

FORM A - AREA SURVEY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

Form numbers in this area	Area no.
	178-A-1

no 8000047

1. Town Worcester

Name of area (if any) Holy Cross College - Fenwick and O'Kane Halls National Register District

3. General date or period 1843-1905

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

4. Is area uniform (explain):

in style? no (mixed Victorian)

in condition? yes (excellent)

in type of ownership? yes (Holy Cross College)

in use? yes (collegiate)

Rolls 3 & 4

5. Map. Use space below to draw a general map of the area involved. Indicate any historic properties for which individual reports are completed on Forms B thru F, using corresponding numbers. Show street names (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. Indicate with an "x" existing houses not inventoried on Form B.

Assessors' Book 26, Lot A

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by W. & M. Seaman ed. B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.

Date January 1978

(over)

UTM
19/268270/4679930

7. Historical data. Explain the historical/architectural importance of this area.

Description: The area included in this nomination contains 115,000 square feet of land (by rough estimation) and is part of an unmapped parcel shown in the index of Worcester Assessors' Book 26. Boundaries for this area are irregular and have been selected to include Fenwick and O'Kane Halls. Further, boundaries have been selected to correspond to existing features in the surrounding landscape. The area's north boundary is at the foot of a hill which slopes away from Fenwick Hall; the west boundary is an existing paved driveway; the south boundary is an existing paved driveway which extends along an irregular line formed by the base of a hill behind Fenwick Hall. The east boundary is a straight line parallel to the east end of Fenwick Hall, mid-way between Fenwick Hall and the neighboring St. Joseph's Chapel. For an outline of boundaries see Map 178, submitted with the Worcester Multiple Resource National Register Nomination.

1. Fenwick Hall: portions of east wing built 1840s; portions built 1852-1853 (Capt. Edward Lamb, architect); enlargement and extensive re-building 1867 (Elbridge Boyden, architect); enlargement 1875 (P.W. Ford, architect); "Commencement Porch" added 1907.

Fenwick Hall is a three and one-half storey brick structure (approximately 310' x 50') bearing elements of Victorian Gothic, Second Empire and Classical Revival styles, due to the building's many additions and re-designings carried out in the nineteenth and very early twentieth centuries. The building is symmetrical in plan with a central pavilion, from which rise two towers, and end pavilions with two-storey high hip roofs. Fenestration of the facade (north) is asymmetrical, consisting mostly of evenly spaced windows at each storey except at the second and third stories of the structure's east end, where there are two-storey lancet windows. Except for the towers, the building is enclosed by a mansard roof with evenly spaced, arched dormers. At the center of the facade is a two-storey Corinthian portico, added in 1907. Throughout, the building is in excellent condition, retaining important features from each period of its expansion.

(cont.)

8. Bibliography and/or references such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.

See separate sheet

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 178-A-1
Property Name: Holy Cross College Fenwick and O'Kane Halls	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

7.

Property	Assessor's Data	Present Owner
1. Fenwick Hall	Book 26	Trustees of College of
2. O'Kane Hall	Lot A	the Holy Cross College Street Worcester, Mass. 01610

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 178-A-1
Property Name: Holy Cross College	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

7. Fenwick Hall has a remarkably complex building history which dates back to 1843 when a brick and granite academy building was built on this site. During the late 1840s, the 1843 building was enlarged by the addition of an east wing. In 1852 fire destroyed the original building, leaving portions of the east wing which were incorporated into the new building of 1852-1853. Illustrations of the 1843 and 1852 buildings show strong similarities of plan and style (Greek Revival).

In 1867, alterations designed by Eldridge Boyden seem to have eliminated most of the building's Greek Revival style elements. At this time the 1852-1853 building was "raised one-storey", a new west wing constructed, towers added and a mansard roof built. In 1875 the structure's east wing was also "raised one-storey" and extended eastward to a length of 112 feet; its mansard roof was either added or extended at this time to match the building's central pavilion and west wing. With an exterior of Victorian Gothic design (particularly its east facade), the enlarged east wing contained a refectory, study hall and chapel. Additions so changed the original Fenwick Hall that in 1893 the Worcester Commercial Magazine commented: "Few traces of the original building remain; the transformation has been so perfect that but a small part of the first foundations have been left undisturbed."

2. O"Kane Hall, built 1895 (Fuller & Delano, architects).

Attached to the west end wall of Fenwick Hall, O"Kane Hall is a five-storey brick structure of symmetrical plan, arranged about a central tower and end pavilions. Containing elements of Romanesque Revival and Renaissance Revival styles, the building's facade (west) is dominated by a square-plan tower which rises in stages to a high pyramidal roof and pinnacles. The facade's fenestration consists mainly of regularly spaced windows except for the southern end of the third and fourth stories where two-storey arched windows provide light to an auditorium. At the building's north end is a six-storey, flat-top tower which was designed (as was the central facade tower) to harmonize with the towers of Fenwick Hall. At the rear of O"Kane Hall (east) is a circular-plan tower, five stories high with a conical roof. In addition to its auditorium, O"Kane Hall was designed to contain a gymnasium, assembly halls and classrooms. At present the building is in excellent condition with only minor alterations.

SIGNIFICANCE

One of Worcester's oldest schools, Holy Cross has occupied its present campus since 1836 when Reverend James Fitton bought the 60-acre farm of "Henry Patch, deceased" on Pakachoag Hill. Soon after the purchase Fitton, who had organized Worcester's first Roman Catholic church (see St. John's Church - Form 131-K) hired Tobias Boland, a local builder, to construct a wooden building on the property, which then became the Seminary of Mount Saint James.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Worcester

Form No:

178-A-1

Property Name: Holy Cross College

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

7.

In 1842 Fitton transferred title to the property to Bishop Benedict Fenwick, Boston's second Roman Catholic bishop, who sought the aid of Jesuit priests from Georgetown College in Washington, D.C. to help establish a curriculum. In 1843 a brick and granite academy building was begun on the site of present Fenwick Hall and a seven-year course of study was instituted, with entering students ranging in age from eight to fourteen years. Upon its completion in 1844, the original brick building contained all of the school's offices, classrooms and dormitory rooms; after the building was largely destroyed in 1852, it appeared briefly that the school would close; however, soon thereafter the burnt building was reconstructed.

From 1849 until 1865, Holy Cross was unchartered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to grant academic degrees. During this period the school's degrees were granted through Georgetown College. In 1865 Holy Cross was chartered, apparently due to an easing of anti-Catholic sentiments which followed the Civil War.

From the school's founding until the addition of O'Kane Hall in 1895, Fenwick Hall housed nearly all of the college's activities. After 1904, when other buildings began to be added to the campus, Fenwick and O'Kane Halls lost some of their earlier functions of library, chapel and gymnasium, but remained the school's major buildings. The large size of these two structures, their hillside site and many towers make Fenwick and O'Kane Halls major local landmarks which are visible throughout many sections of Worcester.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 178-A-1
Property Name: Holy Cross College	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

8.

Bibliography

Holy Cross College. College Archives.

Worcester Historical Society. College File.

Evening Gazette, June 10, 1927 (Boland biography)

Worcester Commercial, March 1893, p.413.

Worcester Magazine, November 1901, p.139.

Brochure, "Welcome to the Campus of Holy Cross College."

Farnsworth. Story of Worcester, pp.200-211 (Fitton biography)

Howland, H. Worcester in 1850, p.14 (illustration of 1843 building)

Howland, H. The Heart of the Commonwealth, p.47 (illustration of 1853 building)

Meagher, W. The Spires of Fenwick (1966 - history of college)

Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. II, pp.745-747.

Rice, F. Worcester of 1898, pp.180-185 (photo)

No author. "Historical sketch of the College of the Holy Cross"
at Holy Cross College.

Property Worcester Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)

State MA (Worcester) Working Number 8.30.79.2060

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 383 + 13
Maps 2, 63

Excellent multiple resource nomination for the entire city of Worcester. Both the general description or statement of significance & the individual inventory sheets are well done. Each type of property included is well justified, & reasons are listed for not including others at this time (e.g. 3-deckers). Opposition is high. Minor problems with some properties are listed on attached sheets.

HISTORIAN
Call/Accept
Lightner
10.30.79

Concur with former's comments on 102-L-3, 116-CBD-11, 117-E, and 130-CBD-50 and 44. Integrity and/or boundaries need to be addressed specifically on individual forms. DOUBLE

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

116-CBD-11 - Destroyed, cannot be listed.
130-CBD-44 - I am not convinced this has lost integrity. See attached.
102-L-3 - Period of significance and categorization of 1 bgo need to be discussed with State.

With 3 exceptions all properties appear to me to meet the criteria and the forms are adequate. ~~Both~~ ^{both} technically and to determine significance, although some of the forms did not contain strong statements of significance the resource categories were thoroughly discussed in the body of the nomination; therefore significance was established. VBDs were not necessary because

OTHER
ACCEPT
MURPHY
2/28/80

of the scale maps and clearly delineated boundaries. Pledge was missing on some properties but is now included after the 2/11 corrections.

HAER

The only properties that I do not recommend listing are:
✓ 116-CBD-13 - DESTROYED BY FIRE MD - 116 CBD-11
130-CBD-44 - DOES NOT RETAIN INTEGRITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

Inventory _____
Review _____

✓ 102-L-3 I ~~was~~ ^{am} not convinced about boundaries BUT BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE OK. ~~BASED~~ ^{BASED} ON ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED - I DEFER JUDGEMENT.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Recommend listing all properties ~~except~~ ^{now} except these 3. Return 116-CBD-11 to State (not eligible); ~~to discuss further~~ ^{to discuss further w/NR staff + state.} DOUBLE
Return 102-L-3 to state for correction; DOUBLE
HOLD 130-CBD-44 for info from state

BRANCH CHIEF 3/3/80

Staff conference 3/5/80 - agreed to action as noted below:

KEEPER

Accept with exception of 116-CBD-11 (official notification of fire & claims from State), 102-L-3 (returning to state for revision - also returning 116-CBD-11) and 130-CBD-44 (holding from state)

Soldner
3/5/80

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered MAR 5 1980
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81 Re-submit _____ SEE 3/13/80 REPORT



Roll 4

978

JAN 1978



90 AUG 1978

178-A-1
Holy Cross College
Worcester MA MA
Fenwick Hall
North Elevation

1978



DEC 1977

Prestige Prints

by Berkey

178-A-10³⁰
Worcester, MA
Holy Cross College
O'Keefe Hall
West Elevation

DEC 1977

Roll 3



DEC 1977

D

Prestige Prints

by Berkeley

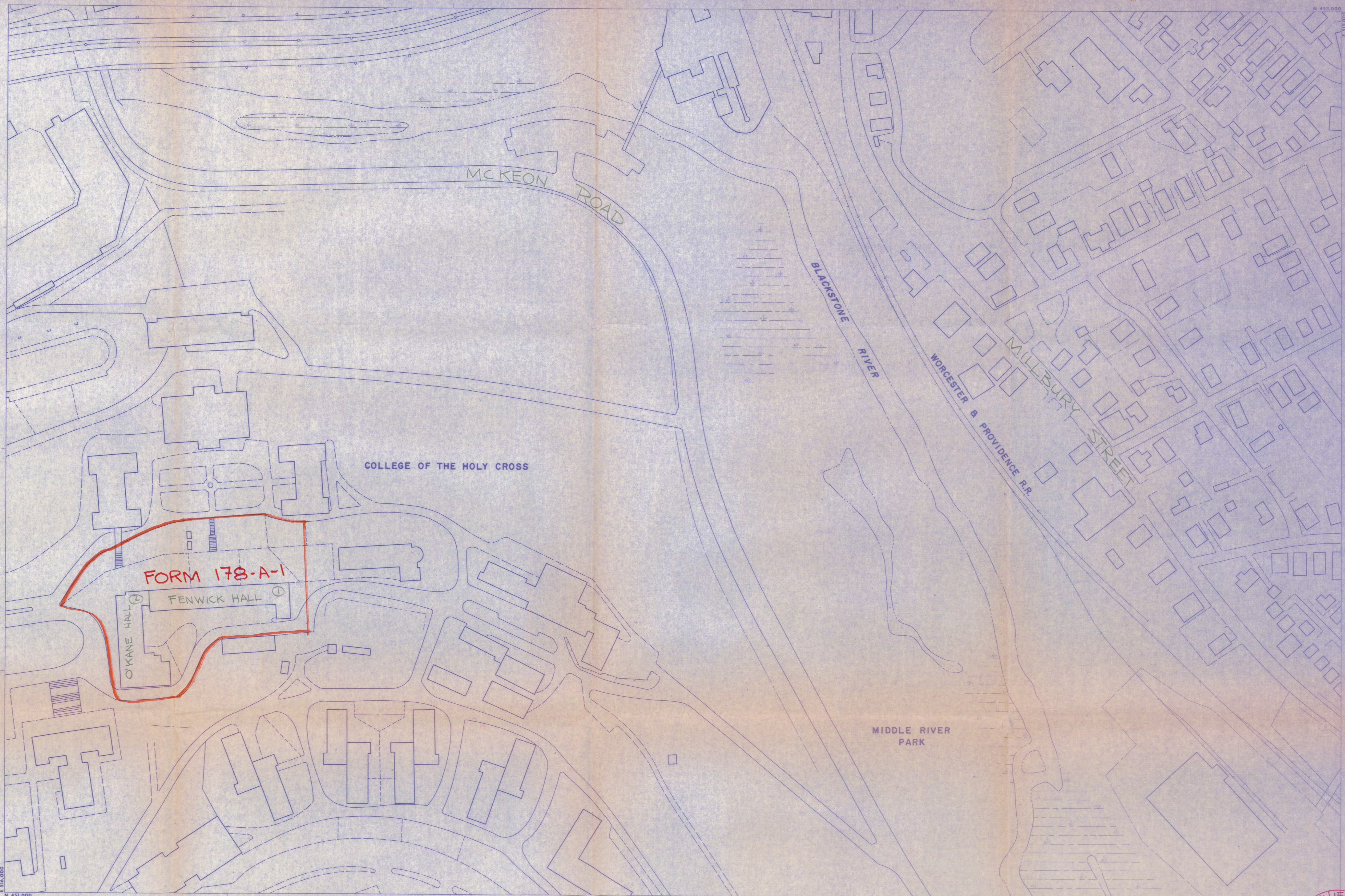
178-A-1
Worcester MA Ma
Holy Cross College
Fenwick Hall
East & South
Elevations

30 AUG 1979

Prestige Prints

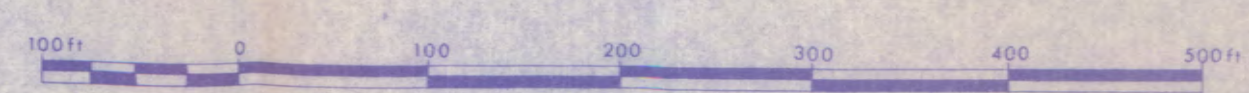
by Berkeley

113



COMPILED BY PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS
moore survey & mapping corp.
 CONTROL BY MASS. GEODETIC SURVEY, U.S.C. & G.S., & M.S. & M. CORP.
 UPDATED BY _____ DATE: _____

THIS MAP REPRODUCED FROM MAPPING MEETING NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS AT A SCALE OF 1"=200'



500 FOOT GRID BASED ON MASS. RECTANGULAR COORDINATE SYSTEM

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CITY OF WORCESTER
 MASSACHUSETTS

PLANIMETRIC BASE MAP

PROJECT: M.S.M. 2317 DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY: 4-22-75
 SHEET 178 OF 220 SHEETS



