

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 26 1979

DATE ENTERED

AUG 21 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Lynn Public Library

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

105 North Common Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lynn

VICINITY OF

Sixth

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Essex

CODE

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☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Lynn, Board of Library Trustees

Antonio Marino, Mayor

STREET & NUMBER

5 North Common Street

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Lynn

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

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

Essex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Essex County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth #530

DATE

1978

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY 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 Lynn Public Library is a two and one-half story Renaissance Revival style building located at the northwest corner of North Common and Franklin Streets. Rectangular in plan, the building has a facade (south) and rear wall (north) of nine bays' length each; end walls (east & west) are of seven bays' length each. Centered on the south, east and west walls are slightly projecting pavilions, each of three bays' width. The structure rests upon a plinth of dressed granite above which rises a rusticated basement, faced with limestone. Upper floors are faced with dressed limestone. Elements of the building's design which are identical on all elevations are: paired Corinthian pilasters at each corner (first and second stories only), a continuous entablature, modillioned cornice and solid parapet. The building is enclosed by a nearly flat roof which is pierced by skylights at various points over the reading rooms.

FACADE (SOUTH): The facade is approached from a flight of granite stairs which cascades out in three directions from its center entrance. Centered on the facade is a two-story Corinthian portico, supported by four columns, which stands in front of the central pavilion. Behind the portico, the pavilion is framed into three bays by four Corinthian pilasters. The center bay contains the library's major entry set one-half story below the first floor level. This entry contains aluminum and glass doors (ca. 1970) and is set in a moulded surround surmounted by a decorated frieze. Above the entry, at the second story, is an arched window with an unmoulded surround. Sash of this and all other second story windows on the facade consists of oversized 2/2 sash surmounted by a two-pane semi-circular light. The outer two bays of the pavilion each contain one rectangular window (2/2) with a limestone balustrade at the first story, above which is a recessed stone panel, and an arched window identical to that of the center bay, at the second story. Each of the facade's six remaining bays contains one window (2/2) at the basement and a two-story arched frame topped with a keystone rising through the first and second stories. Each frame encloses a balustrade at its base, one window (2/2) at the first story, a recessed panel, and an arched window (2/2 with two-pane semi-circular light) at the second story.

EAST WALL: Facing Franklin Street, the east wall contains a shallow central pavilion which is framed into three bays by four Corinthian pilasters at the first and second stories. Partially below ground level, at the pavilion's center bay, is an entry (original panelled doors) over which is a damaged bronze lantern. This entry is flanked by one window (2/2) on each side. First and second story windows of the pavilion are identical to those of the outer bays of the facade pavilion (including two-story arched surround). The main body of the east wall has two bays on each side of the pavilion. Each of these bays is identical to those of the main body of the facade.

WEST WALL: The west wall is identical to the east, except that it faces a neighboring structure (approximately 30' distant) and has a narrower entry set farther below ground. This entry leads to the building's boiler room.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

NORTH WALL: Of the same length as the facade, the north wall does not have a central pavilion, although its center bays are framed by paired Corinthian pilasters (at the first and second stories) to divide the elevation into three sections. East of the center bays are five bays, identical to those of the main body of the facade. The central section contains double entry doors (original) at the basement with a two-story arch containing first and second story windows, above. Flanking the entry are two narrow rectangular windows; flanking two-story arch are two narrow arches containing first and second story windows. West of the central section, fenestration consists of eight narrow rectangular windows at the basement, above which are eight narrow, two-story arches containing sash at different levels from the rest of the building (reflecting the various levels of the stacks which they light).

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 1898-1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT George A. Moore

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lynn Public Library retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and association and is the city's most elaborate example of Renaissance Revival architecture, one which occupies a prominent site and serves as an important local landmark. Major features of the building include a monumental Corinthian portico, Corinthian pilasters, entablature, modillioned cornice and solid parapet. Excepting the replacement of its front doors, the Library's exterior is unaltered. The building's interior has, at its center, a twelve-sided court which rises from a limestone arcade at the first story to a colonnade of Corinthian columns which support a coffered dome at the second story. Opening onto this court at the structure's southeast corner is the main reading room, a two-story room with a marble mosaic floor, carved woodwork and coffered ceiling--details which are found throughout the Library's public rooms. The north wall of the reading room contains a mural entitled "The Awakening of Ignorance", painted for this room by F. Luis Mora in 1898.

Lynn's first library was named the Social Library and was organized in 1815. In 1850, the Social Library passed out of existence, merging its collection with that of the Lynn Natural History Society, which, in 1855, turned both collections over to the Lynn Library Association. In 1862, the Library Association gave its collection to the city to provide the nucleus for a free public library. Having occupied rented quarters since 1862, the Public Library moved into rooms designed for it in the new city hall of 1867-1868 (demolished), where it remained until the opening of the present building in 1900.

As early as 1880, the Library's collection had already outgrown space allotted to it in 1868. The movement to build a separate building was aided in 1893, when Elizabeth Shute of Lynn left nearly \$100,000 for a library to be built as a memorial to her husband, William. Although this bequest provided much of the money needed, additional money was raised by private subscription, since no city funds were to be used.

All aspects of the library building were hotly debated; however, the selection of George Moore (formerly of Little, Moore & Brown) as the building's architect caused the longest dispute, one that was reported both locally and in Boston newspapers. Early in 1897, Moore had been asked by J. N. Smith, a library trustee, to prepare a proposal at his (Smith's) expense. This original proposal was essentially the same as the plan that was later built; however, the city's mayor and other citizens demanded that an official design competition be held (the terms of which would have excluded Moore's plan from consideration). As a compromise,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Johnson, David N. Sketches fo Lynn. Lynn: Thomas P. Nichols, 1880. pp. 256-259.
Lynn City Item. Nov. 19, 1897. p. 6.
Lynn Scrapbooks. (unpublished collection at the Lynn Public Library) Vol. 38, p. 6;
Vol. 42, entire volume; Vol. 43, pp. 3 & 50-52.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 39,162 sq. ft.

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 3393410 471029710
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please refer to the attached assesor's map on which the boundaries are deliniated.
Lot # 12 Block # 717 sheet #21

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

Brian Pfeiffer, Consultant
City of Lynn

ORGANIZATION

Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator with

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

April 1979

STREET & NUMBER

294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE

(617) 727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL 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

Robert L. Wechsler

6/14/79

TITLE

Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

8-21-79

ATTEST: *Bruce Van Dyke*

DATE

8/20/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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ITEM NUMBER 8

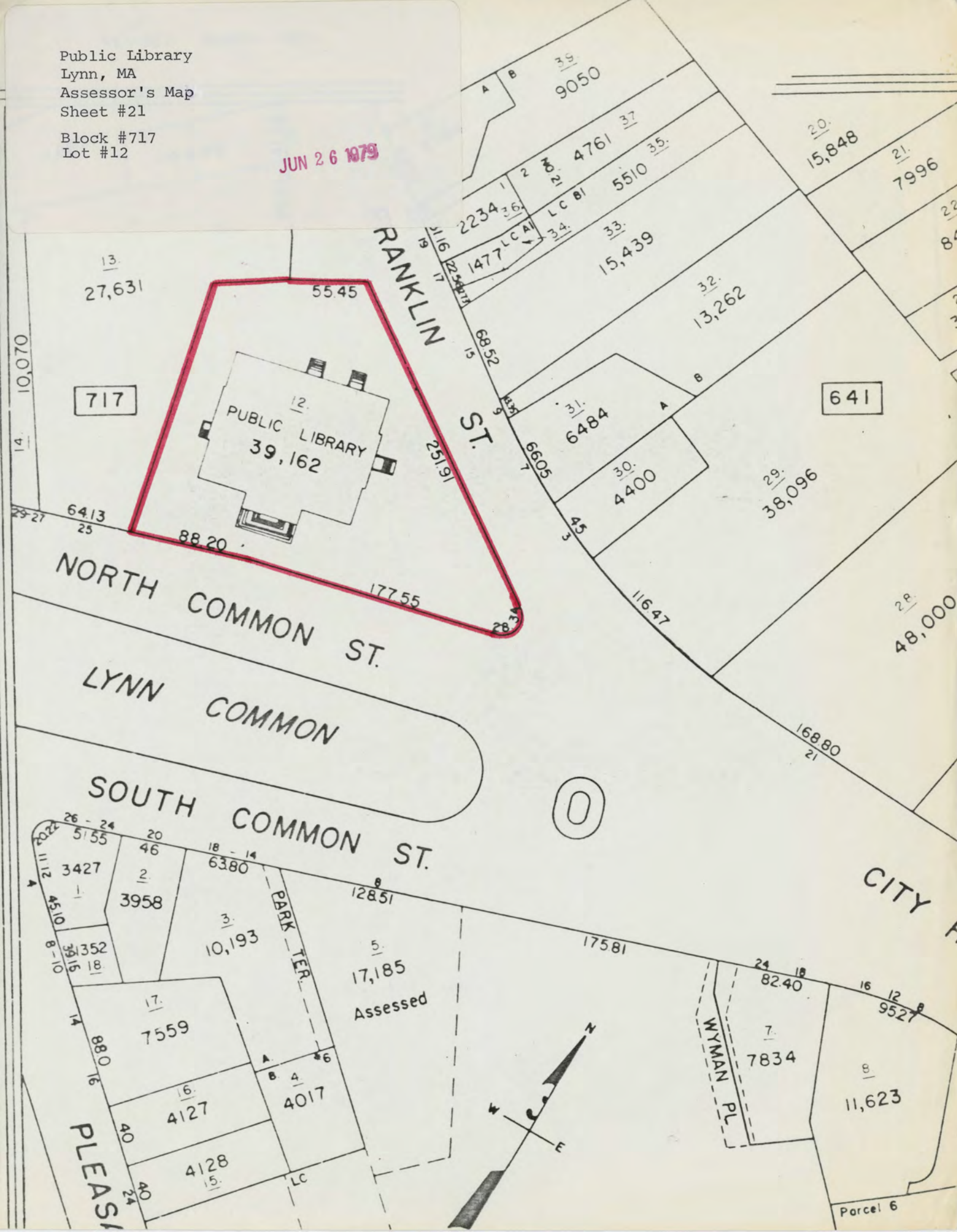
PAGE 2

the Library Trustees held an informal competition, inviting submissions from various architects. Believing that the choice had already been made, no local architects submitted plans, although proposals were presented by J. Lyman Faxon, James Kelley and Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, all of Boston. When Moore's plan was finally chosen, it was revealed by newspapers that Moore and J. N. Smith were blood relatives causing Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge to withdraw in protest. Controversy over the choice continued and Professor F. W. Chandler of M.I.T. was brought in as an arbitrator. Although the issue was never resolved, construction according to Moore's design was begun in the summer of 1898. The building was completed at a cost of \$175,000 in 1900 and was dedicated in April of 1900, since which it has served as the city's main library.

Public Library
Lynn, MA
Assessor's Map
Sheet #21

Block #717
Lot #12

JUN 26 1879



Property

Lynn Public Library

State

Mass. (Essex)

Working Number

6.26.79.1547

TECHNICAL

Photos

2

Maps

61

CONTROL

OK 6.26.79

HISTORIAN

LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT LIBRARY BUILT IN 1898-1900.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

SIGNIFICANT AS AN INTACT EXAMPLE OF RENAISSANCE REVIVAL STYLE PUBLIC BUILDING.

WILL ACCEPT THOUGH NO LOCAL ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT IS GIVEN.

ACCEPT
MAC DOUGAL
8/20/79

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

ACCEPT
MAC DOUGAL
8/20/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

OCT 2 1979

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered

AUG 21 1979



Lynn Public Library
Lynn, Mass., *Essex County, Massachusetts*
Brian Pfeiffer 1979
Lynn Community Development Dept.

Photo #102
View facing northwest

JUN 26 1979

DOE
AUG 21 1979



Lynn Public Library
Lynn, Mass., *Essex County, Massachusetts*
Brian Pfeiffer 1979
Lynn Community Development Dept.

Photo #2 *1/2*
View facing north

JUN 26 1979

Doc
AUG 21 1979

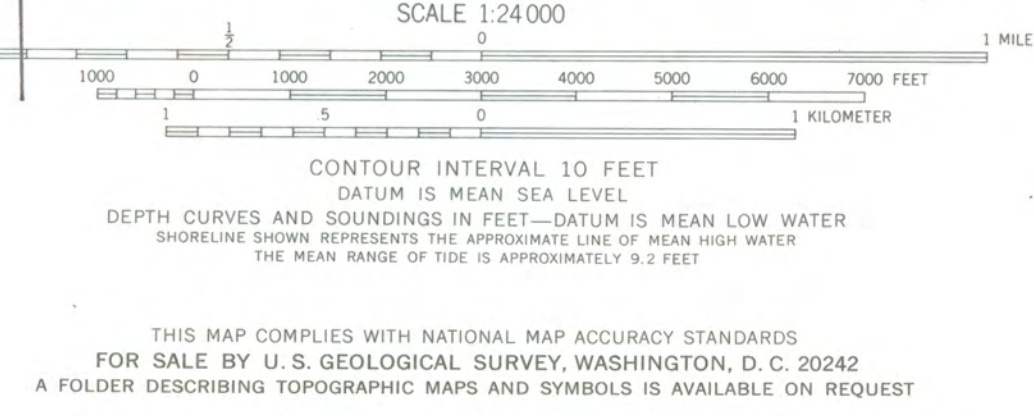
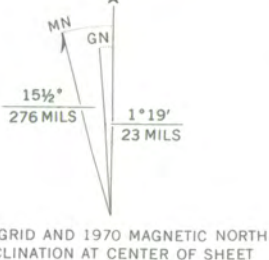
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Lynn Public Library
Lynn, Mass.
UTM REFERENCES:
19/339340/4702970
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

LYNN QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



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 1939. Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 240(1970), 246
and 248 (1971). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
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 19, shown in blue
Boundaries in tidal areas from information supplied by
Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

MASSACHUSETTS

LYNN, MASS.
N4222.5—W7052.5/7.5
1970
AUG 21 1979

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 AUG 21 1979

Name

Location

Bedford Building

Boston
Suffolk County

Lynn Masonic Hall

Lynn
Essex County

Lynn Public Library

Lynn
Essex County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul G. Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable John J. Moakley
Honorable Nicholas Mavroules

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

NR Byers/bjr 8/22/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202) 343-6401.