

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Massachusetts
COUNTY:	Hampden
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	OCT 15 1973

PH0015997

HR 700300
Zn19 4662500

1. NAME

COMMON:

Mills-Stebbins Villa

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

3 Crescent Hill

CITY OR TOWN:

Springfield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Second

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Hampden

CODE

013

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

- ☐ District ☒ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ Public
☒ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☒ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
☐ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☒ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☒ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify) _____
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious _____
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Mr. Ransom Bullard

STREET AND NUMBER:

3 Crescent Hill

CITY OR TOWN:

Springfield

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Hampden Co. Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

51 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Springfield

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE OF SURVEY:

1973

☐ Federal

☒ State

☐ County

☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN:

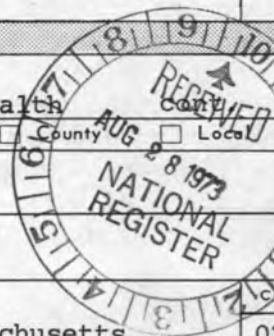
Boston

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025



STATE:	Massachusetts
COUNTY:	Hampden
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	OCT 15 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☒ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mills-Stebbins Villa is located at no. 3 Crescent Hill, a private way connecting Pine and Maple Streets, on a lot of irregular outline comprising about one half acre. The Villa is a brick structure and was originally covered with mastic, probably in imitation of masonry. This is now gone, though all the decorative wood and stone trim remains. The plan is characteristic of the finest houses in the Italian Villa style and is highly asymmetrical, evolving from a shallow-gabled, two-story, central block.

The elevation of the East or principal front is marked by a massing of architectural forms calculated to produce an irregular silhouette and picturesque effect. The most prominent element is the tower, rising high above the rest of the structure and modelled somewhat after a fifteenth century Italian campanille. It is relieved by casement windows in the second story with oculi placed directly above them and terminates in an arched and balustraded brick loggia with overhanging eaves and a bracketed cornice. On the first story, the tower contains the building's main entrance, a round arched doorway, approached by a low flight of stone steps, and trimmed in rusticated stone. It is protected by an arcuated hood with pendant finials; the hood roof serves as a balcony and is capped with a wooden balustrade. To the south of the tower, the facade recedes in successive steps, the final one being a service wing added c. 1900. An oriel window projecting from the second story of the main block and a small, triangular, wooden bay, angled in under the eaves of the service wing, are the most notable features of an otherwise plain fenestration. To the north, a jigsaw cut fence and brackets ornament a wooden, one-story piazza occupying the angle between the tower and the facade; above this, in the second story, is a single casement window.

The North front comprises the formal rooms of the house and is distinguished by a centered brick bow, one story high, with three evenly spaced, full-length casements. Atop the bow is a balcony trimmed with a classical balustrade. In the second story, a pair of round arched openings are centered over the bow; both are hung with double casements giving access to the balcony. The North elevation is capped with a sharply molded pediment and a dentil cornice which extends around the main building block.

The West front of the Villa is stepped in three distinct sections, the southernmost being a two-story nursery wing added in the early 1900's. Architectural treatment of this side includes a stone balustraded closure in the northernmost angle, opposite the wooden porch of the East front. The central block here contains bedrooms and a library. It is pedimented and composed, like the North front, with a pair of round arched windows at second story level opening on to a balcony. The balcony rests on a hood with arcuated trim; below this is a full length casement opening out from the library.

cont.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Hampden	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
OCT 15	1973

(Number all entries)

6. Representation in Existing Surveys cont.

Historic American Buildings Survey,
Depository: Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.
Massachusetts No. 973

7. Description-Physical Appearance cont. Mills-Stebbins Villa, Sprngfld, Ma.

The original South front had a simple elevation, two bays wide and two stories high with a pedimental roof cap. Later additions to the east and west have partially enclosed this design, and it now forms the central element of a tripartite arrangement with projecting end pavillions (west and east c. 1900). A wooden access porch occupies the space between these projections.

The interior of the Villa is in poor but original condition. For many years its vacant condition was a lure to vandals, but the present owners have undertaken as long and painstaking restoration. In the future the three story hanging, circular staircase, and the formal rooms with finely carved marble fireplaces and decorative plasterwork will be restored to their original magnificent condition. The exterior of the Villa has already undergone considerable improvement and the landscaping of the grounds comprises open lawns, a small pine grove, two huge, old beech trees, as well as various, scattered plantings. The variety of natural forms found on the grounds is an foil to the variation of form and picturesque quality of the Villa, itself.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1849-51, c. 1900, c. 1920

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☒ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☐ Other (Specify) _____ |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | _____ |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | _____ |
| ☒ Architecture | ☐ Landscape Architecture | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Literature | ☐ Theater | _____ |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Military | ☐ Transportation | _____ |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Music | | |
| ☐ Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mills-Stebbins Villa is the oldest and finest example of the Italian Villa style in Springfield, Massachusetts, and has been described by Henry Russell Hitchcock as "one of the finest nineteenth century houses in America." The building was constructed in 1849-1851 from designs by Henry A. Sykes of Suffield, Connecticut. The architect of many outstanding buildings in western Massachusetts, Sykes apprenticed with the noted builder Chauncy Shepard of Springfield and most probably worked with Isaac Damon of Northampton and with Ithiel Town and A. J. Davis of New Haven. The Mills-Stebbins Villa was designed in the middle of Sykes' short career (he died in 1859 at the age of 49) and is undoubtedly his best work.

The first owner of the house, John Mills, was a prominent Springfield attorney; he served as State Treasurer and was vice-presidential candidate on the Free Soil Ticket. Following Mills' death in 1861, John B. Stebbins acquired the house. A successful banker and merchant, Stebbins held a number of local political offices and was also a State Representative. In addition, Stebbins owned extensive tracts of real estate in Springfield and played a major role in the development of the suburban areas of the city during the late nineteenth century. The Villa remained in the Stebbins family until 1962.

The site of the Mills-Stebbins Villa is also locally significant, since it was in this area that many prominent Springfield families chose to build their homes. The house is set at the top of the ridge which once separated the working-class South End from Maple Street Hill, the affluent suburbia of nineteenth century Springfield.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Henry Russell Hitchcock, Architecture of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries, Second ed., Penguin Books, Baltimore, 1963.
Springfield Architecture 1800-1900, 1934.
 Juliette Tomlinson, Ten Famous Houses of Springfield, Connecticut Valley Historical Museum, Springfield, 1952.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	42 ° 05 ' 41 "	72 ° 34 ' 32.5 "		
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Under 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Polly Rettig, Historian for the Mass. Hist. Comm. and
 Alexander A. Cassie, Consultant, for Elizabeth R. Amadon, State Survey Dir.
 ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE: Feb. 20, 1973
 STREET AND NUMBER: 40 Beacon Street (617) 727-8470
 CITY OR TOWN: Boston 02108 STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name: John F. X. Davoren
 John F. X. Davoren, Secretary of the Commonwealth and Chairman of the
 Title: Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date: 8/12/73

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

Ernest A. Connolly
 Associate Director
 Professional Services

Date: OCT 15 1973

ATTEST:

Wm. H. Smith
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10-9-73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PROPERTY Mills-Stebbins Villa STATE Mass.

73000299

WORKING NUMBER

8.28.73.3504

Hampden

TECH REVIEW

Photos 1Maps 2

CONTROL REVIEW

Photo and map forms are comingCm
8-29-73

OK

HISTORIAN

Accept
AML

9/20/73

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept 9-25-73

Accept
KHC
10/1/73

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept
Rag 10/1/73

KEEPER

WHA
10/9

National Register write-up _____

Send-back _____

Federal Register entry 12-4-73

Re-submit _____

Entered _____

OCT 15 1973



Springfield, MASSACHUSETTS

3 Crescent Hill

Mills/Stebbins Villa

Ransom & Linda Bullard

Kathleen Morehead, Photographer

January 26, 1973

View - North and ~~West~~^{East} facades

NPS Number 10/15/73

Title: Mills-Stebbins Villa

Loc. Hampden, Mass.

NORTH AND EAST FACADES

①

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Morehead
PHOTOGRAPHY

SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

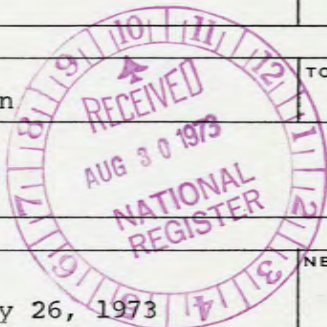
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Mills-Stebbins Villa	Same	
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Hampden	Springfield
STREET AND NUMBER		
3 Crescent Hill		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Kathleen Morehead	January 26, 1973	Ransom and Linda Bullard 3 Crescent Hill, Springfield
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

View from the Northeast of the North (right side) and East facades of the house.



OCT 15 1973

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

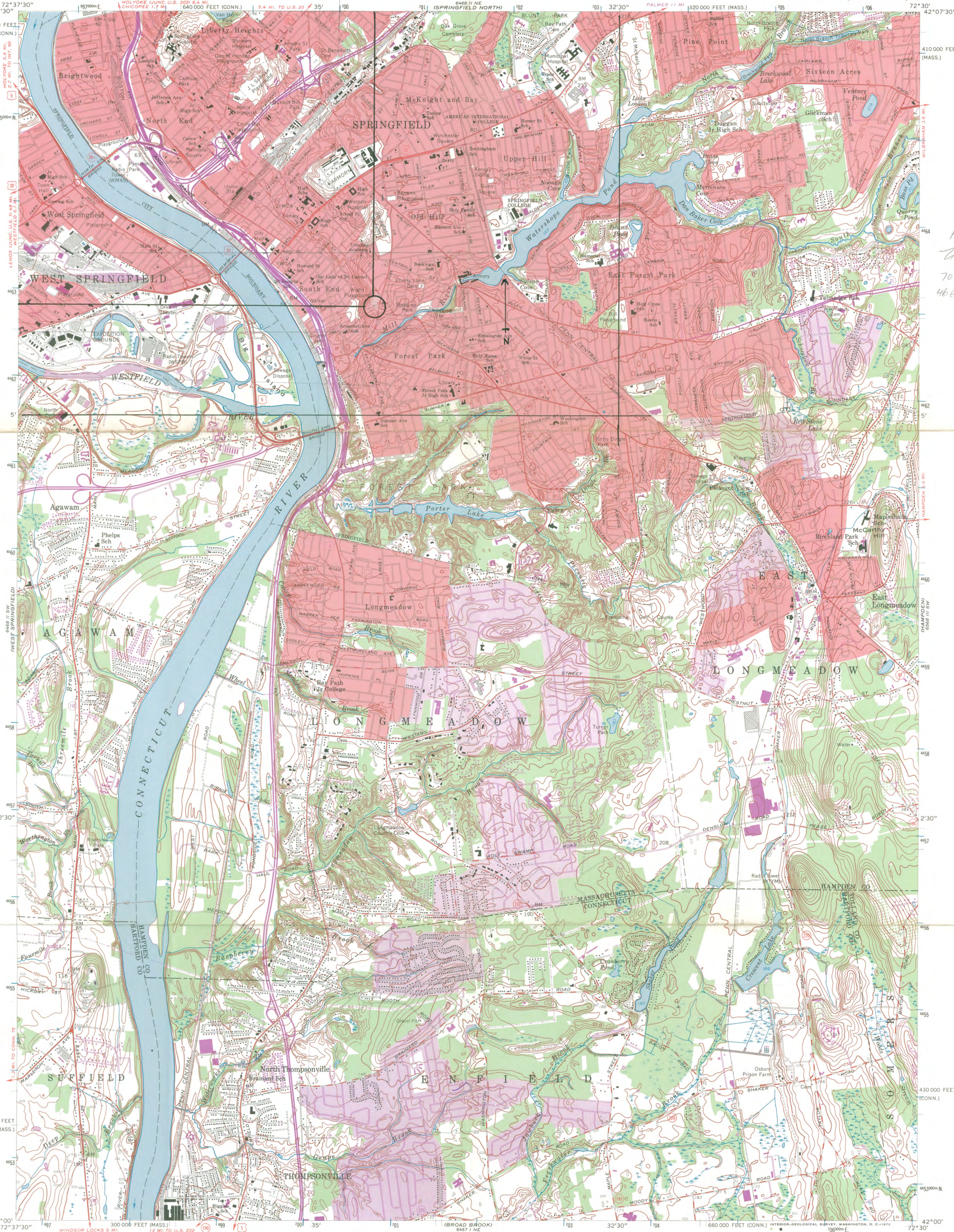
STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SPRINGFIELD SOUTH QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS-CONNECTICUT
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6568 III NW
(LOWDOWN)

STEBBINS VILLA
SPRINGFIELD

42° 05' 41"
72° 34' 32"



H/B
Zn 18
700300
4662500

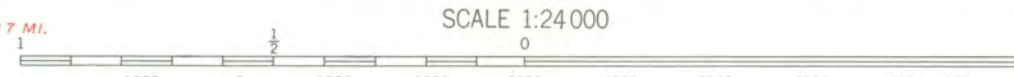
Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey,
and Connecticut Geodetic Survey

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

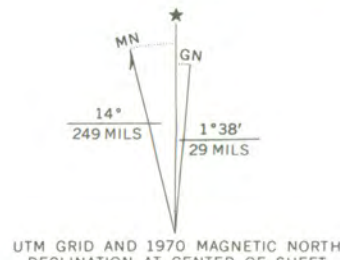
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Connecticut coordinate system
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown

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



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



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

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

1958
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 6468 II SE-SERIES V814

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME		
COMMON Mills-Stebbins Villa	AND/OR HISTORIC Same	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS) OCT 15 1973
2. LOCATION		
STATE Massachusetts	COUNTY Hamden	TOWN Springfield
STREET AND NUMBER 3 Crescent Hill		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' Quadrangle Map Springfield South	DATE 1958, revised 1970/	SCALE 1:24000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME

COMMON

Mills-Stebbins Villa

AND/OR HISTORIC

Same

NUMERIC CODE *(Assigned by NPS)*

2. LOCATION

STATE

Massachusetts

COUNTY

Hampden

TOWN

Springfield

STREET AND NUMBER

3 Crescent Hill

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

John R. Wilson
Springfield Planning Dept.

DATE

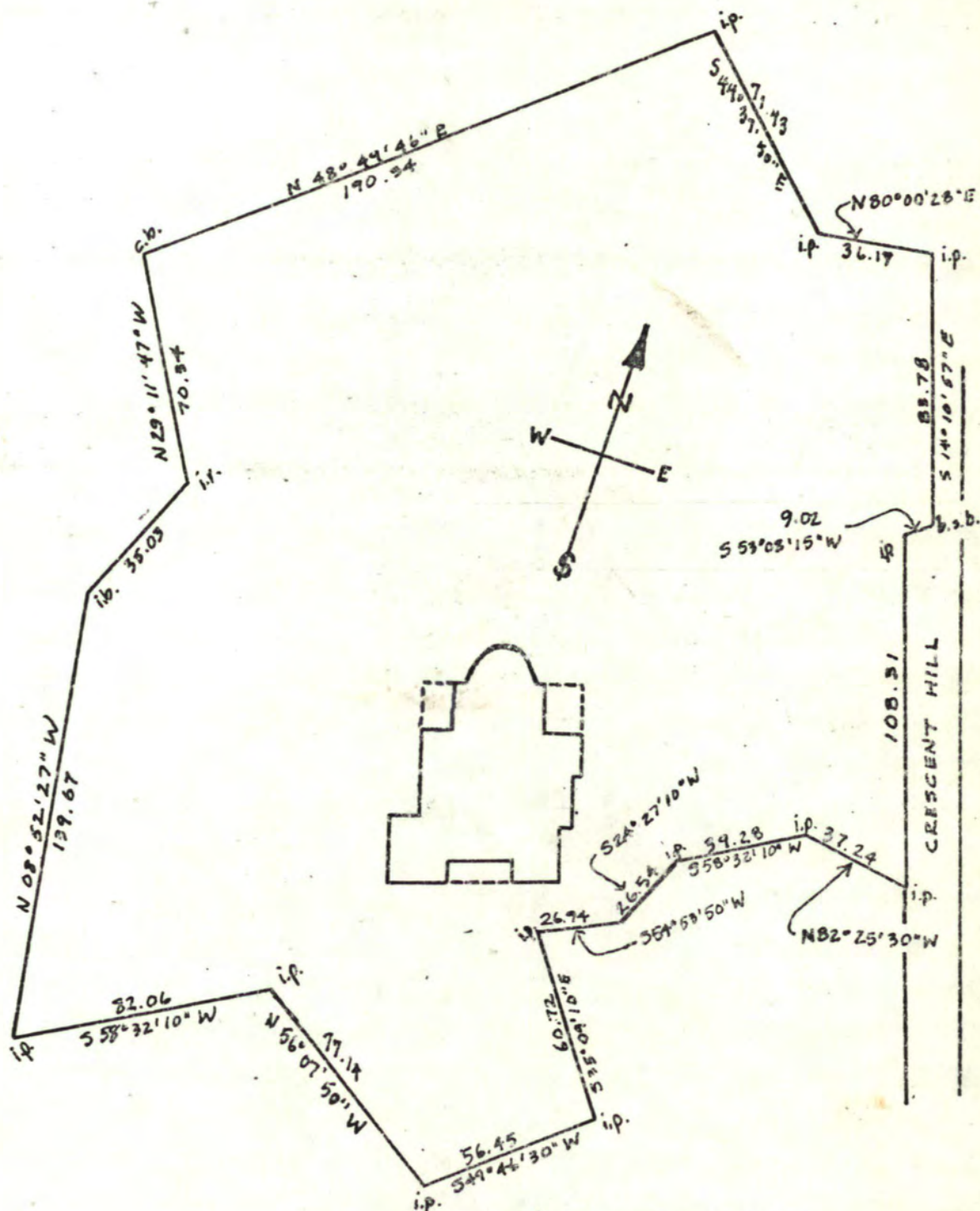
January, 1973

SCALE

1"=50'

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.





MILLS/STEBBINS VILLA

1" = 50'

JAN. 1973



SPRINGFIELD, MASS.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
Massachusetts Historical Commission

John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth

~~3~~ *Joy Street*
40 Beacon Street

Boston, Mass. 02108
(617) 727-8470

August 23, 1973

National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Attention: Jerry Rogers

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Jerry:

Enclosed are the National Register nominations for:

Springfield, Stebbins Villa;
Lincoln, Daniel Brooks House.

These have been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and have been signed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, John F. X. Davoren, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and designated State Preservation Officer.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth R. Amadon

Elizabeth R. Amadon
State Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered OCT 15 1973

Name

Location

Quincy Granite Railway

Quincy
Norfolk County

Mills-Stebbins Villa

Springfield
Hampden County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. James A. Burke
Hon. Edward P. Boland

Director, Northeast Region

PHR MMott 10/25/73

State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108