

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

date entered

JUN

8 1983

1. Name

historic State Normal Training School (preferred)

and/or common Washington Street School

2. Location

street & number Washington Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Westfield

N/A vicinity of

state MA

code 025

county Hampden

code 013

3. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☒ public
☐ private
☐ both

Public Acquisition

☐ in process
☒ N/A being considered

Status

☐ occupied
☒ unoccupied
☐ work in progress
Accessible
☒ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military
☐ museum
☐ park
☐ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☒ other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name City of Westfield

street & number City Hall, Court Street

city, town Westfield

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Hampden County Hall of Justice

street & number 50 State Street

city, town Springfield

state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Assets of the
Commonwealth #156has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date September, 1982

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston

state MA

7. Description

State Normal Training School, Washington Street, Westfield, MA

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The State Normal Training School, a late Victorian masonry structure, (1899/1900. Gardner, Pyne and Gardner architects), is situated on a level lot, set back about forty feet from Washington Street in Westfield and roughly centered between the two other side streets. Landscaping consists of a lawn with some trees and shrubs on Washington Street; the remainder of the lot is paved. There are no outbuildings associated with the school structure. A mixture of residential and commercial business buildings dating from the last three-quarters of the 19th century characterizes the surrounding neighborhood.

Rectangular in plan, the State Normal Training School rises 2½ stories from a full basement (granite at grade, back below grade) with a large attic due to its double hip roof. Greyish slate shingles sheath the lower pitch. The shallow upperpitch with skylight is not visible from the street. Pairs of decorative book chimneys pierce both the east and west roof slopes. Red brick, probably produced by the Westfield Brick company, is the predominant building material, trimmed with cut brownstone. The 1900 Board of Education Annual Report states that the bricks were "Culled", undoubtedly to keep construction costs down.

The building's four symmetrical elevations are basically similar with a central bay surmounted by a projecting roof gable and flanking bays containing four windows on each story (rectangular on the first and segmentally arched on the second) and four small windows at basement grade level. Ornamentation overall is fairly simple consisting of plain brownstone window lintels and watercourse, dog tooth brickwork between the upper story and eaves and exposed decorative rafter feet under the eaves.

Architectural interest is focussed on the central bays in which vertical emphasis plays against the strong horizontality of the total structure. The most elaborate treatment occurs on the west (Washington Street) elevation; a double door entry on the first story is recessed under a segmental arch with carved brownstone panels and colonettes flanked by segmentally arched windows. This is surmounted by a brownstone lintel spanning the central bay and engraved in gothic type: "State Normal Training School 1899". A row of five segmentally arched windows marks the second story, surmounted in the gable field by a single wider segmentally arched window.

The north and a south (side) elevation's central gable bays are identical consisting of a shallow gable roof projecting porch supported on brownstone columns at basement level surmounted by a square window and segmentally arched window which overlap the first and second stories and second and attic stories respectively.

The east (rear) elevation repeats the side elevations, but lacks an entry porch. With the exception of a three story steel fire escape applied to the rear elevation which has not irretrievably damaged the fabric of the building. The exterior of the Training School is unchanged since its construction.

The interior is described in the assessor's records as having a concrete basement a superstructure of steel beams and columns, pine wainscoted walls, and ceilings of pressed metal (tin?). Almost all of this interior detailing remains intact. The first floor contains five classrooms and two offices, while the second floor has six classrooms.

(continued)

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National Park Service**

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet State Normal Training School Item number 7
Washington St, Westfield

Page 1

The Training School is located on the site of the original State Normal School constructed in 1843. There is, therefore, some potential for the presence of associated archaeological remains in the form of surficial artifact deposits and for features.

A forthcoming rehabilitation project is planned to stabilize the building's fabric and convert it for use as office space, following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

Part 8 Page 1

The State Normal Training School typifies the characteristics of the Romanesque Revival style of the late Victorian period in its overall proportions, ornamentation and multiple masonry types. Only two similar institutional buildings of the period are extant in Westfield: the Ashley Street School and the State Normal School (1892; NR).

8. Significance

State Normal Training School , Washington St., Westfield, MA

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 Built 1899/1900 Builder/Architect Gardner, Pyne & Gardner, architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The State Normal Training School possessed integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is an outstanding local example of late Victorian institutional architecture designed by the prominent area firm of Gardner, Pyne and Gardner, additionally it served as the home of the second oldest public teacher training school in the nation, thus chronicling a turning point in late 19th century educational reform. The State Normal Training School meets criteria A, B, and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The Training School is one of two surviving structures of 19th-century date associated with the Westfield State Normal School, the other is the Westfield State Normal Building (NR-1978). Both buildings represent a dramatic shift in attitudes towards education at the end of the 19th century which emphasized the professionalization of teaching. The normal school instructed aspiring teachers while the training school functioned as a facility for practice teaching and served as a regular school for the community. Present day state colleges are an outgrowth of this system. The only other major example of a normal school established in the mid-19th century in Massachusetts is in Bridgewater, however, the innovative teachers training school concept is unique to Westfield in this period.

As early as 1896, there was the need for a State run school for the training of future teachers at the Westfield Normal School; due to the erection of the new Normal School; in 1892, the student population had increased to a point where there were inadequate provisions for the future teachers to observe well trained teachers or practice teach. Sending Normal School students into the Westfield Schools for practice teaching proved unsuccessful, because they were invariably sent to the most overcrowded schools, and the principal and staff could not oversee student teachers. In 1898, Westfield Normal School Principal Chapin and others requested the building of a separate "training" school, as had been done in other State normal schools. The Legislature approved funding, the building was constructed, and the doors opened in the fall of 1900. For approximately fifty years the Normal School or Westfield State used the school for training teachers. In 1956 the school was turned over to the Westfield School system; Title to the Training School passed to the City in 1977.

The State Normal School at Westfield was significant not only for the region of Western Massachusetts which it primarily served, but for the nation as well. Its contribution to education acknowledged by President Theodore Roosevelt on a visit to Westfield in 1902. Among the distinguished persons associated with the school were the statesmen George B. Cortelyou, and the chemist, Lewis Benajal Allyn.

The architect primarily responsible for the State Normal Training School, Eugene C. Gardner was the founder and principal member of the architectural firm of Gardner, Pyne and Gardner and the foremost architect in the Springfield-Westfield-Northampton area in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Born in the Florence section of Northampton, Gardner started his career in Northampton and was later based in Springfield.

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Board of Education Annual Reports, Boston, MA, 1897-1900.
Massachusetts State Normal School at Westfield, MA for the Year Ending June 25, 1901, Boston, MA, 1901.
Lonergan, Ed, "Notes on Springfield Area Architects", ms, 1975-82.
James Edward C., ed. Westfield, MA 1669-1969, Westfield, MA 1968

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 3/4 acres

Quadrangle name Southwick, MA/CT

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UTM References

A 1 8 6 8 5 8 2 0 4 6 6 5 5 5 0
Zone Easting Northing
C
E
G

B
D
F
H
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

Bounded north on Church Street 194 feet, west on Washington Street 175 feet, south on School Street 175 feet, thence northerly 168 feet to the first mentioned bounds.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Fitch, Preservation Planner and Lee David Hamberg, consultant for Kane & White, Architects, Farmington, CT
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date March, 1983

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

city or town Boston state MA 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Patricia L. Westowski

title State Historic Preservation Officer, Mass. Hist. Comm date 5/26/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 7/7/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

State Normal Training School
Hampden County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUN 8 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 7/7/83 - 7/23/83
Action: ACCEPT 7/7/83
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	unaltered	original site
good	ruins	altered	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

Address of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USIT 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: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



State Normal Training School
Washington Street
Westfield, Massachusetts
Photographed by Lee David Hamberg,
September 1982
Negs. filed w/ Westfield Historical
Commission
Photo no. 1 of 3
Front (west) facade

STATE NORMAL TRAINING SCHOOL 189



State Normal Training School
Washington Street
Westfield, Massachusetts
Photographed by Lee David Hamberg,
September 1982
Negs. filed w/ Westfield Historical
Commission
Photo no. 2 of 3
Front (west) doorway



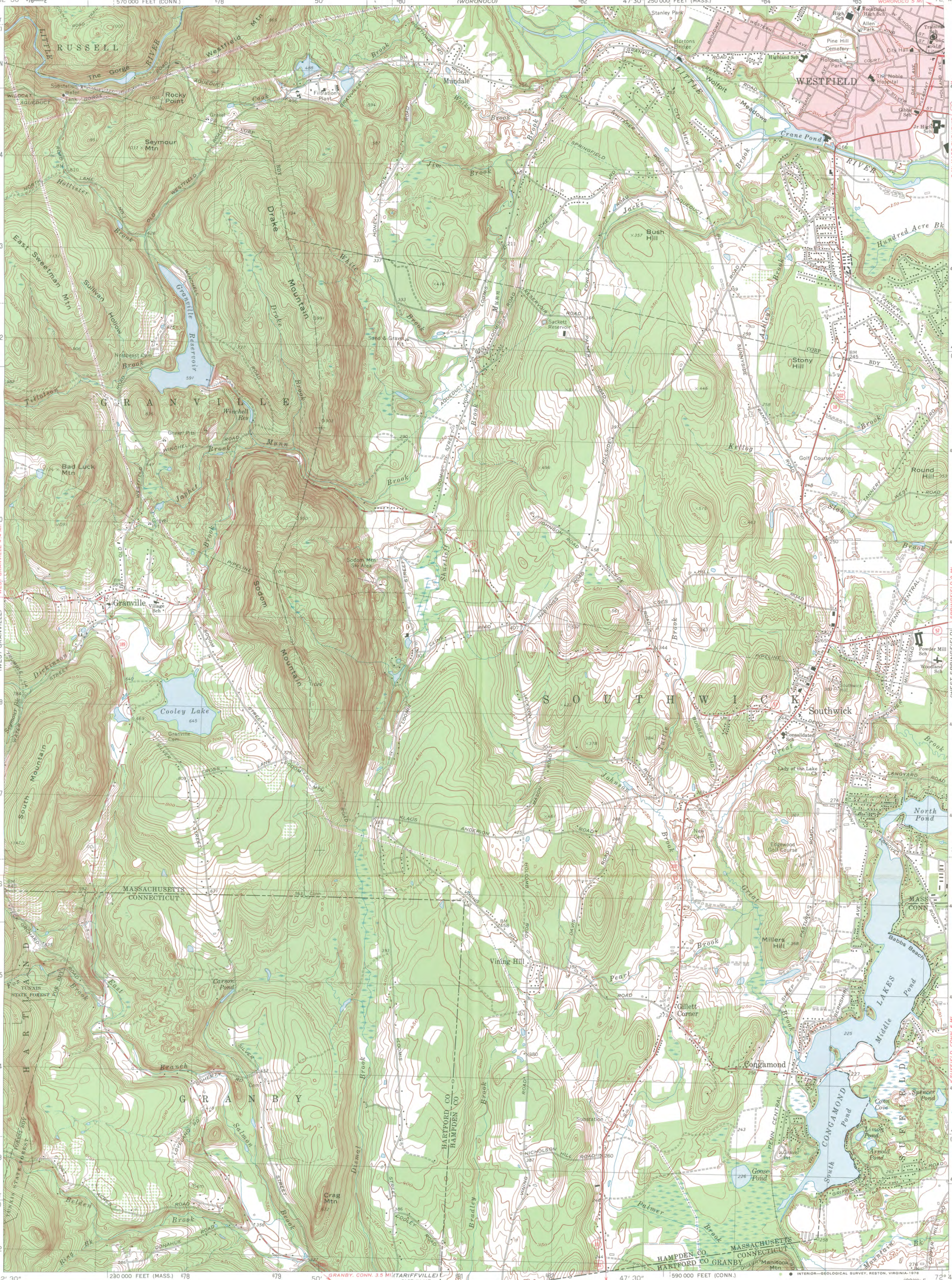
State Normal Training School
Washington Street
Westfield, Massachusetts
Photographed by Lee David Hamberg,
September 1982
Negs. filed w/ Westfield Historical
Commission
Photo no. 3 of 3
Side (south) facade

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

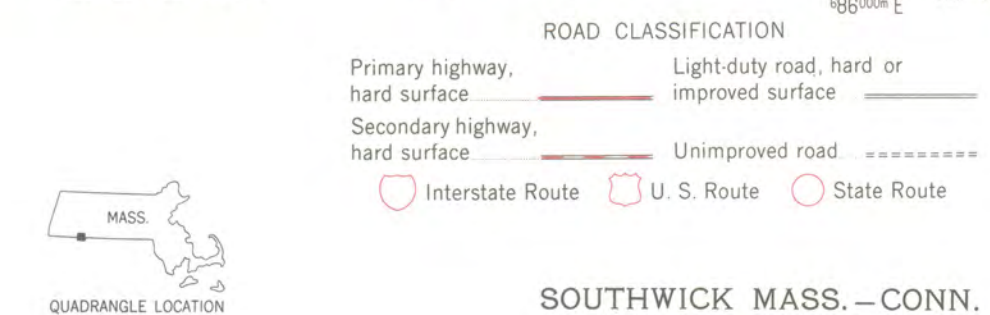
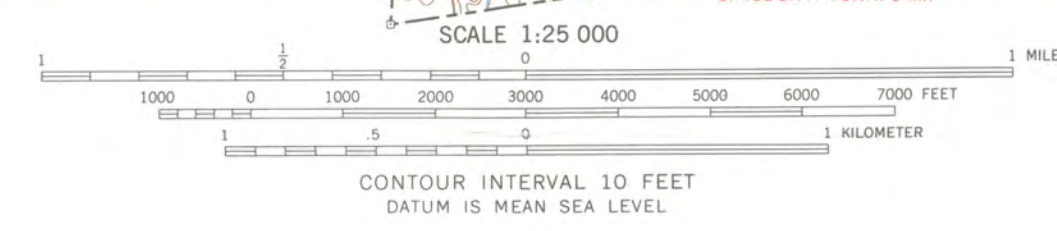
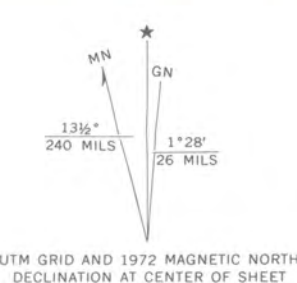
SOUTHWICK QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS—CONNECTICUT
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

STATE NORMAL TRAINING SCHOOL
Washington Street
Westfield, Massachusetts
UTM: 18/685820/4665550



To convert feet to meters
multiply by 3.048
To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

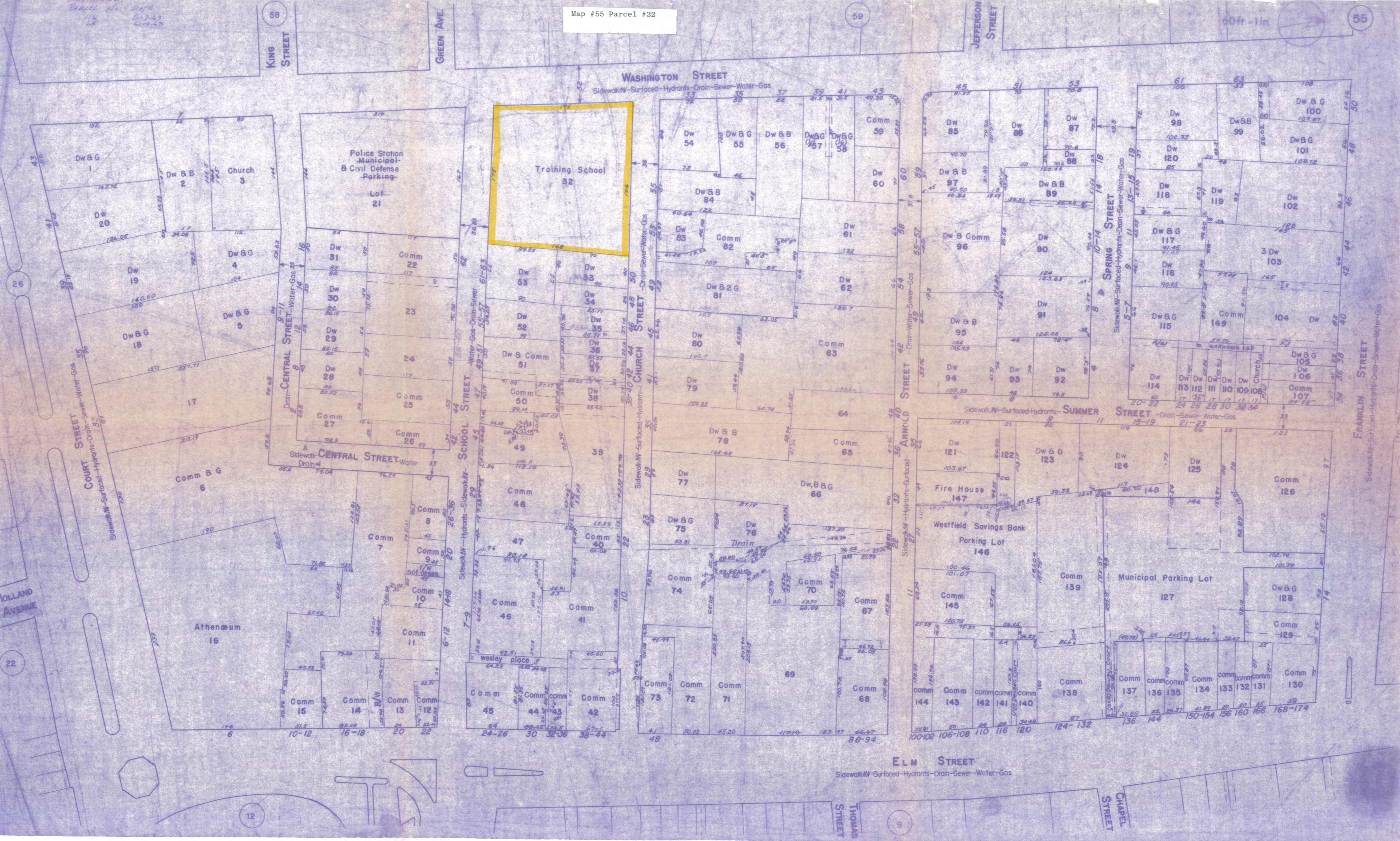
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS.
Topography by planetable surveys 1937 and 1944. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Connecticut coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 18
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



SOUTHWICK MASS.—CONN.
N4200—W7245/7.5
1972

AMS 6468 III SE—SERIES V814

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



58
KING STREET

GREEN AVE.

WASHINGTON STREET

JEFFERSON STREET

55
60ft.-1in.

Training School
32

Police Station
Municipal
& Civil Defense
Parking
Lot
21

CHURCH STREET

SPRING STREET

ARNOLD STREET

SUMMER STREET

FRANKLIN STREET

ELM STREET

THOMAS STREET

CHAPEL STREET

Athenaeum
16

Fire House
147
Westfield Savings Bank
Parking Lot
146

Municipal Parking Lot
127

Training School
32

CENTRAL STREET

COURT STREET

HOLLAND AVENUE