

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received SEP 9 1983

date entered

1. Name

historic Bigelow Carpet Company Woolen Mills

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Clinton N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Worcester code 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture	☐ museum
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial	☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational	☐ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment	☐ religious
☐ object	N/A in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government	☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☒ industrial	☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military	☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple; see attached list

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

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

Inventory of the Historic
title Assets of the Commonwealth, #103 has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1982 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description Bigelow Carpet Company Woolen Mills, Clinton, Mass.

Condition		Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☒ unaltered	☒ original site
☒ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved date <u>N/A</u>
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bigelow Carpet Company complex includes ten structures in downtown Clinton. Bordered by Main Street, the railroad tracks, and Coachlace Pond, these handsome Victorian buildings occupy approximately seven acres of land. Surrounding the complex is a dense and diverse neighborhood of dwellings, commercial buildings, and civic structures.

The majority of buildings in the Bigelow complex are three-story brick mills dating from the last four decades of the 19th century. The Italianate styling which distinguishes this complex features very low pitched roofs, rhythmic bays of narrow segmental arched windows (with original small-paned sash in many sections) and decorative brickwork around the windows and cornice lines. Highlighting the interconnecting structures is a five-story tower fronting directly on Main Street. Descriptions of the individual buildings follow.

Building #1 is thought to have been built in 1810 as a cotton mill. It is a wood frame building of 1½ stories (plus basement) with a pitched roof, now sided with asphalt shingles. Small wood sash contain 4/4 lights (Photo #7).

The adjoining Buildings #2 and #3, built 1864-66, are three stories high, of brick, with 12/12 windows framed by gauged brick lintels and granite sills. Along the cornice runs a segmentally arcaded corbel table. An elaborate five-story tower centered on Building #3 contains three distinct stages: an entrance base topped by a granite belt course; a three-story middle stage framed by brick piers and two arcaded corbel tables, further distinguished by diamond patterned brickwork and granite plaques proclaiming the company name and date of construction; and a tall open belfry with brick hood moldings, bracketed cornice, and two-stage polygonal roof. Fenestration of the tower consists of pairs of narrow, round arched windows. (Photos #1, #7)

Buildings #4 (1864-66) and #5 (1890) are three-story brick factories repeating the previous fenestration, but with a more elaborate brick label molding; a smaller scale corbel table ornaments the cornice line. Building #4 retains most of its original 12/12 sash, while that in Building #5 has been replaced by modern one-pane sash. (Photos #2, #3, #4)

Building #5A, along the railroad tracks, is a one-story brick building constructed in 1859 as a coal storage shed. Wide piers articulate seven bays of wooden garage doors and intermittent pairs of segmental arch windows. A slate roof covers the structure.

Back on Main Street, Building #6 (1898) is a massive four-story structure built as a showroom and warehouse. Narrow piers articulate the bays of the elevations, which are alternately blank and fenestrated above the

(Continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet Bigelow Carpet Company Woolen
Mills, Clinton, Mass Item number 4 and 9

Page 1

4. OWNERS OF PROPERTY

Mr. John Gannon - Standard Sign and Signal Co., 470 Main St., Clinton, Mass.
Mr. Nick Wagner - Wagner Enterprises, Inc., 530 Main St., Clinton, Mass.
Mr. James Buck - E. R. Buck Chair Co., Main St., Clinton, Mass.
Mr. Robert Hanslip - Asbestos Weaving Co., 476 North Main St., Clinton, Mass.
Mr. Leo Montagna - Phoenix Plastics Corp. 490 Main St., Clinton, Mass.
Mr. Francis Coleman/Mr. Francis Cooley - Par Breakers, 530 Main St.,
Clinton, Mass.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clinton Centennial Volume 1850-1950. Clinton:Colonial Press, Inc., 1951.
Clinton Historical Volume 1776-1976. Clinton: W. J. Coulter Press, inc., 1976.
Clinton Memorial Volume 1850-1900. Clinton: W. J. Coulter Item Office, 1900.
The Clinton Courant, 22 April, 1893. 13 May 1893 and 29 October 1893.
Ford, Andrew E. History of the Origin of the Town of Clinton, Mass., 1653-1865.
Clinton: Press of W. J. Coulter Courant Office, 1896.
Knight, Edward H. American Mechanical Dictionary. Boston: Houghton
Mifflin and Co., 1877.
Munce, James F. Industrial Architecture: An Analysis of International
Building Practice. New York: F. W. Dodge Corp., 1960.
Pierson, William H., Jr. "Industrial Architecture in the Berkshires."
Ph.D. dissertation, Yale University, 1949.
Stone, Orra L. History of Massachusetts Industries. Boston: S. J. Clarke
Publishing Co., 1930.
Van Slyck, J. D. New England Manufacturers and Manufactories. Vol. 1.
Boston: Van Slyck and Co., 1879.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Bigelow Carpet Company Woolen
Mills, Clinton, Mass. Item number 7

Page 1

first floor. Small, segmental arch windows feature granite sills, gauged brick lintels, and 6/6 sash. Widely spaced wood brackets support the shallow pitch of the roof, while decorative brick corbels span the cornice line. (Photo #3)

Building #7 (1898) is another large, three-story structure built for storage. Brick piers corbelled at the capitals are spanned by segmental arches, and frame large, similarly arched industrial sash of 36 lights. These windows also feature granite sills and gauged brick lintels; some of the openings are blank. Wood brackets placed at the intervals of the bays support a low pitched gable roof. (Photo #5)

Attached to the latter structure is Building #7A (1898), a storage and shipping shed with few stylistic features. Constructed of cinder block and brick, it contains random fenestration across its broad facades. A low pitched gable roof extends to widely overhanging eaves.

Building #8, the office and paymaster headquarters, was constructed in 1864-66. Originally located within the main complex, the building was moved across Main Street in 1889 to make room for the construction of Building #4. This one-story brick structure is cruciform in shape, with slate-covered hip roofs and a granite foundation. A heavy brick entablature, granite sills and lintels, and trabeated wood entrance porch characterize the design. (Photo #6)

8. Significance

Bigelow Carpet Company Woolen Mills, Clinton, Mass.

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 1864, 1876-1898, 1899 Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bigelow Carpet Company Woolen Mills are prominent reminders of Clinton's industrial heritage and occupy a complex which is architecturally significant for its elaborate styling and its survival as an ensemble. Retaining integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, and setting, the property thus meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Erastus B. Bigelow (1814-1879) and Horatio N. Bigelow (1812-1868) came to Clinton in 1837, searching for a mill to develop Erastus's invention of a power loom for the manufacture of coachlace. Previously employed at their father's cotton mill in nearby West Boylston, the brothers leased an existing mill (possibly Building #1; Photo #7) on the present site and incorporated the Clinton Company in 1838. The firm manufactured cotton, woolen, and silk goods and machinery and was almost immediately successful. Numbers of machinists were soon said to be working under lock and key to develop and perfect other inventions of Erastus Bigelow.

Regionally and nationally, Erastus was well known as a mechanical genius and self-educated inventor. Among his achievements are the invention of the world's first power looms for weaving coachlace, ingrain carpet, and Brussels carpet; the invention of a revolutionary gingham plaid loom; the invention of a power loom for weaving wire cloth; and numerous perfections of textile machinery. Erastus was first president of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers and a prolific writer on technical aspects of his industry; Yale, Harvard, Williams, Dartmouth, and Amherst conferred honorary degrees upon him for his work.

Horatio Bigelow was the business manager of the partnership, respected for his energy and vision. Throughout their enterprises, Horatio set up the organization, raised capital, supervised construction, and acted as company agent. A civic leader as well, he served as school committee member, first town postmaster, promoter of railroad service to Clinton, benefactor of the town's Central Park and Bigelow Library, and supervisor of the town's street layout. Horatio also served as a representative to the General Court and as director of several banks and insurance companies.

Encouraged by the success of the Clinton Company, the Bigelows turned their energy toward the establishment of what became the big three industries of Clinton's economy: Lancaster Mills (1844, gingham plaids), the Bigelow Carpet Company (1849, ingrain and other carpets; NR 1978), and Clinton Wire Cloth Company (1855, wire products).

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 7

Quadrangle name Clinton, Mass.

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A

19	278760	4699470
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

19	278650	4699240
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

19	278460	4699260
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

19	278680	4699500
Zone	Easting	Northing

E

Zone	Easting	Northing

F

Zone	Easting	Northing

G

Zone	Easting	Northing

H

Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached sketch map and assessor's map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wendy Frontiero, Preservation Planner, with Christine Flaherty,
Clinton Community and Economic Development Office

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date June 9, 1983

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Peter L. Weselowski 8/29/83

title State Historic Preservation Officer date
Massachusetts Historical Commission

For NPS use only

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

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in
National Register

date 10/6/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Bigelow Carpet Company Woolen

Continuation sheet Mills, Clinton, Mass. Item number 8

Page 1

With this exceptional growth of industry, the population of the area quickly increased from approximately 300 to 3,000 people. At this time the "factory village" of Clintonville was a part of the Town of Lancaster, but soon outstripped the parent town's capacity to provide services. Talk of separation began in 1848, and the Town of Clinton was incorporated in 1850.

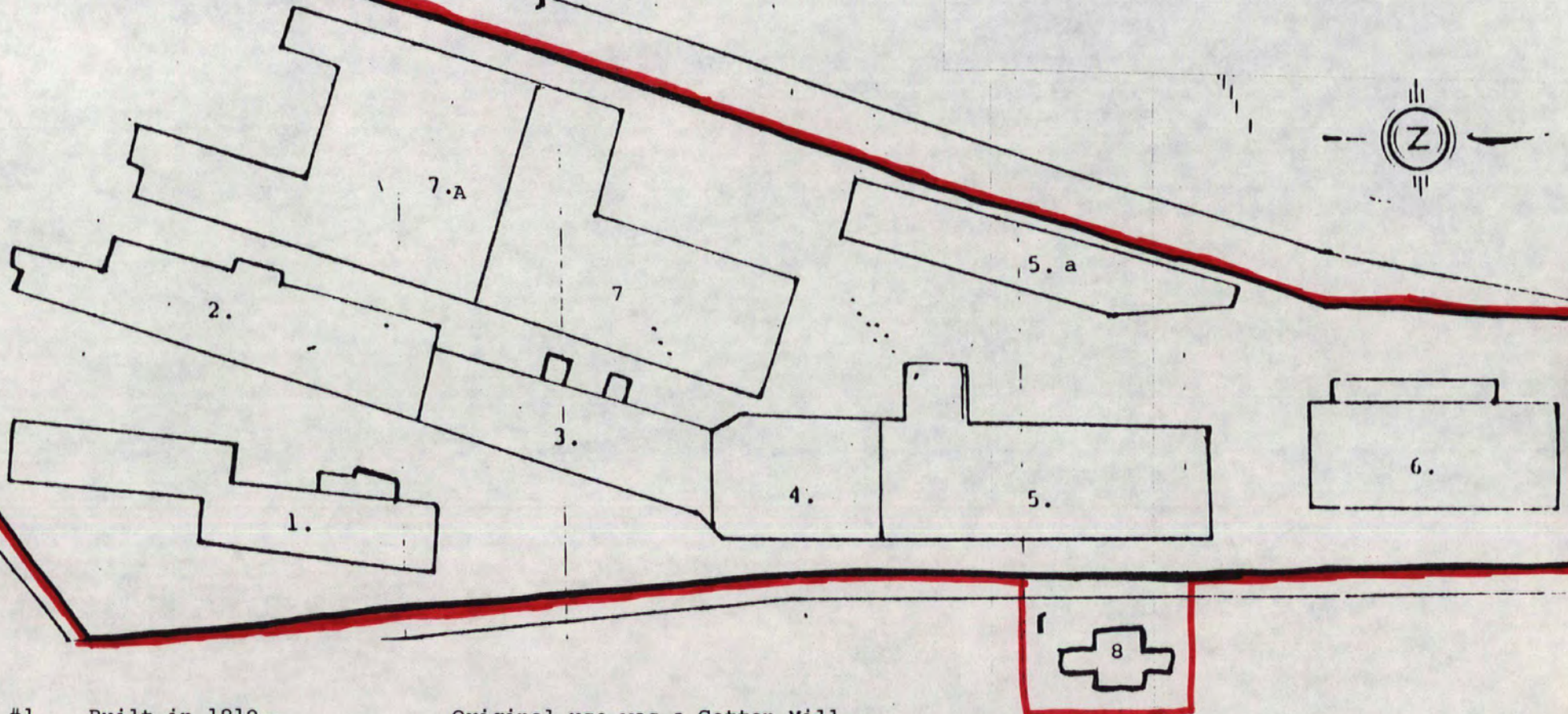
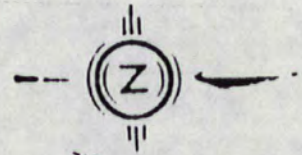
The Bigelow Carpet Company, producing Brussels and Wilton carpets, was incorporated in 1854 with capital of \$500,000. In 1863 it purchased the present property from the Clinton Company and initiated a major building program. In 1864, construction began on new spinning and weaving mills, a wool sorting house, and blanket finishing building; representing this period are Buildings #2, #3, #4 and #8 (Photos #1-4, #6, #7). Another factory, Building #5, was added in 1890. The last period of expansion, in 1898, produced Buildings #6, #7 and #7A (Photos #3, #5).

In 1914, Bigelow merged with the Hartford Carpet Corp. and changed its name to the Bigelow Hartford Carpet Company. During the early 20th century, the firm produced Wilton carpets, oriental rugs, machine made hooked rugs, and wall to wall carpeting for residential, hotel, and theater use. Business continued here at full capacity until 1929, when, still in an expansionist mood, the Bigelow Company purchased the Sanford Carpet Co. of Amsterdam, New York, and changed its name to the Bigelow Sanford Carpet and Rug Co. Unfortunately, this merger took the interests of management away from Clinton, and in 1932 the Clinton plant of Bigelow Sanford was closed and completely liquidated.

At the present time this complex is occupied by seven different companies and is part of the extended second commercial area revitalization district in the downtown section of Clinton. Two of the larger mills have recently changed ownership and substantial rehabilitation projects are underway to improve interior use and exterior appearance.

Bigelow Carpet Company Woolen Mills
Clinton, Massachusetts

no scale



- #1 Built in 1810—
- #2 Built in 1864-66
- #3 Built in 1864-66
- #4 Built in 1864-66
- #5 Built in 1890
- #5A Built in 1859
- #6 Built in 1898
- #7 & A Built in 1890
- #8 Built in 1864-66

Original use was a Cotton Mill.

Manufacture of wool, and carpet weaving on power looms.

" " " " " " " "

Expansion of Bigelow Carpet Co. manufacturing.

Expansion of Bigelow Carpet Co. manufacturing.

Coal Storage Shed (next to Railroad)

Warehouse and showroom for Bigelow Carpet Co.

Storage and shipping of Bigelow Carpet Co.

Bigelow Carpet Co. office and paymaster (Moved across Main St. in 1889 to make room for construction of Building #4)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Bigelow Carpet Company Woolen Mills
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. SEP 9 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.15.85

Date Due: 10/6/83 - 10/24/83

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10/6/83

☐ RETURN

☐ REJECT

Entered in the National Register
Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



BIGGINS SHIRT CO.

STANDARD MODEL

53

ALL-WEAVE
WEAVING & TAPE CO.

OFFICE

FACTORY AND SHOWROOM

NO PARKING

BIGELOW CARPET COMPANY WOOLEN MILLS
Clinton, Massachusetts

photo by Philip R. Boyce, 8/82
negative filed: Community and Economic
Development Office
242 Church Street, Clinton, MA

view looking West: Asbestos Weaving Co.,
Building #3
photo #1 of 7

WEAVING Co.,



BIGELOW CARPET COMPANY WOOLEN MILLS
Clinton, MA

photo by Philip R. Boyce, 8/82
negative filed: Community and Economic
Development Office
242 Church Street, Clinton

view looking South: Par Breakers, ^{1A}
Phoenix Plastics Corp., Buildings #4 & 5
photo #2 of 7

BREAKERS, PHOENIX PLASTICS CORP.,



BIGELOW CARPET COMPANY WOOLEN MILLS
Clinton, MA

photo by Philip R. Boyce, 8/82
negative filed at: Community and
Economic Development Office
242 Church Street, Clinton, MA

view looking North: Phoenix Plastics
Corp., Par Breakers, Wagner Enterprises,
Inc., Buildings #4,5,6 Photo #3 of 7

PLASTICS CORP, PAR BREAKERS,
BUILDINGS No. 4,5,6

1A

PAR BREAKERS



BIGELOW CARPET COMPANY WOOLEN MILLS
Clinton, MA

photo by Philip R. Boyce, 8/82
negative filed at: Community and
Economic Development Office
242 Church Street, Clinton, MA

view looking West: Par Breakers,
Building #5
photo #4 of 7

Par Breakers, Building No. 5



Edg
BIGELOW CARPET COMPANY WOOLEN MILLS
Clinton, MA

*National Historic Register
Ma*
photo by Philip R. Boyce, 8/82
negative filed at: Community and
Economic Development Office
242 Church Street, Clinton, MA

Main Street, Building #7
photo #5 of 7



Bl BIGELOW CARPET COMPANY WOOLEN MILLS
Clinton, MA *Low Carpet Co. Woolen Mills*

photo by Philip R. Boyce, 8/82
negative filed at : Community and
Economic Development Office
242 Church Street, Clinton, MA *Register*

Main Street, Building #8

photo #6 of 7



#7
BIGELOW CARPET COMPANY WOOLEN MILLS
Clinton, MA

photo by Philip R. Boyce, 8/82
negative filed at: Community and Economic
Development Office
242 Church Street, Clinton, MA

view looking south: Building #1 left,
Building #2 center, Building #3 right

photo #7 of 7

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

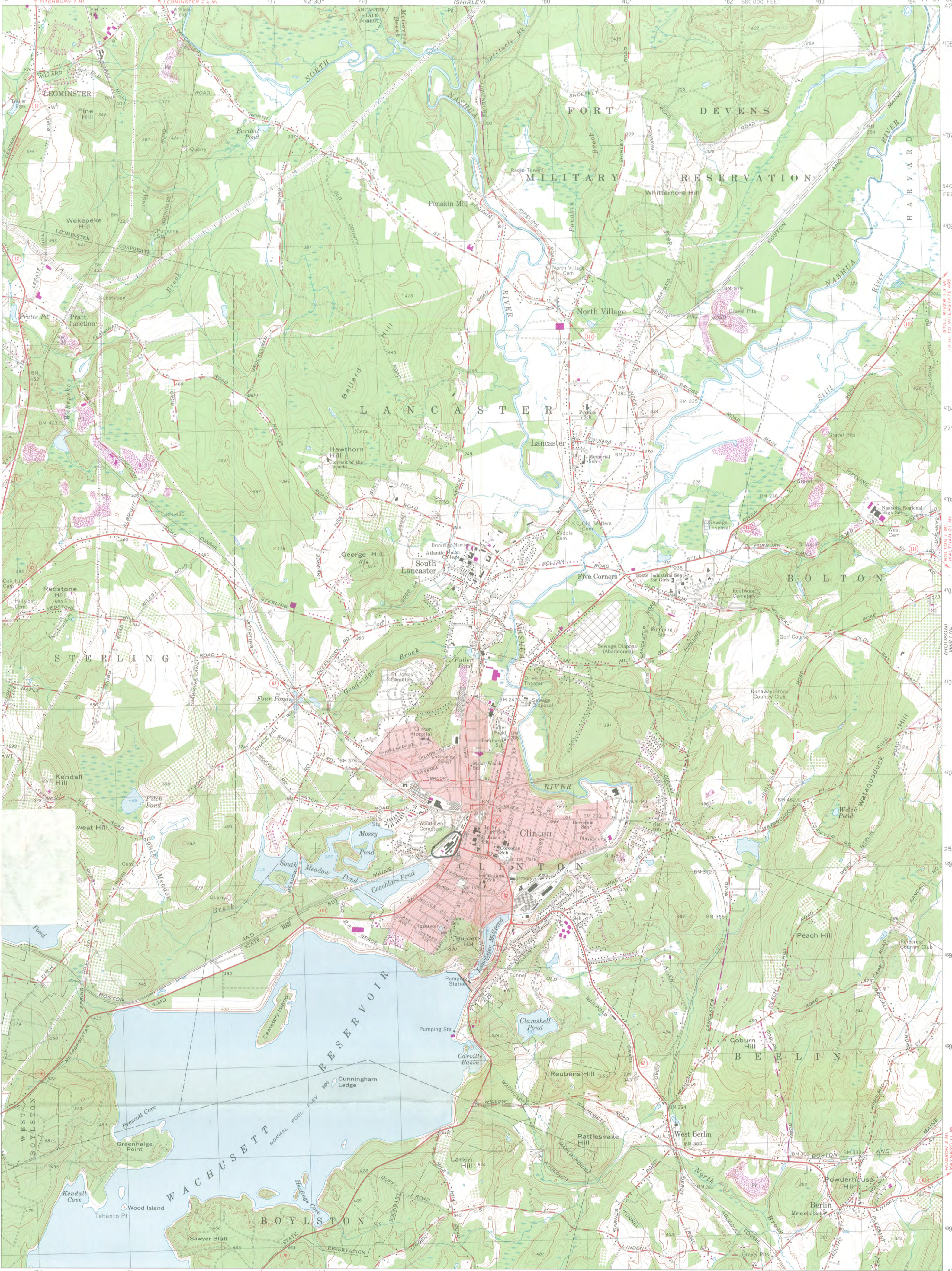
CLINTON QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS—WORCESTER CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Clinton
Bigelow Carpet Mills

A 19 278760 4699470
B 19 278650 4699240
C 19 278460 4699260
D 19 278680 4699500

UTM References
Clinton, Massachusetts
Bigelow Carpet Mills

A 19 278760 4699470
B 19 278650 4699240
C 19 278460 4699260
D 19 278680 4699500



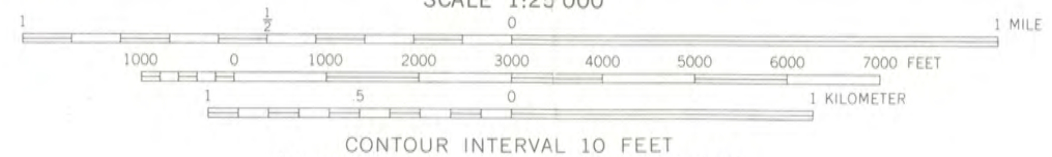
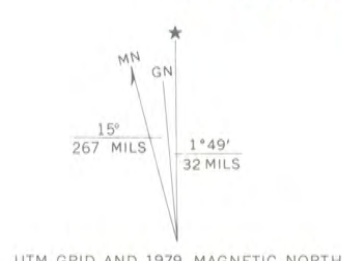
Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 30.48
To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

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 plane-table surveys 1923 and 1940
Revised 1965

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
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



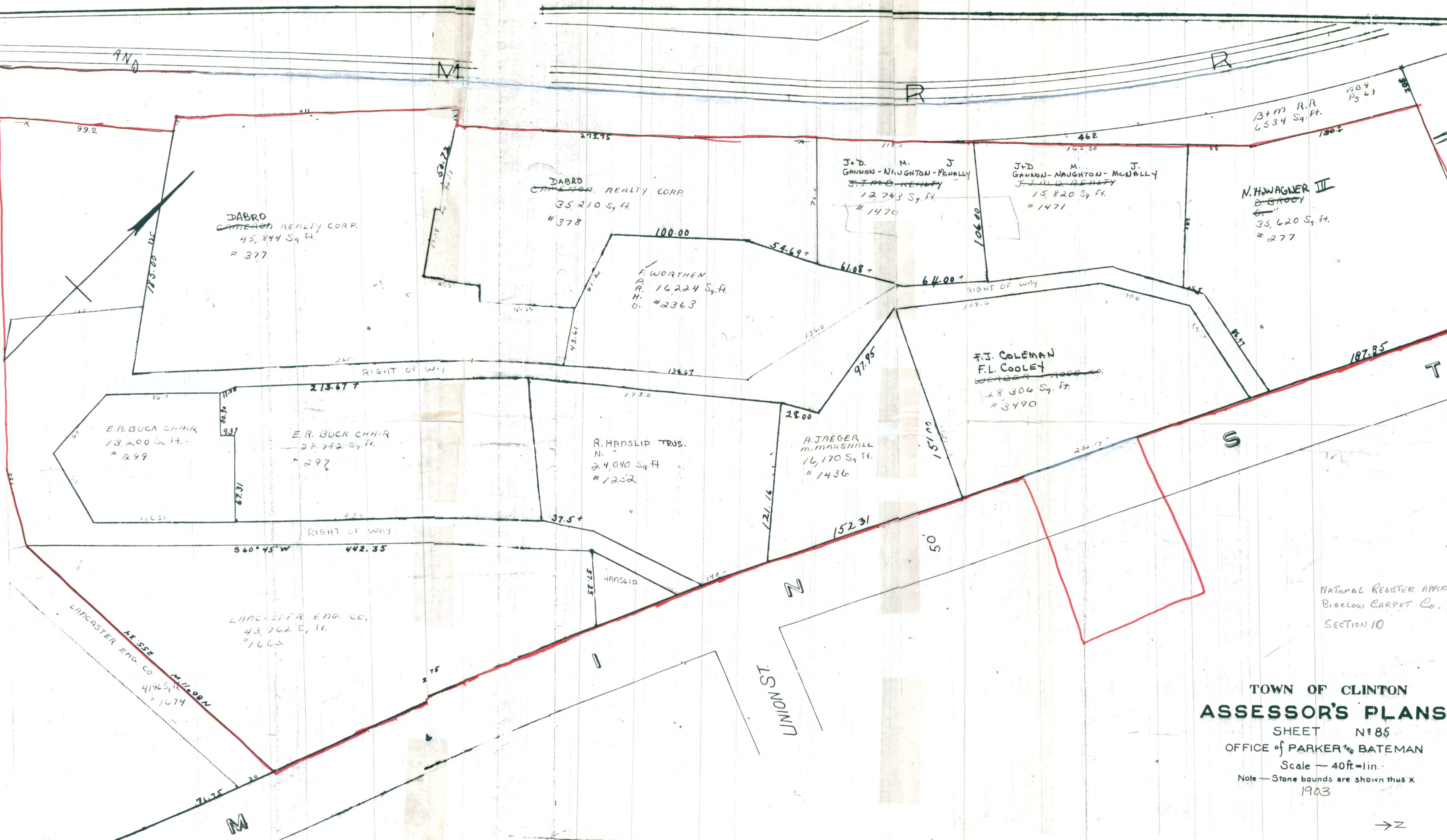
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

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

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



CLINTON, MASS.
N4222.5—W7137.5/7.5
1965
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6668 1 NW—SERIES V814



NATIONAL REGISTER APPLICATION
BIGELOW CARPET CO.
SECTION 10

TOWN OF CLINTON
ASSESSOR'S PLANS

SHEET N: 85
OFFICE of PARKER & BATEMAN
Scale — 40ft. = 1in.

Note — Stone bounds are shown thus X
1903

→Z