

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 NOV 21 1983
date entered

1. Name

historic Worcester House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 658 Andover Street N/A not for publication

city, town Lowell N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Middlesex code 017

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name William R. & Norma L. King

street & number 658 Andover Street

city, town Lowell N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Gorham Street

city, town Lowell state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of Historic Assets of
title the Commonwealth #516 RN has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1981 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

Worcester House, Lowell, 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 Worcester House, constructed originally in 1802 in the Federal style with later Greek Revival modifications dating from c 1840, is sited on the north side of Andover Street, facing south. It is located approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Lowell's downtown and $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles west of North Tewksbury. The house and its detached barn are set back considerably from Andover Street. The nominated parcel comprises 1.6 acres and includes lawn, woods, and an unpaved drive. The surrounding area was subdivided in the late 19th century with residential construction occurring along Andover Street during the early 20th century and on the side streets mid-century. Prior to that time, it was farmland with a scattering of early-mid 19th century houses. Andover Street was the 18th century route linking East Chelmsford (now Lowell) and North Tewksbury.¹

The ground plan of the main house is rectangular (A) with a two-story ell at the northeast corner which appears to be original (B). Between 1924 and 1936 two additions were constructed, one a two-story extension of the ell (C) and the other a screen porch (D) (see attached site plan). The additions (C&D), are not considered to be contributing elements.

The main house is $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories in height and has a full basement beneath it and the ell. The roof is a medium-pitched gable covered with asphalt shingles. The roof of the ell is likewise gabled, framed perpendicularly to the main house. Three chimneys rise from the main house: two from in front of the ridge and one from the rear; a fourth chimney projects from the ell extension. The walls are clad in butt end clapboards. The foundation of the main house and ell is granite while that of the extension is fieldstone.

The south (front) elevation is four bays wide. Windows are symmetrically placed on each story with a slightly wider space between the center openings. They have flat board trim and simply molded caps; the second story windows are framed into the cornice. Sash is double-hung six-over-six; shutters frame all windows.

The west elevation contains one window on the first story, two on the second and a single window in the attic; all sash is one-over-one. Window trim consists of convexly molded surrounds with plain corner blocks--distinctly Greek Revival. The entrance, which projects beyond the elevation and faces south, is reached via a narrow one-story porch supported by Tuscan columns. The architrave is Greek Revival and identical to that surrounding the windows. Based on differences in foundation material and clapboard width, it is unlikely that the porch is original, but was added c 1840 when other Greek Revival alterations were made.

The east elevation consists of the gable end of the main house, the two-story ell, the two-story ell extension, and a small one-story enclosed entry. The gable end contains at the first story a window, an off-center entry and another window; three windows are placed directly above these openings at the second story, and an attic window is centered in the gable. With the exception of the gable window which contains six-over-nine sash, all sash is six-over-six. Window trim is flat board with molded caps. The entry has flat board trim as well and a spindle-bracketed door hood (c 1850). The two-bay ell appears to be original based on the forward placement of the main framing post at the northeast corner

¹Until the 1840s the road's course followed East Merrimack Street from the Concord River to a point just west of the Worcester House where it curved to follow a course due east.

8. Significance

Worcester House, Lowell, 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	1802	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Worcester House and its barn possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The property is significant architecturally as a little-altered vernacular farmhouse with an early barn that has retained vestiges of its rural setting, both rare features within the City of Lowell. Historically, the house is associated with Lowell's early agricultural tradition and stands on land associated with an early Tewksbury family for over two hundred years. Thus, the property meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The land on which the property stands was part of Tewksbury until 1906 when a large tract was annexed to Lowell. It had been part of a 3,000 acre grant awarded to the widow of Governor Winthrop in 1641. Bounded by the Concord and Merrimack Rivers on the west and north, the grant had included much of present-day North Tewksbury as well as the annexed lands. In 1691 600 acres were purchased from Mrs. Winthrop by Samuel Hunt who, through his efforts to incorporate the town, is generally recognized as the "Father of Tewksbury."

In 1748 Moses Worcester (d. 1756) bought sixty-five acres from Hunt; his descendants remained here until 1954. Moses and his family occupied an early garrison house that had been erected by Hunt. Known as the "Block House", it stood on the south side of Andover Street until the early-mid 19th century. According to local historical records of the 1890s, the Worcester House was erected in 1802 by Moses' grandson Eldad (1763–1853). Built on the opposite side of Andover Street from the Block House, the house stood on an extensive tract of land which extended north to the Merrimack River and west to East Merrimack Street. Architectural evidence indicates that the barn was erected in the early 19th century as well.

For the next 152 years the house was passed on to successive generations of Worcesters. Eldad's son, Henry Elwin (1808–87), was likewise a farmer. The Greek Revival alterations on the house probably date from the time of his marriage in 1839. Following his death, the property, then valued at \$48,000, was divided between his wife and three children. The house, barn, and three acres were left to his youngest son Horatio who died while the will was still in probate. Though the property remained in Horatio's estate, the house was occupied by his mother and sister well into the early 20th century. It was later leased to tenants. The remainder of Henry Elwin's land was subdivided in 1889 and sold as building lots. In 1954 the house was purchased by Charles Flood and, in 1980, by the current owners. The rear 1.5 acres were sold off in the 1950s.

The Worcester House stands today as the oldest house on Andover Street and one of the earliest in Lowell. The large, early 19th century barn is unique in the city for its age, size, and architectural integrity. The land surrounding the Worcester House and its barn should be considered to contain subsurface remains of artifacts and structures as well as evidence of past land use. Research conducted using archaeological techniques has the potential to provide significant information for our understanding of past lifeways. As one of the few undisturbed 19th century rural landscapes remaining in Lowell, this property offers a rare opportunity for multidisciplinary study.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Coburn, Frederick W., History of Lowell and Its People, Lewis Historical Publishing, Co., New York, 1920, Vol. I, p. 126.
Tewksbury, Lowell & Middlesex County maps & atlases: 1830, 1852, 1875, 1889, 1906, 1924, 1936.
Tewksbury Vital Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.6 acres

Quadrangle name Lowell

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A 19 313050 4723710
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property includes the house, barn, and 1.645 acres as shown on attached Lowell Engineering Department Map (Sheet 248; 1982) and outlined in red. This acreage comprises one half of, and the only intact portion of, the three acres deeded to Horatio Worcester in 1839. It retains its historical physical character and possesses strong associations with the property.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

Virginia A. Fitch, Preservation Planner, Massachusetts Historical Commission with
name/title Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, Preservation Consultant

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date September, 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 X 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

Potom Rzeslowski

State Historic Preservation Officer

title Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 11/15/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in

National Register

date

12/22/83

Keeper of the National Register

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

Continuation sheet Worcester House

Item number 7 & 9

Page 1

of the main house and matching architectural trim. The rear extension, built between 1932-1936, contains a modern multi-pane bay window in the first story and a window with six-over-six sash in the second. A small projecting entry with a spindle-bracketed door hood extends to the north.

The north elevation is mostly obscured by additions and ells; only two windows on the second story with flat board trim are visible.

The interior features of the house corroborate the local construction date of 1802 and an assumed Greek Revival remodeling c 1840. Original features include boxed corner posts, narrow cornice molding, second floor fireplaces, doors and spring window sash. The framing visible in the attic is pegged, mortised and tenoned. Greek Revival details appear on door and window trim (reeded with corner blocks) and the first floor fireplaces which have molded corner blocks and peaked overmantles. Much of the sash has Greek Revival muntin profiles.

Northeast of the house lies a large frame barn with a medium-pitched gable roof. It is rectangular in ground plan and measures 73' X 30' X 24'. The south and east elevations are clad in clapboards; the west and north elevations are sheathed with unpainted vertical boards. At the west end is a partially excavated cellar lined with granite blocks. The interior framing of the barn is fully exposed and appears contemporary with the house. Principal posts and beams are mortised, tenoned and pegged and reinforced with braces. The roof purlins and roughhewn. Though much of the space is open, there are some lofts, early horse stalls and storage areas.

9. Bibliographical References

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds: deeds and plan files
Lowell Historical Society files (L.S3.C4 1892-7, p.56-7)

Bibliographical note: Historical source material for outer Andover Street is scarce. Until 1906 it was part of Tewksbury for which no comprehensive town history exists. Public records have been lost or destroyed. Though Lowell research materials are rich, their coverage of outlying regions and later annexations is sketchy.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Worcester House
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. NOV 21 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85

Date Due: 12/22/83 - 1/5/84

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 12/22/83

~~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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ excellent | ☐ deteriorated |
| ☐ good | ☐ ruins |
| ☐ fair | ☐ unexposed |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ 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: _____



WORCESTER HOUSE
658 Andover St., Lowell, MA

Photograph by Elizabeth Durfee Hengen
Negative filed at 45 Cabot St.,
Winchester, MA 01890
1983

#1 of 3: View of house looking north



WORCESTER HOUSE

658 Andover St., Lowell, MA

Photograph by Zammitti Studio

Negative filed at 95 Rodgers St.,

Lowell, MA 01852

1983

#2 of 3: View of barn looking east



WORCESTER HOUSE

658 Andover St., Lowell, MA

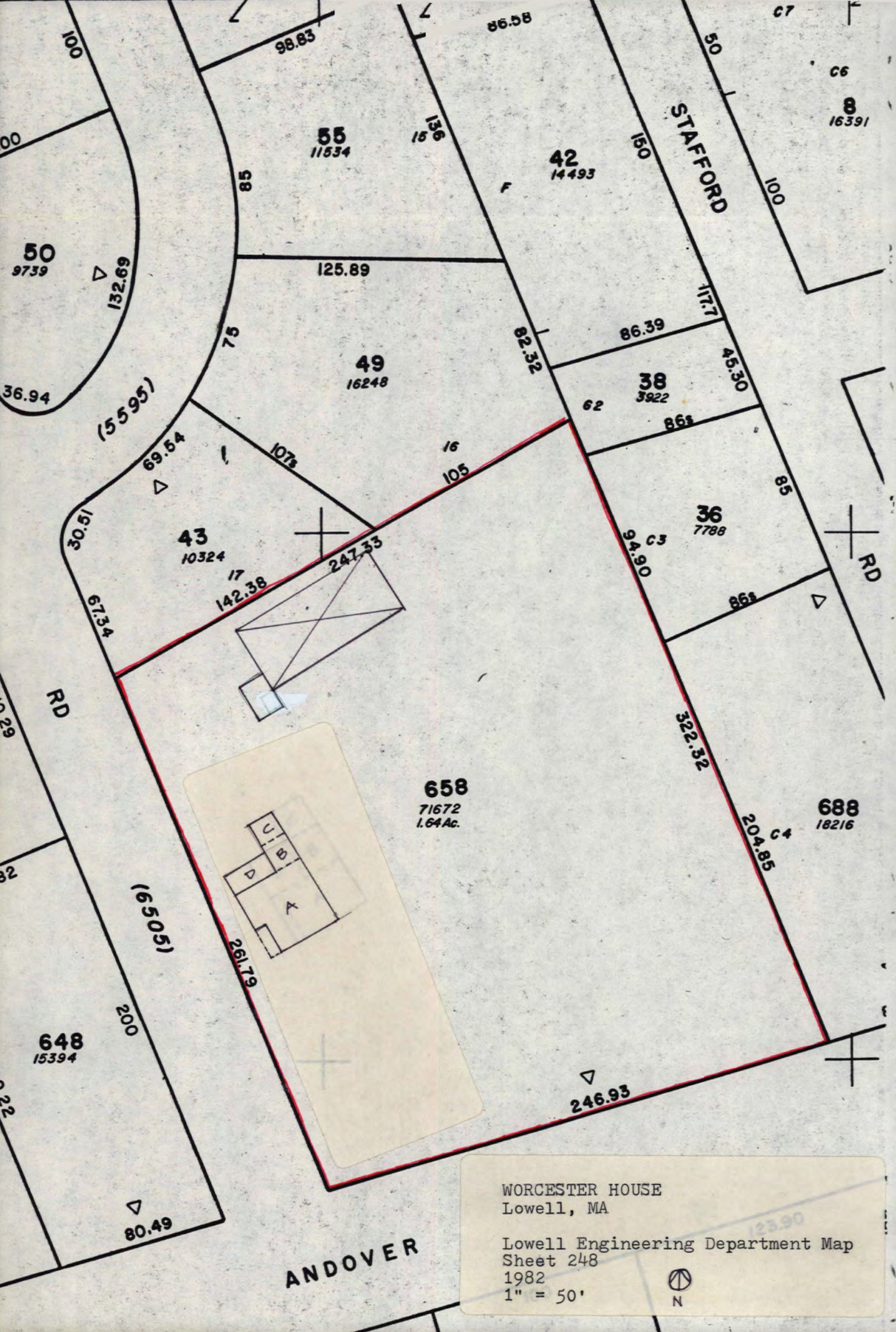
Photograph by Zammitti Studio

Negative filed at 95 Rodgers St.,

Lowell, MA 01852

1983

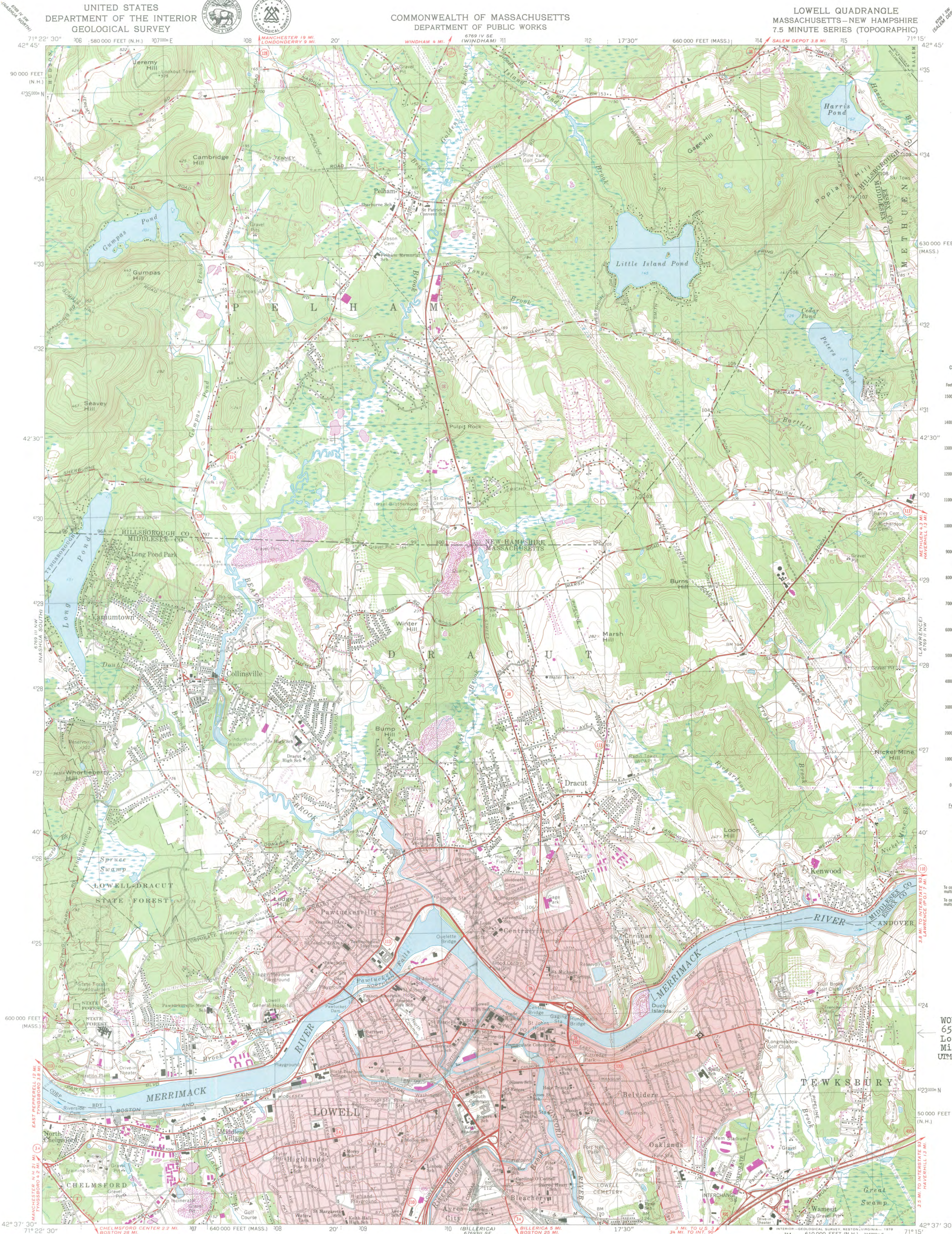
#3 of 3: Interior of barn



WORCESTER HOUSE
Lowell, MA

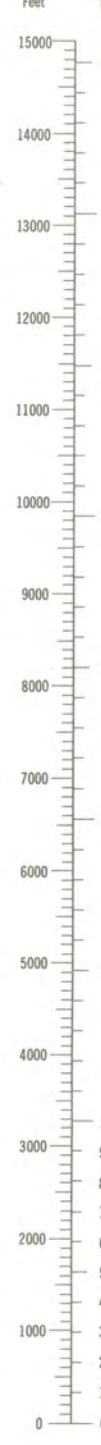
Lowell Engineering Department Map
Sheet 248
1982
1" = 50'





CONVERSION
SCALES

Feet Meters



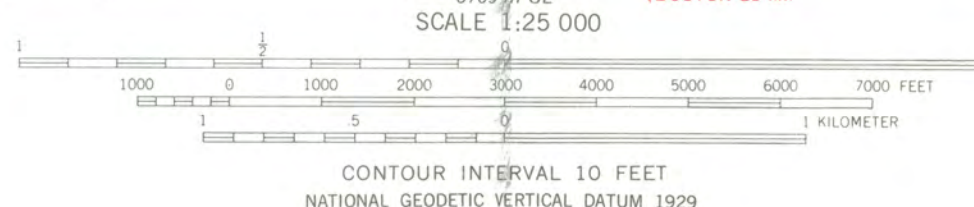
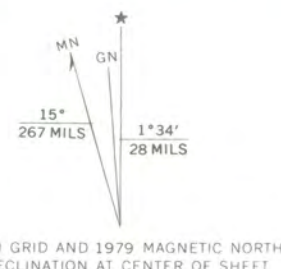
Feet Meters

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 3.048
To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

WORCESTER HOUSE
658 Andover St.
Lowell, MA
Middlesex County
UTM: 19/313050/4723710

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1939 and 1944. Revised 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and New Hampshire coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid
zone 19
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
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



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM 1929

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



LOWELL, MASS. - N. H.
N4237.5 - W7115.7.5
1966
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6769 III NE-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