

**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 HCRS use only

received NOV 3 1980

date entered DEC 3 1980

1. Name

historic Eddy Block

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 119-131 Main Street & 4 Davis Street _____ not for publication

city, town Webster _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Second

state Massachusetts code 025 county Worcester code 027

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
			____ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Nalewajk, Inc. c/o Nalewajk Insurance Agency

street & number 121-123 Main Street

city, town Webster _____ vicinity of _____ state Massachusetts 01570

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Registry of Deeds

street & number 2 Main Street

city, town Worcester, _____ state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of _____ has this property been determined eligible? ____ yes ☒ no
the Commonwealth
date 1979 _____ federal ☒ state ____ county ____ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town 294 Washington Street, 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 Eddy Block is located in Webster's central business district at the northeast corner of Main and Davis Streets where it occupies a lot bounded by Main Street (south), Davis Street (west), an attached wood-frame structure (north), and an alley (east). The Block is made up of two separate structures connected by two wood-frame passageways. The larger (main) part of the block occupies the southern two-thirds of the lot, while the smaller of the two sections occupies the rear of the lot. Both sections of the Block are three-stories high, built of red brick and trimmed with brown sandstone.

The main part of the Eddy Block has an irregular five-sided floorplan (conforming to lot lines) and is enclosed partially by a flat roof (southern half) and partially by a high truncated hip roof (northern half). The block's south and west elevations are finished as faces, while the north and east elevations are more utilitarian and undecorated in their design. Windows throughout (unless otherwise noted) consist of 2/2 sash set in brick surrounded with a sandstone lintel and a low arched brick head with sandstone springers and keystone. All sandstone trim is rock-faced with a dressed border.

The major facade (south) is symmetrical; at its base are three store fronts, the center one of which is flanked by two narrow entries which provide access to the upper floors. Although all store fronts have been rebuilt with modern windows and trim, each is framed by brick piers (covered with modern materials) which rise to a continuous stone cornice. At the building's west end, a one storey brick addition (ca. 1920-1930) contains a fourth store front. The facade's upper floors are divided by two brick piers into a wide central panel, flanked by two narrower, outer panels. Fenestration consists of paired sash (1/1) flanked by single windows in the central panel and one set of paired sash (2/2) in each of the outer two panels at the second storey. All windows have arches made up of alternating brick and stone voussoirs with stone keystones and springers, while only the paired windows have applied wood decoration beneath the window arch. Fenestration of the third storey consists of a group of three windows flanked by two single windows in the central panel and two windows in each of the outer two panels; windows of the central panel are set in rectangular stone surrounds. At the center of the facade's third storey is a decorative gable (partially truncated), the base of which is a blind, pointed arch with a stone block bearing the name "EDDY". Bandings of decorative brick connect the sills of all second storey windows and all third storey windows, while a course of stone connects all second storey window arches; third storey window arches are connected by two courses of painted black brick. At the facade's roofline is a low parapet set on a base of decorative brickwork and diapering; the parapet is capped by a metal coping which is decorated with pyramidal wooden blocks at the building's corners.

The west elevation is asymmetrical, having an added one-storey store front at its south end, and having an angled corner at its mid-point, north of which the west elevation is parallel to Davis Street. Except for the west elevation's southernmost bay (where decorative trim is identical to that of the facade), all windows are like those described in the second paragraph, above. Decorative brick courses extend along the west elevation at the top of the first storey and at the lintel and sill levels of the second and third stories' windows. The west elevation rises from a base of rock-faced granite, laid up in random ashlar; at the roof is a low parapet with a metal coping. Fenestration is asymmetrical.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED DEC 3 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE DESCRIPTION - 1

The east elevation is asymmetrical, decorated only with window surrounds like those described in paragraph 2, above. The rear (north) elevation is built of common brick with no decorative trim, except for a two storey iron porch; fenestration is asymmetrical. The north elevation has two wood-frames at the east end of its first storey, one of these connects to the first storey of the block's rear section, while the other connects to the second storey of rear section.

The rear section of the Eddy Block has an irregular, five-sided floor plan and is enclosed by a flat roof. The facade of the rear section (west) is symmetrical, having a center entrance flanked by two store fronts at the first storey; the second and third stories are identical, containing each a central window flanked by groups of three windows. All window surrounds are identical to those of the west elevation of the Eddy Block's main section. At the southwest corner of the rear section is a bevelled corner, containing a store front at the first storey and one window at both the second and third stories. The rear section's north elevation is attached to a neighboring structure; both the east and south elevations are asymmetrical and utilitarian in design.

Alterations to the block include the addition of a one-storey brick store front (ca. 1920-30) at the block's southeast corner, the rebuilding of all original store fronts (except one in the rear section), the blocking of several windows on the west elevation and the partial removal of the facade's decorative gable. Despite these changes, the major features of the building's original design remain largely undisturbed.

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 1878 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The L.R. Eddy Block possess integrity of design, materials and site, as well as historical associations with a variety of businesses and uses which characterized the diversity of activity in Webster's central business district.

Located opposite the former Webster Railroad Depot, the Eddy Block stands on the former site of the Mechanic Block, a hotel and commercial block which was built in 1840 after the opening of the railroad had brought commercial development to Depot Village (now the Webster central business district). Following a fire which destroyed the Mechanic Block on September 30, 1876, the property was purchased by Lyman R. Eddy, who had the main portion of the block built in 1878; it is unclear whether original plans called for the construction of the block's rear section or whether the rear section was built shortly after the main block had proven itself profitable. Upon completion, the main section of the block contained four store fronts in which were located the town's post office, the clothing store of James Rawson, the Center Store and Hobart & Thompson's clothiers. Upper floors contained offices which were occupied, in part, by the Masonic Lodge, the Webster Times, the temperance reading room of Reverend Langdon Stewardson (after 1881) and the local District Court (turn of the century). Original occupants of the rear section of the block are not known; however, this part of the structure contained two stores and either apartments or boarding houses on the upper floors. In addition to owning the Eddy Block, Lyman Eddy was the owner of various local businesses, including a restaurant (1858) and a commercial steamboat on Lake Webster (1883); in 1888-1892, Eddy served as a Webster selectman.

Webster's only Victorian Gothic style commercial block, the Eddy Block retains the majority of its original features, including decorative brick work, some carved stone trim and incised wood trim. The building's first storey retains store front openings as originally planned; although most have been encased or rebuilt with modern materials. Upper floors throughout the building remain intact with the exception of the peak of a decorative gable (facade) which has been partially removed. Visible at the rear of the Block is a high hip roof enclosing an auditorium, perhaps designed for use by a social club such as the Masonic Lodge; the degree to which this hall remains or has been altered is currently unknown. The Eddy Block is one of the few remaining blocks which reflect the late nineteenth century commercial character of Railroad Square.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Leavens, Charles. Notes on the History of Webster. Vol II. at Webster Public Library
Webster Times. Centennial Issue, 1959.
Webster Times. March 1869, July 1910.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 11,369 square feet

Quadrangle name Webster

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UMT References

A

1	9	2	6	1	2	6	0	4	6	5	9	0	3	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

nominated property includes all land and buildings standing the lot shown on Webster Assessor's Map 1, Block F, Lot #7. Please refer to the attached map.

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 Mary R. Davidson & B.R. Pfeiffer, Webster Community Development
for Candace Jenkins, Evaluation Director

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 1980

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

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 Peter H. Westbrook date 10/20/80

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date

For HCRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 12-3-80

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

G

EXEMPT
TOWN
OF
WEBSTER

CHURCH

STREET

NEGUS

STREET

MAIN

TRACY

HARTFORD

F



NOV 3

1980

STREET

STREET



M

EXEMPT

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
SOCIETY

261.2

261.2

Property

Eddy Block

7, 4⁵/₈

State

MA 3, Worcester

Working Number

11, 3, 80. 2723

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos

2

Maps

1

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Webster's only Victorian style commercial block. ? one of the few commercial blocks reflecting 19th c commercial character of Railroad Square. 12-3-80

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

2. 2. 82

Send-back

Entered *DEC 3* 1980

Federal Register Entry

Re-submit



ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

19

OF STAMPED (A) ITEMS: MAY USE BACK)

1. Eddy Block

2. Webster, Massachusetts Worcester County

3. B. R. Pfeiffer

91 Westland Avenue Box 82
Boston, Massachusetts 02115 February 1980

4. rear section of Eddy Block (#4 Davis Street) west elevation and
southwest corner, taken from a position facing northeast.

RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL RELIGIOUS INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTIONAL

TYPE SINGLE DOUBLE ROW 2DECK 3DECK TENEMENT APARTMENT

STORIES 1 2 3 4 MATERIAL FRAME BRICK STONE CONCR. MOD. COMPOSITE

CEMENT WARM-TO-STREET BROAD-TO-STREET

ROOF GABLE-FRONT GABLE-FLANK HANGAR HIP GAMBREL FLAT COMPLEX

ENTRANCE FLANK FRONT-CENTRE FRONT-SIDE

NOV 3 1980
DEC 3 1980



DEC 3 1980

NOV 3 1980

1. Eddy Block
2. Webster, Massachusetts Worcester County
3. B. R. Pfeiffer
91 Westland Avenue Box 82
Boston, Massachusetts 02115 February 1980
4. main section of Eddy Block (facing Main Street) showing facade
(south elevation) taken from a position facing northwest.



Webster, Mass.
Eddy Block

UTM References:
19/261260/4659030

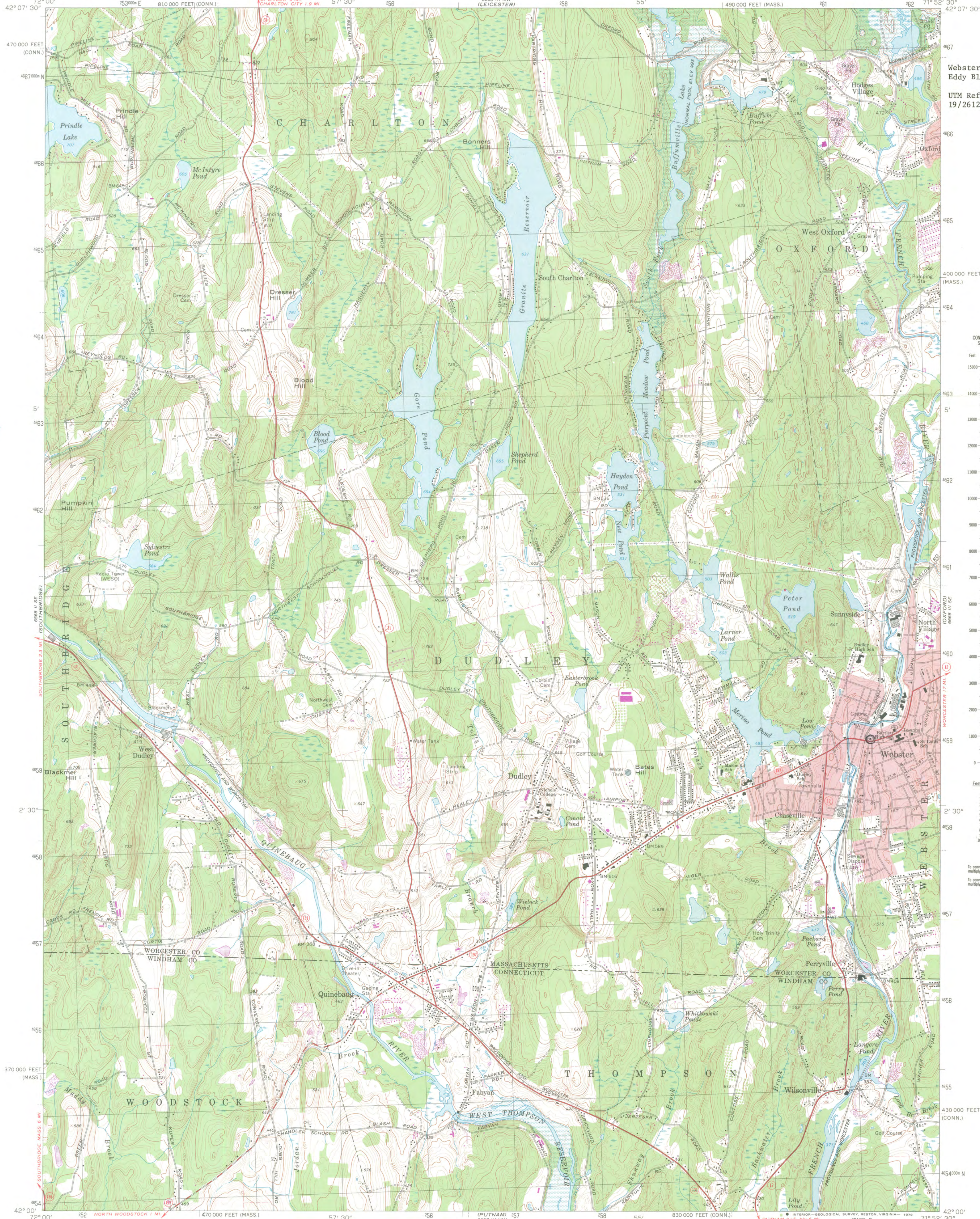
CONVERSION
SCALES



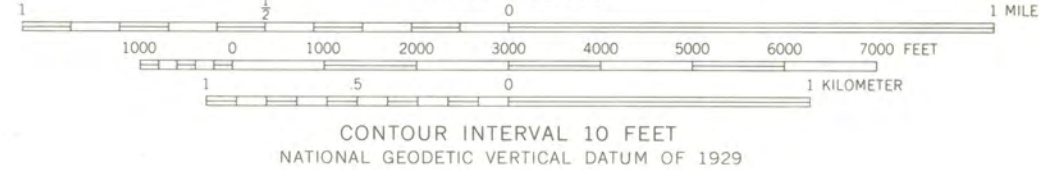
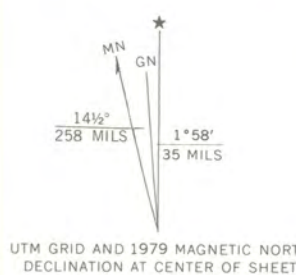
Feet	Meters
1	3.048
2	6.096
3	9.144
4	12.192
5	15.240
6	18.288
7	21.336
8	24.384
9	27.432
10	30.480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 0.3048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by plane-table surveys 1942-1943. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1969.
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Connecticut coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern
are subject to controlled inundation



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
State Route



WEBSTER, MASS.-CONN.
N4200-W7152.5/7.5
1969
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6668 III SW-SERIES V814



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered DEC 3 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Holyoke Canal System	Holyoke Hampden County
Tack Factory, The	Norwell vicinity Plymouth County
Eddy Block	Webster Worcester County
Water Shops Armory	Springfield Hampden County
Gunn and Hubbard Blocks	Springfield Hampden County
Spaulding Block	Webster Worcester County
Shumway Block	Webster Worcester County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul Tsongas
Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Silvio O. Conte
Honorable Garry E. Studds
Honorable Edward P. Boland

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

NR Byers/bjr/1/6/81

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