

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMPH0684996
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

SEP 25 1978

DATE ENTERED

NOV 28 1978

DB#78060452

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Lawrence Public Library

AND/OR COMMON

Old Public Library (preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

190 Hampshire Street

CITY, TOWN

Lawrence

VICINITY OF

5th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Essex

CODE

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

X PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

X UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

X NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

X OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Lawrence

STREET & NUMBER

200 Common Street

CITY, TOWN

Lawrence

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Essex County North Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

381 Common Street

CITY, TOWN

Lawrence

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth #22

DATE

1977

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Public Library, constructed in 1890-1892, is located in the center of the City of Lawrence on a site bounded by Haverhill, Hampshire and Bradford Streets. It has frontage of approximately 70 feet on Haverhill Street and the lot extends 125 feet on Hampshire Street. The site is set off by granite curbing and by a simple iron picket fence along the Haverhill and Hampshire Street edges of the property.

With the exception of the southeast elevation, the exterior walls are constructed of rough-faced reddish brownstone. A large wing was added to the southeast elevation in 1902 but was demolished in 1969 due to structural unsoundness. A wood frame wall sheathed with wood shingles was erected at that time as a temporary end closure and has not yet been replaced by a permanent masonry wall. On the other elevations arches, lintels, sills, beltcourses and other trimmings are emphasized by the use of contrasting light colored Ohio sandstone and North Conway granite. The foundation walls and water table are also of granite.

The massing of the library is irregular, the floor plan asymmetrical and the roof heights varied. Functionally and visually it consists of two sections. The northern section which includes the main entrance, central staircase, reference room, reading room and lecture room is two stories in height and is covered by a complex ridged slate roof. The rear southern section is 1½ stories in height and is covered by a gabled slate roof and contains the stacks.

The northern section contains the most prominent architectural feature of the building which is the 75 foot octagonal stair/entrance tower located on the northeast elevation. The tower has a steep eight-sided, pyramidal, slate roof with a wide foliated terracotta band beneath it. The entrance, which projects from the north side of the tower has a syrian arch with wide voussiers and heavy archivolts. Over the arch is a stone panel with the inscription "Public Library MCCCCXC." To the southeast of the tower is a lower semi-circular tower with a conical slate roof attached to the main plane of the wall which has a triple arched window in its gable. Extending from the north side of this secondary tower is a one story projection capped by a low parapet with a turret and lit by a large round arched window. The northwest elevation is dominated by a projecting five-sided block. The center of the five sides has a large round arched window with elaborately glazed sash at the second story and a large rectangular window now boarded in at the first story. The two flanking sides have triple arched glazed windows divided by slender columns at the second story and paired rectangular windows now boarded in at the first story. A one story wing with a gabled hip roof is attached to the southwest elevation. This section is lit by a continuous band of windows near the roof line and contains a tall rectangular chimney located at the intersection with the five sided block.

The southern stack section is nearly square in plan and in contrast to the northern section, is interrupted only by a low round tower with a conical roof attached to the eastern end of the northeast elevation. This elevation is lit by tall narrow rectangular windows and is the only one of this southern section to retain its original appearance.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED NOV 28 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The southeast elevation is now shingled as has been described, and a one story wing constructed of concrete blocks imitating brownstone was added to the northwest elevation in 1938 masking its original appearance. The flat roof of this wing which is lit by tall rectangular windows, merges with the gabled roof of the original core. Chimneys rise from both ends of this section. The basement of the entire building is lit by windows contained beneath a continuous belt course.

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 1890-92

BUILDER/ARCHITECT George G. Adams

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Public Library is significant for several reasons. The handsome building is a fine example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style, and is one of the best works of the prominent Lawrence architect George G. Adams (1850-1932). While in use, the library was an important cultural institution in Lawrence.

The Old Public Library was completed in 1892 at a cost of \$50,000. A free public library had existed in Lawrence since 1872 but did not have a home of its own until the construction of this building. Money to erect the library was donated by Mrs. Nathaniel G. White and her daughter Miss Elizabeth White. The land upon which the library stands is a plot saved from the original Judge Daniel Appleton White tract. This noted Lawrence citizen was a resident of the area before the city was founded. He was the owner of several acres of land which were among the few parcels not initially conveyed to the Essex Company. In 1852, Judge White donated the property to the City to sell for the purpose of creating a fund, the income of which was to be used to establish a free lecture series and to purchase books for the library. The fund still exists today.

George G. Adams, (1850-1932) the architect of the library, was the designer of an extensive number of significant buildings. They included a variety of public, commercial, and residential structures in Lawrence, as well as numerous public buildings throughout New England. During his long architectural career, he made use of the Queen Anne, Romanesque Revival, and Neo-Classical styles in his designs. The Old Public Library stands out as one of his finest achievements. It is both the best example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style in Lawrence, and one of the most noteworthy examples of Victorian architecture in the City. The north section is especially fine with its monumental scale rooms, outstanding decorative and structural woodwork, and exterior carved details contrasting to the bold stonework.

The Old Library building continued to be used as a library until a new structure on Haverhill and Lawrence Streets was completed in 1973. New uses for the now vacant Old Library are being considered, and it is hoped that in the near future the structure will once again have a vital function as a cultural center for the community.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lawrence Up to Date, 1843-1895. Lawrence, MA, Rushforth and Donahue, 1895
Lawrence High School Bulletin. January, 1894.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20,400 square feet less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A 11 9 13 2 2 4 5 0 4 7 3 0 6 1 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please refer to the boundaries delineated on the attached map which is plat #30 of the Lawrence Assessors' maps.

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

Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator

Christine Pfaff

Lawrence Community Development

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 11, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington 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 X

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

Patricia Libeskind

TITLE

Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission

DATE

9/19/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles A. Henry
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

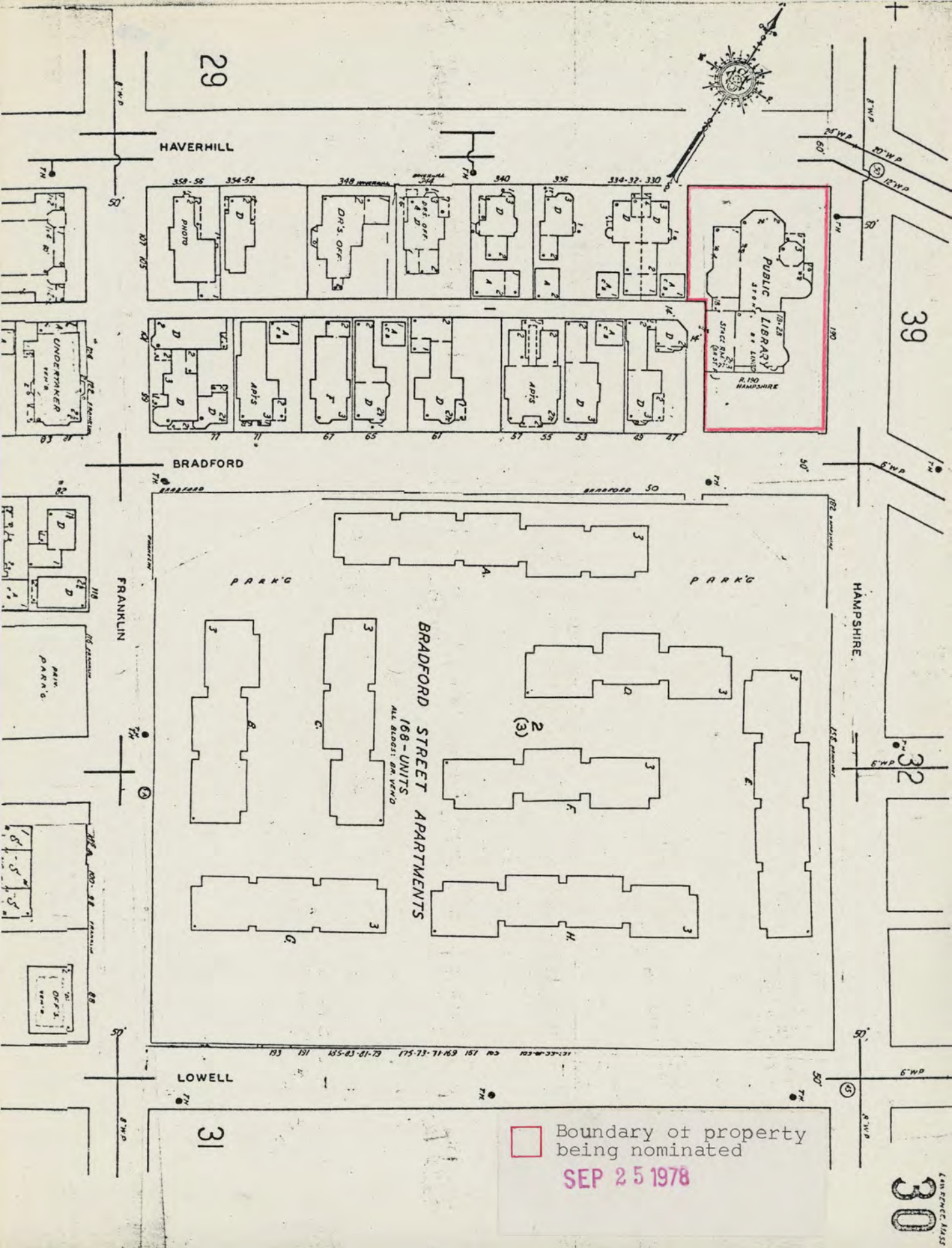
11-28-78

ATTEST: Patricia Libeskind

DATE

11/24/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



HAVERHILL

BRADFORD

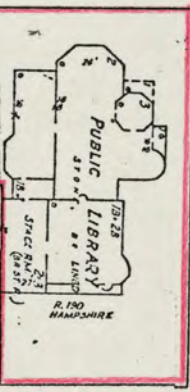
FRANKLIN

LOWELL

HAMPSHIRE

BRADFORD STREET APARTMENTS

168 - UNITS
ALL BLOCKS OWNED



Boundary of property
being nominated

SEP 25 1978

30

NOV 28 1978

Property

Old Public Library

State

Mass.

Working Number

9.25.78.4160

TECHNICAL

Photos

4

Maps

1, sketch

CONTROL

*pl**OK 9.27.78*

Significant for its association with the cultural life of Lawrence. Also appears to be significant architecturally as a good example of Richardsonian Romanesque style.

HISTORIAN

*Accept
Lightner**11-21-78*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

CONCUR WITH ABOVE COMMENTS.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Use Draft**11/24/78*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

*Accepted
11/28/78*

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

2-6-78

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered

NOV 28 1978

INT:2106-74



#1 North and east facades from n

ner of Haverhill and Hampshire Streets

SEP 25 1978

Old Public Library
Lawrence, MA
William Finch 1977
Community Development Dept.
Lawrence, MA

NOV 28 1978

#1

North and east facades at corner of Haverhill
and Hampshire Streets



#2 North and west facades from Haverhill Street.

Old Public Library
Lawrence, MA
William Finch 1977
Community Development Dept/
Lawrence, MA

SEP 25 1978

NOV 28 1978

#2

North and West facades from Haverhill St.



#3 Old Public Library and surrounding neighborhood looking west on
Haverhill street

Old Public Library
Lawrence, MA
William Finch 1977
Community Development Dept.
Lawrence, MA

SEP 25 1978

NOV 28 1978

#3
Looking west on Haverhill St.



#4 View of South facade

Old Public Library
Lawrence, MA
William Finch 1977
Community Development Dept.
Lawrence, MA

SEP 25 1978

NOV 28 1978

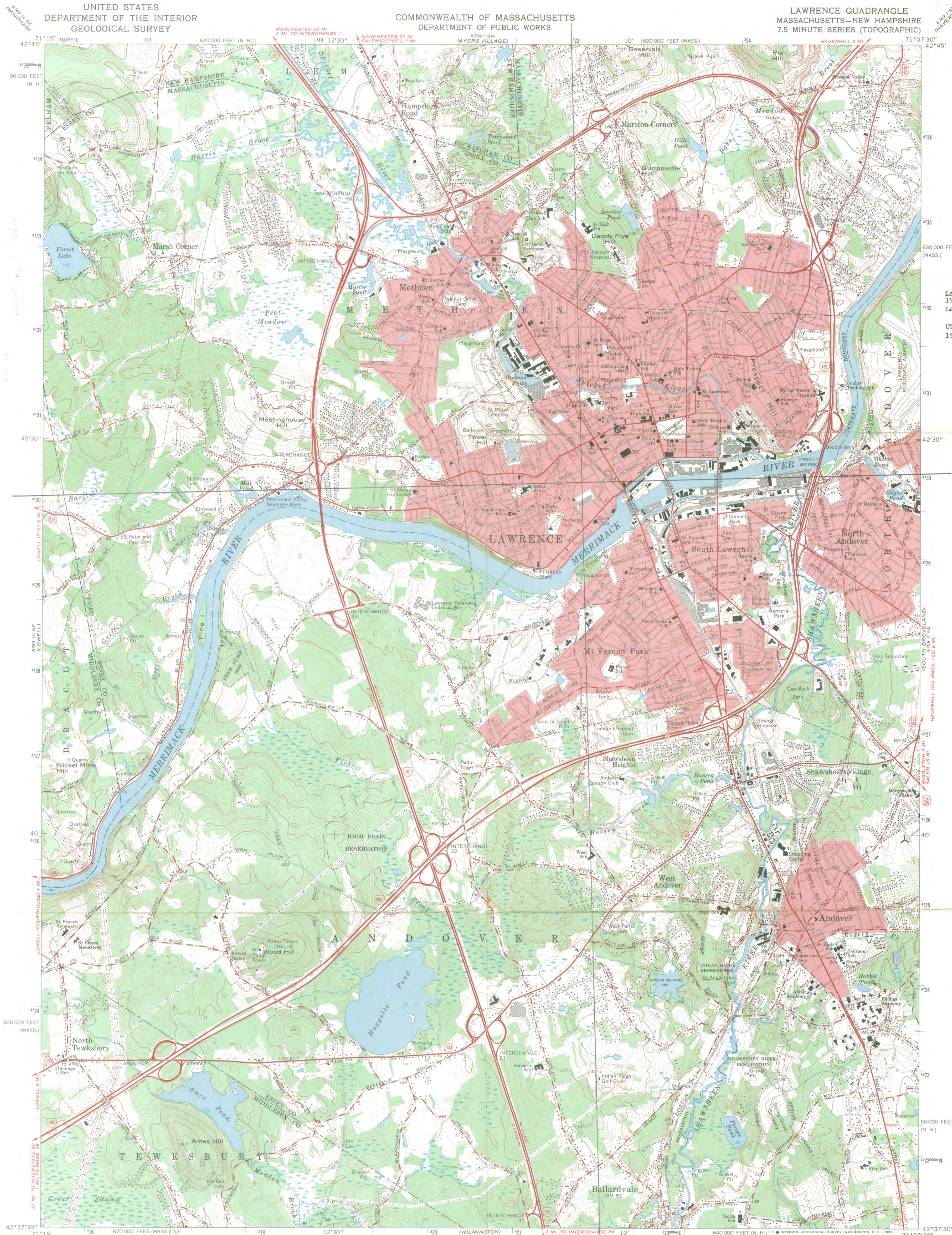
#4

South facade with temporary facade

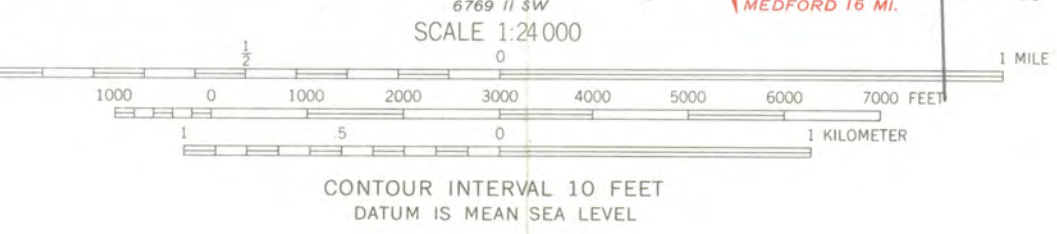
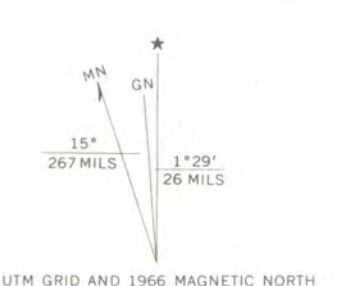
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

LAWRENCE QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS-NEW HAMPSHIRE
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



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

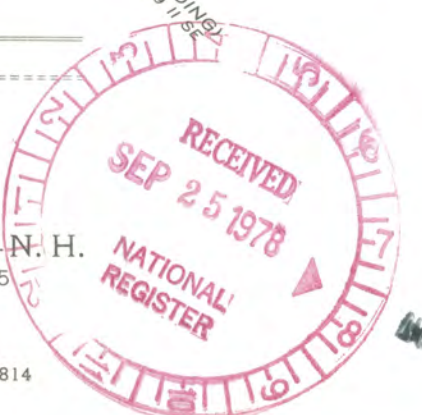


ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route ——— State Route ———

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

1966

AMS 6769 II NW—SERIES 7814



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered NOV 28 1978

Name

Location

Lovejoy, Charles, House

Lynn
Essex County

Old Public Library

Lawrence
Essex County

Also Notified

Honorable Edward W. Brooke
Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Michael J. Harrington
Honorable Paul Tsongas

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

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Old Public Library		2 OTHER NAMES: Lawrence Public Library		3 date of entry: NOV 28 1978	4 county code: 009
5 LOCATION street & number 190 Hampshire St.		city / town Lawrence	vicinity of MA	state MA	county XXXX Essex
6 NPS REGION: N Atlantic		ADMINISTRATOR:			
7 OWNER ☐ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☒ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)		8 EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL			
9 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO		10 CONGRESS. DISTRICT 5		11 SOURCE of NOMINATION ☐ STATE ☐ FEDERAL	
12 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		13 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		14 ACRES	
15 ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown		16 ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☐ NO		17 SAVED? ☐ YES ☐ NO	
18 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☐ no		19 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐			
20 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE : ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10		☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20		☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25 ☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
21 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:		22 dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:		23 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION	
24 architectural style(s):		25 architect:		26 master builder:	
27 engineer:		28 landscape architect / garden designer:		29 interior decorator:	
30 artist:		31 artisan:		32 builder/contractor:	
33 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:					
34 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP					