

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name INDIAN ORCHARD BRANCH LIBRARY

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 44 OAK STREET not for publication

city or town SPRINGFIELD vicinity _____

state MASSACHUSETTS code MA county HAMPDEN code 013 zip code 00151

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith B. McDonough
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

1/8/99
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

2/26/99

Indian Orchard Branch Library
Name of Property

Hampden, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	_____ building
_____	_____	_____ sites
_____	_____	_____ structures
_____	_____	_____ objects
_____	_____	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: library

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls brick, terra cotta trim

roof slate
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Indian Orchard Branch Library is a well-crafted example of a neighborhood library designed in the Classical Revival style. Its symmetrical facade combines brick and terra cotta in a well-balanced composition that exemplifies the simple but elegant features of a style that was popular for public buildings of the early 20th century. **(photo #1)**.

The library is located on the corner of Worcester and Oak Streets, where Indian Orchard's business district ends and its residential neighborhood begins. Just a block north is Indian Orchard's Main Street, which is lined with late-19th and early 20th century brick commercial buildings. Immediately surrounding the library is an urban residential neighborhood of small wood-frame multi-family dwellings, primarily two to four units). **(photo 2)**. The library is set well back from the street, and is constructed on a modest scale, in keeping with the size of the residential structures in the neighborhood.

Architect John W. Donohue used a variety of color and materials to articulate the library's architectural details. The building is one story in height and crowned with a slate hipped roof. The library rests on a brick foundation, which is separated from the main wall of the building by a wide molded terra cotta water table. Red and black brickwork and gray terra cotta trim enliven the library's walls. Quoins of gray terra cotta delineate the building's corner and window bays, providing a contrast in color from the red brick walls. Further variation in color is provided through the use of black bricks alternating with the red. Red vitrified brick is laid in common bond, with two rows of stretchers alternating with rows of headers. Within the header rows, black and red brick alternate.

Classical symmetry characterizes the building's public face. The library's Oak Street (eastern) facade is regular, with a projecting central portico. The portico's triangular pediment is supported by Tuscan columns with unusual capitals decorated with egg-and-dart molding and rosettes. Small wreaths are applied to the entablature over each column, and the building's name and date of construction (1908) are carved into the entablature's broad flat surface. In the center of the pediment is a cartouche carved within the portico under a heavy jack arch, and is surrounded by a transom whose panes are divided by heavy diagonal crosspieces. **(photo #3)**

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Triple windows crowned with jack arches flank the central portico. A small arched eyebrow dormer of copper punctuates the roofline over each group of windows. The windows are recessed slightly, with rectangular decorative panels outlined in recessed black brick below each window. The 1/1 sash windows are surmounted by transoms.

The side facades receive similar decorative treatments to the building's main facade. A central bay, with paired windows and its own hipped roof, projects slightly from each side wall. Terra cotta quoins mark the corners and window bays (photo #4).

The Worcester Street (southern) facade continues to maintain a "public" face, with terra cotta trim continuing around the southwest corner to the first two bays of the back wall. At the center of the back facade, a hipped ell projects slightly. A square cupola or roof vent punctuates the intersection of the main hipped roof with the rear ell's roofline. **(photo #4)** At this point, the only decoration that remains is the terra cotta water table and entablature. Windows on the rear ell and the northeast corner receive simple treatments, and quoins are no longer used to delineate corners and angles.

The site is landscaped with a row of hemlocks (probably the site's original plantings) on the north and west sides and a mature tree at the rear. More recent plantings of evergreen and deciduous shrubs conceal the foundation at the building's Oak Street facade.

The library's interior has a symmetrical floor plan which reflects the building's balanced exterior. (see 1908 proposed floor plan, attached. Note that in execution, the floor plan was reversed.) One enters through a wide vestibule into a large T-shaped reading room **(photos 5 and 6)**. To the south is the circulation desk, shelves and adult reading room; to the north is the children's room **(photos 6 and 7)**. Decorative fireplaces of oversized brick and jack arches and plain wooden mantels ornament the north and south walls **(photos 7 and 8)**. Heavy wooden Tuscan columns support the ceiling in the center of the room and are balanced by wooden pilasters in the same design at the inside corners of the vestibule. The 1/1 sash windows retain their original oak surrounds, and much of the original built-in oak shelving is intact as well. The children's section is further ornamented by two wooden totem poles, carved by Boy Scouts Arthur Winter and William Peterson in 1938 – the pieces have been a fixture in the children's room since their installation. **(photo # 7)**

To the north, paneled oak doors lead to a staff office area and restroom facilities.

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To the south, an area of similar size is joined to the main reading room through an open archway and a plain doorway.

The original layout included a central U-shaped "delivery desk" (no longer in place), where patrons would check out their books. The floor, now carpeted, was covered with mosaic tiles. Other than the removal of the original circulation desk, changes in paint, carpeting, and the instillation of additional shelving, the appearance of the interior has undergone very little major alteration since its construction. The greatest change has been the installation of an acoustical panel drop ceiling and fluorescent lighting fixtures, which took place in 1970. The ceiling conceals an opalescent dome which once lit the library. A wooden crown molding that originally served as a picture rail now forms the cornice for the drop ceiling.

The library's Indian Orchard neighborhood has been associated with Springfield's native population, and artifacts from native cultures have been found along the Chicopee River in Indian Orchard. However, it is not known whether the library site itself is likely to yield any artifacts from native settlements. As there were no settlements in this location during Springfield's early history, the site is not likely to yield any artifacts from 17th or 18th century European settlers. A barn and building belonging to the Frontenac Club occupied the site before the library. Disturbance from construction on the site may make it difficult to retrieve and analyze artifacts from earlier time periods, if any exist.

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are known on the library property, sites may be present. Environmental characteristics of the property represent locational criteria (slope, drainage, distance to wetlands) which are favorable for many types of prehistoric sites. The library is located on a well drained, level to moderately sloping terrace on the south bank of the Chicopee River less than 1000 feet to the north. At least one prehistoric site is also known for the general area (within one mile). Local tradition states the Indian Orchard neighborhood was associated with Springfield's Native population and artifacts associated with Native cultures have been found along the Chicopee River in Indian Orchard. In spite of the above information, the potential for recovering prehistoric resources on the library property is low. The lack of recorded sites on the property and historic development of the small lot (less than one acre) indicated little potential for recovering intact prehistoric resources on the property.

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There is a high potential for locating historic archaeological resources on the library property. While initial settlement of the region dates to the 17th century, little evidence for historic landuse of this property is present until the 19th century and settlement of the area, first by English speaking colonists then later by French Canadians. Structural remains, probably dating to the last half of the 19th century may survive from a building and barn belonging to the Frontenac Club, a social club for the local French Canadian community. The club structures were moved in c.1908 to facilitate construction of the library. Occupational related features, especially trash features related to use of the club may also survive.

(end)

Indian Orchard Branch Library
Name of Property

Hampden, MA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1909-1948

Significant Dates

1909

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

DONOHUE, JOHN WILLIAM

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Connecticut Valley Historical Museum

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Springfield's first branch library, the Indian Orchard branch is a well-preserved example of an early 20th-century Classical Revival public building. As a significant example of the secular work of Springfield diocesan architect John W. Donohue, the library meets criterion C in the area of Architecture. The library represents a time when Springfield was beginning to undergo suburban growth, and beginning to recognize the need to provide more services and amenities to its outlying neighborhoods. Hence, the building meets criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development.

Growth of Indian Orchard

Located along the banks of the Chicopee River in the northeastern corner of Springfield, Indian Orchard remained undeveloped for most of Springfield's first two centuries. While the area that is now Springfield's central business district was inhabited from the 1630s onward, residents did not begin building homes in Indian Orchard until after 1800.

While many colorful (and largely apocryphal) stories have been invented to explain Indian Orchard's name, the most creditable simply states that an island in the Chicopee River was once used by Native Americans to cultivate an orchard. A 1912 newspaper account claims that when the river's water level was low during repairs to a dam, workers discovered the island and remnants of the orchard (*Springfield Republican*, 23 June 1912). Whether or not the story is true, archaeologists have discovered evidence of Indian occupation in the area along the Chicopee River's banks.

It took a long time for Springfield's settlers to move into Indian Orchard after its original inhabitants moved out. Originally known as the "inward commons," Indian Orchard's lands were divided among Springfield residents in 1688, in order to avoid Governor Andros' order to return ungranted lands to the crown. No one seems to have settled on the land until after 1800, however. Even as late as 1850, Indian Orchard only had about two dozen homes.

In the 1820s, Springfield businessman Charles Stearns began acquiring land in the Orchard with the intention of harnessing the Chicopee's rapidly moving water in order to establish some sort of manufacturing facility. Stearns' plans never amounted to anything, however, and he sold most of his holdings in the 1820s. By 1839, the Indian Orchard Canal Company had acquired most of his land, and in 1845 the company had

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bought up many of the holdings of the Springfield Manufacturing Company (which had already developed industrial sites across the river to the north in Ludlow and to the west in the town of Chicopee). The company engaged mason Charles McClallan to build textile mills and boarding houses. In 1853 the Indian Orchard Canal Company conveyed its holdings to the Ward Manufacturing Company, which later turned them over to the Indian Orchard Manufacturing Company. By 1879, Indian Orchard included about 100 buildings, including four hotels, eight stores, three churches, and a post office. (Everts, 1879, 869)

The Indian Orchard Company's textile manufacturing complexes dominated Indian Orchard's early history. Manufacturers played a strong role in the development of the community, installing streets and sewers, sidewalks and even street trees. Indian Orchard's industries sponsored the community's earliest libraries. The Indian Orchard Canal Company, for example, cultivated a reputation as a progressive employer, establishing a library and lyceum for its employees in the 1850s.

Indian Orchard maintained a separate identity from Springfield proper, with residents often acting as if the village were a distinct town. The community had its own Main Street, along with a network of other roads whose names duplicated those found in downtown Sp. In 1856, the village joined with other Springfield neighborhoods in an unsuccessful attempt to secede from the city. Residents proposed to split into a new town named "Delano," after Warren Delano, a director of the Indian Orchard Canal Company (who also happened to be Franklin Delano Roosevelt's grandfather.) A century later, in the 1950s, the village attempted a second unsuccessful secession campaign.

By the 1870s, Indian Orchard was a lively industrial community with a population that was beginning to include French-Canadian immigrants along with the Yankee population. French Canadians began to move into the community in the 1870s, finding jobs in the factories. They came in such large numbers that by 1880 more than half of Indian Orchard's three thousand residents were of French-Canadian ancestry. (Culture Corner: "The French Canadians," *The Register*, January 23, 1980, p. 8) The French Canadians were followed by the Poles in the 1880s, and the Portuguese in the 1890s. By the 1910s, Indian Orchard's population included Poles, Armenians, French-Canadians, Italians, Russians, Greeks, Portuguese and Germans.

The installation of trolley lines in 1892 and the subsequent introduction of the automobile in the 20th century lessened Indian Orchard's isolation from Springfield proper. By this time, however, the neighborhood had firmly established its identity as a

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distinct village. One writer commented that "Indian Orchard has been forced to develop its own economic and social system to such an extent that it has become a small town in itself." ("Is Indian Orchard Branch Justified?" typescript June 3, 1952. Vertical Files, Connecticut Valley Historical Museum) Although 1920s suburban development began to blur the edges of Springfield's outlying neighborhoods, Indian Orchard retained a strong sense of community identity. (See 1910 Richards Atlas map of Indian Orchard, attached)

Development of Springfield's Library System

Springfield's first libraries were small private collections maintained by social clubs, businesses and literary societies. In 1796, the Springfield Library Company formed the city's first known library, consisting of about 300 volumes. Industrial workers formed their own libraries for technical and general literature. The Hampden Mechanics Association, for example, formed a library and evening school in 1824, while the workers at the United States Armory formed the Franklin Library Association in 1844 (which later became the Young Men's Institute). In 1854, another group formed the Young Men's Literary Institute. These were private libraries, usually available only to a specific membership, and often for a fee.

In 1855, 1200 citizens petitioned the city for a public library. City officials made sympathetic noises; for two years, however, they gave priority to other projects over a library. In 1857, the City Library Association was finally organized. The Springfield Institute and the Young Men's Library Association gave the project a jump start when they turned their collections over to the newly formed association. For nearly fifteen years the library used space in City Hall. In 1871, with the completion of the new Victorian-style library building halfway up State Street hill, the Springfield Public Library finally had a home of its own.

Indian Orchard Branch Library

Indian Orchard's earliest library was a private one founded by the Indian Orchard Mills Corporation in 1859. By 1884 this library has 1500 volumes, including newspapers, journals and periodicals available free of charge to the public. The library was one of a number of private libraries in the city at this time. Run by businesses, individuals, or service organizations, some of these libraries, like the Indian Orchard one, were free to all; others charged borrowers a fee.

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By the late 19th century, Springfield's public library system had numerous branches. These were simply small collections of several dozen to a few hundred library books loaned out on a long-term basis to schools, churches, Sunday schools, businesses, and even post offices, fire stations, and carbarns for use by their members or employees or for lending to citizens. The city, however, had no permanent branches designated solely for library use. Indian Orchard's branch consisted of a collection of nearly 900 volumes borrowed from the central library and managed by a volunteer.

In 1901, Henry Kirke Wight, a businessman and life member of the City Library Association, began working to organize a more substantial branch library for Indian Orchard. A Brimfield native, Wight had worked for several manufacturers in Ludlow, Wilbraham, In O before settling in Indian O in 1874. The following year he built the Wight and Chapman block on Main Street and operated a grocery store there for ten years. This brick Victorian commercial building later became the Indian Orchard Branch Library's first home. In 1889, Wight turned his hand to manufacturing again, buying the Indian Orchard Company. Wight became involved in a number of different industries, serving as an officer for the Chapman Valve Company, the Metallic Drawing Roll Company, and the Hodges Fiber Carpet Company, as well as his own Wight-Thayer Company, which he organized in 1898. Wight was active in city affairs, serving several terms on the board of Aldermen and the school board. His son, Ralph Waldo Wight, followed in his father's footsteps and became an alderman as well. When Henry Wight died in 1912, his obituary said: "He might as well be called 'the father of Indian Orchard,' as he had for a long term of years been the leader in all things which were for the benefit and upbuilding of that section of the city." Wight took an interest, not only in promoting Indian Orchard's future, but also in studying its past. When he died in 1912, Wight left behind a partially completed history of the community that he helped build. (Henry Kirke Wight obituary, June 4, 1912, Connecticut Valley Historical Museum)

In 1901, Wight donated space on the ground floor of his business building on the corner of Oak and Main Streets for the creation of a branch of the Springfield City Library. Nellie B. Dodge served as the branch's first librarian (Dodge later became the reference librarian at the central library). Wight persuaded a number of businesses to donate supplies and services for the new library. The United Electric Wire Company wired the room and provided a year's worth of electricity free of charge. George G. Makepeace donated a stove, Wight-Thayer Company contributed fuel, and Hodges Fiber Company donated curtains, while publishers G. & C. Merriam provided a dictionary. When the library formally opened, it became the city's first true branch library, with its own facilities and staff.

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At first the library's collection consisted primarily of children's literature and fiction. However, Indian Orchard's industrial workers quickly demanded technical literature and works in their native languages. Soon the library had a permanent collection of over a thousand books. The library responded to the neighborhood's needs by stocking books and periodicals in German, Polish, Russian, French, Italian, Swedish, and Armenian and by acquiring a large collection of technical and scientific literature.

The new branch saw heavy use almost as soon as it opened. In its first year circulation reached 6,035 volumes, which nearly doubled the following year. By 1907 the library was so heavily used that it was frequently standing room only; the next year "readers could not be seated" because the library was so well-used. In barely seven years the neighborhood had outgrown its library.

The early 1900s were a time of new library construction in Springfield, due to the receipt of a large grant from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Carnegie gave funds for the construction of a new main library on State Street to replace the older Victorian Gothic building, which was now too small for the heavy use it received. Along with funding for the main library, Carnegie contributed \$50,000 for the construction of three branch libraries: in Forest Park, in the North End and one in Indian Orchard.

Indian Orchard branch founder Wight began working with John Heydt, owner of the Indian Leap Hotel, to find a site for a permanent library building. The two businessmen donated a prime lot of land at the corner of Worcester and Oak Streets. A building committee selected an architect in a competition specifically restricted to Springfield designers.

The committee chose John W. Donohue from the designers who competed for the project. A Springfield native, Donohue began his career working with his father, a master mason, in the civil engineering office of the Boston & Albany Railroad. Upon leaving this job, Donohue went to work with Francis Richmond, a prominent Springfield architect. After opening his own office, Donohue made his reputation as the premier architect for Springfield's Catholic diocese, and was responsible for a number of churches and schools, including the campus for the College of Our Lady of the Elms in Chicopee. His Springfield church projects included Holy Family, Our lady of Hope, All Souls, Mount Carmel, and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. He also designed church and school buildings in Holyoke, Amherst, Worcester, West Springfield, Milford, Northampton and North Adams. Donohue worked in a number of historically based styles, from Gothic Revival to Spanish Mission Revival to Classical Revival. An obituary noted that "Mr. Donohue's chief contribution...lay...in the true proportions, relative

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simplicity and the uniform correctness with which he employed familiar architectural motifs and, by adapting them to their setting, gave them the stamp of his individuality." (undated obituary, March 5, 1941, Vertical Files, Connecticut Valley Historical Museum) The simple but elegant Classical Revival design Donohue created for the Indian Orchard Branch Library received national as well as local recognition. In 1911, *The American Architect* published an article featuring Donohue's design. (photo #11)

The site was surveyed by Durkee, White and Towne, and a barn and building occupied by the Frontenac Club moved to that construction could begin in June 1908. Construction work was done by R.E. and M.A. Davis and J.G. Roy and Company. E.C. Atwater and Company did the metal work, John McLeary and Sons installed the slate roof, George R. Estabrook furnished the heating equipment, and George Smith did the plumbing. The ornamental terra cotta was supplied by the Atlantic Terra Cotta Company of New York. Springfield stores Forbes and Wallace and Meekins, Packard and Weeks supplied most of the oak desks, chairs, and other furnishings, while the T.M. Walker company designed the oak shelving.

Alderman Ralph W. Wight donated the loam for grading and landscaping. Poplar and hemlock trees were planted in a border along the western and northern property lines. Some of the original hemlocks remain today. On March 18, 1909, the old library was closed, and its contents moved into the new building.

A grand reception was held at the library's opening on March 26, 1909. The local paper noted that the "rooms were prettily decorated with ferns, palms, cut flowers, and dashes from the wild in pussy willows, pines, etc., and being brilliantly lighted, presented a most cheerful appearance." (Indian Orchard [no newspaper listed], March 27, 1909) A description of the library's original color scheme appeared in a fiftieth anniversary history of the branch: "The vestibule was painted a deep, rich old rose, while the walls of the reading room were a soft, dull green. The Reference Room and librarian's office were a beautiful mauve. Fireplaces in either end added to its attractiveness." (History of the Indian Orchard Branch Library, Typescript, March 9, 1959. Vertical Files, Connecticut Valley Historical Museum)

By 1926 the library boasted a collection of 13,000 volumes and 19,000 pictures. Circulation grew rapidly during the first decades of the library's existence as Indian Orchard's population grew. The neighborhood doubled in size between 1903 and 1922, with the majority of the new residents coming from Springfield's new immigrant groups. By 1926 the Indian Orchard library had a collection of 650 foreign-language books (about 5 percent of the total collection) in German, Swedish, Italian, Spanish, Armenian, Polish, Russian, French and Greek.

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The branch became actively involved in helping the new residents to become citizens, with library staff assisting in citizenship classes as part of the National Citizen Education Program. The branch's 1920-21 annual report, describing the library staff's assistance with Americanization classes for immigrants, noted that "the branch is called upon to fill the place of a community house." A news article celebrating the library's twenty-fifth anniversary in 1926 commented of the Americanization of Indian Orchard's immigrant population. By that time, more than half of the area's foreign-born residents had become homeowners in the neighborhood, making the community their permanent home.

From its founding the Indian Orchard Branch Library has been active in outreach to area schools, both public and parochial. Annual reports are full of notations about library orientation classes for students, or special sections set aside for reserved reading for pupils.

The library also functioned as a "mini-museum" for patrons, exhibiting displays of items from the Springfield Library and Museums collections, bringing those collections to patrons who could not make the trip downtown. Reading clubs and speakers were also popular among library patrons. In 1929, for example, Newberry Medal winning author Dr. Eric P. Kelly spoke about Polish art, literature, and music. In 1937, noted children's author and nearby resident Thornton Burgess drew a large audience.

During the Depression, the Indian Orchard Branch Library served as an important resource for neighborhood residents who had lost their jobs. A 1931-2 annual report attributes a sudden rise in circulation to the recent unemployment, with residents seeking information to help them find new jobs, inexpensive entertainment, or productive ways to spend their enforced leisure hours.

The library's role as a social, as well as an educational, institution is emphasized in many of the branch's early annual reports. The branch's popularity as a local hang-out even caused problems among the staff, who found themselves occasionally calling in local police to eject disruptive youngsters. The 1934-5 annual report comments favorably on the opening of a new E.R.A. activity center on Myrtle Street, which, it was hoped, would relieve some of the library's discipline problems. "For the first time since the present Branch Librarian has been here, there has been a *free* place available for all ages, where it was light, warm and comfortable, and where people could be sociable and talk...the Branch offered the only free diversion before." A 1952 essay written in defense of the library noted that "when people have a problem they automatically think of the library." The writer emphasized the community's dependence on the branch,

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citing heavy library use by schools, immigrant residents, churches, and clubs. The library was so much a part of the community, the writer concluded, that Indian Orchard residents "would never let it go without a bitter fight." ("Is Indian Orchard Branch Justified?")

Throughout the library's history, Indian Orchard residents have given it strong support, contributing funding, supplies, time and labor to maintain and improve it. In 1938, for example, two Boy Scouts, Arthur Winter and William Peterson, carved a pair of massive wooden totem poles and installed them in the children's room, where they have been a popular fixture for fifty years. More recently, in 1983 the Indian Orchard Citizens Council coordinated a neighborhood project to landscape the library's site, enlisting youth volunteers, merchants, library staff and city government to plant shrubs around the building. The project received an Urban Beauty Award from the Springfield Women's Club, which cited the "commitment of an entire community...to improve and enhance something very dear and important to all involved." (Frances Gagnon, quoted by Suzanne Strempek, *Daily News*, February 14, 1983, p. 20)

In 1982 and again in 1990, when the branch was threatened with closing, residents came out in force to petition city officials to keep the library, demonstrating their recognition of the library's value as a community resource.

Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to provide detailed information on the settlement of a 19th century Springfield neighborhood and the ways it adapted to suburban growth. Careful mapping of structural remains from the Frontenac Club and barn combined with detailed analysis of occupational related features can provide information relating to the growth of the French Canadian community. These studies can indicate the extent to which the French Canadian community adapted to life with the local Yankee population or reinforced its ethnicity and the role social clubs played in this process. Archaeological resources associated with the barn can also contribute information relating to 19th century modes of transportation available to the local population.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Indian Orchard Branch Library
Springfield (Hampden Co.), MA

Section number 9 Page 1

9. BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bauer, Frank. *At the Crossroads: Springfield, Massachusetts, 1636-1975*. Springfield: USA Bicentennial Committee of Springfield, Inc., 1975.

Biographical Review. Boston: Biographical Review Publishing Co., 1895.

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D'Amato, Donald J. *Springfield - 350 Years: A Pictorial History*. Norfolk, VA: Donning, 1985.

Everts, Louis H. *History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of its Prominent Men and Pioneers*. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1879.

Frisch, Michael H. *Town Into City: Springfield, Massachusetts and the Meaning of Community, 1840-1880*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1972.

Gagnon, Frances. "Indian Orchard: Village with a Separate Identity," *Springfield Journal*, August 23, 1990, p. 1.

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Insurance Maps of Springfield, Massachusetts. New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1886, 1896, 1911, 1931.

Johnson, Clifton. *Hampden County, 1636-1936*. New York: American Historical Society, 1936.

King, Moses, ed. *King's Handbook of Springfield, Massachusetts*. Springfield: James D. Bill, Publisher, 1884.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Indian Orchard Branch Library
Springfield (Hampden Co.), MA**

Section number 9 Page 2

Konig, Michael, and Kaufman, Martin. *Springfield, 1636-1986*. Springfield, 1987.

Richards Map of the City of Springfield. Springfield: L.J. Richards Map Co., 1899, 1910, 1920

Springfield City Directories, 1890-1920.

Springfield Library and Museums Association. Trustees Records, May 1864-June 1925.

Springfield's Ethnic Heritage: The French and French Canadian Community.
Springfield: USA Bicentennial Committee of Springfield, Inc., 1976.

Wright, Harry Andrew. *The Story of Western Massachusetts*. New York: Lewis
Historical Publishing Co., 1949.

(end)

Indian Orchard Branch Library
Name of Property

Hampden, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 18 Zone	706160 Easting	4670240 Northing	3. 18 Zone	706220 Easting	4670190 Northing
2. 18 Zone	706220 Easting	4670230 Northing	4. 18 Zone	706160 Easting	4670180 Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michele Plourde-Barker, Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, MHC, NR Director

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January 1999

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Springfield Library and Museum Association

street & number 220 State Street telephone 413-263-6800

city or town Springfield state MA zip code 01103

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503. NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

(Rev. 10-90)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

**Indian Orchard Branch Library
Springfield (Hampden Co.), MA**

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The boundary for the property is the same as the boundary for the building lot on which the structure stands.

The property begins at the northwest corner of Worcester and Oak Streets and runs northerly along Oak Street 150 feet, thence westerly 170 feet, thence southerly 150 to Worcester Street, thence easterly 170 feet to the point of beginning.

(end)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Indian Orchard Branch Library
Springfield (Hampden Co.), MA**

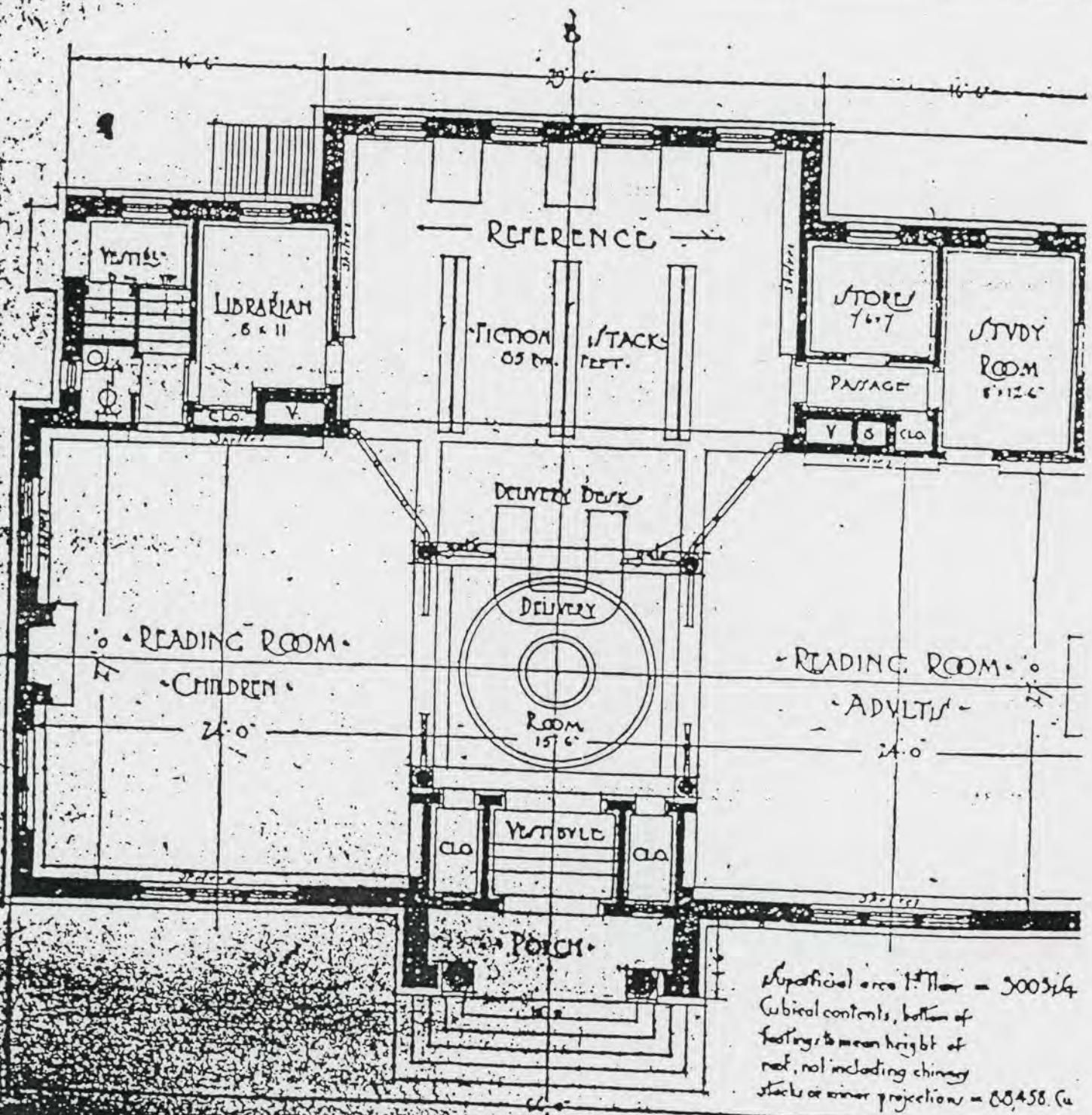
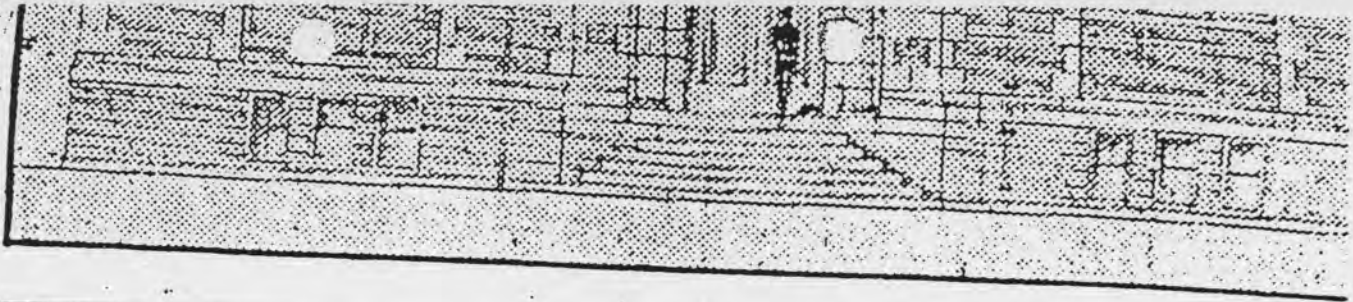
Section number photos Page

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographer: Michele Plourde-Barker
Date: February, 1998
Negatives: Connecticut Valley Historical Museum

1. Oak Street, view facing southwest
2. Neighborhood setting, facing north
3. Oak Street facade, view facing northwest
4. Worcester Street facade and rear, view facing northeast
5. Vestibule, view facing east
6. Interior, view facing north
7. Children's section, fireplace and totem pole, facing north
8. Reading room and fireplace, facing south
9. Study area, camera facing southeast

(end)



Superficial area 1st floor = 3003 1/4
 Cubical contents, bottom of
 footings to mean height of
 roof, not including chimney
 stacks or other projections = 88,458 Cu

INDIAN ORCHARD
 BRANCH LIBRARY
 FLOOR PLAN - AS
 PROPOSED IN 1908

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Indian Orchard Branch Library

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Hampden

DATE RECEIVED: 1/28/99 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/10/99
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/26/99 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/14/99
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 99000258

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/26/99 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in the
National Register**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Indian Orchard Branch Library
Springfield (Hampden), MA

photo by Michele Plourde-Barber
negatives with photographer

east facade, camera SW

PHOTO #1



Indian Orchard Branch Library
Springfield (Hampden) MA

photo by Michelle Plouffe-Barker
negs with photographer

Neighborhood setting
Looking N along Oak St.

PHOTO # 2



Indian Orchard Branch Library
Springfield (Hampden Co.) MA

photographer Michele Plourde-Barker
negs. with photographer

front facade, camera looking N

PHOTO #3



Indian Orchard Branch Library
Springfield (Hampden) MA

photos by Michelle Plouffe-Barker
negs with photographer

w facade (near) camera facing NE

PHOTO # 4



Indian Orchard Branch library
Springfield (Hampden) MA

photo by Michelle Plouffe-Barker
w/eq. with photographer

interior, entrance vestibule
camera facing E

PHOTO # 5



Indian Orchard Branch Library
Springfield (Hampden Co.) MA

photographer: Michele Plouffe-Barker
neg. with photographer

interior, camera facing N
children's section

#6



Indian Orchard Branch Library
Springfield (Mk) (Hampden Co.)

photographs by Michelle Ploude. Barker
wsp. with photographer

interior, Children's section, fireplace + totem pole
camera facing N

PHOTO # 7



Indian Orchard Branch Library
Springfield (Hampden Co.) MA

photos by Michele Plouffe-Barber
negs. with photographer

interior adult reading room + fireplace
camera facing S

PHOTO # 8

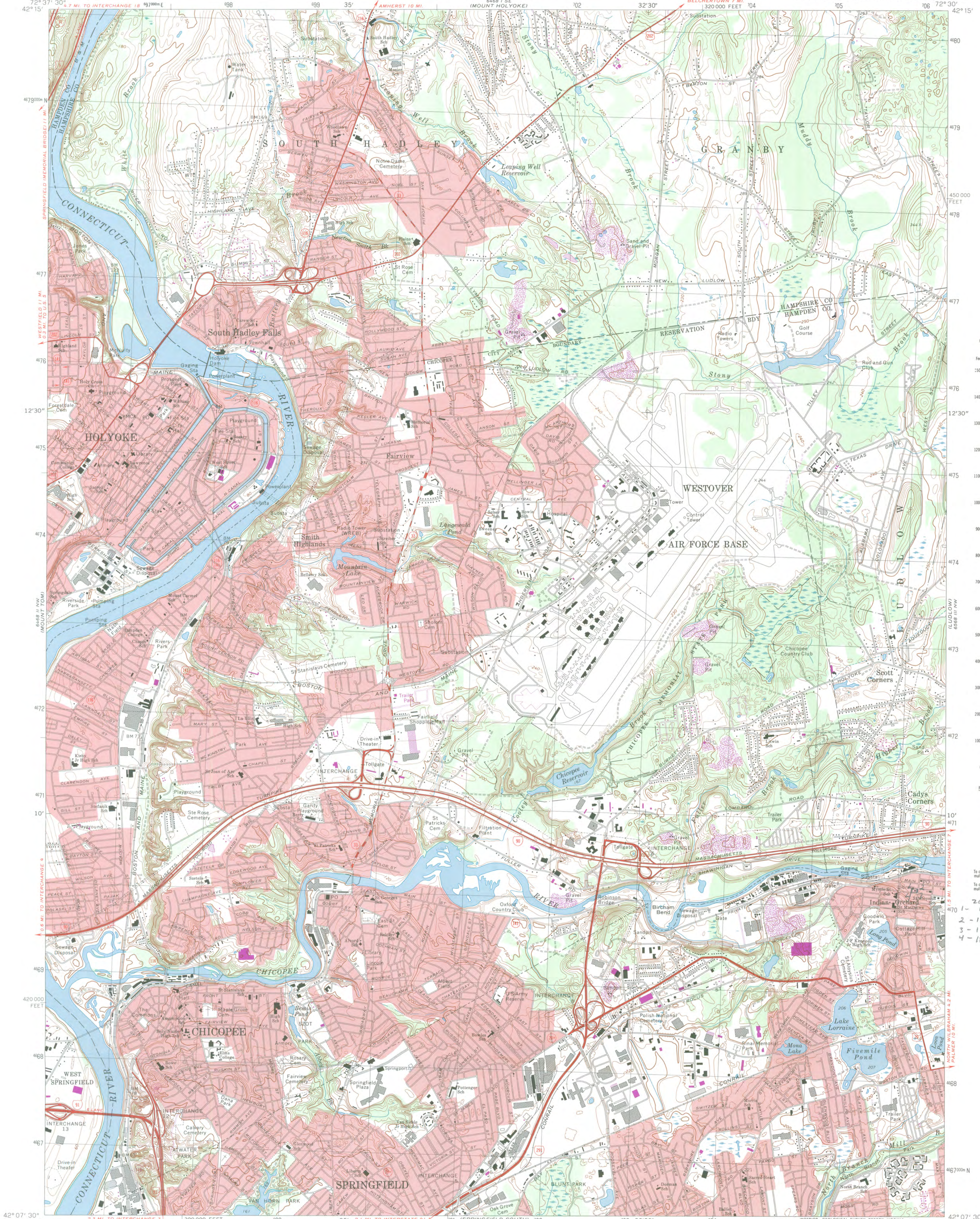


Indian Orchard Branch Library
Springfield (Hampden Co.) MA

photos by Mitchell Plouffe-Barker
negs. with photographer

study area camera facing SE

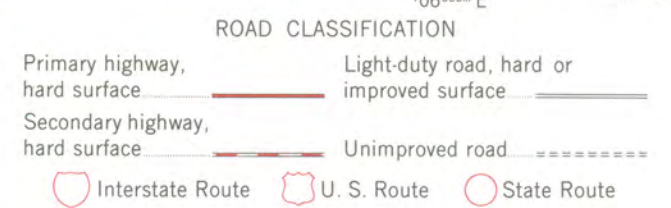
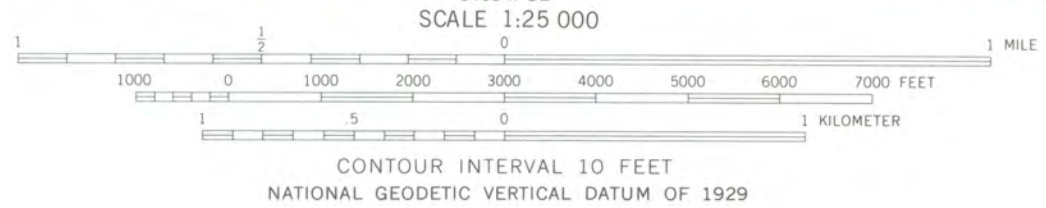
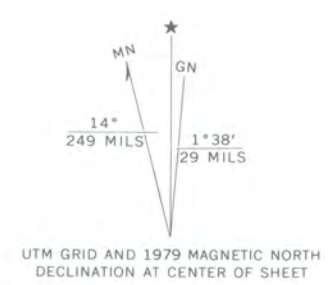
PHOTO #9



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

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
1-18	706160	4670240
2-18	706220	4670230
3-18	706220	4670190
4-18	706160	4670180

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1933. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 18
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 the State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



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

SPRINGFIELD NORTH, MASS.
N4207.5-W7230/7.5

1972
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6468 II NE-SERIES V814

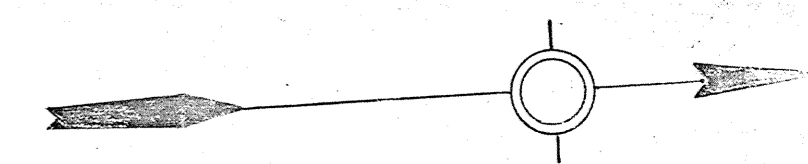
Indian Orchard Branch Library
Springfield, MA



Indian Orchard Branch Library
Springfield MA
USGS Map

936

936



CHICOPEE RIVER

CHICOPEE RIVER

936



DATA COMPLETE TO
 W. P. A. PROPERTY SURVEY PROJECT 20317

BUILDING DEPARTMENT
 SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

FORMULATION S.E. EGGOLETT
 DRAWN BY S.E. COOLEY
 TRACED BY ARIELI A. IN/10
 REVISED BY _____ SCALE 1"=50'

00	00	00	00
01	01	01	01
02	02	02	02
03	03	03	03
04	04	04	04
05	05	05	05
06	06	06	06
07	07	07	07
08	08	08	08
09	09	09	09
10	10	10	10

993

993

Indian Orchard Branch Library, Springfield, MA
Assessor's Map





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

January 12, 1999 William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Indian Orchard Branch Library, 44 Oak Street, Springfield (Hampden Co.), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Emily Bader, Director, Springfield Library and Museum Association
Michele Plourde-Barker, Preservation Consultant, Connecticut Valley Historical Museum
Frances M. Gagnon, Chair, Springfield Historical Commission
Hon. Michael Albano, Mayor, City of Springfield
Bonnie Parsons, PVPC