

**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 HCERS use only

received MAR 1982

date entered APR 1 1982

1. Name

historic Mausert Block

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 19-27 Park Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Adams N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state Massachusetts code 025 county Berkshire code 003

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
			☐ museum
			☐ park
			☐ private residence
			☐ religious
			☐ scientific
			☐ transportation
			☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Gene & Cynthia B. Gambell

street & number 52 Notch Road

city, town North Adams vicinity of state Massachusetts 02147

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Berkshire County North Registry of Deeds

street & number 65 Park Street

city, town Adams state Massachusetts 01220

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets
of the Commonwealth has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date January 1979 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts 02108

7. Description

ADAMS: Mausert Block, 19-27 Park Street

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 Mausert Block stands on the east side of Park Street between Armory Court (north) and the Hoosac River (south). The building is a 3½ story brick structure with a rectangular floor plan from which one-story wings extend along the west (rear) elevation. Neighboring structures are attached to the Block's end walls (north and south). The 12 bay long building is enclosed by a flat roof.

The asymmetrical facade (west elevation) is faced with mottled yellow Roman brick laid up in stretcher bond. Window trimmings are of rock-faced gray marble. The building's first-story storefronts are separated from the upper floors by a continuous pressed metal cornice. Beneath this cornice, slightly north of center, is the building's main entry which is made up of an arched brick opening behind which is a vestibule with a floor of art tiles, double oak doors, and a four pane transom in which only one original pane of art glass remains. South of the main entry is a single, long storefront built in the Moderne/Art Deco style (ca. 1940) for F.W. Woolworth, Co., its present occupant. This storefront rises from a base of polished black granite to plate glass windows trimmed with aluminum; its two entries consist of wooden double doors. Both the company's sign above the storefront and other graphics appear to be part of the storefront's original design. North of the building's main entry is a second, smaller storefront, also added ca. 1940; this section has a base of plastic panels above which is plate glass trimmed with aluminum. At the extreme north end of the first story is a narrow storefront set beneath a semi-circular arch, which contains a fanlight. This narrow store contains plate glass windows trimmed with copper and a wooden door with a fixed light.

The facade's second and third stories have two slightly projecting narrow bays, a central one over the main entry, the other at the facade's north end over the secondary entry. In between the two, the wall surface is divided into two recessed panels by a brick pier, while south of the central bay it is divided into three recessed panels. The piers stop at the third story and the upper ½ story is distinguished by a corbeled course. Each wall panel contains two windows at each story, while the projecting bays contain one at each story, those of the central bay being wider than other facade windows. All second story windows contain 1/1 sash set in surrounds with rectangular lintels and sills. All third story windows contain 1/1 sash with semi-circular transoms set in surrounds with arched heads. At the roof line is a pressed metal cornice which contains decorated mouldings and acanthus modillions. Alteration to the upper stories consist of the blocking of third story transoms and the cutting of two 6/6 windows at the attic level north of the central bay. Between the central bay's second and third story windows is a gray marble plaque bearing the name "Mausert Block."

The north elevation is blocked at the first story by an attached, neighboring structure; the second story contains 5 asymmetrically placed windows, each containing 1/1 sash with a gray marble sill and arched head of two rows of headers. The third story contains one off-center window (like those of the second story) flanked by two added 6/6 windows.

The rear (east) elevation is asymmetrical and complex due to extensive alterations. Upper floors originally contained windows (approximately 12 per story) like those of the north elevation's second story. Windows in the southernmost two bays and several bays north of center have now been extensively rebuilt to create fire exits. At the attic level are five unevenly spaced 6 pane lights, one of which has been rebuilt with 1/1 sash. The first story originally contained a one-story extension across its full length.

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MAR 3 1982

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APR 1 1982

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

2

While this extension and most of the windows (1/1 sash with transom) remain intact north of center. The extension was enlarged eastward (probably ca. 1940) to accommodate F.W. Woolworth Company. This enlargement rests on a concrete foundation and has blank elevations except for its east end which has two loading bays and two sets of paired lights.

The south elevation is blocked by a neighboring structure at the first story and partially blocked at the second story. Unblocked portions of the second story contain three windows of 1/1 sash set in brick surrounds with low arched heads. At the third story are three windows which are identical to those of the second story, except for the additions of one rectangular transom, each.

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 between 1896 and 1903 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mausert Block possesses integrity of location, design, materials, and setting as well as historical associations with the main period of commercial development in downtown Adams. Additionally, the Block's three-story height and long facade of Roman brick make it a prominent element in the street's commercial architecture. It thus meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Although simple in its overall Renaissance Revival style design, the building preserves its original pressed metal cornices, rock-faced trimmings, and panelled entry with an art-tile floor. In addition to its original details, the Block possesses an Art Deco/Moderne storefront which was added for the F.W. Woolworth Company perhaps as early as the 1930s, or 1940s; this storefront preserves virtually all elements of its original design, including double wooden doors, polished black granite window bases and canvas awnings. Characteristic of the several large scale commercial blocks built along Park Street near the turn of the century, the Mausert Block contained storefronts at the first story and offices above. A portion of the second story was occupied by the Adams Telephone Exchange beginning in ca. 1900 while a hall on either the second or third story served as the local Masonic Hall following the building's completion. Prior to the Block's construction, its site was occupied by several small, wood-frame commercial structures and a house. Neither the building's two original owners, Conrad Mausert of North Adams or Volker (first name unknown), were active in local affairs except for the construction of this Block. At present the building remains in substantially original condition, and in active commercial use.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Town Atlases of 1894 & 1904; Town Directories after 1889-90 (1897-1902, inclusive, unavailable).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .53 acres

Quadrangle name Windsor

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property includes only the lot on which the Block stands; exact boundaries are described in Berkshire County North Registry of Deeds, Record Book 684 page 143.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Registration Director with Brian Pfeiffer, ACT for Massachusetts

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission

date March 1981

street & number 294 Washington Street

telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston

state Massachusetts 02108

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 L. Weslowski

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 2/17/82

For HCERS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

4/1/82

for *Delores Byer*
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

82004948

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Mausert Block
State, County: MA, Berkshire
Federal Agency: _____Working No. 3/3/82-599Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83Date Due: 4-1-82 4-17-82Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4/1/82
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECTEntered in the National Register
photos 1
maps 1/1

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

☐ see continuation sheetNomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below1. Name2. Location☒ 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	☒ Public Acquisition	☐ Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing SurveysHas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USIT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Title _____ Date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Cards

SPORTING
GOODS

Schwartz Stores

WORK
CLOTHES

F. W. WOOLWORTH CO.

J. ZEPKA & SONS

Florists

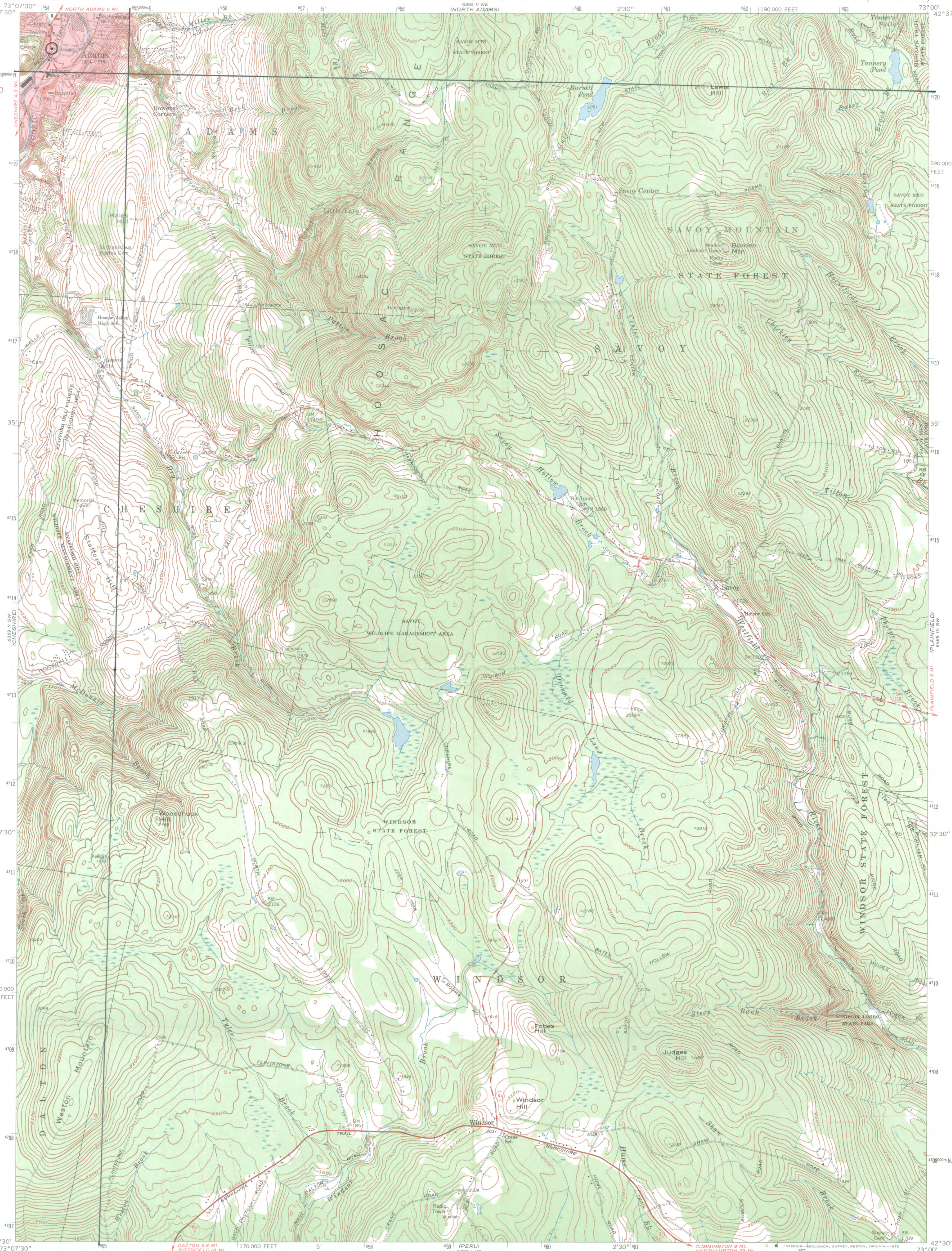
FLORISTS • GARDENS • ARRANGEMENTS •
ALL KINDS OF PLANTS

Since 1906

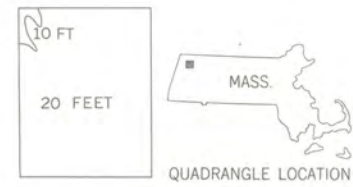
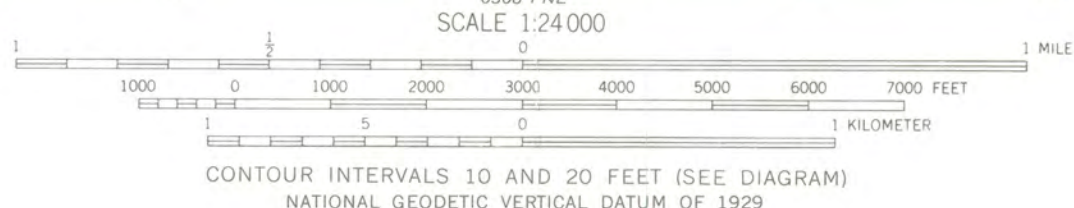
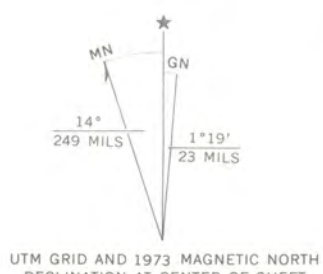
1. Mausert Block
19-27 Park Street
Adams, MA 01220
2. View: facade (west elevation) taken from a position facing
southeast from the west side of Park Street
3. July 1980
4. Photographer & location of negative Brian Pfeiffer
ACT for Massachusetts
45 School Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

MAR 3 1982

Mausert Block
Adams, MA
UTM REFERENCE:
18/654130/4720270



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1942. Topography by planetable surveys 1943 and 1944
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1973
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown



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

WINDSOR, MASS.
N4230-W7300/7.5

1973

AMS 6369 II SE-SERIES V814





Scale in feet
0 25 50 100 200 250

ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

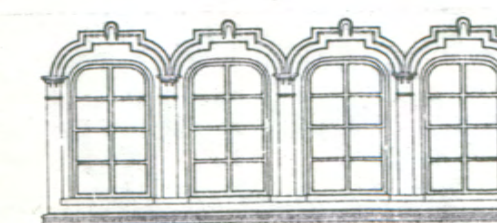
MAUSET BLOCK
ADAMS, MA
1" = 100'

MAR 3 1982

Note:
This Drawing is a composite of information
from several sources; it does not represent
official or legal boundaries. Information
presented on this drawing is for illustration
only.

Prepared for:

Architectural Conservation Trust
(ACT) For Massachusetts



Vision

The Center for
Environmental Design
and Education

678 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts
Telephone 617-491-3763





**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

February 17, 1982

Ms. Carol Shull
Acting Keeper
National Register Division
National Park Service
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following National Register nomination forms:

Adams: Armory Block (local)
Adams: Barrett Block (local)
Adams: Berkshire Mill #1 (local - DOE 6/81)
Adams: Jones Block (local)
Adams: Mausert Block (local)
Adams: Pittsfield & North Adams Passenger Station and Baggage and
Express House (local)
Adams: Simmons Block (local)
Lawrence: American Woolen Mill Housing District (local)
Melrose: Town Center Historic District (local)
Milton: Belcher-Rowe House (local)
Needham: Davis-Mills House (local)
Needham: Joshua Lewis House (local)
Needham: Townsend House (local)
Peabody: Nathaniel Felton Houses (local)
Stockbridge: Glendale Power Station (local)
Stockbridge: Wheatleigh (state)
Webster: Main Street Historic District (local-DOE)
Westfield: Octagon House (local)
Weymouth: Old South Union Church (local)

All were voted eligible by the State Review Board at their meeting on 2/10/82 and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Comments by owners and other interested parties are attached. Owners and chief elected officials were notified of pending Review Board consideration on December 23, 1981.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins

Candace Jenkins
Registration Director

MAR 3 1982

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APRIL 1, 1982

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Mausert Block</u>	Adams Berkshire County
Armory Block	Adams Berkshire County
Simmons Block	Adams Berkshire County
Octagon House	Westfield Hampden County

Notified

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

Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, NPS
North Atlantic Regional Office, NPS

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