL)

8098



8603

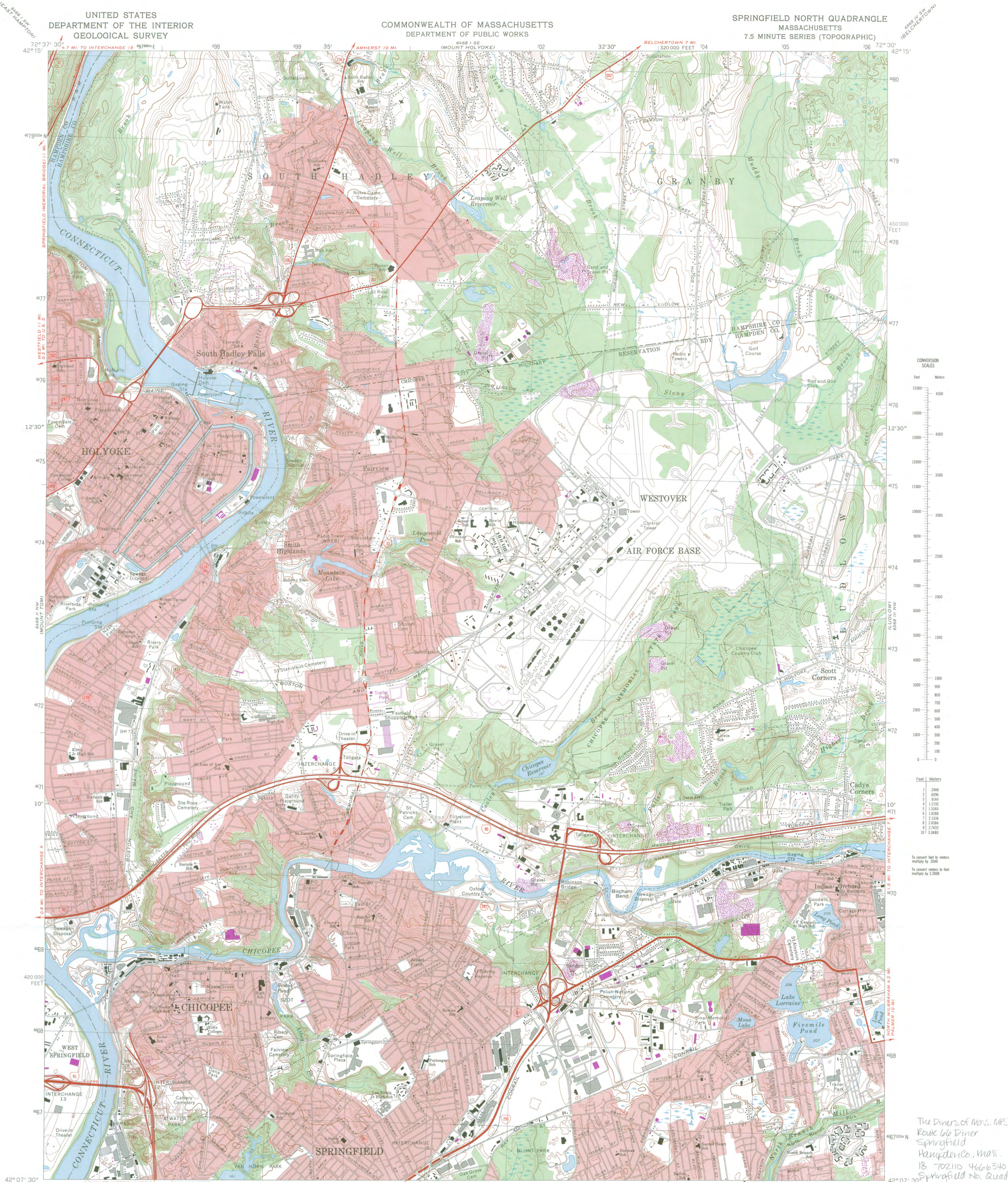
C BAY

BLUNT PARK

The Dividers of Massachusetts MPS
Route 66 Diner
950 Bay Street, Springfield
Hampden County, Mass.
City of Springfield
Assessors and Engineering Map
September 2001

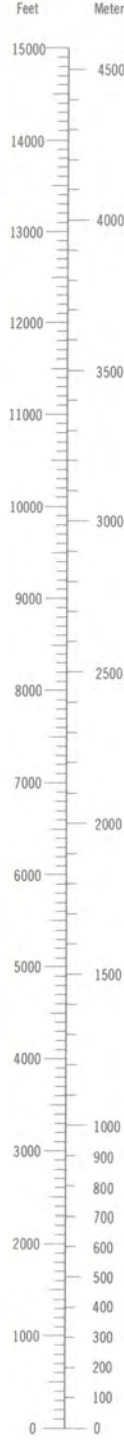
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS	
DRAWN BY	T. MAGRA
CHECKED BY	T. MAGRA
TRACED BY	T. MAGRA
REVISED BY	
SCALE	1" = 50'
REVISED BY	

8603



CONVERSION
SCALES

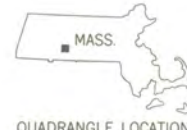
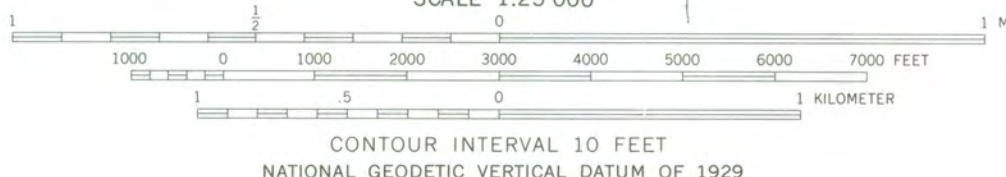
Feet Meters



Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

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, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1933. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 18
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
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



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Interstate Route
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
U. S. Route
State Route

SPRINGFIELD NORTH, MASS.
N4207.5-W7230.7.5

1972
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6468 II NE-SERIES W814

The Divers of Mrs. MRS
Route 66 Diner
Springfield
Hampden Co., Mass.
18 702110 4666340
Springfield No. Quad
1:25000



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

October 14, 2003

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Route 66 Diner, 950 Bay Street, Springfield (Hampden), MA
(The Diners of Massachusetts MPS)

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

cc: Kathleen Kelly Broome, consultant
Frances Gagnon, Springfield Historical Commission
Donald Roy
Linda Petrella, City Planner
Michael Albano, Mayor, City of Springfield