

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 MAR 3 1982

date entered APR 6 1982

1. Name

historic Main Street Historic District

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 175-299 & 228-274 Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Webster

N/A vicinity of

congressional district

2nd

state Massachusetts

code 025

county Worcester

code 027

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 Multiple - see Property Owners List attached to #7.

street & number

city, town Webster

N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 2 Main Street

city, town Worcester

state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

title has this property been determined eligible? 4/80 yes no

date 1979

___ federal ☒ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston

state Massachusetts

7. Description

WEBSTER: Main Street Historic District

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 Main Street Historic District contains sixteen buildings which form Webster's largest concentration of commercial blocks. Most of them date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Boundaries for the district have been selected to include that section of the town's commercial district which still retains its densely built, row facade. The district is bounded on the north by undeveloped lots, on the east by parking lots on the sites of former commercial blocks and residences, on the south by a residential neighborhood and factory, and on the west by modern, one-story commercial buildings built on the former sites of commercial blocks. Ten buildings stand on the north side of Main Street while six are located on the south side.

Buildings in the district range in height from two to four stories and all are built out to a uniform line of facades at the sidewalk. Although varied in architectural style, all buildings except two are built of brick and all have brick facades. In general, alterations are confined to the street-level store fronts; upper floors are largely unaltered. Buildings included in the district are:

North Side of Main Street

1. 175 Main Street. Gilles Block, built 1925: a two-story brick building with a facade of red tapestry brick and "cast-stone" trimmings with simplified Beaux Arts Style decorative details.
2. 183 Main Street. Tiffany Block of 1926: a three-story brick block with a facade of buff-colored brick, pressed metal trimmings and "cast-stone" trimmings, astylistic.
3. 201 Main Street. Cook Block, built 1905, top floor removed ca. 1930, one-story addition built 1954, non-contributing alterations to rear (north) of building: originally a three-story block, facade of mottled yellow brick with limestone trim; astylistic.
4. 211-219 Main Street. Racicot Block, built 1905: a four-story brick block with a facade of pressed red brick and dressed limestone; elements of Renaissance Revival style.
5. 225 Main Street. Tiffany Block of 1900, J.P. Kingston of Worcester, architect: a three-story brick block with a facade of yellow brick, dressed limestone and pressed metal: elements of Renaissance Revival style.
6. 241 Main Street. Tracy Block, built 1888, Amos P. Cutting of Worcester, architect: a three-story brick block with extensive decorative trimmings of rock-faced granite and terracotta; elements of Queen Anne style; non-contributing additions to rear (north) elevation of building.
7. 251 Main Street. Larchar-Branch Block, built 1912-13: a three-story brick block with an eclectic facade of tapestry brick, a wooden cornice and decorative tiled roof; attached to the rear (north) elevation of the Larchar-Branch Block, but standing on a separate lot, is the former State Theater (1915) which has been excluded from this nomination due to its loss of architectural integrity through deterioration.
8. 267-283 Main Street. Holden Block, built 1921, Funk & Wilcox of Boston, architects: a three-story brick block containing an auditorium/dance hall, arcade and stores; facade of red brick with "cast-stone" trim; elements of classical revival style; attached to the block's rear (north) elevation is a former theater (added ca. 1925) which has been excluded from this nomination due to its loss of architectural integrity through fire and deterioration.

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

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

9. 283-289 Main Street. Patenaude Block, ca. 1900-1910: a three-story wood-frame block with a facade of yellow brick; astylistic.

South Side of Main Street

10. 228-230 Main Street. Columbia Block, built 1892, Fuller & Delano of Worcester, architects: a four-story brick block with rock-faced granite trim and ornate terracotta trimmings; elements of Renaissance Revival style.
11. 240-242 Main Street. Unnamed house and block, built ca. 1875, ca. 1900: a two-and-one-half story wood-frame Italianate style house to which a two-story brick block has been added.

NOTE: the following buildings were built at the same time to similar designs, as single development.

12. 248 Main Street. Unnamed block, built ca. 1910-20; originally two row structures, built of brick three-stories high, facade re-faced with stucco and polished granite in Moderne Style (ca. 1940-50).
13. 256-262 Main Street. Unnamed block, built ca. 1910-20; two row structures, three stories high with facades of gray tapestry brick, "cast-stone" trimmings and pressed metal trim; eclectic design.
14. 268 Main Street. Unnamed block, built ca. 1910-20: a three-story brick block with a facade of gray tapestry brick, "cast-stone" and pressed metal trimmings; eclectic design.
15. 274 Main Street. Hall Block, built ca. 1910-20: a three-story brick block of nearly identical design to #268 Main Street.

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
☒ 1900-1925	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1888-ca. 1925 **Builder/Architect** See description

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Main Street Historic District possesses integrity of design, setting and historical associations as Webster's commercial center during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Commercial development in the area dates from 1888, when the Tracy Block (#6) was built to house stores at the first story and offices and apartments above. Prior to 1888, the area was built up primarily with free-standing houses. Development during the 1890s was slow, consisting of a two-story addition to #240 Main Street (#12) and the construction of the Columbia Block (#11), which was planned as a hotel but was converted to retail stores and public halls during construction. Blocks built in the early twentieth century were concentrated on the north side of Main Street and were of the same basic plan and scale as the area's pre-1900 blocks. Major new buildings were constructed on speculation by real-estate developer Lyman Tiffany (#3&5) and by the Racicot Brothers for their large dry goods business (#4). By 1905, the density of new construction had begun to give the area its commercial/row character. Due to the interrelationships of these commercial structures which demonstrate Webster's turn of the century character, the buildings meet criteria A & C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Following a pause in construction of approximately seven years, building resumed in 1912 with the construction of the Larchar-Branch Block (#7) and continued steadily until 1925, by which time Main Street was densely built up. New Buildings of the period included owner-occupied row blocks such as the Gilles Block (#1) built for Nicholas Gilles, a grocer, and the Dugan Block (#10) built for Lawrence Dugan, a pharmacist, whose store occupied the building's first story. Much larger in scale was the Holden Block (#8) which was built at a cost of \$125,000 in 1921 for Michael Holden a former restaurateur. Contained in the Holden Block upon its completion in 1921 were twelve bowling alleys, pool rooms, stores, an arcade and a second floor dance hall. Although most new buildings in the area were devoted entirely to commercial use, the construction of six row buildings on the south side of Main Street ca. 1910-1920 (#13,14,15 & 16) returned to the earlier mixture of first story store fronts and residential apartments above which was used in the construction of the Tracy Block. By 1925, the Main Street Historic District contained a mixture of uses (commercial, residential, amusement and offices) which were characteristic of Webster's central business district until after World War II, when nearby shopping centers drew much of the business from the area.

The Main Street Historic District preserves the largest remaining concentration of Webster's major commercial buildings, representing a variety of styles which were current between the 1880s and 1920s. Especially noteworthy are the Tracy and Columbia Blocks (#6 & 11) both of which were designed by prominent Worcester architects; both buildings remain essentially unaltered above the ground story, and retain ornate terracotta trim, rock-faced granite trim and original sash. Later blocks, such as the Tiffany and Racicot Blocks of 1900-1905 (#5 & 4) retain their original fine pressed brick, dressed limestone trim, recessed bay windows, and pressed metal trim. Blocks built after 1912 are more eclectic in their designs and range from the Spanish Mission/Beaux Arts style of the Larchar-Branch Block (#7) to the Classical design of the Holden Block (#8). Characteristic of the area's smaller scale commercial buildings is the Gilles Block (#1), the trim of which is extremely

9. Major Bibliographical References

Leavens, Charles. Notes on the History of Webster. Webster Public Library (unpublished)
Webster Times. Back issues and the Centennial Issue. City Directories.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property c. 2 acres

Quadrangle name Webster

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UMT References

A

1	9	2	6	1	3	7	0	4	6	5	9	0	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	9	2	6	1	5	2	0	4	6	5	9	0	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	9	2	6	1	5	2	0	4	6	5	9	1	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	9	2	6	1	4	4	0	4	6	5	9	0	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification Properties contained within the district are located on the north and south sides of Main Street in Webster, consisting of lots shown on Webster Assessors' Map #1, Blocks F, G, & M. Included lots are # 11-16 inclusive on Block F, lots #5-9 inclusive on Block G and lots #3-8 inclusive on Block M. The boundary was

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

state	code	county	code
<u>N/A</u>			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Registration Director
B.R. Pfeiffer, Consultant to the Webster Community Development Office

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January 1981

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Peter L. Weslowski

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date 2/17/82

For HCRS use only

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

William H. Braitham

date 4.6.82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet

Item number

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Page 1

simple although apparently derived from Beaux Arts Classical sources. Both the architectural quality of individual buildings in the Main Street Historic District and the area's closely spaced/row facades mark the area as the most well preserved section of Webster's central business district.

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

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

For HCRS use only	
received	MAR 8 1982
date entered	APR 6 1982

Continuation sheet

Item number

10

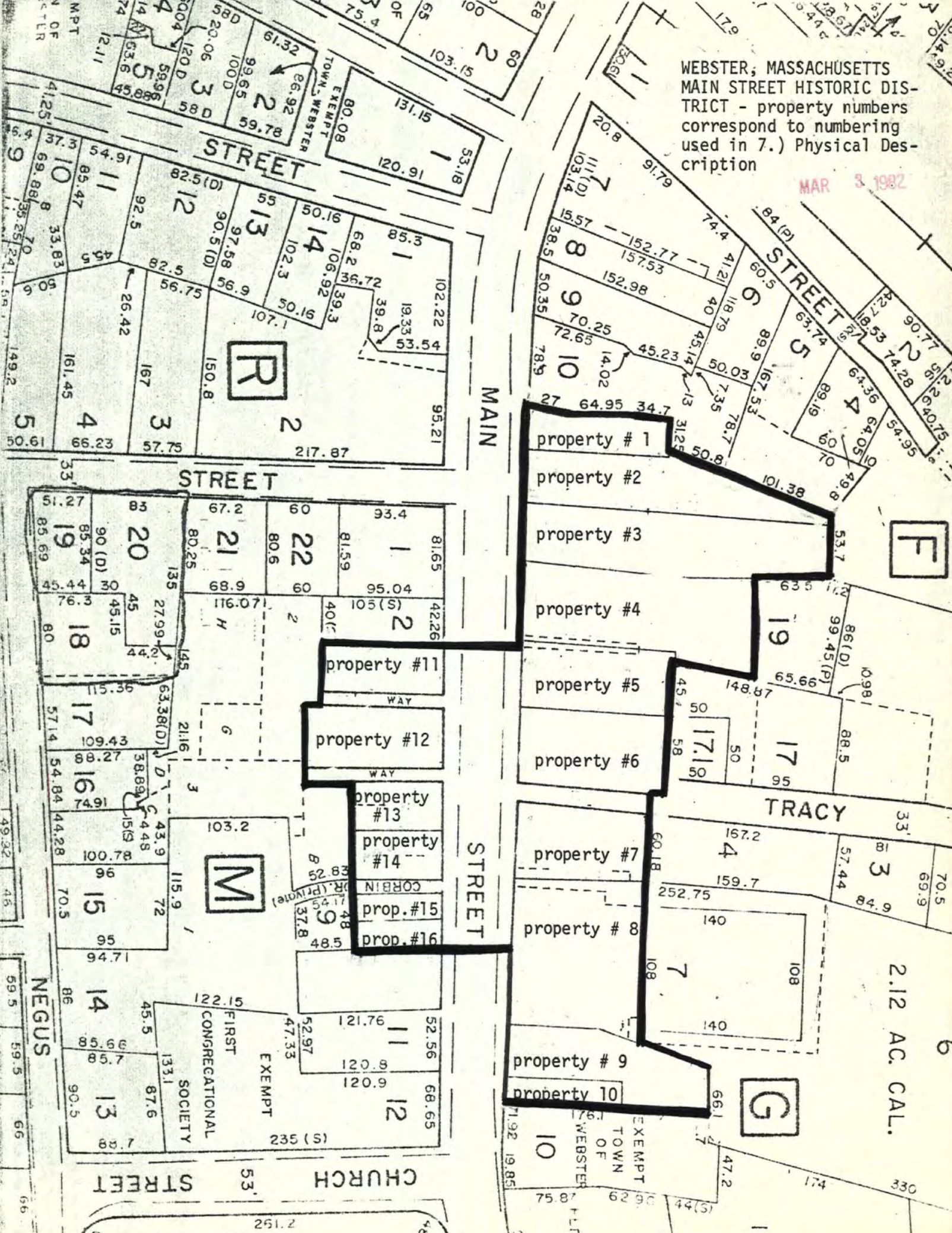
Page

1

drawn to include the largest remaining concentration of commercial structures on Webster's Main Street.

WEBSTER, MASSACHUSETTS
MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT - property numbers correspond to numbering used in 7.) Physical Description

MAR 3 1982



2.12 AC. CAL.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceSubstantive Review
EVALUATION / RETURN SHEETProperty: Main Street Historic District
State, County: MA, Worcester
Federal Agency: _____Working No. 3/3/82-608
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83
Date Due: 4-1-82 / 4-17-82
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4/6/82

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

photos 2
maps 1Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria ACCEPT A+C
Reviewer TRAVERS
Discipline ARCH HISTORIAN
Date 4/6/82
☐ see continuation sheetNomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below1. Name2. Location3. ClassificationCategory Ownership Status Present Use
☒ Public Acquisition Accessible4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing SurveysHas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. DescriptionCondition ☐ 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

okay

C. 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

okay

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USMT 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 Alan Travers

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Main Street Historic District
Webster
Worcester County
Massachusetts

MAR 6 1982

Photo Credit: Brian Pfeiffer
Negative Filed: Brian Pfeiffer
Identification: South elevation of buildings
on north side of Main St.
Date: February 1980

Photo #1 of 2



Main Street Historic District
Webster
Worcester County
Massachusetts

MAR 3 1982

Photo Credit: Brian R. Pfeiffer

Negative Filed: Brian R. Pfeiffer

Identification: North elevation of buildings on
south side of Main Street.

Date: February 1980

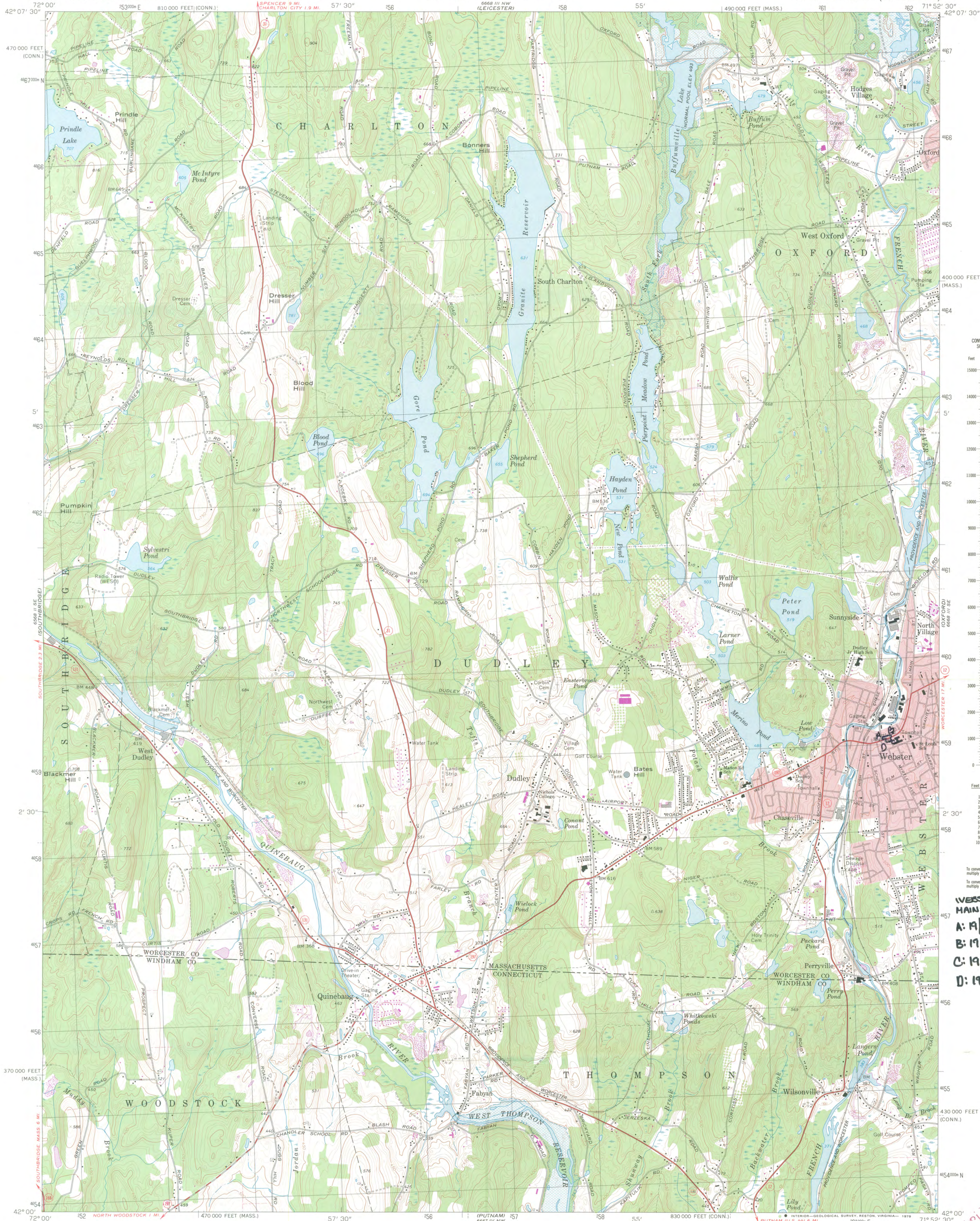
Photo #20F2

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WEBSTER QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS-CONNECTICUT
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



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

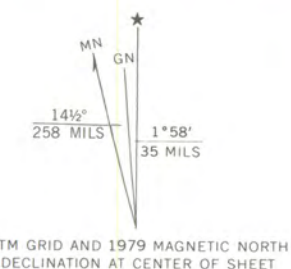
multiply by 3.2808

WEBSTER:
MAIN ST. HISTORIC DISTRICT
A: 19/261370/4659080
B: 19/261520/4659100
C: 19/261520/4659100
D: 19/261440/4659020

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1942-1943. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1969

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 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
Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern
are subject to controlled inundation



SCALE 1:25 000

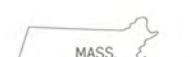
1 000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 0 5 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

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



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

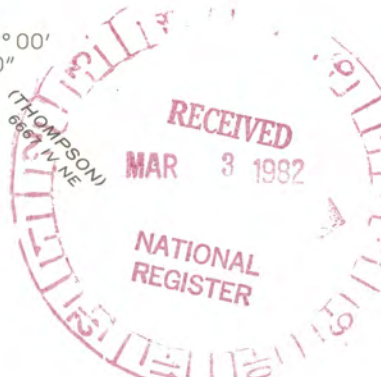
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
State Route

WEBSTER, MASS.-CONN.
N4200-W7152.5/7.5

1969
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6668 III SW-SERIES V814

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
WEBSTER, MASS.



WEBSTER CO-OPERATIVE BANK

218 MAIN STREET



WEBSTER, MASS. 01570

PHONE 943-0680

February 2, 1982

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mass. Historical Commission
294 Washington St.
Boston, Mass. 02108

Re: 226-230 Main St., Webster, Mass.
Your letter dated Dec. 23, 1981

Dear Ms. Weslowski:

In accordance with your letter of Dec. 23, 1981 enclosed find a notarized vote of the Board of Directors of this Bank in which the Board objects to the listing of our property in the National Register.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Luce
Treasurer

Encl. (1)



WEBSTER CO-OPERATIVE BANK

218 MAIN STREET



WEBSTER, MASS. 01570

PHONE 943-0680

RECEIVED

FEB - 5 1982

To Whom It May Concern:

MASS. HIST. COMM.

At a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Webster Co-operative Bank held on Thursday, January 28, 1982, a quorum being present, it was unanimously voted:

That the Treasurer inform the State Historic Preservation Officer, Massachusetts Historical Commission, that this Bank objects to listing the property owned by it at 226-230 Main St., Webster, Massachusetts, in the National Register of Historic Places.

A true copy attest:

Richard C. Luce
Clerk of the Corporation

February 2, 1982

Worcester, ss.: Then appeared the above named Richard C. Luce, Clerk of the Corporation, and acknowledged this to be the free act and deed of Webster Co-operative Bank.

Theresa A. Kruzewski
Theresa A. Kruzewski
Notary Public.

THERESA A. KRZEWSKI

NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires Sept. 6, 1985

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APRIL 6, 1982

Name

Location

Wheatleigh

Stockbridge vicinity
Berkshire County

Main Street Historic District

Webster
Worcester County

Notified

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Paul E. Tsongas
Honorable Silvio O. Conte
Honorable Edward P. Boland

Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, NPS
North Atlantic Regional Office, NPS

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