

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0675474

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 18 1979

JUN 19 1979

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Wason/Springfield Steam Power Blocks

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

27-43 Lyman Street; 26-50 Taylor Street

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Hampden

CODE

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

ACCESSIBLE

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☒ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☒ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Geoffrey Riker, c/o J.W. Real Estate

STREET & NUMBER

2352 Mendon Road

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hampden County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

State Street

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1978

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

7 DESCRIPTION

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 Wason/Springfield Steam Power Blocks are located on Lyman and Taylor Streets in the former manufacturing district of Springfield commonly referred to as the North Blocks. Several blocks north of the main commercial district, this area was developed for manufacturing because of its proximity to the train depot. The area behind and between the buildings is a service alley. A two story intrusion at the northern corner of the block has been excluded. The Wason/Springfield Steam Power Blocks consist of three brick buildings which date from the 1870's and 80's. Two of the structures, the Powers Block and the Bryan Block face northwest on Lyman Street (Nos. 27-37 and 39-43 respectively) while the third building faces southeast on Taylor Street (Nos. 26-50) directly south of the Lyman Street blocks.

The Powers Block was designed in 1873 as the warehouse and paper manufactory of the Powers Paper Company. The five-story structure was designed by the Springfield firm of Perkins and Gardner and was 50 feet wide and 100 feet deep. An 1881 addition to the southwest of the original building expanded the building width to 160 feet. Designed by either Jason Perkins or E.C. Gardner, who by then had established separate firms, the addition matches the original to give the appearance of a single facade. A sixth story was added to the building around 1910.

The Powers Block is 13 bays wide and 13 bays deep. The west half of the ground floor elevation facing Lyman Street retains the original raised entrance with decorated cast iron columns, a granite cornice and large plate glass windows, while the eastern half has been divided into two twentieth century storefronts with entrances at grade. At the second through fifth stories, large Indiana limestone lintels connect to form courses across the facade. The piers between each bay have four panels of brick set at a 45 degree angle to form a decorative relief. All of the windows have two-over-two lights. The sixth story is divided into six three-window bays, framed by narrow stone sills and a stone string course in place of lintels. Each bay consists of three two-over-two lights. The building is capped by a yellow brick parapet with red brick coping.

The southwest elevation has a uniform pattern of segmental arched windows with raised voisseurs and archivolts and narrow stone sills. This treatment still exists on the ground floor and in half windows in the granite basement. All openings have two-over-two lights.

The Clark W. Bryan Company Block (Nos. 39-43 Lyman) stands northeast of the Powers Block. It is a four-story brick block designed in 1889 for the Bryan Company. A two-bay addition was constructed to the northeast of the original within the next few years. The facade is eight bays wide and is capped by wide cornice with elaborate brick corbelling. The raised storefronts with granite trim have been partially concealed and altered by twentieth century modifications. Above the first floor, the building retains its original appearance. At each story, the windows have narrow rough-hewn granite sill courses and wider lintel courses. The piers between bays are treated with narrow stone bases and caps where they abut the lintels and sills. All window have two-over-two lights.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Springfield Steam Power Company's Taylor Street Block (Nos. 26-50 Taylor) was constructed in 1875 to designs of Jason Perkins. The building features fireproof walls which divide the block into 50-foot sections. It originally extended 75 feet further to the northeast than at present. The construction of the Post Office on Dwight Street in 1930 required removal of the end portion of the block. The northeast elevation and approximately 50 feet of the Taylor Street elevation were redesigned at that time.

The brick block is three stories high, 26 bays wide and 9 bays deep. The facade is divided into three-bay sections, each with a separate raised entrance. Some of the original recessed first floor entrances above raised basements have been modified in this century. The bays are divided by brick piers which extend to the cornice. The fenestration at the upper stories consists of segmental arched openings with rowlock arches and smooth granite sills. This is also found on the original portions of the ground floor. Below each sill is a row of bricks set at a 45 degree angle. The corbelled cornice rises above a frieze decorated with a recessed cruciform motif. The 1930 facade at the eastern end of the building is five bays wide with an entrance in the westernmost bay, followed by two paired-window bays and two triple-window bays. Concrete patterns in the brickwork above the second floor and in the parapet are used as decorative detailing. At the northeast rear corner, there is a brick stack and a one-story brick addition which houses the power plant.

The Wason/Springfield Steam Power Blocks are presently undergoing adaptive reuse as a major in-town housing development.

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/HUMANITARIAN		
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER		
☒ 1800-1899	☒ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION		
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☒ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		☐ INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES	1873-81, 1875, 1889	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Perkins and Gardner
----------------	---------------------	-------------------	---------------------

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wason/Springfield Steam Power Blocks possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The buildings are associated with events that made a significant contribution to the city's history; they are associated with the lives of prominent local businessmen; and the buildings embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period and method of construction typical of the North Blocks during its rise as a manufacturing district.

The Wason/Springfield Steam Power Blocks are significant for their role in the continued growth and development of the North Blocks as a commercial/manufacturing district during the 1870's and 80's. The Blocks were developed by the J. W. Wason Car Company and later by the Springfield Steam Power Company to encourage the growth of incubator industries in the city. The Blocks were built to house prominent businesses as well as growing young companies. Prime tenants included the Powers Paper Company, Clark W. Bryan & Co. Publishers and the Davis Level and Tool Company. Architecturally, these blocks are representative of the quality design and workmanship which characterized the North Blocks manufacturing district.

The development of Springfield's North Blocks in the 1860's and 70's provided an opportunity for many small manufacturers and tradesmen to establish themselves in close proximity to the train station. Springfield's role as a trading center depended heavily on its location at the junction of the Boston and Albany and Springfield-Hartford Railroads. Land in the vicinity of the railroad station was drained, streets were laid out, and small wood and brick shops were built in the 1850's. Lyman and Taylor Streets, the two streets nearest to the railroad, played a particularly key role in this development pattern.

Among early companies on Lyman Street was the shop of J. W. Wason, an enterprising young railroad car builder. Wason's property grew from a single wooden shed in 1853 to a large brick manufacturing building by 1870. The company became world famous for its quality railroad cars and made Springfield a leader in the railroad car industry. In 1860, it was the first American company to export cars to other countries. By 1872, the Wason Company had outgrown its space and moved to a sixteen acre industrial and residential area of the city known as Brightwood. The Wason Company retained ownership of the Lyman/Taylor Street properties and rented them to small manufacturers.

In 1873, the Wason Company constructed a five-story brick block on Lyman Street for the Powers Paper Company. Lewis J. Powers, president of the company, was a self-made man who had worked his way up from selling newspapers at the train depot to the head of a large company. In 1879 he became the youngest mayor in the City's history and

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Commerce Manufactures and Resources of Springfield, MA, Springfield: National Publishing 1883.
Inland Massachusetts Illustrated, Springfield: Estner Co. 1890.
King's Handbook of Springfield, MA, edited by Moses King, Springfield: James D. Gill, 1884, p. 319-337.
Progressive Springfield, December 1890-92, vol 1-3, pp. 115-117.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.19 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Springfield South

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 698970 4663990
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please refer to the attached assessor's map on which the boundaries are delineated in black.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator

Margo Weber
Anderson, Notter, Feingold

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

February 1979

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. Webster

4/3/79

TITLE Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Charles A. Brown
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6.15.79

ATTEST: Bruce Van Dyke
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 6/18/79

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

was acclaimed for his liberal leadership during his two terms in office. He also served on the Board of Aldermen and was a member of the Governor's Council for two years. Powers also was active in civic affairs. He served as a president of the Connecticut River Paper Company, was a director of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, the Hampden Savings Bank and the Union Trust Company.

The Powers Paper Company was involved in the sale of paper, stationary, notions and newspapers as well as the manufacturing of papers and pencils. The company had branch offices in New York, San Francisco, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Chicago and was a designated agent for the Glasgow Paper Company which did over \$750,000 in annual sales.

A fire in 1875 levelled most of the remaining buildings of the old J. W. Wason Company. The company quickly announced plans to build a three-story brick block on Taylor Street, divided into 50-foot sections for separate tenants. This block (No. 26-50 Taylor Street) housed numerous small companies which developed from incubator industries to prominent local firms. Among early tenants in the building were the Davis Level and Tool Company, Cheney Bigelow Wire Works and the Bemis Car Company. The Davis Level and Tool Company occupies large quarters in the building used for the manufacture of hardware specialists, machinists tools and railway supplies. The Cheney Bigelow Wire Works, which later moved to another company building on the south side of Taylor Street, patented the Dandy Roll, which was used to produce water marks on fine papers. The Bemis Car Company patented an item to eliminate friction in car wheel journals which was used by all the principal horse railroads in the country.

In 1881, the owners of the Wason Company formed a new company, the Springfield Steam Power Company, to supply power to the manufactures in the Lyman-Taylor Streets area. The transfer of real estate to the new company, which had the same directors as the Wason Company, was reported to be the largest single real estate transaction in the city's history. The Springfield Steam Power Company installed a central steam power supply which could generate enough power to supply a densely developed manufacturing area. They advertised that they would erect additional buildings as rapidly as tenants demanded. The company retained ownership of the buildings in the block through the 1920's.

The Clark W. Bryan Publishing Company was one of the companies which contracted with the Springfield Steam Power Company for a brick block in the late 1880's. The present building at Nos. 39-43 Lyman Street was built for them in 1889. Clark W. Bryan came to Springfield in 1853 as a partner with Samuel Bowles in the Samuel Bowles Company which published the "Springfield Republican". When the partnership disbanded in 1873, Bowles retained the newspaper publishing and Bryan acquired the printing and binding departments. Bryan expanded his company over the next twenty years, primarily in the field of journals. Bryan established the magazine Paper World in 1880, a trade journal with international circulation, and the popular Good Housekeeping in 1885.

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Library Bulliten and Amateur Gardening were other well-known journals published by the company.

The buildings are also significant architecturally. They are remaining examples of the typical brick manufacturing blocks of the 1870's and 80's which once filled the North Blocks area. They are fireproof buildings designed by local architects and representative of popular vernacular designs. The buildings on Lyman Street were particularly decorative in their lavish use of granite trim and cast-iron storefronts. The design of the Powers Block was considered to be "the most commodious and best appointed paper warehouse in New England".¹ The functional design of the Taylor Street block reflects its use as a starting place for small businesses to establish themselves. With the exception of certain storefront alterations, the buildings retain their original design and feeling and serve as reminders of the North Blocks' former role as one of the city's primary manufacturing districts.

1. The Paper World, Clark Bryan Co: Springfield, 1882, pp 11-13.

Property

Wason / Springfield Steam Power Blocks

State

Mass. (Hampden)

Working Number

4.18.79.854

TECHNICAL

Photos

Maps

2
1, Sketch

CONTROL

OK pl
4.18.79

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

THE BLOCKS NOMINATED ARE SIGNIFICANT FOR THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY IN THE NORTHEAST END OF SPRINGFIELD IN THE 1870'S AND 80'S. FURTHER THEY REFLECT THE INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL STYLES PREVALENT IN THIS PERIOD.

ACCEPT
Max Daigian 6/18/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

7-3-79

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered JUN 19 1979



Wason/Springfield Steam Power Blocks

Springfield, MA

Margo Webber

1978

Anderson, Notter, Feingold Inc.

Boston MA

Hampden Co.
JUN 19 1979

Photo #1

Looking southeast at Lyman St. blocks

APR 18 1979



Wason/Springfield Steam Power Blocks
Springfield, MA
Margo Webber 1978
Anderson, Notter, Feingold Inc.
Boston, MA

Sampden Co.

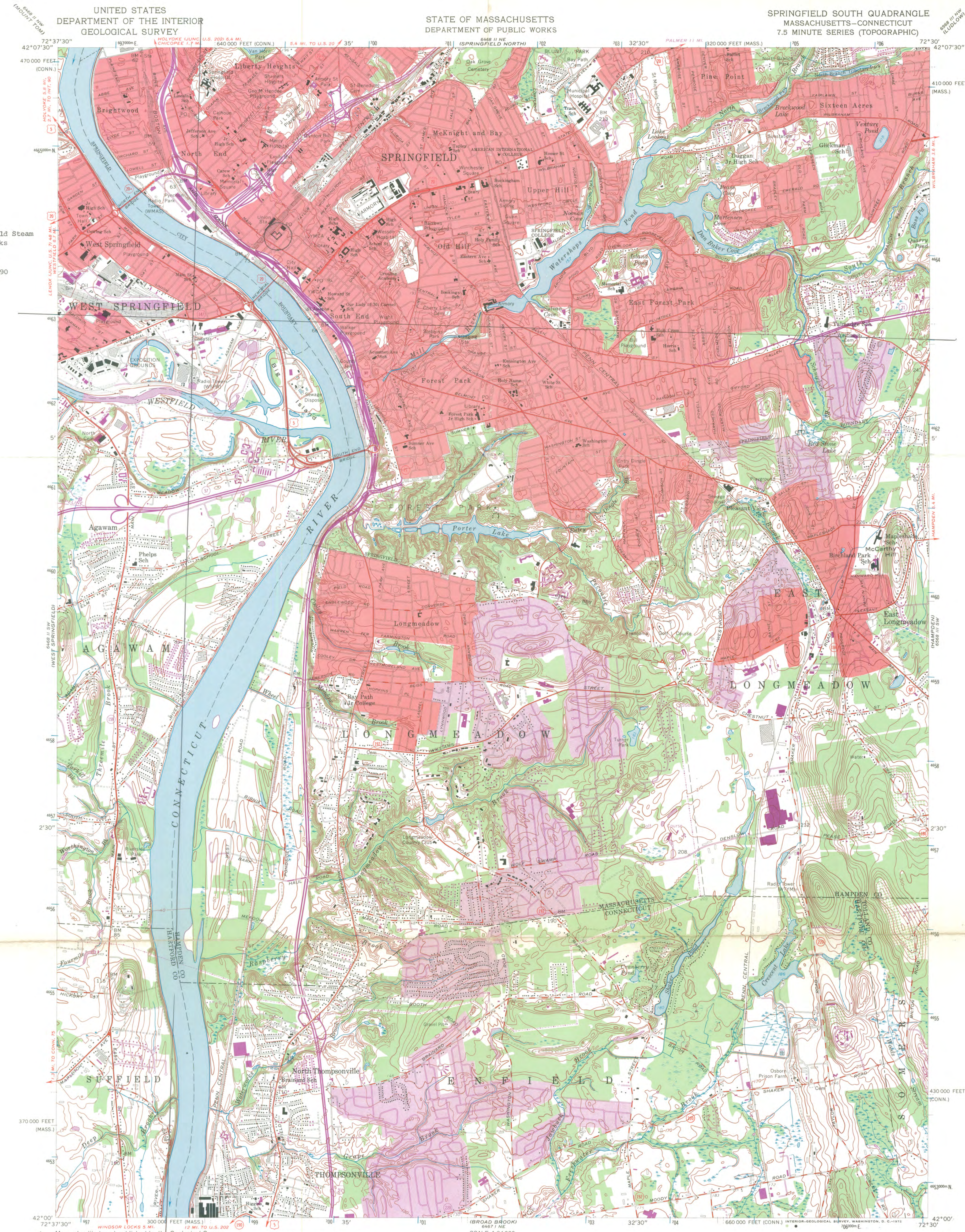
APR 18 1979

Photo #2

JUN 19 1979

Looking northeast at Taylor St. block

Wason/Springfield Steam
Power Blocks
Springfield, MA
UTM REFERENCES:
18/698970/4663990



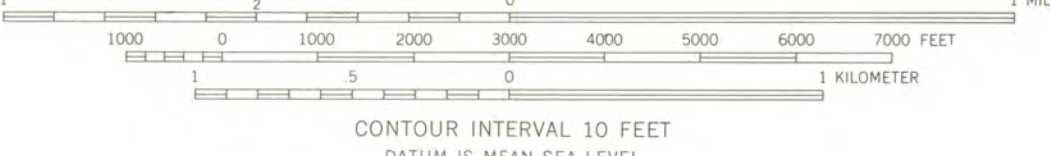
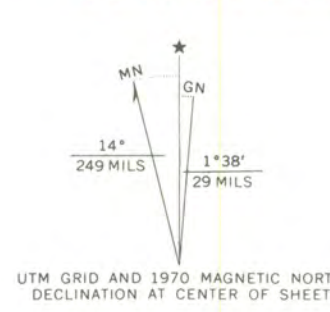
Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey,
and Connecticut Geodetic Survey

Topography by planetable surveys 1933 and 1942
Culture revised from aerial photographs by photogrammetric
methods. Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1958

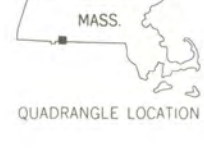
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Connecticut coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
Connecticut Highway Department from aerial photographs
taken 1970. This information not field checked.
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



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

SPRINGFIELD SOUTH, MASS.-CONN.
N4200-W7230/7.5

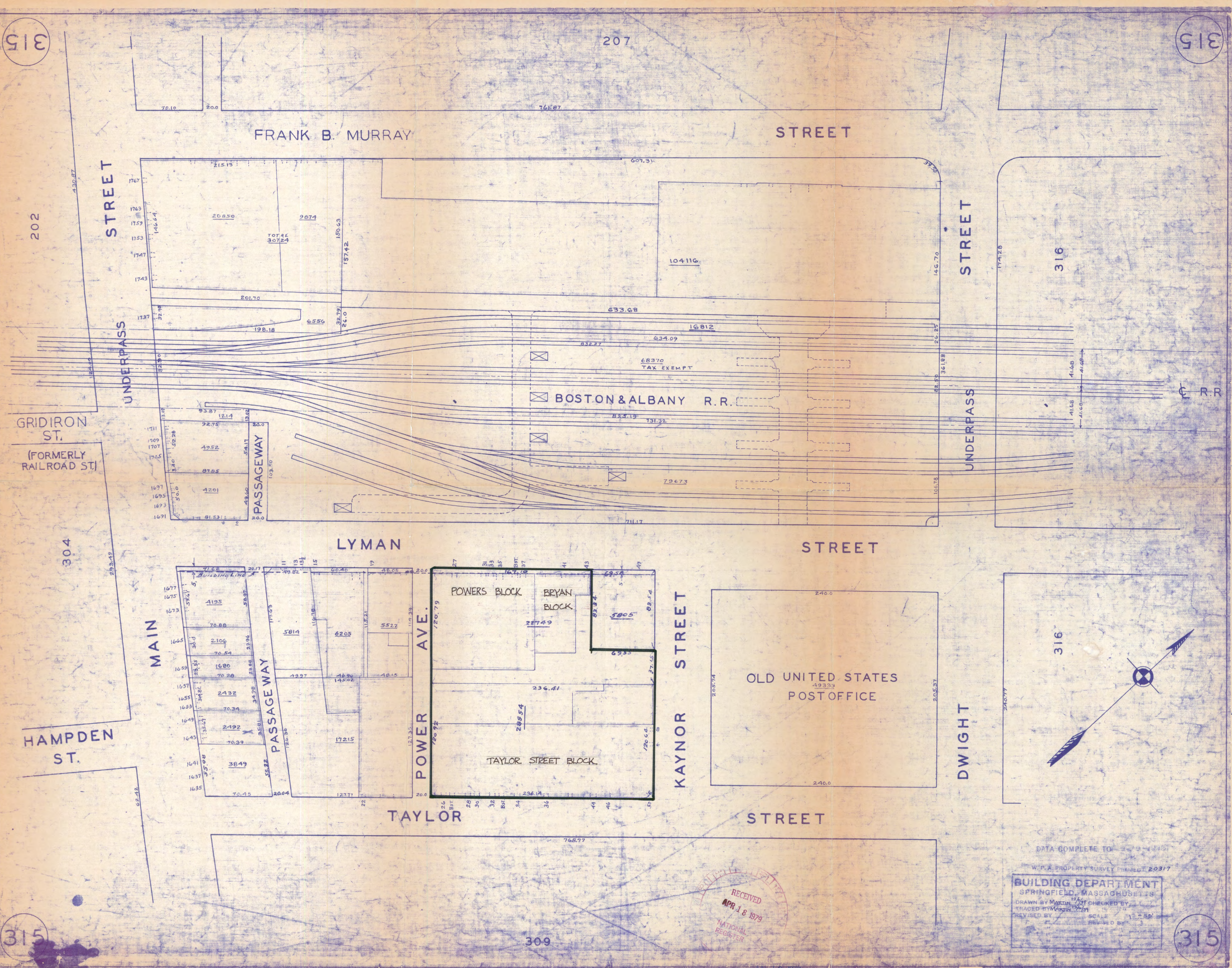
1958
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 6468 II SE-SERIES V814



JUN 19 1973

315

315



315

315

RECEIVED
APR 18 1979
NATIONAL
REGISTER

DATA COMPLETE TO 3-19-1979
W.P.A. PROPERTY SURVEY PROJECT 20317
BUILDING DEPARTMENT
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
DRAWN BY MARTIN 12/31 CHECKED BY
TRACED BY MARTIN 2/3/81
REVISED BY
SCALE 1" = 50'
REVISED BY

JUN 19 1979



**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

April 10, 1979



Mr. Charles Herrington, Chief
Registration Branch
National Register
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Mr. Herrington:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Concord - Parkman Tavern
Norfolk - Josiah Ware Tavern
Springfield - Wason Steampower Company
Winchester - Winchester Savings Bank

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. They have also been reviewed by our professional staff representing the disciplines of architecture, architectural history, archeology and history.

Sincerely,

Christine Boulding
Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosures

CB/pg

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered

JUN 19 1979

Name

Location

Wason-Springfield Steam Power Blocks

Springfield
Hampden County

Winchester Savings Bank

Winchester
Middlesex County

Parkman Tavern

Concord
Middlesex County

Ware, Josiah, Tavern

Norfolk
Norfolk County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul G. Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Edward P. Boland
Honorable Edward J. Markey
Honorable James M. Shannon
Honorable Margaret M. Heckler

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR Byers/bjr 6/21/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.