

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
	130-(S-2)

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and
white) Indicate address of
property on back of photo.
Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location
in relation to nearest cross streets and/or
geographical features. Indicate all buildings
between inventoried property and nearest
intersection(s).
Indicate north

See attached map.

Town Worcester
Address 43 Austin Street
Historic Name Willard Richmond Apartment
Block
Use: Present vacant
Original apartments

DESCRIPTION

Date 1879-1886
Source atlases
Style Italianate/Eclectic
Architect unknown
Exterior Wall Fabric brick, granite trim
Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) _____
doors replaced; windows replaced (1980s)
Condition Fair/Good

Moved no Date NA
Acreage less than one acre
Setting at intersection in mixed residen-
tial/apartment/commerical area, some
vacant lots.

UTM REFERENCE 19/268490/4682320
USGS QUADRANGLE Worcester North Quadrangle
SCALE 1: 25000

Recorded by Sarah Zimmerman w/S. Ceccaci
Organization Mass. Historical Commission
Date August, 1985

Valerie Talmage shpo 9/26/85

OCT 7 1985

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The "Willard Richmond" apartment block was one of the earliest apartment houses built in the Main-Wellington-Chandler Street area, which, by 1900, was Worcester's largest apartment district. A modest expression of the transition from Italianate to Panel Brick styling, the building is a well-preserved and early example of apartment block construction in Worcester. As such, the "Willard Richmond" apartment block meets criteria A and C of the National Register on the local level.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Willard Richmond Apartment Block is a modest four-story brick apartment block built between 1879 and 1886. The building, which is square in plan with a small inset jog in the southwest corner, is located at the corner of Austin and Irving Streets just west of Worcester's central business district.

The building rises from a granite raised basement with segmental arched windows to a granite water table. It presents two facades, both of seven bays' width. On the north elevation, ornamental detail is focused in the central bay. Above a shed-roofed entrance hood on the first floor are a pair of round-arched windows surmounted by a two-story window bay with a rectangular base, terra-cotta tile spandrel and round-arched upper section. The west elevation is more irregular in appearance. It consists of seven bays

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

Continued

Apartment construction in the Main-Wellington-Chandler Street area began in the early to mid-1880s and continued into the early 20th century. During the 19th century, smaller concentrations of apartment buildings also appeared in the Pleasant Street area to the north, around Lincoln Square to the northeast and in the vicinity of Millbury Street and Quinsigamond Avenue to the east. Extensive late 20th century demolition in the Chandler Street area has left only a few early apartment blocks standing in the Main-Wellington-Chandler Street area. The "Willard Richmond" and "The Russell" across the street at 49 Austin Street, both highly visible, are important reminders of the earlier days of the neighborhood.

Like most Worcester apartment blocks of the period, its occupants were mostly of the middle class. Many were boarders. Despite the fact that a large proportion of the city's increase in population during this period was due to foreign immigration, the occupants of apartment blocks in this area were rarely newly-arrived immigrants. Although there was a high proportion of Irish living in this section of Austin Street, the 1896 directory shows that most of the building's occupants were not Irish.

Continued

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

atlases, maps, directories
clipping file (Willard Richmond) WHM

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 130-(S-2)
Property Name: 43 Austin Street Willard Richmond Apt.	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE continued

of irregularly spaced fenestration. From north to south these are arranged with two bays containing single windows, followed by two bays of paired windows, a fifth bay of single windows, a stairhall bay whose windows are set lower and a final bay of paired windows. The entrance on the west elevation is contained within the stairhall bay and features a round-arched transom. A triangular brick parapet on a rectangular base is centered on the roofline above the central bay.

Windows on the first floor are rectangular in configuration with granite sills and lintels. Soldier courses of brick are set between the windows and support a granite string course. Second and third floor windows are segmental arched and rest on granite sills. Round-arched windows on the fourth floor define a deep cornice of ornamental brickwork. The round arches are set within double bands of brick and accented with granite keystones. The spring of the arch rises from a soldier course of brick circling the building. Above the windows is a dentillated frieze surmounted by a metal boxed cornice.

In the 1980s, original wooden sash was removed and replaced with inappropriate aluminum sliding sash. At the same time, the doors were replaced. There have been no other alterations to the building, although a rehabilitation in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation is going to take place.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE continued

The "Willard Richmond" first appeared on the 1886 Worcester atlas as the property of Willard Richmond, a dealer in real estate. Richmond (1823-1916) came to Worcester from Rhode Island as a young man. After a number of years in the tailoring business, he turned his interest to real estate. To his credit is the construction of numerous Worcester buildings, including some of the city's first "skyscrapers." He is best known as the developer of land near his home at 835 Pleasant Street as "Richmond Heights" at the turn of the century.

Architecturally, the "Willard Richmond" is a modest but well-preserved example of transitional Italianate/Panel Brick styling and a good example of the type of apartment block construction that first began to appear in Worcester in the early 1880s. While the actual date of construction of the building is unknown, stylistic evidence, primarily the use of terra-cotta tile, suggests a date in the early 1880s. Noteworthy features of the building are its use of Italianate elements, such as its boxy shape, round-arched windows and projecting cornice, in combination with Panel Brick enrichments and eclectic fenestration. In addition, it should be noted that the lack of ground floor storefronts indicates the exclusively residential nature of the "Willard Richmond."

Built before 1886, the "Willard Richmond" is among the earliest identified apartment blocks in Worcester. Other recorded early apartment blocks include the Robinson and Swan Block (1884-85), the Hall Building (1887), the Boynton (1887) and the Windsor (1887-88). Like the "Willard Richmond", all of these are brick buildings in late Victorian styles.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 5-3-84

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 1

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Worcester Multiple Resource Area
State Worcester County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Worcester Corset Company
Factory

Substantive Review

Keeper

Thomas H. Dwyer 10-4-84

Attest

2. Malvern Road School

Substantive Review

Keeper

Thomas H. Dwyer 10-4-84

Attest

3. Claremont Street Historic
District

Substantive Review

Keeper

TS

Attest

4. Richmond, Willard, Apartment
Block

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Shelton Byers 11/7/85

Attest

5. Russell (The)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Shelton Byers 11/7/85

Attest

6. Aurora Hotel

Substantive Review

Keeper

Patrick Andrews 4/28/88

Attest

7. Holy Name of Jesus Complex

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Becky L. Sarge 4/28/88

Attest

8. Vendome and the St. Ives

Substantive Review

Keeper

Becky L. Sarge 02-09-90

Attest

9. Shaarai Torah Synagogue

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

5/14/90

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REF #
85002783

Richmond, Willard, Apartment Block (Worcester
MRA)
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. OCT 07 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 11/7/85 - 11/21/85
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 11-7-85
☐ RETURN
☐ 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
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ moved 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

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



43 Austin St

Worcester

Will Rich. Apt.

Block

Richmond, Willard, Apartment Block

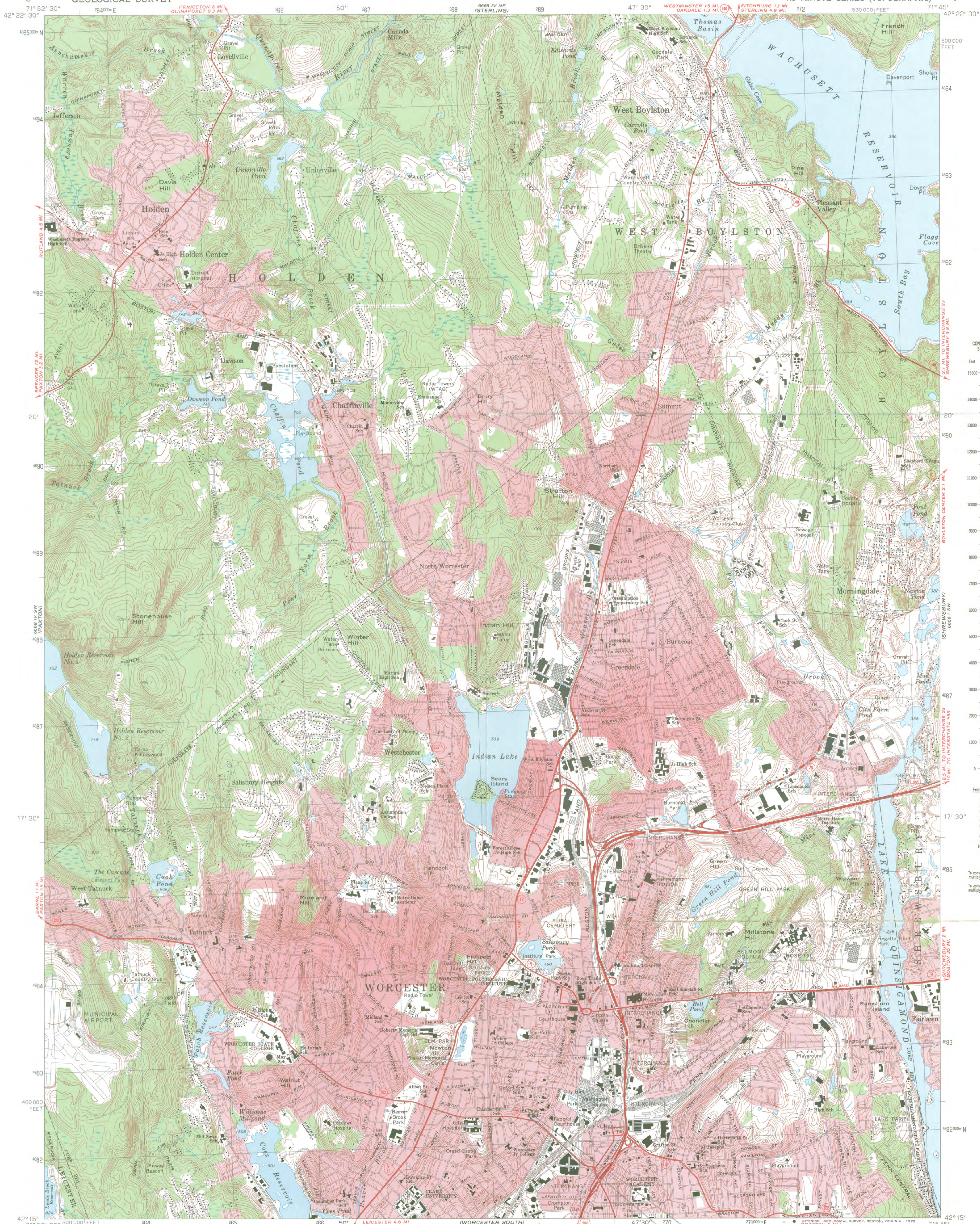
Worcester MRA, Ma

Roll I-13

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WORCESTER NORTH QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS - WORCESTER CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1941. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1974
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

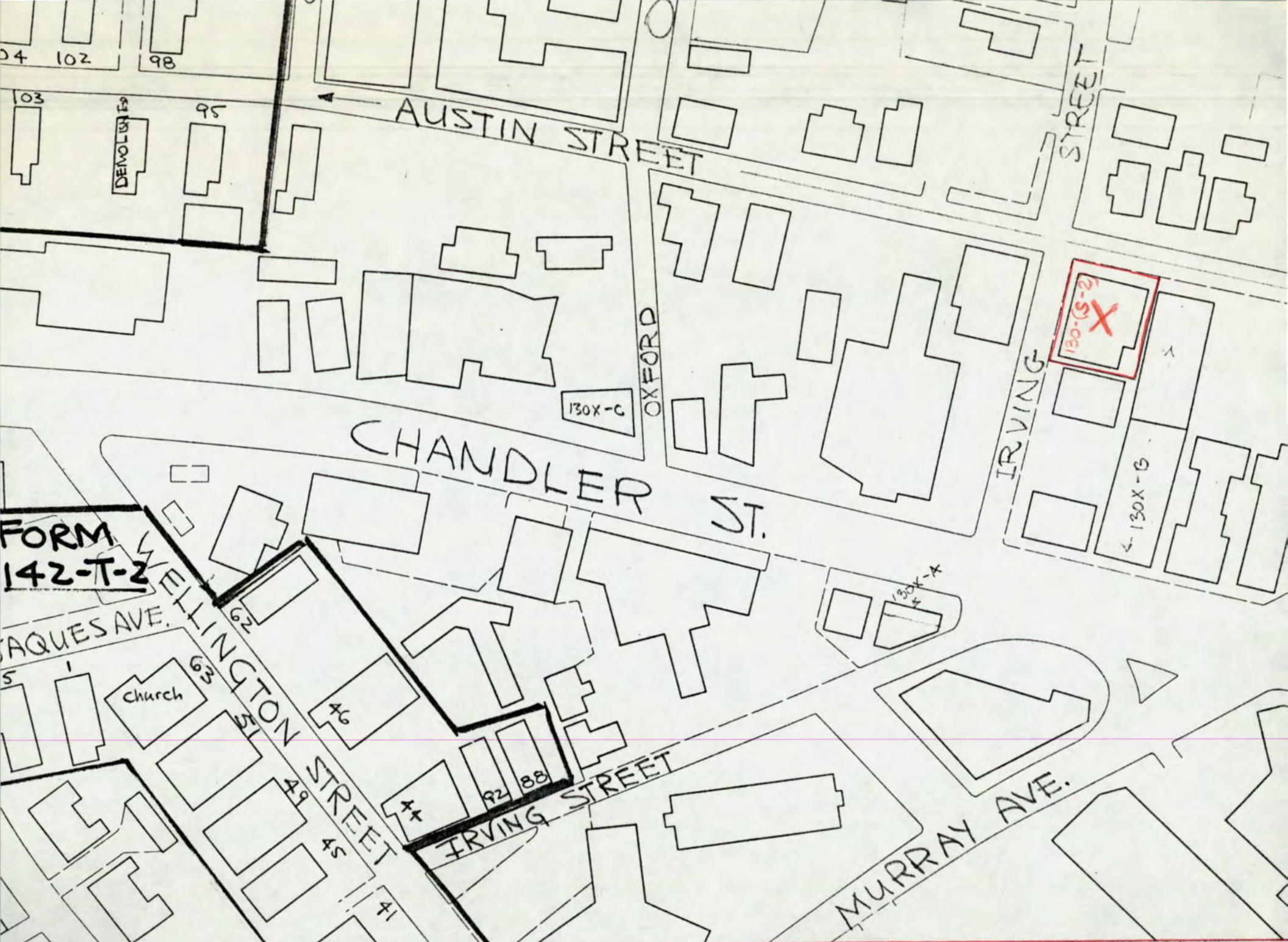
UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

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
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
U. S. Route
State Route

WORCESTER NORTH, MA
N4215-W7145/7.5
1974
AMS 6668 IV SE-SERIES B814

Amendments to the Worcester
Multiple Resource Area (NR:1980)
The Willard Richmond Apartment
Block; 43 Austin Street
UTM: 19/268490/4682320
The Russell; 49 Austin Street
UTM: 19/268440/4782330



FORM
142-T-2

LAQUES AVE.

Church

WILLINGTON STREET

IRVING STREET

IRVING STREET

MURRAY AVE.

SEE MAP SHEET

ASSESSOR'S MAP CITY OF WORCESTER MOORE SURVEY & MAPPING CO., 1975
SHEET #130 SCALE: 1"=100'



Cert. # P284 880 607

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Valerie A. Talmage

Executive Director

State Historic Preservation Officer

September 30, 1985

Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

I hereby request that the Multiple Resource Area nomination to the National Register for Worcester, Massachusetts be amended to include the following properties:

"The Russell", 49 Austin Street

Willard Richmond Apartment Block, 43 Austin Street

As the designated State Historic Preservation Office 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. The evaluated significance of these properties is local.

The property has been voted eligible by the State Review Board. 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valerie Talmage".

Valerie A. Talmage
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

VT/dr
enclosure