

PHO 678953

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
MAR 12 1979
RECEIVED
APR 26 1979
DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Essex Company Offices and Yard
AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
6 Essex Street
CITY, TOWN
Lawrence
STATE
Massachusetts
VICINITY OF
Fifth
COUNTY
Essex
CODE
009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: offices

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Essex Company
STREET & NUMBER
6 Essex Street
CITY, TOWN
Lawrence
STATE
Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Essex County North Registry of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER
381 Common Street
CITY, TOWN
Lawrence
STATE
Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth #9
DATE
1978
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Massachusetts Historical Commission
CITY, TOWN
Boston
STATE
Massachusetts

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Essex Company Offices and Yard are located in downtown Lawrence at the corner of Essex Street, the main commercial thoroughfare, and Union Street. The property is bounded to the north by Essex Street, to the east by Union Street, to the south by an alleyway, and to the west by a commercial structure. The site encompasses an office building (#1) fronting on Essex Street and four other structures located along the alleyway. These include a carpenter's shop (#2) and the following three structures which adjoin each other: a foundry (#3), garage (#4), and storage building (#5). All of the above buildings are of red brick and timber construction, and date from 1883-84. Together they form a cohesive group of uniform design, an adaptation of late nineteenth century industrial architecture. The sturdy and somewhat austere buildings were constructed according to the plans of Hiram Mills, chief engineer for the Essex Company, and widely known as an expert in mill and hydraulic engineering. His design has remained virtually unaltered. Even the original uses of the individual buildings have not changed.

In addition to the above structures, there is a one story wooden storage shed (#8) on the northeast corner of the property and two lean-to sheds (#6 and #7) along the Essex Street property line. These were all added later in the 1880's. Now used for covered parking, the lean-to sheds originally sheltered carriages and possibly horses. These sheds are divided into a series of bays by supporting cast-iron tuscan columns. The yard itself is partially paved with stone; another portion has been paved with concrete and the remainder is covered with lawn.

A red brick wall, erected at the same time as the brick structures, encloses the entire site except along the frontage of the office building, along the frontage of the four outbuildings on the alleyway, and along the firewall of the adjoining commercial structure to the west of the Essex Company Property.

The Office Building is a simple rectangular plan, two story structure with a basement and flat roof. Executed in pressed red brick, the building is trimmed with gray granite window and door sills and lintels. A water table sets the first story off from the basement, and the second story off from the first. The corners of the building are emphasized by shallow brick pilasters as is the main entrance on Essex Street. A pilaster also divides the west elevation, while the east elevation is articulated by the projection of two of its five bays. The 4-bay facade has an off-center doorway with granite steps leading up to it. There is a secondary entrance on the west side of the building. Windows all have 2/2 sash although second story fenestration is slightly larger than that of the first story.

The most prominent feature of the building is the wide ornamental corbelled cornice crowning the building. A bank of recessed brick patterning below the corbelling contributes to the decorative treatment.

The edge of the roof is protected with copper coping. Rising above the building are two corbelled chimneys.

The interior of the Essex Company Office Building is of special significance because it has remained virtually unaltered since the time of its completion. Woodwork, furnishings both built-in and free-standing, fireplaces and even wall decor date from the nineteenth century. The desk used by Charles Storrow, Essex Company engineer,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

It is anticipated that within the near future, the Essex Company will sell all of its property as well as its control over the canals and dam. The prospective buyer has expressed an interest in preserving the original character of the Essex Company offices and yard.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	—MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
—1700-1799	—ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION	
—1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		—INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1883-1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Hiram Mills

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Essex Company Offices and Yard retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and are of outstanding significance to the City of Lawrence because of the role which the company played in the development of that city. The Essex Company was formed in 1845 by a group of well-known Boston manufacturers and financiers for the purpose of building a planned community around the textile industry as they had done in Lowell. These men included Abbott and Samuel Lawrence, John Amory Lowell, Charles Storrow, Nathan Appleton, William Sturgis and Patrick Jackson.

Surveys of the area around the Merrimack River below Lowell revealed that the Bodwell's falls site would be the most suitable for their plans. Control of these falls was acquired along with the surrounding farmland. Charles Storrow, trained as an engineer and acting as treasurer and agent for the Essex Company, designed the grid plan for the new manufacturing community which included a large common at its center (potential NR). The Town of Lawrence was officially founded in 1847 and was named for the Lawrence brothers who were the principal stockholders of the Essex Company. With one million dollars in capital the company had by 1848 constructed the Great Stone Dam (NR), the locks and canals (NR), a machine shop (NR) and tenements for its mechanics. They were also instrumental in the formation of numerous corporations for whom large mills were constructed along the canal. These mills which included the Atlantic Mills, the Pacific Mills, the Pemberton Mills, and the Duck Mills, while not owned by the Essex Company remained in close association as their boards of directors invariably interlocked. The Essex Company also constructed boarding houses for the employees of these mills. Fragments of these structures remain, but in a greatly altered and/or expanded state.

The Essex Street Offices and Yard were constructed in 1883-84 when expanded operations forced removal of management functions from the old Machine Shop across the street. They were designed by Hiram Mills, chief engineer of the Company, and widely known as an expert in mill and hydraulic engineering. Physically they have remained almost entirely unaltered and not only have they remained in continuous use since their construction in 1883-84 to the present, but they have also retained their original function.

Together, the buildings are a practically unaltered historical and architectural exhibit of the Essex Company. Supervision of the canals and dam is still carried out from the office building, tools are still made in the carpenters shop, the forge is in operation and the original molds for machine parts are still kept in the storage building. Although the Merrimack Valley Textile Museum in Andover, Massachusetts has added many of the Essex Company records to its collection, there are an abundance of early plans, maps, ledgers, etc. in the Essex Company Office Building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lawrence Up-to-Date 1845-1895, Rushforth and Donohue Co., Lawrence, Mass. 1895
 Essex Company Plans and Records, Essex Company Offices

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 16,875 sq. ft.

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	323580	4730340	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded on the north for 225 feet by Essex Street, on the east for 75 feet by Union Street, on the south for 225 feet by an alley, and on the west for 75 feet by a commercial structure.

Please also refer to the attached map on which the boundaries are delineated in red.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christine Pfaff
 City of Lawrence

Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

January 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

(617) 727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

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

Patricia L. Weslowski

3/1/79

TITLE

Exec. Director, Mass. Historical Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles Adams

DATE

4.26.79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Roger M. Duce

DATE

4/24/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

treasurer and agent, and also responsible for the layout of the City, is still in place with his name on it. Because the building still serves as the Essex Company Offices, an abundance of early records, plans, ledgers, instruments, etc. are kept here.

Although strictly utilitarian, the structures along the alley have corbelled cornices, granite trimming and copper roof coping matching the decorative treatment of the office building.

Closest in appearance and proximity to the latter structure is the Carpenter's Shop (#2), constructed of pressed brick. This is a two story rectangular plan building with a basement and flat roof. As in the office structure, a water table marks the division between the basement and first floor, and between the first and second floors. The three bay symmetrical facade has a large double-door center entrance approached by three granite steps. Windows, on front, sides and rear elevations are regularly spaced and have 12/12 lights. A corbelled chimney rises above the roofline. Inside the building, there is one large room on each floor. The building is still in use as a carpenter's shop with a large accumulation of tools and machinery that have been used for years.

To the west of the Carpenters Shop is the small one story, flat-roofed foundry (#3) whose west wall abuts the garage. The square plan building has a three bay front with a center entrance flanked by 6/6 sash windows. There is one window on the east elevation and a small window on the south or rear elevation. A small square cupola above the forge serves as a vent.

The garage (#4) is a two story flat-roof building abutting the foundry on the east and the storage building on the west. Common rather than pressed brick was used in its construction. The front has two large double doors with a small window between them. Directly above one entrance is a smaller opening to allow for hoisting materials (presumably originally hay) up to the second floor. The rear elevation facing the alleyway is punctured only by two small narrow windows.

The Storage Building (#5), which occupies the southwest corner of the Essex Company property, is a two story structure with a flat roof and basement. It is constructed of pressed red brick. The front or east elevation is symmetrical and four bays wide. The first floor has a wide entrance at either end with two windows in between. The second floor contains four regularly spaced windows with 6/6 sash. Both the north and south elevations feature four narrow windows on the second floor. The west elevation is bounded by the firewall of the adjoining commercial structure. On the interior there is one large room on the first and second floors. Equipment, including the original die molds for gate house machinery, is stored here.

The brick fence enclosing the complex is embellished with shallow strip pilasters and corbelling, to match the decorative treatment of the buildings. In the 1890's, the fence was capped with lead and in 1915 an iron fence was installed along the office building's frontage. The latter fence was removed in 1948 although four stone slabs still in place in the ground indicate where it was located.

Essex Company and Yard
Lawrence, Massachusetts

1"=100' Sanborn Map



COMMON

ESSEX

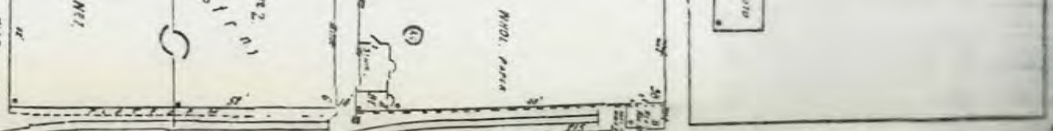
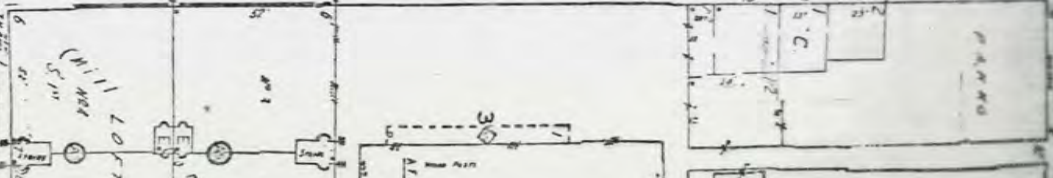
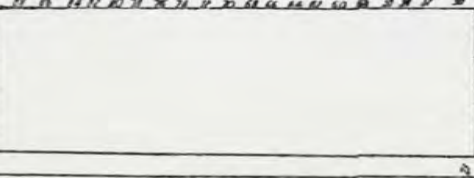
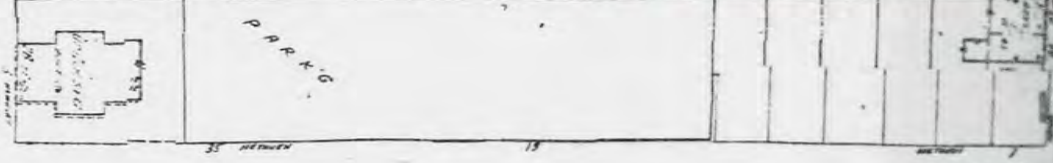
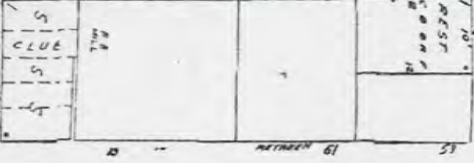
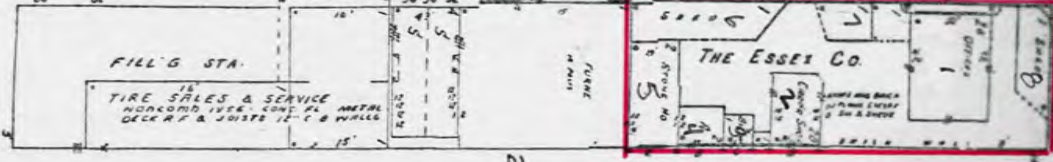
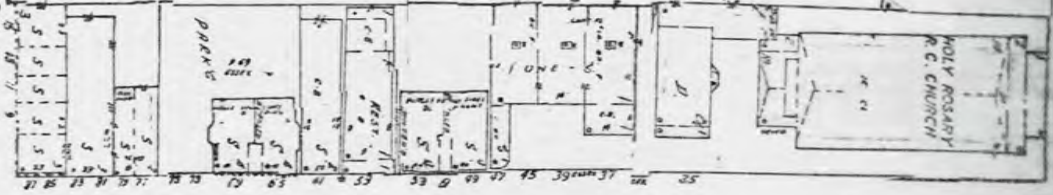
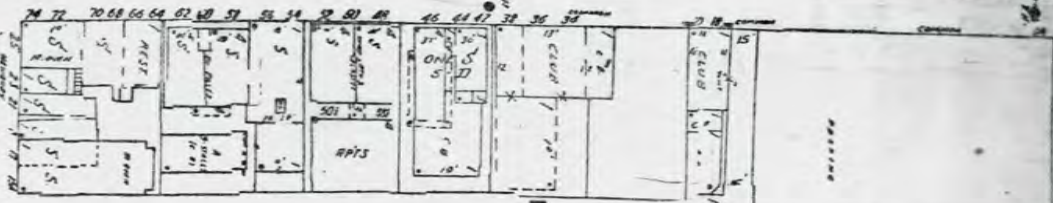
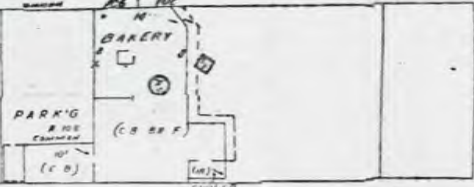
NEWBURY

METHUEN

75 UNION

MILL

WORLDWIDE BAKING CO.
WORLD BAKERY



APR 26 1979

Property Essex Company Office and Yard
State Mass. (Essex) Working Number 3.12.79.499

TECHNICAL

Photos 7
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK 3.13.79

Significant for associations with the Essex Company which was important in the development of Lawrence. Collection of buildings is virtually unaltered.

HISTORIAN

*Accept
Lightman
4-20-79*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*ACCEPT
Neil Douglas
4/24/79*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered APR 26 1979
Federal Register Entry 6-5-79 Re-submit _____

road to public (1917)



Essex Company Offices and Yard
Lawrence, Massachusetts
William Finch 1978
Community Development Dept., City Hall
Lawrence, Mass.

APR 26 1979

Photo #6
Cashiers room, Essex Company Office Bldg.

MAR 12 1979

Essex Co. Office Building: Cashier's Room



Essex Company Offices and Yard
Lawrence, Massachusetts
William Finch 1978
Community Development Dept., City Hall
Lawrence, Mass.

MAR 12 1979

Photo #7
Engineers room, Essex Company Office Bldg.

Essex Co. office Building; Engineers' Room

APR 26 1979

Missing Core Documentation

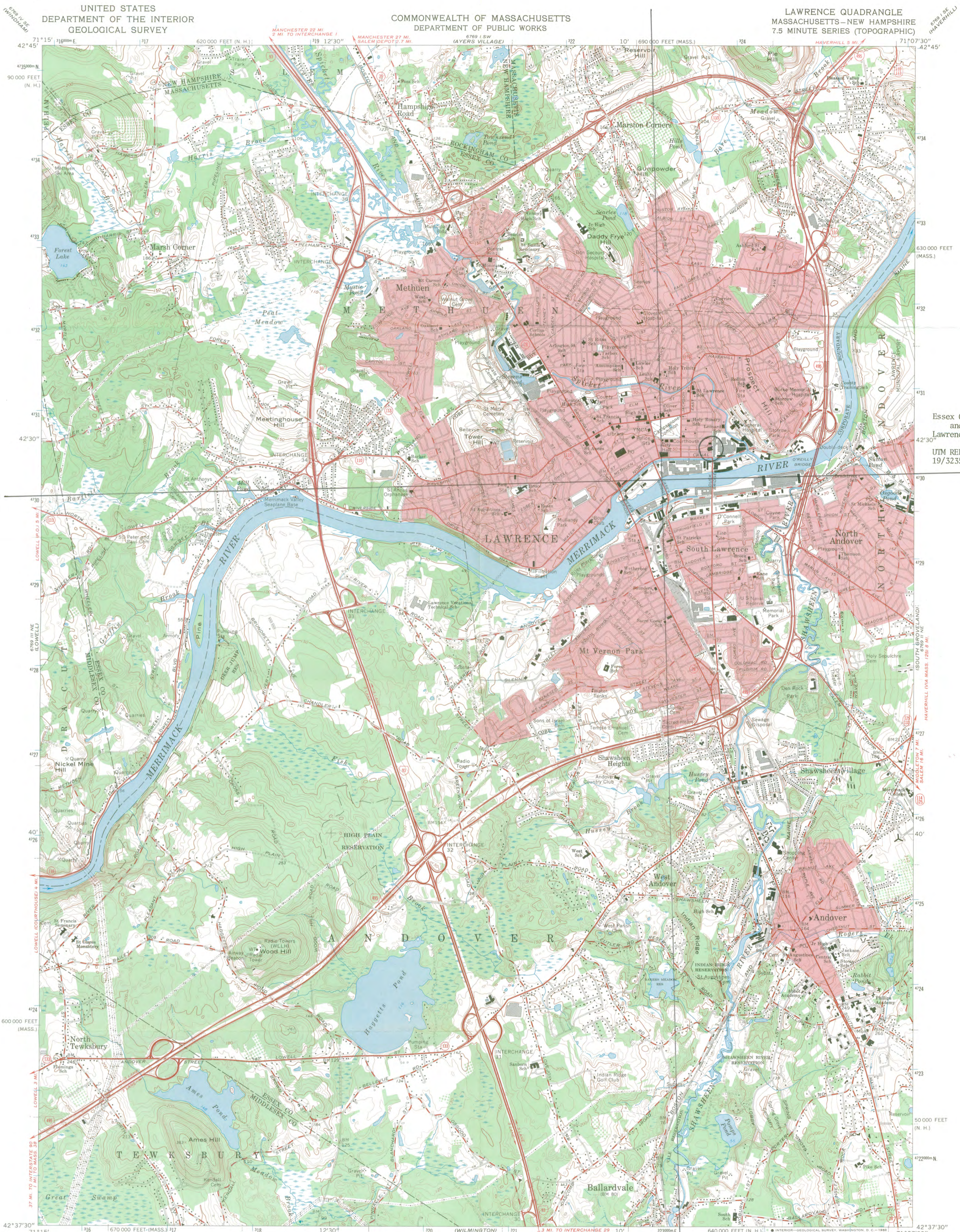
Property Name	County, State	Reference Number
Essex Company Offices and Yard	Essex, Massachusetts	79000330

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form

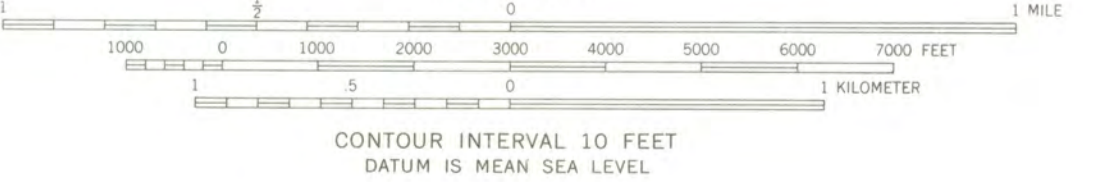
Photographs (#1-5)

USGS Map

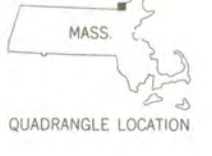


Essex Company Offices
and Yard
Lawrence, Massachusetts
UTM REFERENCES:
19/323580/4730340

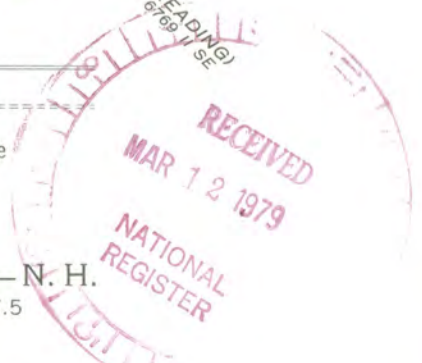
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1941 and 1942. Revised 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and New Hampshire coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



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



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

LAWRENCE, MASS.—N. H.
N4237.5—W7107.5/7.5

1966
AMS 6769 II NW—SERIES V814

APR 26 1979



PAUL GUZZI

Secretary of the Commonwealth

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108

(617) 727-8470

PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION NOTIFICATION TO OWNER

DATE: November 28, 1978

TO: Essex Company

ADDRESS: 6 Essex Street, Lawrence

FROM: MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

SUBJECT: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

THIS IS TO NOTIFY YOU THAT THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY:

NAME: Essex Company Offices & Yard

ADDRESS: 6 Essex Street

NOMINATED BY: Lawrence Community Development Department

RECEIVED

DEC 6 1978

MASS. HIST. COMM.



is being considered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register affords recognition and protection for districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American History, architecture, archeology and culture. Listing in the National Register places no restrictions on the owner's actions unless Federal funding or licensing is involved. However, certain Federal Tax consequences may result from listing in the National Register. Please refer to section 2124 of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 for an explanation of these provisions.

Please acknowledge receipt of this notification by signing below and returning this form to Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator, Massachusetts Historical Commission at the address above. The State Review Board will not consider this nomination until we receive your comments or thirty days have passed from the date of notification.

Written comments on the significance of this property are encouraged and may be attached to this form.

Signature *Patricia J. MacKelvey* Exec. Treas. Date 12/5/78



PAUL GUZZI

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Secretary of the Commonwealth

294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108

(617) 727-8470

NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION HISTORICAL COMMISSION

DATE: November 28, 1978
TO: Community Development Department
ADDRESS: City Hall, Lawrence

MAR 12 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER



FROM: MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
SUBJECT: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

THIS IS TO NOTIFY YOU THAT THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY:

NAME: Essex Company Offices & Yard
ADDRESS: 6 Essex Street
OWNER: Essex Company

is being considered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register affords recognition and protection for districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American History, architecture, archeology and culture. Listing in the National Register places no restrictions on the owner's actions unless Federal funding or licensing is involved. However, certain Federal tax consequences may result from listing in the National Register. Please refer to section 2124 of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 for an explanation of these provisions.

Please comment below, sign, and return this form at your earliest convenience to Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator, Massachusetts Historical Commission at the above address. To facilitate action on this nomination, we would appreciate your response within thirty days. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jenkins at the Commission office.

Approve nomination Disapprove nomination

Comments.

Signature John T. Bradshaw Date 12-21-78
Name and Title Administrator Community Development Dept
C of Lawrence, Mass.

2/2/77

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 26 1979

Name

Location

Essex Company Offices and Yard

Lawrence
Essex County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul G. Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable James M. Shannon

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

NR Byers/bjr 5/2/79