

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received AUG 31 1982
date entered

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

1. Name

historic ~~The~~ Dawson Building (preferred)

and/or common The Dawson Block/Eagles Home

2. Location

street & number 1851 Purchase Street N/A not for publication

city, town New Bedford N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Massachusetts code 025 county Bristol code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Linden Associates

street & number P.O. Box 71

city, town Marion N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bristol County (S.D.) Registry of Deeds

street & number 25 North Sixth Street

city, town New Bedford state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth #480 (3/13/81)
has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state MA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dawson Block is an imposing three and one-half story brick building with prefabricated cast iron store fronts on the ground floor level. It stands in the heart of New Bedford's North End, an early streetcar suburb, on a triangular half-acre lot.

A notable work of the prominent local architect, Samuel C. Hunt, the Dawson Block reflects the eclecticism of late 19th century vernacular architecture. The asymmetrical design borrows elements from a number of different architectural styles (most notably Classical Revival) in a liberal, even exaggerated fashion that was a peculiar hallmark of Hunt's work.

The Dawson Block rests on a foundation of vermiculated granite. Each of the two main blocks of the L-plan building has a truncated hip roof of slate punctuated by pedimented dormers. The two sections of the building are joined by a hexagonal tower with an ogival dome. This massive feature anchors the composition to its corner site. The main entrance to the Dawson Block is located in the base of this tower in a canted wall. There are six subsidiary entrances, all recessed. Two of these are on Purchase Street and four are on Linden Street. Some of these entrances provided access to ground floor stores; others open onto stairways leading to the upper floors. The stair tower at the far end of the Linden Street facade has a steep pyramidal roof of slate.

The main entrance is crowned by a semi-circular fanlight and is enframed by a wide molding embellished with a scroll console. The larger of the two Purchase Street entrances has a Minton-type tile floor with a crimson and white stylized floral design.

Prefabricated cast iron storefronts dsymmetrically divide the ground floor into bays. The current restoration intends to preserve this configuration. Cast iron pilasters with Scamozzi-like capitals enframe the display windows. The exterior wall material of the upper floors is red brick. At the second story level are numerous panels of red terra cotta edged with egg and dart molding. The panels have swags and garlands cast in low relief in their centers. The panel above the main entrance contains the letter 'D' in old English script.

Windows of the Dawson Block are of uniform size and are asymmetrically grouped singly and in twos and threes. The vermiculated granite sills project slightly and form almost continuous belt courses around the building at the second and third story levels. Windows in some of the bays have splayed brick lintels, while molded brick architraves enframe the others.

Above the third story fenestration is a boldly projecting, fully articulated copper cornice resting on copper scroll brackets. Missing sections of the cornice are being replaced as part of the current restoration.

The south elevation (Linden Street Facade) is dominated by a flat-roofed pavilion, four stories high and four bays wide. The topmost story of the pavilion is a raised shed dormer sided in slate. It contains a series of four round arched windows with molded brick surrounds. A balustrade, now missing, originally stood above these windows.

The north and west elevations, (rear and side) contain numerous asymmetrically placed rectangular windows of uniform size, set within elliptical brick arches. Some retain exterior wooden blinds. On the east elevation a faded advertisement painted on the brick

(cont.)

2024-0010
EXP. 12/31/04

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

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet The Dawson Building

Item number 7

Page 1

wall can still be read. It simply states, "Eagle Home, Aerie #647, New Bedford."

Little information survives regarding the original interior appearance of the Dawson Block, except that a complete remodelling occurred in 1923 when the building was acquired by the Eagles. Accounts of the 1923 renovations described it as ". . . a thorough remodelling, rebuilding the inside and the result is striking." The ground floor continued to be used as commercial space with rents from the stores providing revenue for the Eagles. The second floor contained offices and a club room, as well as ". . . a large parlor, exquisitely furnished, a billiard room, a card room, the secretary's private office, and a reading or committee room." All the rooms were interconnected on the north side of the corridor with its double doors. Newspaper accounts of 1923 further reported that ". . . everything was neatly painted, papered and varnished, with a new lighting system put in." The third floor was converted into a large meeting hall and ballroom. A large stage was removed to make way for what was one of New Bedford's largest dance floors. The ballroom was illuminated by newly installed electric fixtures. Separate men's and ladies' "retiring areas" or lounges included dressing rooms. The fourth floor contained a banquet hall, which seated 450 people, and the kitchen. A gymnasium shown in the architect's plans for this remodelling was never built.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1896 Construction **Builder/Architect** Samuel C. Hunt, architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dawson Block possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship. It is significant as a center of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial activity and community life. The Dawson Block is also a notable work of the prominent local architect Samuel C. Hunt, and has long been an important and highly visible North End Landmark. In addition, the Dawson Block derives importance as one of few surviving examples of cast iron architecture in New Bedford. The property thus meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Construction on the Dawson Block began in May, 1896. The building was erected on a 12,251 square foot lot at the corner of Linden and Purchase Streets. It was described in various local accounts as the "first substantial brick building in the North End." City Building Department records estimated its cost at \$53,000.

The architect of the Dawson Block, Samuel C. Hunt, began his career as a carpenter's apprentice, becoming active in various aspects of the building trades. Hunt studied drawing at evening school and took his formal architectural training in Boston. During the 1870s he was the construction foreman for two major local projects: the Trinitarian Church and the Eddy Building. In 1880 Hunt opened a contracting business, and for the next ten years he worked on such buildings as the Harrington and Court Street Schools in New Bedford, and the #3 Building of the Cohannet Mill complex in Taunton. By 1891, Hunt began billing himself as an architect and during this period of his career he received commissions for city schools and engine houses. Hunt's death in 1898 prevented him from seeing his plans materialize for his most important commissions: the New Bedford Registry of Deeds and the enlargement of City Hall.

The construction of the Dawson Block heralded the development of Weld Square as an early New Bedford streetcar suburb. Weld Square was an entry neighborhood for newly arrived French and Irish immigrants who found employment at the nearby Wamsutta Mills. The mill workers occupied modest cottages and triple deckers which had been hastily built by shrewd real estate speculators who sensed the growth potential of the area.

The needs of the neighborhood's growing population were also served by the opening of new businesses and by the extension of trolley service to Weld Square. It was during this optimistic period of growth that the Dawson Block was built. From the turn of the century until approximately 1950, Weld Square remained a thriving commercial and residential enclave. Today it retains much of the character of a nineteenth century working class neighborhood.

Most of Weld Square was originally part of Woodlawn, the estate of Benjamin Rodman. Rodman was a member of the prominent New Bedford whaling family; his mansion still stands in New Bedford's Waterfront Historic District (NHL). After Rodman's death in 1896, his estate was subdivided for development, one section being purchased by Benjamin Dawson.

(cont.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See attached sheet for bibliography)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.438 acres (19,099 square feet)

Quadrangle name New Bedford South

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UMT References

A

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

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See attached sketch map)

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 Wendy Frontiero, Preservation Planner, with Harriet White (consultant)

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date May 17, 1982

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Valerie Ann Talmage

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date Aug. 24, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 9/30/82

for Delous Byers
Keeper of the National Register

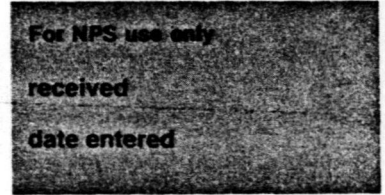
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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



Continuation sheet The Dawson Building Item number 8 Page 1

Benjamin Dawson (1837-1920) was active in local politics, and served terms as an alderman and member of the Common Council. He was a loyal supporter of Charles Ashley, a mayor of New Bedford and one of the city's most colorful political figures. Dawson is also notable as the owner and operator of New Bedford's first major brewery.

After 27 years working in textile mills, in 1885 Dawson opened a liquor store at the corner of Purchase and Hazard Streets, not far from the eventual location of the Dawson Block. Soon Dawson's thriving liquor business became the largest in the North End. Later in 1889, Dawson opened his own brewery which was taken over years later by the Jacob Ruppert Company, a division of Rheingold Breweries.

In 1896 Dawson built the Dawson Block, no doubt as a speculative venture. Its success was virtually guaranteed by the burgeoning population of the Weld Square area. The Dawson Block contained stores on the ground floor, and offices and a social hall and meeting rooms on the upper floors.

After Dawson's death in 1920, the Dawson Block passed to his heirs, who sold it in 1923 to the Fraternal Order of Eagles (New Bedford Aerie #647). The Eagles, a social and charitable organization, was established in the 1920s at a time when lodges, benevolent societies and civic-oriented clubs proliferated. The New Bedford chapter of the Eagles is still in existence today, although its membership has dwindled.

During the early years of its existence, the Eagles provided valuable financial assistance and social services for its members. The Eagles also played an important role in lobbying for the legislation which resulted in the Mothers' Pension Act and the Old Age Pension Act. Among the services and benefits afforded to Eagles and their families was the purchase of life insurance policies for members serving in the Armed Forces.

Social activities played a large part in the Eagle's programming. In 1919 one member reminisced: "The Order was a roustering, enthusiastic organ that loved its clambakes, its entertainments, and the good fellowship involved." It was only later that the role of the organization became more service-oriented. In more recent years the Eagles have sponsored the annual New Bedford Road Race, after which celebrations were traditionally held in the Eagles' Home.

In summary, the Dawson Block/Eagles' Home is a well known landmark of New Bedford's North End, deriving importance as the work of a prominent local architect, Samuel C. Hunt, and commissioned by another distinguished citizen of the city, Benjamin Dawson. It is one of very few surviving examples of cast iron architecture in New Bedford. Located in an early streetcar suburb and a haven for immigrant mill workers, the Dawson Block/Eagles' Home has long been a center of community life, first as a commercial building and later as the headquarters of a social and community service organization. Today the property is being renovated for use as elderly housing.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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EXP. 12/31/04

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Continuation sheet

Dawson Building

Item number 9

Page 1

New Bedford Registry of Deeds: 89/129, 148/25.

City of New Bedford Building Department: Book 60, Permit 282, 604-39 Alter interior for showers, 1514-44. Make repairs after hurricane, Architects plans on file with Building Department.

New Bedford Standard Times Library: The Evening Standard - December 18, 1920,
The Sunday Standard Times - March 4, 1923, April 9, 1939,
The Standard Times - February 20, 1950, February 21, 1979.

The New Bedford Free Public Library Genealogy Room:
Newspapers on microfilm:

The Evening Standard - Tuesday, April 27, 1896, p.3; April 28, 1896, p.4; Friday,
September 4, 1908.

Book - New Bedford Semi-Centennial & Industrial Exhibition, October 1897, Edited by Robert Grieve, Published by Journal of Commerce Company, Providence, Rhode Island, p.86.

City of New Bedford Assessor's Office.

2-3 FAMILY DWELLINGS

PLEASANT STREET

LINDEN STREET

2- FAMILY DWELLINGS

FAMILY UNITS

OFFICE
ELEVATOR
LAUNDRY

COMMUNITY ROOM

SITTING
PLAY AREA

2 BR.

2 BR.
TYPE (A)

2 BR.

1 BR.

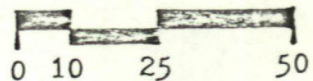
1 BR.

1 BR.

PARKING
16 SPACES
(2 HP.)

ENTRY TO
ELDERLY APARTMENTS

PURCHASE STREET



SITE AND GROUND FLOOR PLAN
THE DAWSON BLOCK BUILDING
NEW BEDFORD, MASS.
1980

SCALE:
1" = 32'

THE EAGLES HOME
NEW BEDFORD MASSACHUSETTS

LINDEN ASSOCIATES
ROBERT S. WILLIAMSON
1980

DEVELOPER
ARCHITECT

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Dawson Building
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 8/31/82-2377

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83

Date Due: 9/30/82 - 10/15/82

Action: ACCEPT 9/30/82

Entered in the RETURN
National Register 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		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input 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

- 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

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT 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: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



DAWSON BUILDING
NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

Photograph by Tim Silvia
Coastway Photography
Purchase Street
New Bedford

Aug. 1982
Negatives filed with photographer

View northwest, corner of Linden and Purchase
Streets

Photo 1 of 5



DAWSON BUILDING
NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

Photographed by Tim Silvia
Coastway Photography
Purchase Street
New Bedford

Aug. 1982
Negatives filed with photographer

View of south facade, Linden Street

Photo 2 of 5



NOW RENTING.
Agent on Premises
MON. WED. FRI. 10am-12am
219 634 2805

DAWSON BUILDING
NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

Photographed by Tim Silvia
Coastway Photography
Purchase Street
New Bedford

Aug. 1982
Negatives filed with photographer

View of east facade, Purchase Street

Photo 3 of 5



DAWSON BUILDING
NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

Photographed by Tim Silvia
Coastway Photography
Purchase Street
New Bedford

Aug. 1982
Negatives filed with photographer

View of north facade (rear of building)

Photo 4 of 5



DAWSON BUILDING
NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

Bristol County

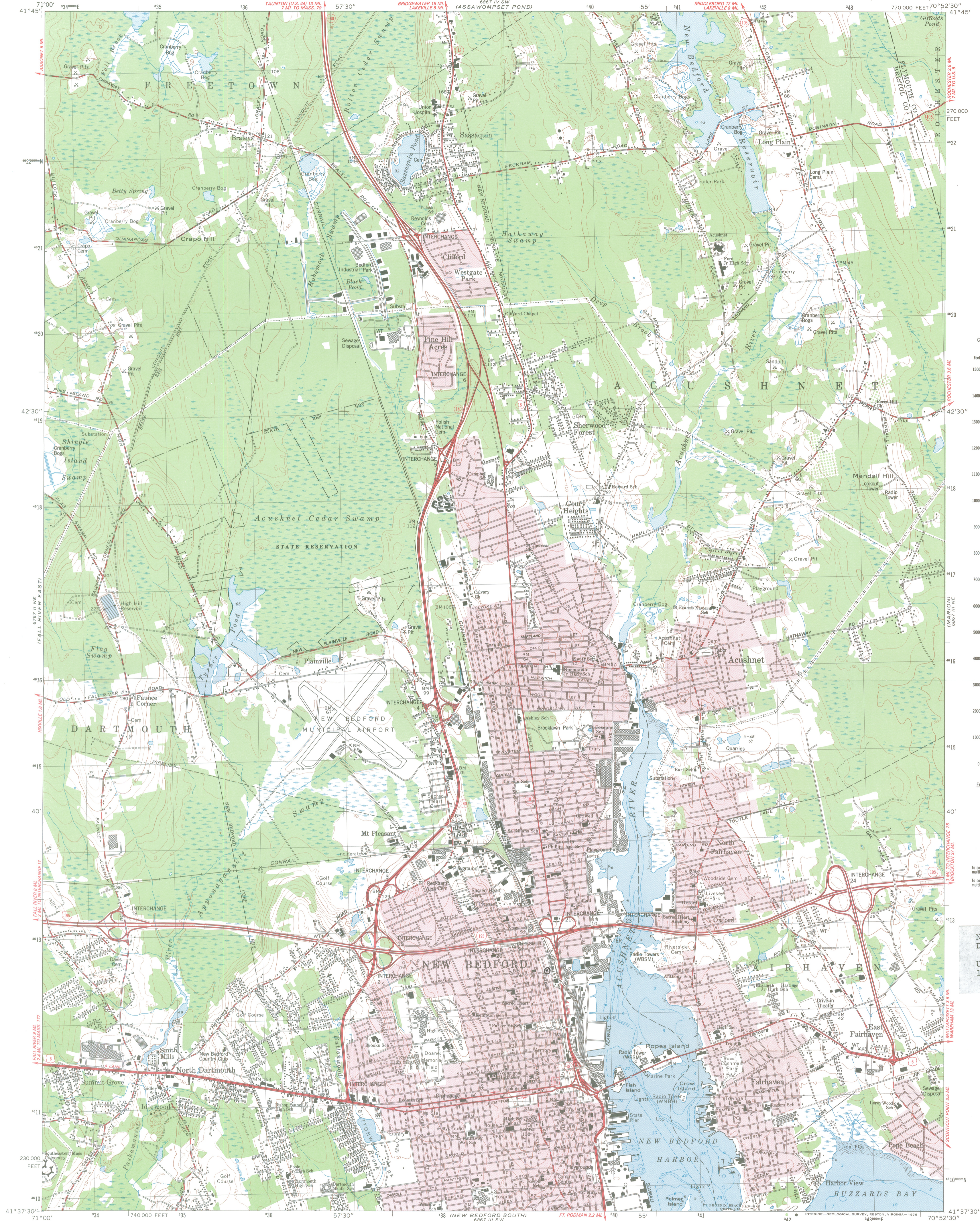
Photographed by Tim Silvia
Coastway Photography
Purchase Street
New Bedford

Aug. 1982

Negatives filed with photographer

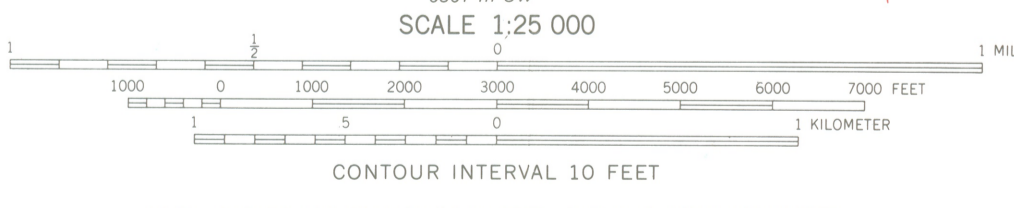
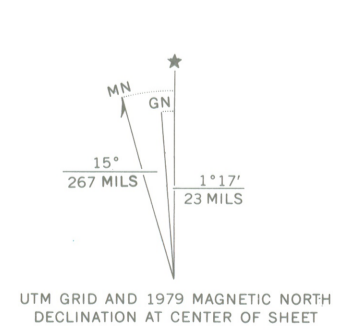
View of west facade, Pleasant Street

Photo 5 of 5

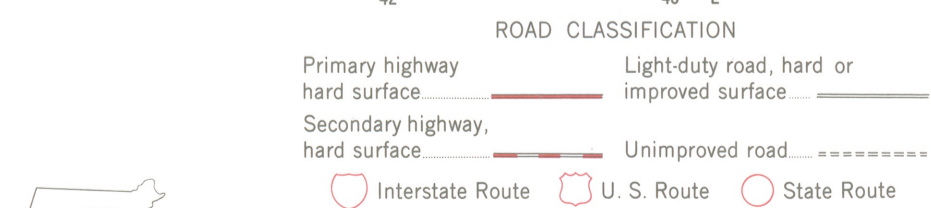


NEW BEDFORD, MASS.
Dawson Building
UTM Reference:
19/339280/4612510

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1936. Revised 1964
Revised 1975 from aerial photographs taken 1974
Field checked 1975. Map edited 1979
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS 353 (1973)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information furnished by
Massachusetts Department of Public Works
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



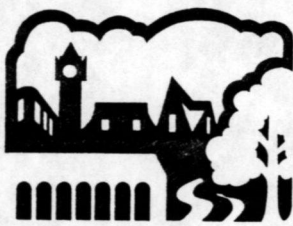
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



NEW BEDFORD NORTH, MASS.
N4137.5—W7052.5/7.5

1979

DMA 6667 III NW—SERIES V814



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

August 24, 1982

Mr. Jerry Rogers
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

- Adams - Phillips Woolen Mill (local)
- Adams - Renfrew Mill #2 (local)
- Belchertown - Walker Collis House (local)
- Hudson - Col. Adelbert Mossman House (local)
- Lenox - Lenox Academy (state)
- Lenox - The "Church on the Hill" (local)
- ✓ New Bedford - Dawson Building (local)
- New Marlborough - New Marlborough Village Historic District (local)
- North Andover - Machine Shop Village (state)
- Pittsfield - Wollison- Shipton Building (local)
- Rockport - Sewall-Scripture House (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 considerations 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins

Candace Jenkins
Registration Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosures

CJ/mas





JOHN A. MARKEY
MAYOR

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
P. O. BOX A-2089
999-2931

RECEIVED

JUL 11 1982

MASS. HIST. COMM.

July 8, 1982

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

Dear Ms. Weslowski,

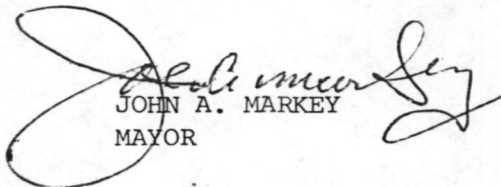
It is with great pleasure that I wholeheartedly endorse the nomination of the Dawson Building, 1581 Purchase Street, to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Dawson Building, when completed in 1896, was called "the first substantial brick building in the North End." Samuel C. Hunt, its architect, was New Bedford's dominant architect of the period and later re-designed City Hall and designed the Registry of Deeds in the Downtown Historic District. The building itself was a landmark in the growth of New Bedford's first street car neighborhood and second large shopping district.

The Dawson Building's recent restoration marks the second major step in the revitalization of Weld Square. The nearby Car barn has already been placed on the National Register and the Dawson Building is of at least equal importance.

As the duly authorized representative of the governing body of the City of New Bedford, I am happy to support the nomination of the Dawson Building to the National Register of Historic Places.

Very truly yours,


JOHN A. MARKEY
MAYOR



City of New Bedford • Office of Neighborhood and Historic Preservation

City Hall Annex • 1204 Purchase Street

New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

(617) 999-2931

Ext. 270

RECEIVED

JUL 13 1982

MASS. HIST. COMM.

July 9, 1982

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

Dear Ms. Weslowski,

We are pleased to endorse the nomination of the Dawson Building,
1581 Purchase Street, to the National Register of Historic Places.
My office has been involved with the restoration of this building
for over a year and feel that the building should join the nearby
Carbarn on the National Register.

The Dawson Building has been an integral part of the development
of the Weld Square area since it was constructed for Benjamin
Dawson in 1896. Its small ground floor stores supplied the City's
first street car neighborhood and later, as the Eagles Home, the
building played an important part in the fraternal life of New
Bedford.

Samuel C. Hunt, architect for the building, was one of a small
number of professionals responsible for New Bedford's "new downtown"
which replaced the Waterfront Historic District in the last years of
the nineteenth century and early years of the twentieth.

Restoration of the Dawson Building has meant another step in the
City's ongoing effort to rehabilitate the Weld Square neighborhood.

Very truly yours,

Antone G. Souza, Jr.

Antone G. Souza, Jr.
Director

AGS/bl

EDWARD W. BRICE, JR.
ONE BOSTON PLACE BOSTON, MA 02108
TELEPHONE: (617) 227-7960

ORIGINAL
yes
RECEIVED

July 12, 1982

JUL 13 1982

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical
Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Re: The Dawson Block
New Bedford, Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Weslowski:

I am a General Partner of Linden Associates, a Massachusetts limited partnership that owns the Dawson Block at 1851 Purchase Street in New Bedford, Massachusetts. I believe that you are going to act on the nomination of this project to the National Register of Historic Places in the next few days. I hope that you will act favorably. We have spent substantial time and incurred substantial costs in rehabilitating this property in accordance with standards of your Commission and the Department of the Interior. We feel that this rehabilitation enhances the urban streetscape of the City of New Bedford and will be an attractive architectural amenity for the City and the Commission of Massachusetts for many years to come. I urge you to approve this nomination.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

Edward Brice

Edward W. Brice, Jr.

/pgc

cc: Courtland A. McDonald

owner
yes

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COURTLAND A. McDONALD
ONE BOSTON PLACE BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

TELEPHONE
(617) 227-7960

July 13, 1982

RECEIVED

JUL 13 1982

MASS. HIST. COM. #

Ms. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical
Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Re: The Dawson Block
New Bedford, Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Weslowski:

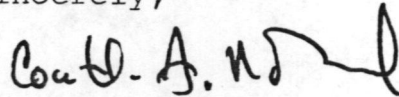
I am pleased that the State Review Board will consider the above referenced property for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

As a General Partner of Linden Associates, a Massachusetts limited partnership that is owner of record of this property, I wholeheartedly support this nomination. You and your staff have put many hours into reviewing our rehabilitation plans and have enabled us to complete our program successfully. This building along with the Car Barn property a block away which was recently listed in the National Register, has provided a base for further rehabilitation of the Weld Square area.

I urge you to approve this nomination.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,



Courtland A. McDonald

/pgc

cc: Edward W. Brice, Jr.