

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

OCT 14 1982

date entered

1. Name

historic Waitt Brick Block

and/or common Wait Block

2. Location

street & number 422-424 Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Malden

N/A vicinity of

~~congressional district~~ Seventh

state Massachusetts

code 025

county

Middlesex

code 017

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	☒ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government ☐ scientific
	N/A being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial ☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military ☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Benjamin Soep, Trustee

street & number 422 Main Street Trust; 263 Commercial Street

city, town Malden

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 40 Thorndike Street

city, town Cambridge

state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets
title of the Commonwealth #501

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1977

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston

state Massachusetts 02108

7. Description

Waitt Brick Block, 422-424 Main St., Malden

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Waitt Block stands on the west side of Main Street, just north of Pleasant Street, in the densely built up commercial center of Malden. This mid-nineteenth century building currently occupies a 4600 square foot lot and shares party walls with later adjoining structures. Originally it was freestanding and occupied the entire 16000 square foot lot formed by the intersection of Main and Pleasant Streets. Despite the later construction, its curved facade still reflects the early street pattern.

Built c. 1848, the Waitt Block rises three storeys from a foundation of granite rubble stone and cut granite (now below grade) to a combination gable and hip roof covered in slate. The main body of the block is executed in red pressed brick laid in a common bond with narrow raked joints.

Greek Revival in style, the building is simple in form and spare in ornamentation. The symmetrically aligned rectangular shaped windows have sharply cut openings with granite lintels and sills. The upper level of the building is accented by a raised brick beltcourse which runs above the third floor windows. Further delineation is made by a brick cornice consisting of two courses, one which is a band of plain dentils, and the other which is of a sawtooth pattern.

The most significant alteration to the block resulted from a realignment of Pleasant Street in 1894 and the construction of a new building which obstructed four of the bays of the earlier structure. Additional alterations on the street level facade have resulted from the needs of a succession of commercial tenants, as well as from reconstruction after fires in 1891 and 1940. Originally the storefronts consisted of monolithic granite piers and lintels with 13 bays which were congruent to the upper fenestration. In 1895, decorative cast iron and plate glass replaced the granite piers and bays. Recent storefront commercial signs, along with white enameled brick and mosaic panels, have in turn replaced the underlying cast iron work.

Alterations have also been made to the roof and upper windows. Changes in the roof can be seen on the rear slope where several skylights have been added as well as asphalt shingles in place of slate tiles. The windows which originally had 6/6 lights have been replaced with 2/2 lights on the third floor and 1/1 on the second floor. Portions of the original windows remain only on the third elevations at the gable ends.

Over the years changes on the chimneys have also occurred. Originally six tall brick stacks were paired on the ends and in the center of the building. The front one on the southern wing is now absent; its counterpart on the rear, with a molded cap, is the only original one. The remaining four chimneys, while still of original height, are slightly modified and have tapered caps.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☒ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates circa 1848 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Waitt Brick Block possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, as well as strong associations with the economic development of Malden Square during the mid 19th century. Constructed c. 1848, it is also the only surviving structure from the period and represents a fine example of the commercial Greek Revival style. This building therefore meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Thomas Wait, Jr. (1803-1859), a state representative, town clerk, and deacon in the local Baptist society, financed the building of the commercial block that bears his name. Wait purchased the property in 1840 for \$1,100 and sold it, with a new brick edifice, in 1851 for \$3,100. At that time, the building was sold as three separate vertical units, known as the "North Store," the "Middle Store," and the "Old Store." From 1868 through the 1940's, a grocery store operated in the North Store, often called the Hills Block after the proprietors. The Middle Store originally housed an oyster and drinking saloon, and was later used by H.P. Hood and Sons as a distribution center for their company. A later occupant was the printing firm, Senate Brothers. The Old Store for many years operated as an outlet for rubber products, such as boots, shoes and rubbers, which were manufactured in the town. This was followed by an apothecary shop.

The upper floors have been used for offices and apartment dwellings. The most prominent enterprise which had their businesses located here in the late 19th century were two local newspapers, the Malden Mirror (1871-1914) and the Chelsea Record and Temperance Advocate (1847-1906), both of which had their offices, composition rooms, and printing presses on the second and third floors from 1873-1891. Other businesses which used office space in the building were a candy company, insurance agents, barbers, and dressmakers.

Through the passage of its many occupants, the Waitt Brick Block has acquired the imprint of prominent families (e.g., Sprague, Upham, Wait, Hill, Converse, Abbott) with which Malden is intimately associated. The building stands now as the sole link in downtown Malden with these locally important figures and the commercial origin of the city.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Architectural Survey and Inventory, Malden, MA. Bastille-Neiley Architects, 1977.
Corey, Deloraine P. Waite Family of Malden. Cambridge: University Press, 1913.
Malden Messenger, March 26, 1859.
Malden Messenger, February 22, 1868.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property app. one-third acre (4,600 sq. feet) *this is not 1/3 acre - 1 acre = 43,560 sq. ft. 43,560 / 3 = 14,520*
Quadrangle name Boston North, Mass. Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UMT References

A 1 9 3 2 9 8 8 0 4 6 9 8 9 9 0
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification From the west, running along a service alley that runs parallel to Dartmouth Street, and on the north, abutting a one-story commercial building executed in cast stone, and on the east, along the public sidewalk lining Main Street, and to the south, abutting directly behind a yellow brick 3-story commercial building.

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 Candace Jenkins, Registration Director Kathryn Kubie, Program Assistant with Jeffrey Cronin, Malden Historical Society

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date April 10, 1980

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts 02108

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Valerie Talavage

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date 9/28/82

For HCRS use only

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

Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 11/12/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Waitt Brick Block
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 10/14/82-2847

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83

Date Due: 11/11/82 — 11/26/82

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 11/2/82

Entered in the ☐ RETURN
National Register ☐ REJECT

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
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ date _____

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

Average of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USGS Reference

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: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



LEO P.
DeMARCO

Makers

Towne JEWELERS
FINE JEWELRY AND GIFTS
WATCH AND JEWELRY REPAIR SPECIALISTS

ICE CREAM CANDIES

BRIGHAMS

Converse

AUTO
INSURANCE
LEFT LANE
FOR
LEFT TURN
P
ARKING

BREAKFAST
12 Noon

Waitt Block
Malden, Mass.

Robert Graham 1980
Malden Public Library
Main Elevation

Photo # 2

WAITT BRICK BLOCK
MALDEN, MA.

FACED FACES S.E.

(1980)

Waitt Brick Block
422-24 Main Street
Malden, Mass.
by Robert Graham March 1980
negative filed at the Malden Public Library,

Main (southeast) elevation.

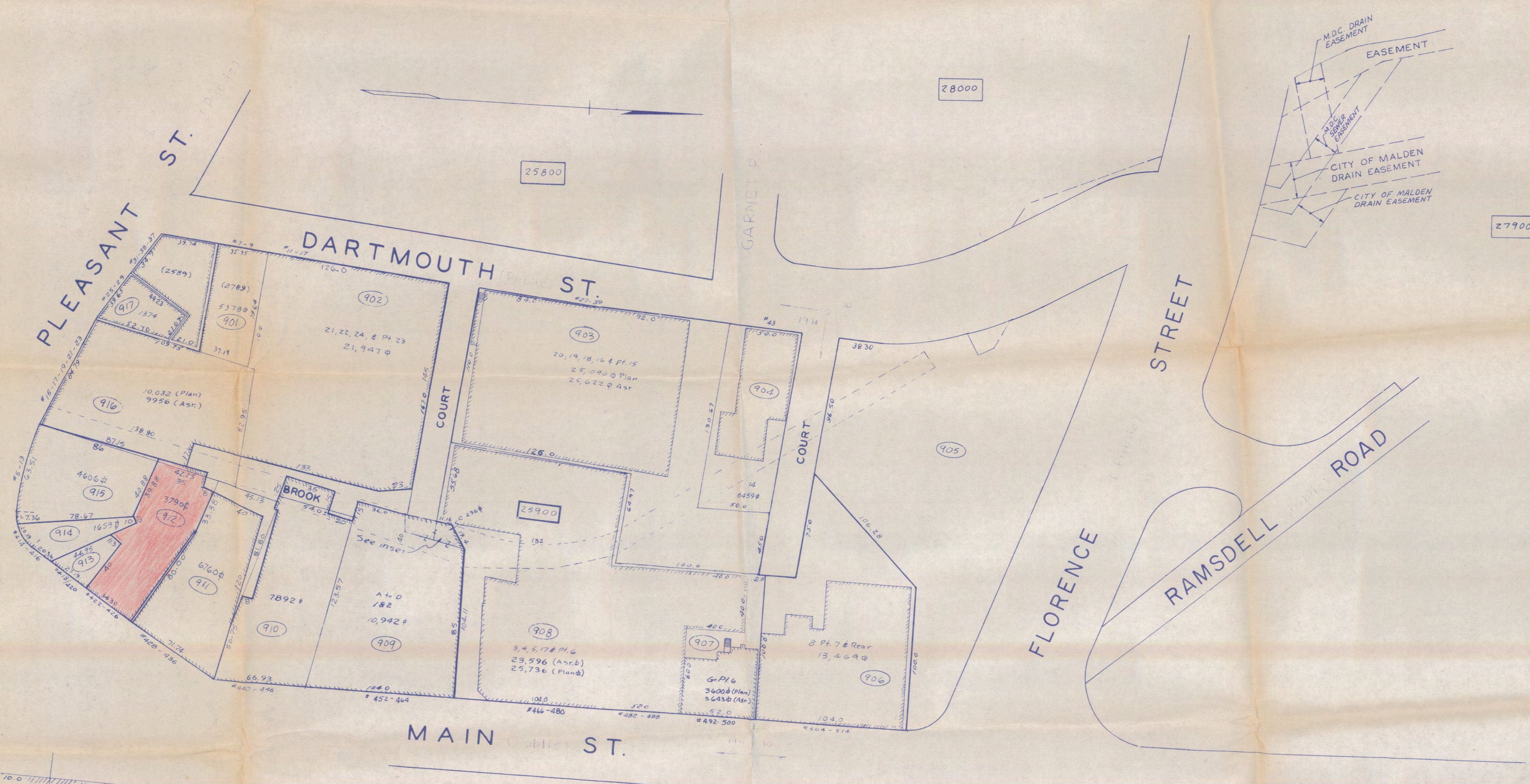
Photo 1 of 1

(SHEET NO. 52)

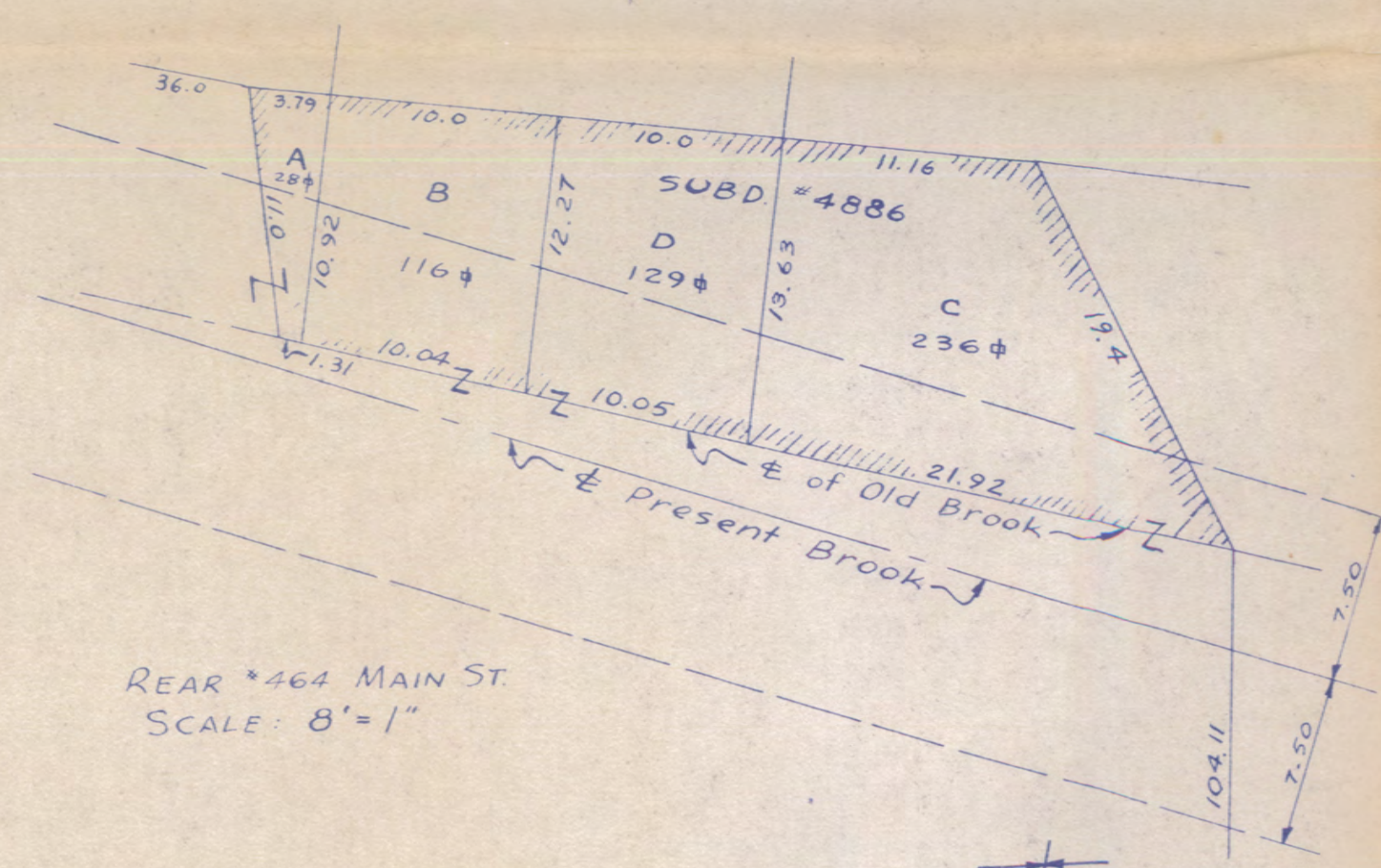
(SHEET NO. 75)

(SHEET NO. 49)

(SHEET NO. 73)



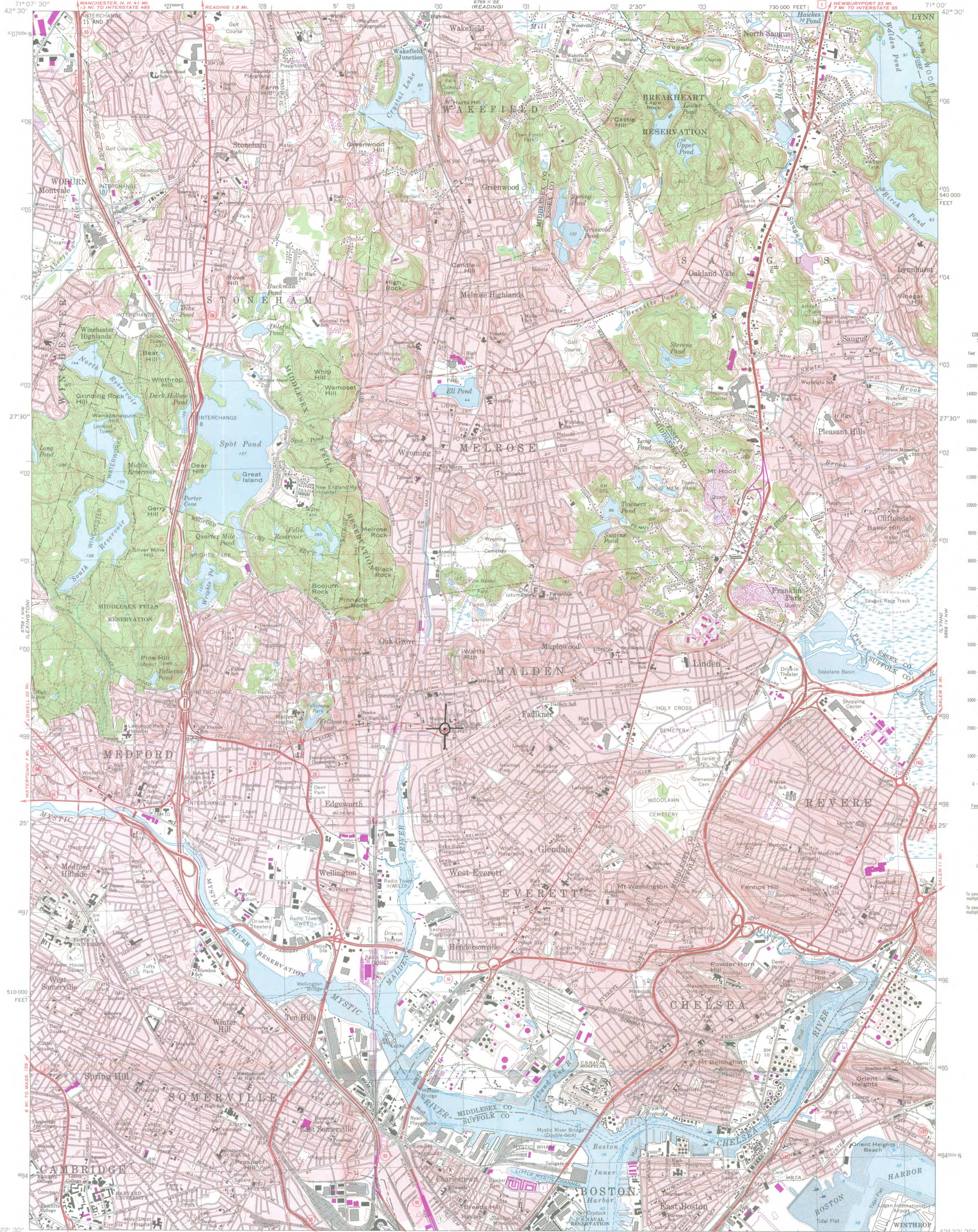
Waitt Block
Malden, Mass.
1" = 40'



WATTS BRICK BLOCK
MALDEN, MASS.
PLAN UPDATED BY FAY, SPOFFORD & THORNDIKE, INC.
BOSTON, JUNE 1976

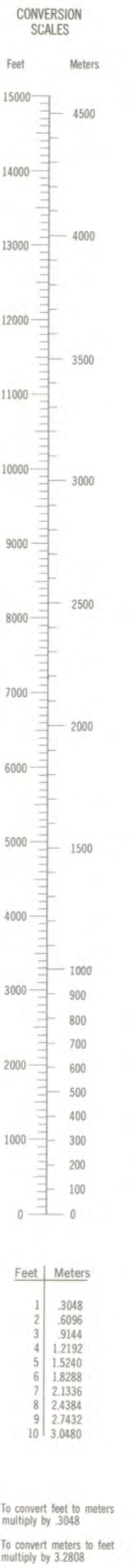
1	7-10-79
NO.	DATE
REVISIONS	

SCALE: 1"=40'



WAITT BRICK BLOCK
MALDEN, MASS.

UTM reference:
19/329880/469890



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 248 (1971)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas 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

SCALE 1:25 000
1 000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 0 5 10 15 20 25 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET
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
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

BOSTON NORTH, MASS.
N4222.5—W7100/7.5
1971
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6768 1 NE—SERIES Y814
WAITT BLOCK
MALDEN, MA.

NATIONAL REGISTER APPLICATION



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

September 29, 1982

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Beverly:	United Shoe Machinery Corporation Clubhouse (local)
Longmeadow:	The Green (local)
✓ Malden:	Waitt Brick Block (local)
Weston:	Post Road Historic District (state)

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins

Candace Jenkins
Registration Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CJ/sac

enclosure

