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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

APR 01 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Beaman Memorial Public Library

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 8 Newton Street

N/A not for
 N/A publication

city or town West Boylston vicinity _____

state Massachusetts code MA county Worcester code 027 zip code 01583

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Brona Simon

March 22, 2016

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, SHPO, MHC Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register
 Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain): _____

Jan Edson H. Beall
 Signature of the Keeper

5-16-16
 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
 (Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- Private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	4	objects
3	4	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: library

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH/EARLY 20TH CENTURY
REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

STONE: granite block;
foundation: CONCRETE
walls: BRICK; CONCRETE

roof: SLATE; METAL
other: N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The **Beaman Memorial Public Library** in West Boylston, MA, is a prominent part of the institutional/residential town center that was transformed in the early 20th century, following the construction of the Wachusett Reservoir just to the east. The broad, two-story, hip-roofed, Colonial Revival-style municipal building, designed by Lucius W. Briggs, faces south over a triangular lot, toward the small common that occupies the center of the convergence of roads to Lancaster, Shrewsbury, and Worcester. The original 1912 building, together with its broad 1999 rear addition, nearly fills the north end of the small property. While the original library is of red brick with a granite-block foundation, the addition is concrete with an EIFS (exterior insulation finishing system) skin stained a brick red, and has a cast-stone/concrete foundation. The 1912 building has a hipped slate roof; the hipped roofs of the addition are standing-seam copper. Both the new and old parts of the library are characterized by large 1/1 windows, single and grouped, set into molded wood architraves. The symmetrical, three-bay façade of the main building is enhanced by marble panels, brick quoins, and a formal center entrance in a grand, white-marble surround. Throughout the building, white bandcoursing and a classical wooden cornice unite the old and new sections. The long east and west wings of the addition each terminate in a large, two-story semicircular bay.

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Narrative Description

Exterior description (Photos 1-4; Map #1)

The library is a hip-roofed, two-story, Colonial Revival-style brick building, completed in 1912, with a 1999 rear EIFS/concrete addition. The original main building, designed by architect Lucius W. Briggs, is rectangular in plan, 54 feet, six inches by 35 feet, six inches, and stands on a high foundation of dressed New Hampshire granite. Except for the removal of the rear wing that housed the book stacks, the building is extremely well preserved. The stack wing and the westernmost of a pair of wide, brick, rear chimneys were demolished to make way for a broad, two-story rear addition that extends approximately 30 feet east and west to either side of the main building.

Contrasting surfaces, materials, and colors are a dominant theme of the library design. The masonry walls of the 1912 building are red brick, set in an English cross-bond pattern, with accents of purple bricks. Vertical bands of alternating three- and five-course brick quoining articulate the building corners and the wall surface between the large window bays. The roof is green slate, and a white-marble watertable rings the building above the foundation, as does a wide marble bandcourse, just below the second-story windows. The modillioned cornice and the molded window architraves are wood, painted white.

The main, three-bay, south façade (Photo 1) has a large, slightly recessed center entry fitted with a double-leaf, varnished oak door with a single, long glass panel in each leaf. The doorway is surmounted by a single-light transom window. Both door and transom are set into a white-marble surround, with a deep, molded lintel shelf supported on long, narrow consoles. A broad, triple flight of granite steps with aluminum railings leads to the doorway. On the wall directly above the entry is a wide marble panel bearing the carved inscription, "BEAMAN MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY." To either side at the first story is a large, triple 1/1 window set into a broad segmental-arched opening, adorned with a limestone keystone and a curving lintel of soldier-course bricks. Below each of the 1/1 sash is a molded wood panel, and above each triple opening is a single long, flat, horizontal marble panel. At the second story, three banks of triple 1/1 sash are aligned above the entry and first-story windows.

The west elevation of the original building (Photo 2) is three bays wide. At the first story, a wide, secondary entry occupies the center bay. Adding a Classical Revival note to the building, this entry has a single door with two long, recessed panels, flanked by three-pane sidelights over paneled aprons. The doorway is sheltered by a simple, slightly hipped marquee hood supported on a pair of scrolled iron brackets. Above this west entry is a tall Palladian window in a keystone surround. At each story, a single, flat-arched, 1/1 window occupies the outer bay of this elevation, flanked by vertical bands of brick quoining.

The main, east elevation (Photo 3) also has three symmetrically arranged bays, but no entrance. Centered at each story is a large triple window, with a single 1/1 window to either side. Here, as on the west elevation, the window headers are composed of soldier bricks, and as on the other façades, the bays are separated by brick quoining. Echoing the fenestration of the main façade, the triple window at the first story is segmental arched, and the one at the second story is flat arched, with a flat, horizontal marble panel between them.

1999 addition. The large, nearly symmetrical rear addition, which more than doubled the size of the building, was designed by the Preservation Partnership of Weare, NH (Maximilian Ferro, principal architect). The addition repeats the height, color, roof form, and the single and multiple banks of 1/1 windows of the 1912 brick building, but it is constructed of reinforced concrete with a steel frame and EIFS skin, and has a standing-seam copper roof. The main walls are stained a rich red, and the high, cast-stone foundation is granite gray. The white watertable,

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bandcourse, and cornice continue on the walls of the addition. Some sections of the wooden cornice are reused from the rear of the original building. The corners of the addition are adorned with concrete quoins, in the same proportion as the brick quoins on the original building.

The center sections of the east and west end walls of the addition each consist of a large, full-height, semicircular bay. Five 1/1 windows occupy the second stories of both bays and the first story of the east bay. Doorways are located in the front and rear corners of the west bay. Concrete steps with aluminum railings lead to the rear entry there, while the front, west entry is a handicapped-accessible entrance accessed by a switchback concrete ramp, also with an aluminum railing. The cooling unit for the building is partially hidden by the front concrete support walls of the ramp. Between the stories on the outer wall of the west bay, the name of the library appears in raised, gold, individual letters. All of the windows in the east and west elevations of the addition are single 1/1 sash. The windows on the south, front-facing walls are a single grouping of four at each story—taller at the first story than at the second.

The long north (rear) elevation of the addition (Photo 4) has symmetrical fenestration featuring banks of double, triple, and quadruple 1/1 sash at both stories. That wall has a broad, three-bay, projecting section at the center that is reminiscent of the original stack wing. A single 1/1 window occupies the narrow east and west walls of this center section at each story.

Interior description (Photos 5 through 10)

Except for the removal of the original fourteen-by-35-foot stack wing and part of its front connecting wall, the 1912 floor plan of the main building is largely unchanged. The south façade entry opens into a shallow vestibule, from which a broad, central lobby leads to the rear of the original building, where it now widens into the 1999 addition. Interior walls are minimized at the first story, and some spaces to either side of the lobby—a large eighteen-by-33-foot reading room on the east, and a smaller periodical room in the northwest corner—are entered between pairs of paneled square columns rather than doorways. In spite of some alterations to the smaller spaces, the effect of the first story, in the words of the architect’s description accompanying the 1912 library dedication, is that of “one commodious room, which upon closer inspection resolves itself into several units sufficiently screened for seclusion, yet admitting of complete supervision from the attendant’s position at the delivery desk.”¹

Upon entering the lobby from the vestibule, to the left is the current librarian’s office, formerly the reference room that was intended as “a quiet corner for the serious minded student.” Between it and the present periodical area, where the delivery desk was originally located, is an interior stairway (Photo 8) leading from the west entrance to the second floor and the basement. The stairway is now enclosed in glass on the interior, lobby side.

The first story retains its original interior finishes, including paneled wainscoting and recessed-paneled columns and pilasters. Notable features of the west stairway include a paneled newel post with urn finial, turned balusters, and bracketed tread ends on the stairs.

The focal point of the east **reading room** is a handsome, Federal Revival fireplace (Photo 6) that opens into the remaining chimney in the north wall—“a reminder of pretentious Salem homes of by-gone days.”² The ornate woodwork of the fireplace surround includes a pair of tall, fluted colonnettes, reeding and gouge work in the entablature, and carved urns in the capitals. The hearth apron and the firebox surround are of polished yellow marble. The outer walls of the reading room, now called the Izette F. Hudson Room, are lined with low

¹ Frost, Briggs & Chamberlain, in *Dedication of the Beaman Memorial Public Library*. Town of West Boylston: Sept. 6, 1912. 51.

² Ibid.

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bookshelves below the level of the windowsills. The original metal heating grills are incorporated into the arrangement. Five large oil portraits hang above the bookshelves, including one of David Lee Child by W.L.G. Haskins. Two other oil portraits depict George Calvin Rice and Ezra Beaman 2nd. "Aurora," a marble relief of a chariot and classical female figures that was the gift of the West Boylston Reading Club, hangs above the fireplace.

The **south entry vestibule** has a tiled marble floor. Recessed into each side wall, above a paneled dado, is a high, arched niche where a piece of bronze sculpture is displayed. The west niche houses a seated male figure entitled *Le Travail*, by French sculptor Charles Auguste Lebourg (1829-1906, Photo 9). In the east niche, *Faith*, a classical female figure, stands on an octagonal pedestal with four seated figures at its base (Photo 10). The grouping is a statuette replica of the National Monument to the Forefathers at Plymouth, MA. Both bronzes were given to the library in 1943 by Mrs. George Rawson.

Mounted to either side of the inner vestibule door are two large, bronze plaques. The one on the left reads "This building was erected in 1911 and dedicated September 6, 1912," and lists the five members of the library building committee, along with the names of the architect and builder. The plaque on the right commemorates George Calvin Rice's gift of the library to the town: "Beaman Memorial Public Library/The gift of George Calvin Rice to the town of West Boylston in memory of his great-grandfather Major Ezra Beaman/To be used forever as a free public library."

During the refurbishment of the main library in association with the 1999 addition, some distinctive interior architectural details of the original building were restored. Among them are the large, hanging, brass light fixtures in the main central lobby, which were reconditioned and are again in use (Photo 7).

Second story

The second story of the 1912 building, accessed by the stairway inside the west entry, houses a 33-foot-square assembly room, and on the west side, two smaller rooms, one on each side of the stairwell. The small, southwest room originally functioned as a trustees' room. The room in the northwest corner was a combined janitor's closet and "retiring room," with accompanying toilet.

The **assembly room**, officially named Rice Hall in 1914, is now used as an early childhood learning center. In 1999, a late 20th-century acoustical ceiling was removed from the room, revealing the large, multipaned skylight in the center of the hipped roof, which has been restored. The small southwest corner room is now a staff lounge; the northwest room is a children's periodical room.

Rear addition and basement

The 1999 addition includes banks of metal book stacks at both first and second stories. On the first story are the circulation desk, a young adult room, offices, and utility rooms. The basement, which formerly held a children's room, designed by John Boyce of Holden, MA, in 1972, was entirely reconfigured in 1999. It now houses some of the building utilities and a storage area.

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Landscape and setting (Photos 1 and 3; Map #s 2-7)

The library is located in the heart of West Boylston Center, which was transformed at the turn of the 20th century, when a large number of buildings constructed between 1800 and 1895, and one early cemetery, were moved to the area around the town common from the part of town that was to be flooded by the Wachusett Reservoir. (See below.) By 1915, twenty more residential and institutional buildings were constructed around the intersection of Newton, Central, and Worcester streets, resulting in a residential/institutional town center of mixed 18th- to early 20th-century buildings and sites, with the town common and the Beaman Library at its heart. Two other National Register properties are also located nearby—the Bigelow Tavern (NR 1992) and the Mount Vernon Cemetery (NR 2009).

The library faces south over a long, grassed triangle. Newton and Central streets come together at the south apex of the triangle, just opposite the north end of the town common. Low, granite retaining walls (Map #2) line the library lawn at the inner edges of the sidewalks along the street edge. (The library sidewalks were originally specified to be “granolithic walks.”) The retaining walls and sidewalks, including a broad, slightly curved sidewalk that crosses the lawn just in front of the library steps, were part of the 1912 landscape plan prepared by Edward W. Breed of Clinton. The outer sidewalks are now paved in asphalt and the sidewalk across the lawn is concrete, but their positions are the same as those shown on the original landscape plan.

The landscape plan was followed in 1914 by a plant list that included 26 trees and shrubs. Very few original plantings survive, with the possible exception of a Schwedler maple or two near the rear corners of the property. Others originally included Douglas spruces, arborvitae, junipers, and some of the fashionable shrubs of the day—Japanese barberry, spirea, euonymus, and rosa rugosa.

Four modern objects occupy the triangular lawn in front of the building. South to north, they are: a freestanding wooden **sign** mounted between two low wood posts (Map #3), a tall white **flagpole** (Map #4) with a high concrete base, a small wood **hanging sign** (Map #5), and a memorial wooden **bench** (Map #6) facing the 1912 entry. All are considered noncontributing due to their recent age.

Archaeological Description

While no Native American sites are known on the Beaman Public Library property, it is possible that sites are present. One site is reported in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the library property indicate the presence of locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of ancient sites. The library is situated on a well-drained, level to moderately sloping terrace that overlooks a small, unnamed stream that flows from Carrolls Pond northeasterly to the Wachusett Reservoir, less than 1,000 feet south and east of the library. Soils are a sandy loam. Given the above information, the small size of the nominated property (0.42 acres), the extent of ground disturbance as a result of library construction, and our current knowledge of ancient Native American settlement for the Worcester Plateau locale, a low potential exists for the recovery of ancient Native American resources on the library property.

A moderate potential also exists for locating significant historic archaeological resources on the library property. No historic-period resources are known on the library property, prior to its construction in 1912. Builders’ trenches may exist near the library foundation, and sheet refuse (artifact scatters) from activities conducted on the library’s grounds may also be present. Additional historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may also recover structural evidence of potential stables, carriage houses, barns, and outbuildings once located on the property.

(end)

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RESOURCE COUNT

Key: C = contributing; NC = non-contributing
 B = building; St = structure; O = object; Si = site

MAP #	NAME OR DESCRIPTION	DATE	STATUS	TYPE
1	Beaman Memorial Public Library	1912/1999	C	B
2	Granite curbing/retaining walls	1912	C	St
3	Two-posted sign	ca. 2000	NC	O
4	Flagpole	2004	NC	O
5	Sign	ca.2000	NC	O
6	Bench	late 20 th c.	NC	O
7	Masonry sidewalks	1912	C	St

TOTAL RESOURCE COUNT:	CONTRIBUTING	NON-CONTRIBUTING
Buildings	1	0
Structures	2	0
Objects	0	4
Sites	0	0
TOTAL:	3	4

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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 a 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1912 to 1966

Significant Dates

1912 (original building)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lucius W. Briggs (architect, 1912)

E. F. Cross (builder, 1912)

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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Beaman Library extends from the time of its construction, 1911 to 1912, through 1966, the fifty-year cutoff for historic significance for National Register purposes.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Beaman Memorial Public Library fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register individually, at the local level.

The building is an exemplary illustration of the work of its architect, Lucius W. Briggs, and of its builder, E. F. Cross, and an outstanding example of institutional Colonial Revival-style architecture in New England in the years just before World War I. Although the original, rear stack wing has been replaced by a large 1999 addition, the new section is compatible with the 1912 structure in scale, proportion, style, and materials. The east, south (primary), and west 1912 façades are all intact, and the original green-slate roof is still in place. Nearly all of the 1912 interior architectural features are well preserved as well, including the floor plan. The library thus retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Beaman Memorial Public Library in West Boylston, MA, meets Criterion A as one of the region’s best examples of the rebuilding and municipal planning efforts that took place in connection with the construction of the Wachusett Reservoir. It is also the only municipal building remaining from the years just before World War I, when West Boylston was re-establishing the institutional heart of the community. From the time of the West Boylston public library’s 1878 establishment until the present day, the library has been a key community institution, illustrating both extraordinary local dedication on the part of the townspeople, and the generosity of three visionary individuals, none of whom were residents of the town. As such, it gives tangible form to the philanthropic endeavors of three people whose names are better-known today for other reasons—David Lee Child, who left the original bequest that established the public library; Lydia Maria Child, who donated her personal collection of books to the institution after her husband’s death; and George Calvin Rice, who donated the building to the town.

The library fulfills Criterion C both as one of few Colonial Revival-style municipal buildings in West Boylston, and as an outstanding illustration of the work of architect Lucius Briggs and of builder E. F. Cross.

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Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Background and early history

West Boylston, a suburban, central highlands community of about fourteen square miles on the Nashua River corridor, is bounded on the south by the city of Worcester and the town of Shrewsbury, and by the towns of Holden on the west, Sterling on the north, and Boylston on the east. The Wachusett Reservoir, completed at the confluence of the Nashua, Quinapoxet, and Stillwater rivers in 1905, occupies a large portion of the north-central part of the town. West Boylston has its origins in the town of Boylston, which was occupied by English settlers by the middle of the 18th century and incorporated in 1785. In 1796 the west part of Boylston became the town's Second Parish, with a meetinghouse at a hilltop common, which became the independent town of West Boylston in 1808 together with parts of Holden and Sterling. The new town was further expanded when more territory from Boylston was annexed in 1820.

With abundant waterpower on the Nashua River and its tributaries, and a north-south railroad built through town by 1848, West Boylston grew rapidly into a regional industrial center with development focused in the river valley below the common. Specialties in textile- and shoe-manufacturing continued to expand through 1890, but the town's main industrial activities came to an abrupt end with the flooding of a major portion of the town when the Metropolitan Water Board constructed the Wachusett Reservoir between 1895 and 1905. During those years the town's population dropped from 2,968 to 1,571, and all buildings in the path of the flooding were either moved or destroyed.

The coming of the reservoir led to a major municipal planning effort and a surge of building construction around the Common at the original town center, which was located on high ground on the west side of the Nashua River. Just after the turn of the 20th century, eighteen buildings were moved to the old center, in the area where Worcester, Central, and Newton streets converged. Twenty more buildings were constructed there shortly afterward, creating a new institutional and residential cluster of modern and relocated older buildings around the old town common.

The new construction included a few public buildings, paid for in part by the Commonwealth in compensation to the town. Other institutional buildings received financial support from generous residents of West Boylston and its surrounding communities. Such was the case with the Beaman Memorial Public Library.

West Boylston's new library, 1912

The West Boylston town library was founded in 1878. The immediate impetus for its establishment had been a bequest of \$100 received by the town from the will of David Lee Child, who died in 1874. Child had been born in West Boylston in 1794, but lived most of his life elsewhere. A farmer, lawyer, journalist, one-time State Representative, and Secretary of President Monroe's 1820s Legation to Portugal, in the second quarter of the 19th century Child also became nationally known as an influential abolitionist. From 1826 to about 1830, he was editor of the Massachusetts *Whig Journal*. He was a charter member of the New England Anti-Slavery Society, founded in 1832, and from 1841 to 1844 he and his wife, author of the first American cookbook ("The American Frugal Housewife," 1832) and outspoken abolitionist, Lydia Maria Child, both edited the society's weekly *National Anti-Slavery Standard*.

Upon receipt of the bequest in 1875, Town Meeting authorized a board of library trustees and undertook a three-year fundraising campaign to augment the Child legacy before officially establishing the library. Books for the initial public library collection were gathered from the former holdings of the district schools and from

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earlier, private social libraries. In addition, Mrs. Child donated 170 volumes from her own collection to the town.

The library books were first housed and made available to the public in a room of the town high school. In 1878 they were moved to a larger space in the second floor of a local primary school, and in 1903, as buildings were being relocated in advance of the flooding associated with the Wachusett Reservoir, the library collection was moved into storage in the former Baptist Church. The rebuilding campaign after the reservoir construction included a new town hall on Central Street, and the library was moved to a room there when that building was finished. The town hall space was small and inadequate, however, and in 1911, wealthy Worcester farmer George Calvin Rice made a proposal to the town: “. . . knowing that the Town of West Boylston is without a suitable library building . . .³ I will make a gift to the town of a building to be used as a Public Library, which will cost no less than twenty thousand dollars.” The actual final cost of the library was \$22,395.26, plus an additional \$1,8000 for the purchase of and grading the land.⁴

Mr. Rice’s offer was made on two conditions: first, that before the first of May the town was to “purchase the triangular tract of land at the junction of Newton and Central streets, now owned by Wayland A. Tuttle and agree to suitably grade the same,” and second, that the building be named the Beaman Memorial Public Library in memory of Mr. Rice’s great-grandfather, Major Ezra Beaman.

Maj. Ezra Beaman (1736-1811), often called “the father of West Boylston,” was considered by the townspeople to be the principal founder of the town. A prominent tavern-keeper, he was also at one time the town’s largest landowner. No significant memorial to him had ever been erected, however, and on the hundredth anniversary of his death, his great-grandson intended to rectify the oversight.

The response from the people of West Boylston was enthusiastic. They accepted George Rice’s offer, and quickly appropriated \$1,800 for the purchase and improvement of the Tuttle lot. Once the property was secured, architectural bids were solicited, and a design by Lucius W. Briggs of Frost, Briggs & Chamberlain of Worcester was chosen. Similarly, in a competition for the building construction contract, E. J. Cross Company, also of Worcester, was selected.

In the first three decades of the 20th century, **Lucius W. Briggs** (1866-1940) was the most prominent architect in the city of Worcester, and nationally known for his work. In his long career he designed business blocks, academic and institutional buildings, houses, and monuments, primarily in Worcester and the surrounding region. He was especially known for his public buildings, an architectural specialty, which culminated in 1932 in the Worcester Memorial Auditorium (with Frederic C. Hiron). The Beaman Library is the second of three extant area libraries known to have been designed by Briggs. All are masonry buildings, but each is in a different architectural style. The original Clark University Library (now the Jefferson Academic Center) of ca. 1902 in Worcester, with an addition of 1910, is a late Gothic Revival building. Worcester’s eclectic little Greendale Branch Public Library of 1913 displays elements of the Spanish Mission style. All of the above buildings are listed in the National Register.

³ West Boylston Annual Report for 1911.

⁴ *Dedication of the Beaman Memorial Library*, 1912.

Edward Josiah Cross, founder of E. J. Cross Construction Company, was a prominent builder in the Worcester area during most of the years that Lucius Briggs was practicing architecture. Although the Beaman Library Building Committee chose both architect and builder through two separate competitions, over the years Briggs and Cross in

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fact worked together on many projects. Among those still extant is the 1914 clubhouse of the Worcester Country Club (WOR.16). Built in the style of an English country manor, the clubhouse was constructed on 210 acres of George Calvin Rice's former family farm on Rice Street in north Worcester, which Rice sold to the club in 1913. When the club opened in 1914, he was voted its first honorary member.

The library in the 20th century

Once the Beaman Library opened, the local support that had built for the institution over the years steadily increased. Under the leadership of a tireless board of trustees and the able direction of director Annie M. Waite, it became the model of a modern local library. Although the book collection was never very large (rising gradually from 7,000 volumes in 1912 to 12,000 in 1925), the circulation rose steadily over the years. In the new building, the public library hours quickly expanded from two days a week to four. The library was open in both the afternoon and evening, and the Trustees' pride in the new, modern accommodations was emphasized in the description of the lighting system that made evening study possible. As noted in their 1913 report, "The evening work of reading and study is performed under the perfect condition of an indirect lighting system, a system which is found in almost no other town library in the Commonwealth."

From the start, the library's educational role was emphasized. Students in the local schools, accompanied by their teachers, were regularly instructed, and even tested, in the use of the collection. Special student hours were scheduled every Tuesday and Wednesday from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., before the building opened to the public for the afternoon. Beginning in 1921, students were coming to the library three days a week.

In 1924, a branch library was opened in the Oakdale section of West Boylston, and by 1933 there were three branches—located in the Oakdale, Prospect Street, and Woodland Street schools.

Rice Hall, the second-story assembly room originally intended for educational purposes, soon took on a variety of functions. While book-group discussions were held in the hall under the West Boylston Reading Club, and the Woman's Club put on lectures there, the large room was also utilized during the First World War by the local Red Cross, and by the Boy Scouts for their activities. (The Red Cross returned to the building during World War II, where it conducted its activities for the duration of the war, this time in the basement.) After the West Boylston Town Hall burned down in 1917, for many years Rice Hall was the site of the regular West Boylston Selectmen's meetings.

Over the years, physical improvements to the library property helped to expand public access, especially for the town's children. In 1913, for instance, Town Meeting appropriated some additional funds to build both a "granolithic sidewalk" and "crosswalks to the present concrete sidewalks on Newton and Central Streets."³ The library also expanded its role as a repository for important documents. In 1935 a vault was constructed in the library basement for the secure storage of town records (since removed), and in 1941 architect Lester Bernard Edwards designed a large fireproof document room there, which was completed in 1942.

In 1949, Miss Waite retired, after serving the town and library for 42 years as library director. But the foundation she laid for how a small town library was to function carried the institution through the rest of the 20th century.

³ West Boylston Town Report for 1913, 6.

Beaman Memorial Public Library
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

In 1972, architect John Boyce of Holden was hired to renovate the basement with the installation of a children’s room, which was dedicated as the Guy C. Blodgett Room. By the 1980s, both the collection and the library activities had far outgrown the 1912 building. A \$1 million state grant and \$1.34 million in local funding made the 1999 addition and renovation possible. The 1999 project enlarged the storage and activity space, and made possible a new children’s department, a young adult room, and larger administrative areas. It also added an elevator and accessible entrances, opening the building to more visitors than ever. Rice Hall, no longer an assembly hall, fulfilled its educational promise in a transformation to an early childhood learning center. In 2012, the town commemorated the library’s 100th anniversary by undertaking its nomination to the National Register—a fitting honor for a grand institution.

Archaeological Significance

Potential historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to the construction of the original library in 1911 and 1912, the 1999 rear addition, and the demolition of the rear stacks and a rear brick chimney to make room for the two-story rear addition. Construction features (builders’ trenches) and structural evidence may indicate evidence of construction details not referenced in existing plans for the addition or the original construction of the library. Additional details may also be present related to the original building of the library. Information may also be available that contributes insights into activities conducted on the grounds of the library. Objects may have been lost by individuals who conducted and participated in those activities, leaving artifact scatters or features of their activity. This information could contribute information related to the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of individuals and social groups who used the library facilities, and to the citizens of the West Boylston locale.

(End)

Beaman Memorial Public Library
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Books, articles, manuscripts, interviews

American Institute of Architects. *Historical Directory of American Architects*. 1956.

Hamilton, Helen M. *History of West Boylston*. Worcester: Clark University Press, 1954.

Houghton, Horatio. "History of West Boylston," in D. H. Hurd, ed. *History of Worcester County, Massachusetts*, Vol. I, 585-607.

Knowlton, Elliott B., ed. *Worcester's Best: a Guide to the City's Architectural Heritage*. Worcester, MA: Worcester Heritage Preservation Society, 1984.

Notes on gifts to the Beaman Library. Beaman Library files.

Waite, Annie M. Beaman Memorial Public Library: Historical Record, 1878-1938. Typescript, 1938.

Worcester City Directories. Various dates and publishers.

Worcester Telegram and Gazette, May 2, 2011.

Federal, state, and county documents

Massachusetts Historical Commission Reconnaissance Survey: West Boylston. 1983.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic and Archaeological Resources of Central Massachusetts*. 1985.

Pfeiffer, Brian. MHC Survey Form WOR.16: Worcester Country Club, 8 Rice Street, Worcester. 11/1977.

_____. MHC Survey Form WOR.119: Greendale Branch Public Library, 470 W. Boylston St., Worcester. January, 1978.

Stiles, Muriel. MHC Survey Form WBY.58: Beaman Memorial Public Library. May 2, 1972.

Stott, Peter. MHC Survey Form WBY.58: Beaman Memorial Public Library. December 22, 1985.

U. S. Federal Census: most decennial years 1850 through 1920.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds. Bk. 1945, P. 252; Bk. 1959, P. 109.

Town of West Boylston documents and files

Annual Reports of the Town of West Boylston. 1910 through 1950.

Beaman Memorial Library website: www.beamanlibrary.org/history.html.

Dedication of the Beaman Memorial Public Library. West Boylston, MA: Commonwealth Press, Sept. 6, 1912.

Beaman Memorial Public Library
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

Maps and plans

Breed, Edward W. Planting plan for the Beaman Memorial Library site, West Boylston, Mass. May 11, 1914.
The Preservation Partnership. Beaman Memorial Public Library: Plans and elevations, June 23, 1998.

(End)

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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of Repository: Beaman Memorial Public Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): WBY.58

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 19 270740 4693840 2. _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The library occupies a triangular lot (West Boylston Assessor's Map 148, Lot 36), bounded on the northeast by Central Street and on the southwest by the foot of Newton Street, at the point where the two streets come together at the West Boylston Town Common. The northwest property line extends from Newton to Central Street, along the rear of the library building. (The lot size is recorded by the town as .42 acres, approximately the same as the area measured on a mid/late 20th-century survey plan. The 1911 deed [Worcester County deed book 1959, page 109] describes the property as .435 acres. The assessor's card for the property gives the lot size as .75 acres.)

Beaman Memorial Public Library
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Beaman Memorial Public Library property is the original lot (referred to as “the triangular tract of land at the junction of Newton and Central Streets, . . . owned by Wayland A. Tuttle”) that George Calvin Rice’s 1911 gift to the town specified as the library site.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Forbes, preservation consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date March, 2016
street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470
city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125
e-mail anneforbes@verizon.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Beaman Memorial Public Library
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Beaman Memorial Public Library
City or Vicinity: West Boylston
County: Worcester State: Massachusetts
Photographer: Anne M. Forbes
Date Photographed: 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1. Beaman Memorial Public Library: view north
2. Beaman Memorial Public Library: view northeast
3. Beaman Memorial Public Library: view west
4. Beaman Memorial Public Library: view southeast
5. Beaman Memorial Public Library: lobby and reading room, looking north
6. Beaman Memorial Public Library: reading room fireplace and marble relief
7. Beaman Memorial Public Library: lobby, looking south, with restored light fixtures
8. Beaman Memorial Public Library: west staircase
9. Beaman Memorial Public Library: bronze sculpture, "Le Travail"
10. Beaman Memorial Public Library: bronze sculpture, Plymouth monument replica

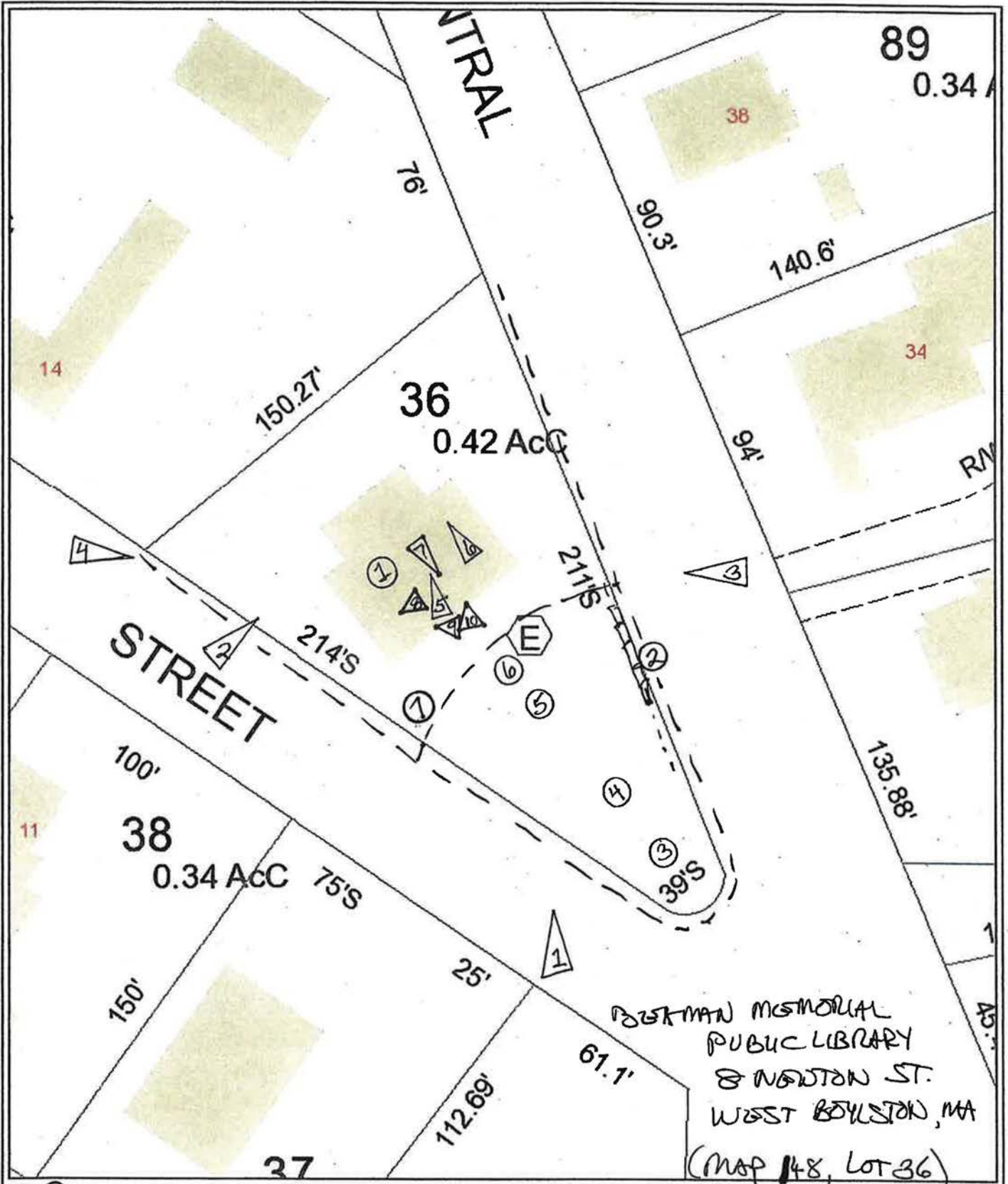
Property Owner:

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

Name Town of West Boylston
street & number 127 Hartwell Street telephone 508-835-3490
city or town West Boylston state MA zip code 01583

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



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2!bdi l>!57!Gf u

③ map location

④ photo location

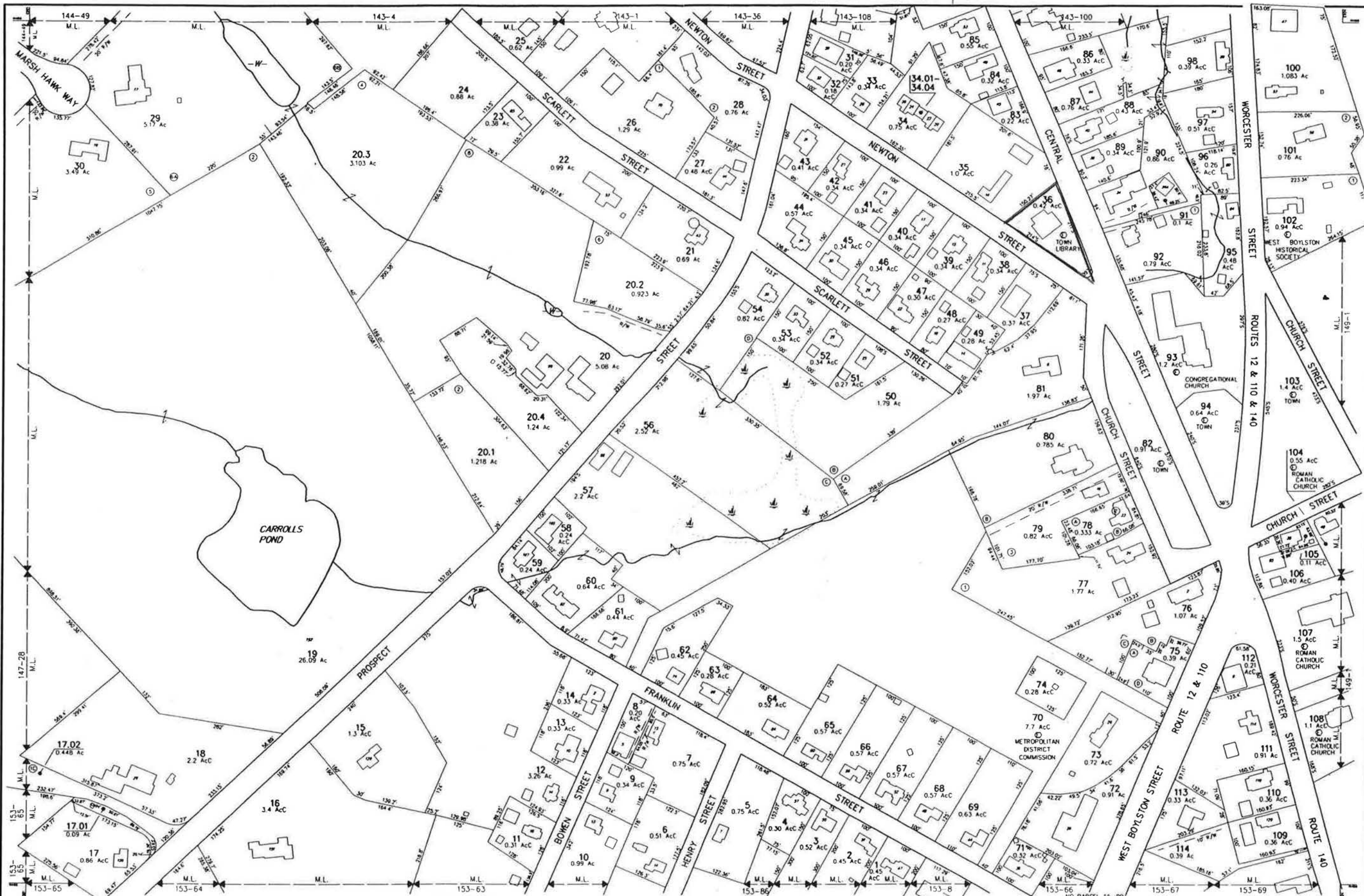


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CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATES, INC.

BETHMAN MEMORIAL PUBLIC LISTENING
WEST BOYLSTON
WORCESTER CO., MA



THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.
THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, NAD27 FEET.
PHOTOGRAPHY DATE: MARCH 28, 1990
COMPLETION DATE: MAY 31, 1991

PRODUCED BY
CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATES, INC.
MUNICIPAL MAPPING CONSULTANTS
11 PLEASANT STREET, LITTLETON, NH 03561

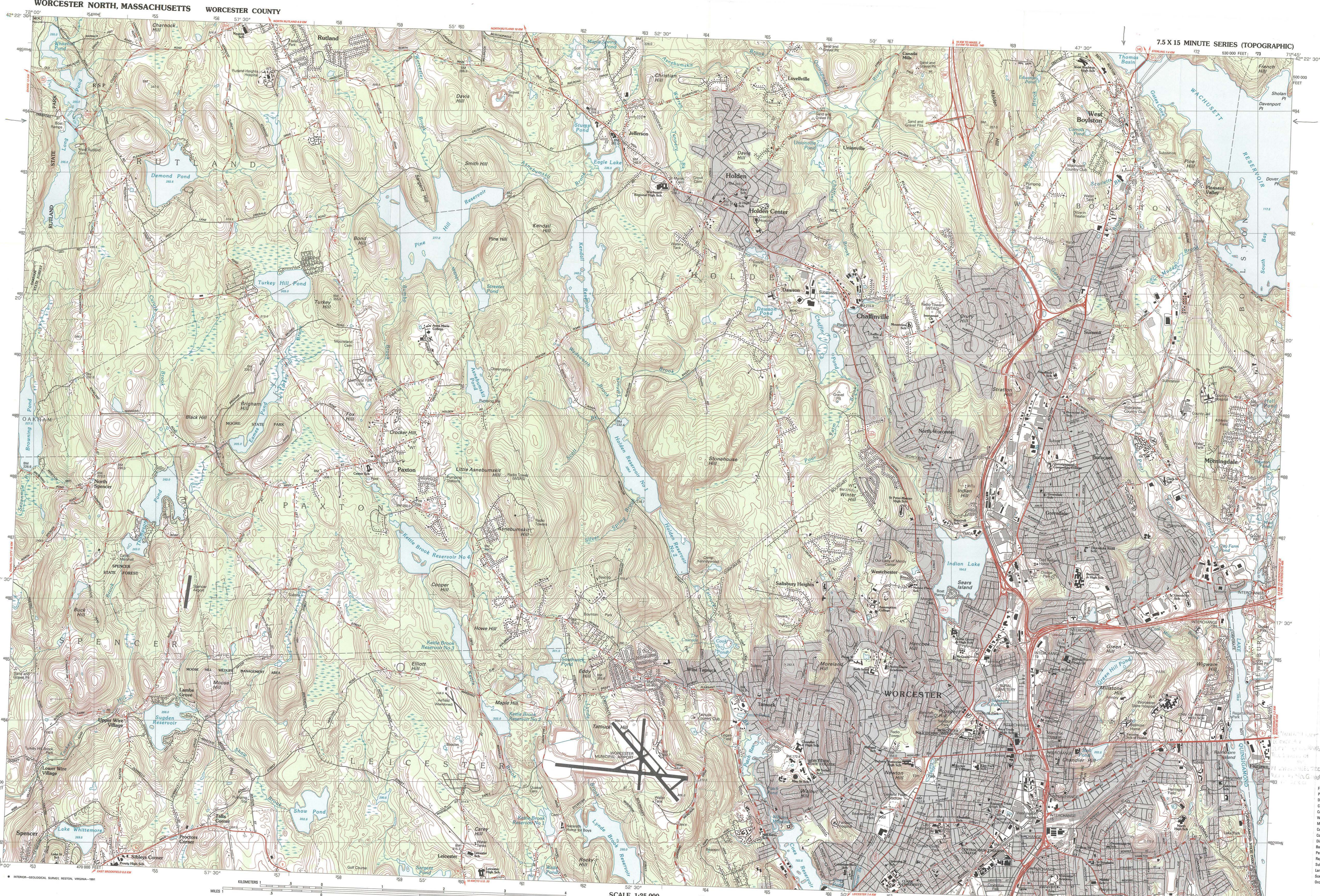
LEGEND
 AREA CALCULATED Ac
 AREA SURVEYED Ac
 COMMON OWNERSHIP
 EXEMPT PROPERTY
 MATCH LINE
 WATER
 RECORD DIMENSION 100'
 SCALED DIMENSION 100'S
 RIGHT OF WAY R/W
 SUBDIVISION LOT NO.
 WETLANDS

SCALE 1" = 100'
 FEET 0 100 200 300
 METERS 0 30.48 60.96 91.44
 REVISED TO: JANUARY 1, 2011

PROPERTY MAPS
WEST BOYLSTON
 MASSACHUSETTS

INDEX DIAGRAM
 144 143 142
 147 149
 154 153 152

MAP NO.
148



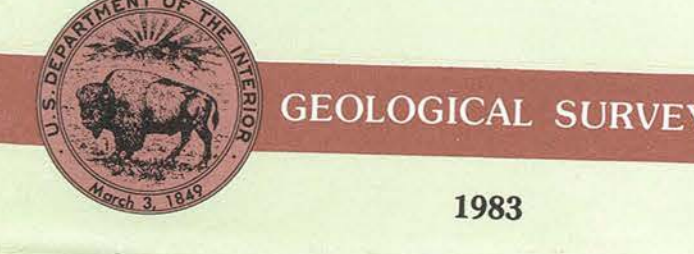
BEAMAN MEM. PUBLIC LIB. WEST BOYLSTON, (300) 257-8181 42071-C7-TM-025

Worcester North MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map



- 7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING
- Contours and elevations in meters
 - Highways, roads and other manmade structures
 - Water features
 - Woodland areas
 - Geographic names



Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works
 Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
 Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1960. Field checked 1982. Map edited 1983
 Supersedes Paxton and Worcester North 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1965 and 1974

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19: Universal Transverse Mercator
 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone, 1927 North American Datum
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south and 40 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State Reservations shown on this map
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
 OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS	
Meters	Feet	1° 15' 30" N 15' 30" W 267 METERS 874 METERS		1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	
2	6.5617	UTM grid convergence (W) and magnetic declination (M) in minutes of arc. Diagram is approximate.	1 East	2 Shading	3 Hedgerow
4	13.1234				
6	19.6851				
8	26.2468				
10	32.8085				
20	65.6170				
40	131.2340				
60	196.8510				
80	262.4680				
100	328.0850				

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road, trail
- Route marker: kilometer; U. S. State
- Railroad: standard gauge; narrow gauge
- Bridge: drawbridge
- Footbridge; overpass; underpass
- Railway area: only selected landmark buildings shown
- House; barn; church; school; large structure
- Boundary: National, with monument; State; County, parish; Civil township, precinct, district; Incorporated city, village, town; National or State reservation; small park; Land grant with monument; found section corner; U. S. public lands survey; range, township; section; Range, township; section line: location approximate; Fence or field line; Power transmission line, located tower; Dam; dam with lock; Cemetery; grave; Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument; Windmill; water well; spring; Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave; Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation; Contour: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression; Bathymetric contour: index; intermediate; Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream; Rapid; large and small; hills, large and small; Submerged marsh; marsh; Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland; Scrub; mangrove; Orchard; vineyard





MEMORIAL LIBRARY



NO PARKING







BEAMAN SCHOOL









EXIT







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Beaman Memorial Public Library

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 4/01/16 &pw DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/21/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/06/16 &pw DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/17/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000251

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5-16-16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

&a4L

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



BF

RECEIVED
NOV 20 2015
MASS. HIST. COMM

Board of Selectmen
Town of West Boylston
140 WORCESTER STREET
WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01581

JOHN W. HADLEY, Chairman
KEVIN M. McCORMICK, Vice Chairman
SIOBHAN M. BOHNSON, Clerk
CHRISTOPHER A. RUCHO, Selectman
PATRICK J. CROWLEY, Selectman

Phone: (774) 261-4010

email: selectboard@westboylston-ma.gov

November 5, 2015

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg,

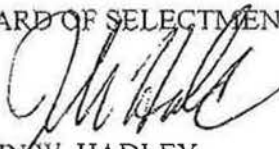
I am writing on behalf of the West Boylston Board of Selectmen in regards to the nomination of the National Register designation for the Beaman Memorial Public Library.

The Board of Selectmen met on November 4, 2015 to discuss the request for a letter for the file. This letter is being written upon unanimous vote of the Board of Selectmen.

If you have any further questions on this matter, you may contact our office at 774.261.4012.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF SELECTMEN


JOHN W. HADLEY
Chairman

cc: West Boylston Board of Library Trustees
West Boylston Historical Commission ✓



RECEIVED 2280

APR 01 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

March 22, 2016

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Beaman Memorial Public Library, 8 Newton Street, West Boylston (Worcester), MA

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 properties in the district were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

A letter of support has been received.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Beverly Goodale, West Boylston Historical Commission
Louise Howland, Director, Beaman Library
John Hadley, West Boylston Board of Selectmen
Anne Forbes, consultant
Marc Frieden, West Boylston Planning Board