

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received DEC 6 1984

date entered JAN 3 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections**1. Name**

historic South Main Street School

and/or common Acushnet Avenue School

2. Location

street & number 11 Acushnet Avenue N/A — not for publication

city, town Springfield N/A — vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Hampden code 013

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	N/A	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government
	☐ in process	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial
	☐ being considered	☐ no	☐ military
			☒ other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name City of Springfield

street & number 36 Court Street

city, town Springfield N/A — vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hampden County Register of Deeds

street & number 50 State Street

city, town Springfield state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1983 #2989 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

South Main Street School, Springfield, Massachusetts

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 South Main Street School faces northwest on the corner of South Main Street and Acushnet Avenue in the midst of a neighborhood that mixes late 19th and early 20th century housing with commercial storefronts. It is located in Springfield's South End, approximately one mile from the city's downtown section.

The symmetrically designed South Main Street School is rectangular in plan with a central pedimented entrance pavilion. Two five-bay classroom wings flank this nine-bay central section. Built of brick, the two-story building has finely detailed classical ornamentation of both brick and terra-cotta.

The school rests on a granite foundation topped by a brownstone watertable, which acts as a continuous lintel for the high basement windows. A low flight of granite steps leads to the center entrance pavilion on the building's main, northwestern facade. The two-story building is surmounted by a low hipped roof with central gable. The gable's pediment, trimmed with tin cornice and dentils, contains a lunette. There are four symmetrically placed chimneys and a single roof hatch.

The main facade, on Acushnet Avenue, is dominated by the nine-bay central entrance pavilion. The entryway is recessed behind three arched openings separated by brick piers. The piers are rusticated to resemble masonry. First-story window openings surrounding the entry are grouped in pairs and have brownstone sills. A brownstone cornice and frieze separate the first and second stories of the pavilion, and "1895" is embossed on the frieze immediately above the central doorway. The pavilion's second story features a nine-bay arcade with brick pilasters, terra-cotta capitals, and arches. In the arch spandrels are eight decorative medallions, four of which contain masks said to portray Benjamin Franklin. The remaining four have oak-leaf rosettes. A classically inspired entablature defines the top of the building. Above, the tin-trimmed pediment contains a tympanum with brick frieze and terra-cotta framed lunette.

Flanking the central pavilion are two projecting sections, five bays each, set off by rusticated brick quoining. Rectangular fenestration is capped by shallow keystones, and individual openings are separated by brownstone engaged columns. The bays are symmetrically aligned. Capping both sections is a low brick balustrade.

The school's nine-bay western and eastern facades are framed by brick quoining and capped by brick balustrades. Both have single central windows flanked by four-window groups. Brownstone engaged columns define each window opening on the western facade, while those on the east are separated by brick piers and those on the first floor are capped by a brick keystone. The western facade faces Main Street and has decorative metal letters, spelling out the school's name, between the first and second stories. A one-by-four-bay single-story brick addition extends from the rear portion of the eastern side of the building.

The symmetrical rear elevation is divided into five sections. Dominating the facade is a slightly projecting nine-bay central portion with fenestration and ornamentation similar to that on the eastern and western facades. Two recessed single-bay sections flank the center. At either end of the building, slightly projecting five-bay sections reflect the arrangement of the main facade. Roof treatments likewise echo the Acushnet Street facade, with two small gables above the entablature of each of the recessed entrances.

The interior retains its original floors, staircases, and much of its woodworking. Particularly noteworthy is the wainscotting in a number of classrooms.

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Continuation sheet South Main Street School Item number 7 Page 1

The South Main Street School ceased its function as a fulltime elementary school in the mid 1970s. For several years, the building housed special-education classes, but it was vacated in 1982. Future plans call for the school to be converted to housing for the elderly.

Archaeologically, the property has some potential for prehistoric sites. It is based on a southwest facing terrace above the original influence of the Mill and Commission rivers. In terms of historic archaeological potential, builder's trenches and other related construction features, evidence of earlier structures, and refuse scatters may be expected.

8. Significance South Main Street School, Springfield, Massachusetts

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 1895–1897

Builder/Architect

Francis R. Richmond

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The South Main Street School is a well-preserved example of late 19th century schoolhouse architecture displaying Renaissance Revival styling. It is significant as a reflection of Springfield's rapid development in the last decades of the 19th century and as one of the finest remaining 19th century schoolhouses in Springfield. It is a major work of an important local architect of the period, Francis R. Richmond. The school retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, and workmanship and fulfills criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

Springfield's growth in the late 19th century was unprecedented, with increased urban density and industrial development. The formerly sparsely populated South End became a center of inexpensive housing. Large numbers of immigrants flocked to the South End, attracted in part by the area's proximity to Springfield's industrial center and by its new trolley system. During the 1880s, several new streets were laid out off Main Street and were soon lined with two-family houses. A brick three-room schoolhouse, built ca. 1840 on nearby York Street, was no longer adequate.

In 1895, the city purchased the large corner lot at Main Street and Acushnet Avenue from developers A. A. and S. T. Ball. The new school, completed in 1897, offered a vastly increased space for elementary education as well as the most up-to-date concepts of ventilation, heating, and sanitation. The South Main Street School was part of a citywide trend toward building new schools and enlarging and improving existing neighborhood schools in Springfield.

The South Main Street School is an unusually fine and well-preserved example of schoolhouse architecture. It retains its original, high-quality Renaissance Revival-style features. The building is a rare schoolhouse design from the later part of the career of Springfield architect Francis Richmond.

Francis R. Richmond (1851–1907) joined the Springfield architectural firm of Perkins and Gardner in 1870. When E. C. Gardner left the firm to set up his own practice in the mid 1870s, Richmond continued in Gardner's service. In 1882, Richmond entered into partnership with B. Hammett Seabury, a recent graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The firm of Richmond and Seabury received a number of municipal contracts in Springfield. Surviving examples include the Oak Street (1883), Tapley (1887), and Jefferson Avenue (1888) schools. All feature Richardsonian Romanesque arches, brick and stone masonry, and picturesque massing. Richmond and Seabury also designed the Queen Anne-style Hale Smith House (1883) and E. S. Sweatland House (1886) in Springfield.

The partnership dissolved in 1891, and Richmond established his own practice in Springfield. While his first independent commissions (including the North Main Street Fire Station, 1892, still standing) continued in the same Romanesque style he had favored earlier, Richmond began to move toward Renaissance Revival styling by the mid 1890s. Symmetry and classically derived detailing marked this period of Richmond's work and continued until the end of his career. In addition to the nominated property, other examples include the panel brick Stacy Building (1893; NR 1983), and the Brewer Building (1893), both commercial buildings in downtown Springfield, the Memorial Church Parish House (1894–1895), and the Springfield Industrial Institute (1895).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Municipal Report of the City of Springfield, 1896, 1897
Richmond & Seabury, Springfield Vertical File, Springfield, City Library
Springfield, Atlases: 1882, 1899, 1910

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 33680 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name Springfield South

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UTM References

A 18 700180 4662600
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betsy Friedberg, Preservation Planner (MHC), with Edmond P. Lonergan, Springfield

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date October 1984

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Valerie A. Talmage

title State Historic Preservation Officer Massachusetts Historical Commission date November 14, 1984

For NPS use only

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

John A. Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

1-3-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet South Main Street School Item number 8 Page 1

Archaeologically, the property has some potential for helping to document the rapid growth of Springfield during the late 19th century, especially the development of immigrant neighborhoods and the role that institutional facilities played in this process.

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Continuation sheet South Main Street School 11 Item number 10

Page 1

Beginning at the intersection of the southerly line of Acushnet Avenue with the easterly line of Main Street and running thence easterly 294.14 feet along the said Acushnet Avenue to a bound; thence southerly 130.68 feet to a bound; thence westerly 255.81 feet to the easterly line of Locust Street; thence along the said Locust Street to its junction with Main Street, and along the easterly line of Main Street to the point of beginning, for a total of 123.24 feet. (From Assessors Block Plan 622. Also see Registry of Deeds: Book 502, P. 2; Book 526, P. 354; and Book 552, P. 243).

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

South Main Street School
Hampden County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. DEC 6 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86
Date Due: 1/3/85 - 1/20/85
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 1-3-85
☐ RETURN
☐ 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: _____

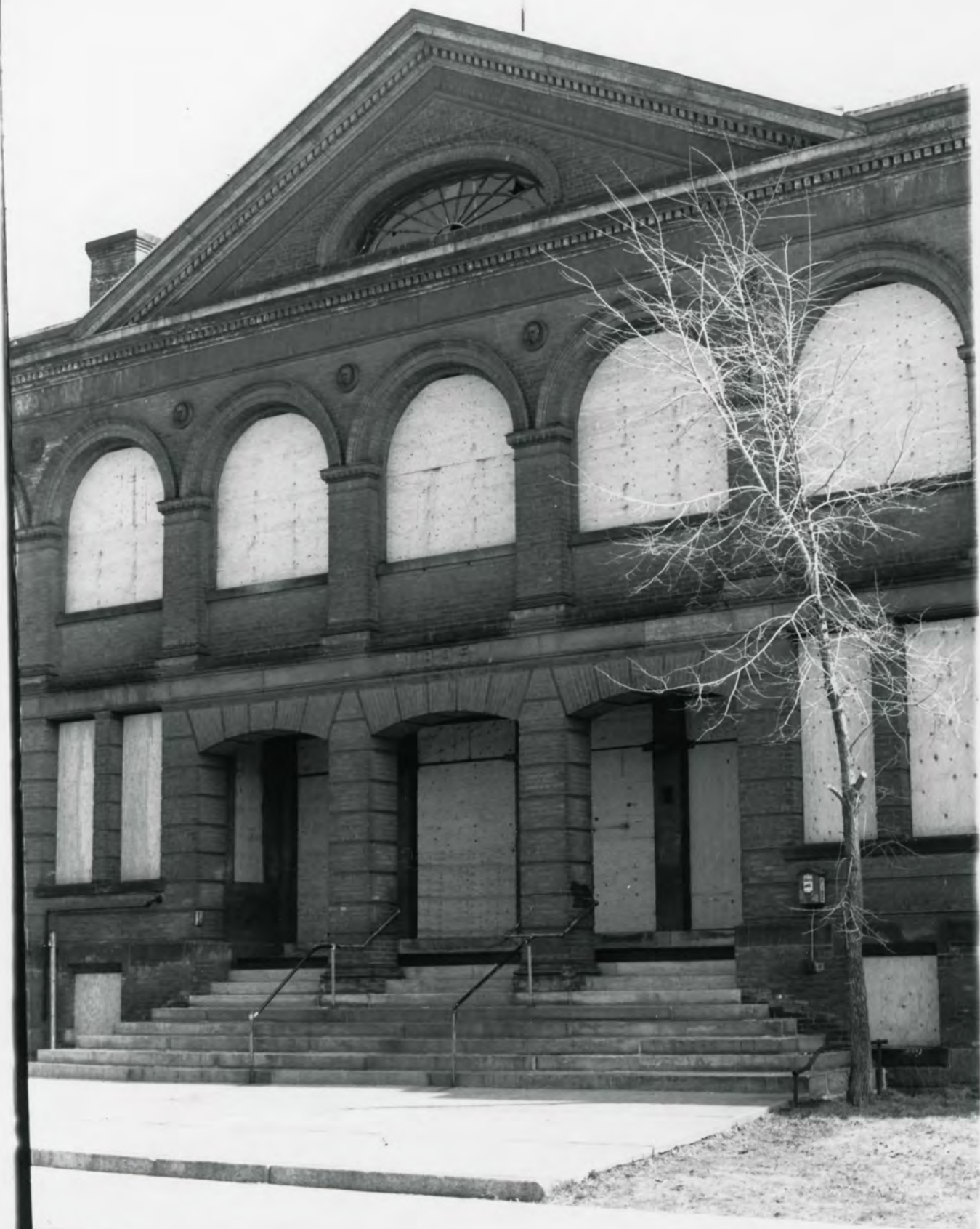
Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



South Main Street School 11 Acushnet Ave.
Spt 14. MA Ed Lonergan = photog.

Photo # 1062

View of two main facades: Acushnet Ave.
South Main St.

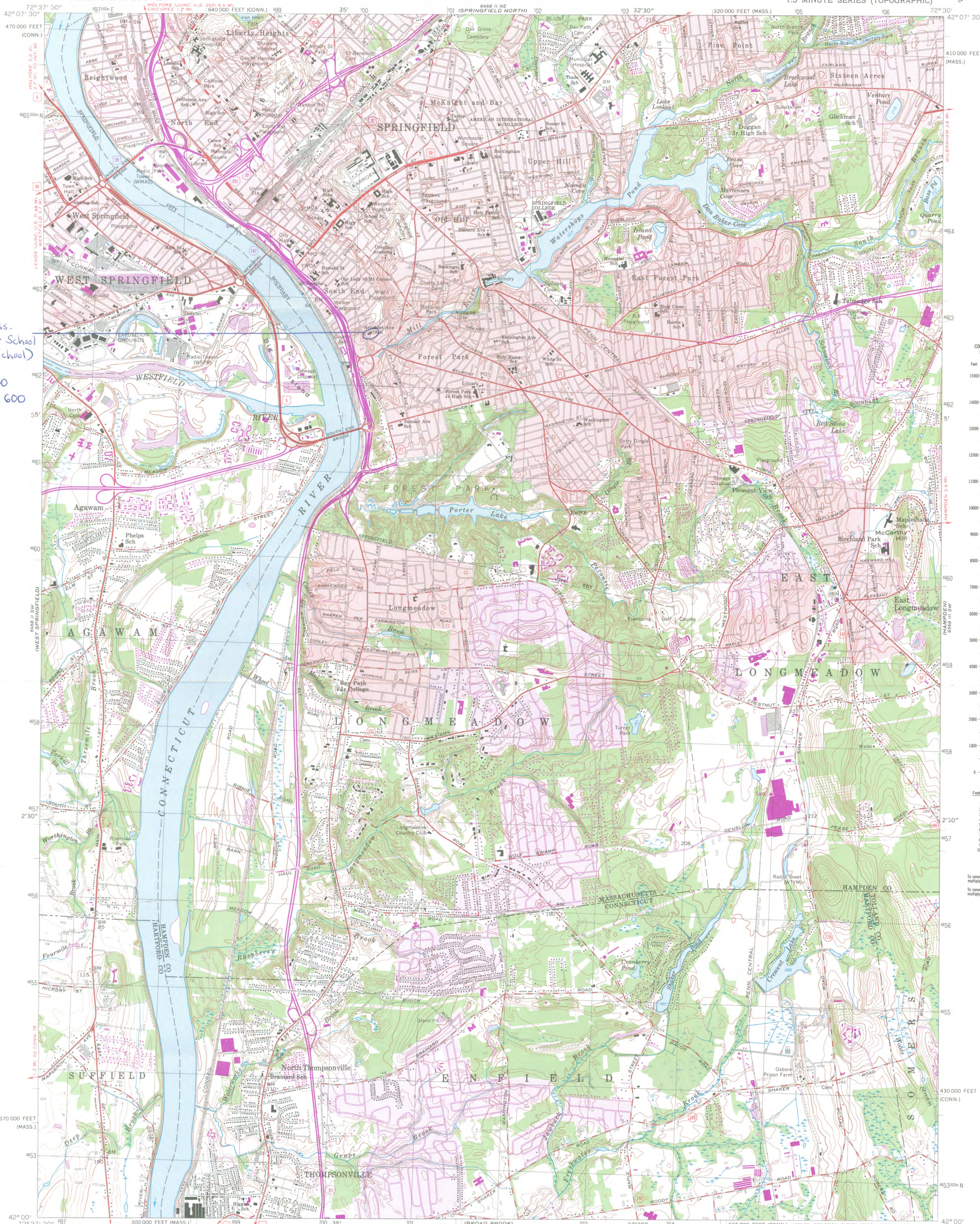


South Main Street School 11 Acushnet Ave.

Spt 14 MA E. Lanergan: photog.

Photo #2 of 2

Detail: Main Entrance (Acushnet Ave.)



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 .3048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGS, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey,
and Connecticut Geodetic Survey

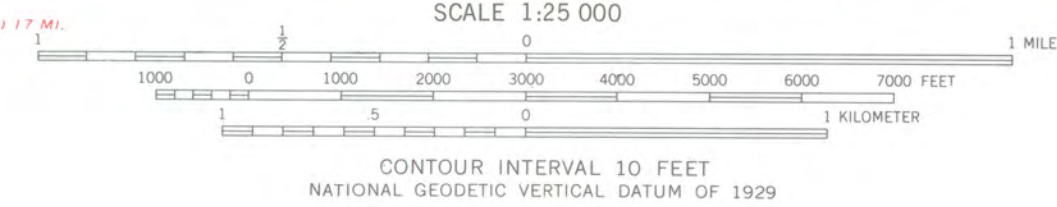
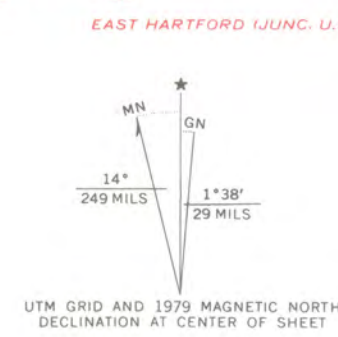
Topography by planetable surveys 1933 and 1942
Culture revised from aerial photographs by photogrammetric
methods. Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1958

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

Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown

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

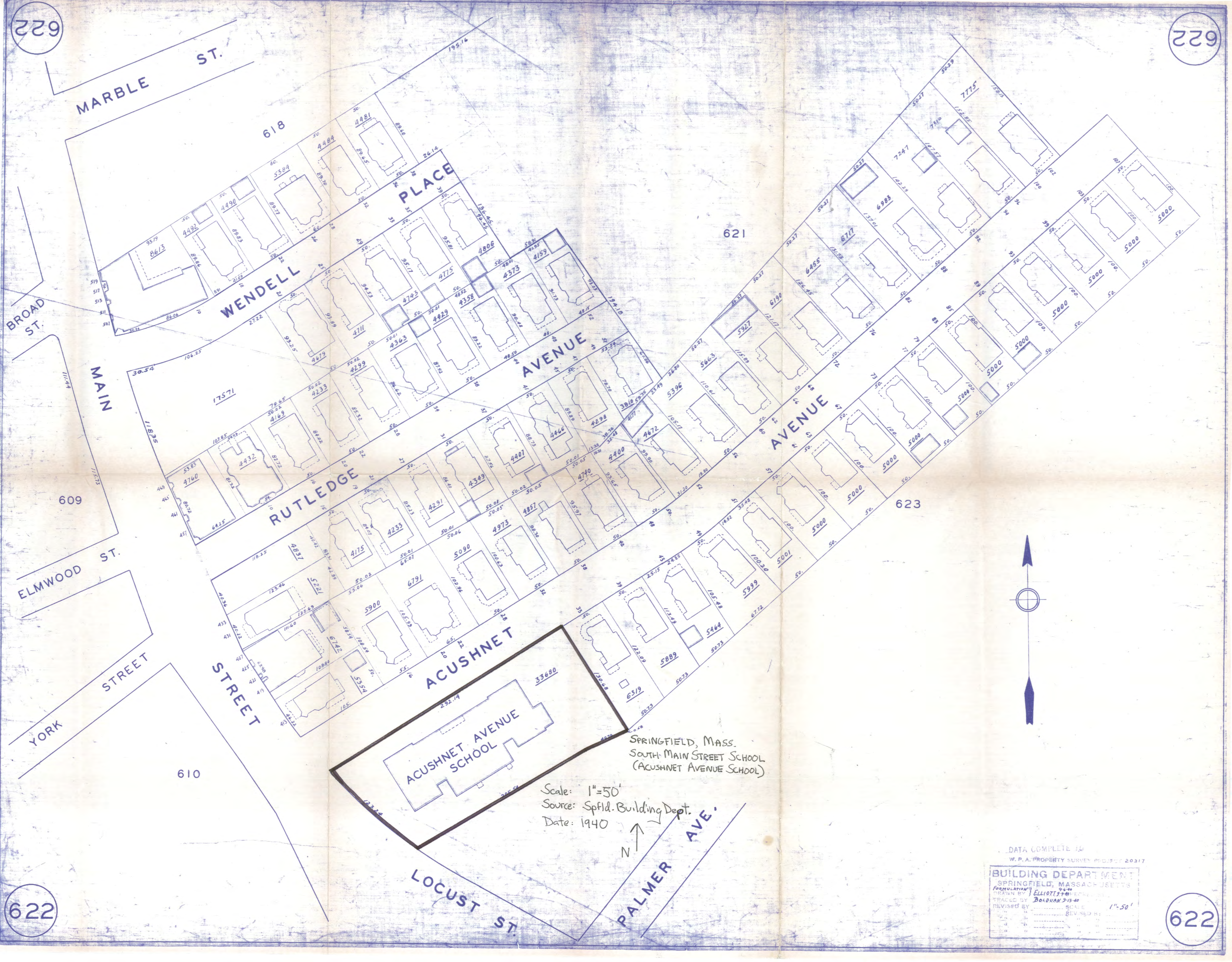
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



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

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

1958
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6468 II SE-SERIES V814



Scale: 1"=50'
Source: Spfld. Building Dept.
Date: 1940

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
SOUTH MAIN STREET SCHOOL
(ACUSHNET AVENUE SCHOOL)



DATA COMPLETE 12
W. P. A. PROPERTY SURVEY PROJECT 20317

BUILDING DEPARTMENT	
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS	
FORMULATION	9-4-40
DRAWN BY	ELLIOTT & FENNER
TRACED BY	BOLDUAN 2-13-40
REVISED BY	SCALE
	1"=50'



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Valerie A. Talmage

Executive Director

State Historic Preservation Officer

November 19, 1984

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
18th & C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

1. Anthony House, Adams, MA (local)
2. Baird House, Amherst, MA (state)
3. Bellingham Square Historic District, Chelsea, MA (local)
4. Ezra Carpenter House, Foxboro, MA (local)
5. Arlington Mills Historic District, Lawrence & Methuen, MA (state & local)
6. St. Patrick's Church, Lowell, MA (local)
7. Schooner Ernestina, New Bedford, MA (national, state & local)
8. Dr. Samuel Warren House, Newton, MA (local)
9. Myrtle Street School, Springfield, MA (local)
10. South Main Street School, Springfield, MA (local)

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

Sarah J. Zimmerman
(SJC)

Sarah J. Zimmerman
Preservation Planning Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

SJZ/hi
Enclosures

Rec'd 12/6/84