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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co.

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

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

2. Location

Street & number: 7 Marble Street

City or town: Whitman State: MA County: Plymouth

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A ___ B C ___ D

Brona Simon April 11, 2014

Signature of certifying official/Title: Brona Simon, SHPO **Date**

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Joe Edward H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

5-13-14
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN / Italianate, Mansard, Shingle Style
LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY REVIVALS / Colonial Revival
OTHER / Chateau

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

foundation: BRICK

walls: BRICK, WOOD/Shingle; Weatherboard

roof: WOOD/Shingle, ASPHALT, SYNTHETIC/Rubber

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. Factory, 7 Marble Street, Whitman, MA is a large, wood-frame mill complex, set on both sides of Marble Street (Photo 1). It is bounded by South Avenue to the north and Broad Street to the south (Figure 1). Located about 0.3 miles east of Whitman's town center, the 3.85-acre site, bisected by Marble Street, is relatively level, irregular in plan, and surrounded by mostly single-family residential buildings, with some commercial development on South Avenue and on Broad Street. Formerly a small industrial community in the 19th and early 20th centuries, Whitman today is a residential suburban community situated approximately 20 miles south of Boston.

The primary structures of the complex are two long, wood-clapboard buildings, which line the east and west sides of Marble Street and are connected by an upper-story enclosed bridge/connector that spans Marble Street (Photo 1). Built mainly between 1864 and 1923, **Building 1**, on the west side of Marble Street, is notable for its brick first story, its mansard roof, and two elegant stair towers, one in the Chateau Style (north tower, photo 2) and the other in the Colonial Revival Style (south tower, photo 3, see figure 4).

Built between 1890 and 1919, with two sections built after 1950, **Building 2**, on the east side of Marble Street (Photos 1, 7; figure 5) is b-shaped in plan, and is a vernacular version of the Italianate Style, with a

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clerestory monitor running down the center of the roof. A third building, originally a **church** (1888, photo 6), was acquired ca. 1968 and connected to the north end of Building 2 at the top (north end) of the "b." (The former church is shown as Building 3 on the data sheet and on figure 5.)

The Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Company is an outstanding example of a wood-frame shoe factory, which retains its architecturally notable stair towers and several other character-defining details. These details include the Italianate hood molds over the first-story windows, mansard roofs and paired brackets at Building 1, and long continuous window bands, clerestory monitors, and eave brackets at Building 2, with a two-story overhead connector running between the buildings.

The complex consists of three contributing buildings (Buildings 1, 2, and 3) and one noncontributing building, which is a Pool House constructed in 2011. (See data sheet and figures 4 and 5.)

The former shoe mill complex has been rehabilitated to create 127 residential apartments and fifteen commercial/retail spaces.

Narrative Description

Exterior

The main buildings are wood frame with wood clapboard siding (Photo 1 – 4 and 6, 7). Building 1 is 3½ stories tall, with straight-sided mansard roofs sheathed in wood shingle on the slopes and rubber on the top (Photos 1, 4). The cornices of Building 1 have paired brackets spaced every two bays (Photos 1- 4); the Chateau Style tower has tall, single brackets (Photo 2) and the Colonial Revival tower has single brackets. (Photo 3) The first story of Building 1 and the boilerhouse single-story buildings, at the back (west) of Building 1, are built of brick (Photo 4).

The Second Empire-style **Building 1** has two towers rising from the east elevation. They are square in plan, and rise two to three stories above the main roof. The Chateau Style north tower (Photo 2) has a steeply pitched roof with tall turrets at each of the four corners. Standing as an elegant landmark in the neighborhood, it was built between 1885 and 1891. The roof and the walls are sided with wood shingle. The Colonial Revival-style south tower (constructed in 1893 with the second south extension) has a pyramidal roof topped by a copper finial. (Photo 3) The bellcast slopes of the south tower roof each have a dormer with a bellcast hipped roof. Historic photos indicate that the sides of this tower were shingled at the fifth story (as it is today) and there were enclosed balconies at the Palladian windows. The fenestration of the building consists of continuous bands of closely spaced single windows with 6/6 sashes which match the historic windows.

The earliest part of the complex (purchased by Charles H. Jones in 1882) is on the west side of Marble Street, and includes a part of the main north-south section of Building 1 (Photos 1- 5) and a parallel 3½-story rectangular building of similar construction west of Building 1, still extant (Photo 4, fig. 4, 1a, see Figures 4 and 5 for construction periods). Early plans by J. Williams Beal (1893) delineate the south section of Building 1 and the south tower.¹ The south wing along Broad Street was built in 1919, and the north wing oriented east-west was built in 1923 by J. Williams Beal Sons. A tall, round red-brick chimney (Photo 4) rises on the west side of the main portion of Building 1 attached to the boiler house.

¹ Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co., architectural plans (1890, 1893, 1919, 1923), Massachusetts State Archives, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA.

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The original chimney was square, but based on the Sanborn Insurance maps, the existing round chimney dates between 1905 and 1911.

According to Beal's plans, the main north-south section (west wing) of Building 2 (Figure 5) was built in 1891 (Photos 1, 7). It is three stories in height with a flat roof surmounted by a wide clerestory monitor. Continuous bands of windows with 4/4 sashes (matching the original historic windows) mark each of the stories (Photo 7). The square tower on Building 2 (Photo 1-right, and figure 5) is just north of the two-story connector and has a low pyramidal roof.

The north end of **Building 2** is attached to a gable-roofed, former Unitarian church (Photo 6; Building 3 on figure 5), built in 1888, and incorporated into the complex in 1968. The east-west wing of Building 2 (Figure 5) was added in 1893, and the rear (east) wing of Building 2 (Photo 7) was built in 1919. After 1968, the area between sections 2a and 2c was infilled forming a large square in plan. Many of the windows in the complex had been replaced with 1/1 sashes, covered, or filled with plywood, and in Building 2, most of the window openings on the south and east elevations were covered with asbestos shingle siding, so the window openings were not visible from the exterior until the siding was removed. This has since been reversed by the 2011 rehabilitation.

The Building 2 eaves on the main blocks, the clerestory monitors, the tower, and the connector leading to Building 1 all have single brackets of different profiles. The former Unitarian church eaves have closely spaced simple single brackets (Photo 6).

The existing clapboard-and-shingle siding and the wood windows were installed during the rehabilitation completed in 2010 and 2011. The profiles and dimensions of these features are based on remnants of original fabric found beneath the asbestos shingle siding and in existing window openings.

A freestanding structure west of Building 1 has been built in red brick, and a new roof was installed. It currently houses a swimming pool. This building is noncontributing (see figure 4, Building 4).

Building 3, attached to the north end of Building 2, is a Gothic Revival-style former church with a tall gable roof (Photo 6), closely spaced brackets at the eaves, and wood clapboard siding. Along the west elevation it retains five, tall, Gothic-pointed arch windows, which had been entirely covered by 2008. A replacement stained glass window has been installed in the oversized window opening in the north elevation, where a former stained glass window had been removed (Figure 3). The former First Unitarian Church was converted to retail and small manufacturing space prior to 2008. A second floor had been added to the tall sanctuary, and there was no evidence of a pulpit, chancel, sacristy, or any other space that was specific to church services. A stair tower and lobby had been cut down prior to 2008 at the northwest corner. The building now contains residential apartments on the upper floors, and retail space on the first floor.

Interior

The Commonwealth Shoe Factory has narrow rectangular floor plates, and each wing has one or two rows of wood columns. Building 1 is approximately a reverse-C shape in plan, with an additional wing projecting west from the center of the C. (Figure 4) Building 1 is now all multi-family residential/apartments. The building entrance is located under the north (Chateau Style) stair tower and provides access to a small lobby. A dogleg stair within the tower runs to the upper stories of the tower. The floor plans at Building 1 have a single-loaded corridor along an exterior wall, and apartments lining

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the opposite wall. Some wood posts and beams are exposed inside the units, and otherwise all floors, ceilings, and walls are new. At the top of the towers, the wood floors and ceilings are exposed (Photo 5). Wood beams and ceilings and vertical tie rods are exposed in the connector between Buildings 1 and 2. Four bays on the north elevation of the south wing (1919) have a brick exterior wall with steel industrial sash, which have been replaced with aluminum replacement windows to closely match the steel windows.

Building 2 had been shaped like an "h" in plan before 1939, and the center of the "h" was filled after 1950, giving the building its current "b" shape (Figure 5). The entrance is at the base of the stair tower on the west elevation. The entrance provides access to the corridors, and there is a new stair located within the stair tower, which provides access to the top story. At the top story of the tower, the horizontal board and wall finishes remain exposed, the area is open, and roof trusses are exposed. Matchboard siding and the wood railing at the top run of the stair are exposed within the stair tower.

Each of the wings has two parallel rows of wood posts. The infill section has three parallel rows of columns, and the two previous exterior walls are supported on heavier wood posts (Figure 5). The church has two rows of columns, and the connector to the church (ca. 1968) also has two rows of columns. The first floor of Building 2 is commercial. The commercial spaces are deep and there is a common hallway on the interior of the floor. The upper floors are residential. The corridor is approximately an "h" in plan, following the building's early plan, the apartments line the outer walls and the center of the floor is used for function space and storage. The third floor units all have light coming in from the clerestory monitor (Photo 1 & 7), which had been blocked up prior to the rehabilitation. Wood ceilings, posts, and beams are exposed inside the units, including the ceiling of the monitors.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known on the Commonwealth Shoe and Leather Co., it is possible that sites are present. Six Native sites are known in the general area (within one mile), most located on riverine terraces bordering the Shumatuscacant River. Environmental characteristics of the nominated property represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are not generally favorable for the presence of ancient sites. The mills are located on a level to moderately sloping glacial outwash plain in an urban locale. At the parcel level, soil characteristics are difficult, if not impossible, to determine, due to their designation as urban land. At the county level, however, some regional characteristics can be discerned. Soils for this area of Whitman range from well drained soils formed in glacial till to somewhat excessively drained soils formed in sand and gravel. There are no wetlands located within 1,000 feet of the Commonwealth Shoe and Leather Co.. While the slope and soil characteristics (drainage) at the county level are favorable for ancient Native American site locations, the proximity of the property to wetlands of over 1,000 feet is not a favorable characteristic. Some types of Native American sites are not always affected by the proximity of the site to wetlands. These sites may include rockshelters, and special purpose-type sites that focus on the extraction of resources such as lithics and burials. No evidence is known that indicates these types of sites are present on the nominated property.

Given the above information, the potential for locating significant ancient Native American resources in the district is low. Construction of two single-family houses and four mill buildings with basements nearby, the size of the nominated property (3.85 acres), our current knowledge of ancient Native settlement and subsistence patterns in the region, and impacts to potential cultural resources through construction of the mills, outbuildings, grading, and paving, would have destroyed any ancient sites that were present in the area.

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While most of the architectural resources related to the Commonwealth Mills are believed to be extant, the potential for locating historic archaeological resources may be present in areas surrounding and between each mill. Few potential historic archaeological resources have been identified prior to the construction of the northern section of Building No. 1, the earliest section of the complex, built in 1864. Construction features may survive from the initial construction of the northern portion of the mill. Structural evidence may also survive from later renovations to the mill, including several additions to the earliest 1864 mill. Similar archaeological features may survive for the other mills located in the complex. Structural evidence from barns, stables, and outbuildings associated with the operation and maintenance of the mills may be present.

Occupational-type features (industrial and domestic trash dumps, privies, wells) may also be located in areas surrounding and between the mills. While other potential sites may exist along Broad, Day, South, and Marble Streets, archaeological resources from two single-family homes may survive south of the Commonwealth Shoe factory, facing east on Marble Street. Structural evidence may survive from each of these residential buildings and related barns, stables, and domestic/industrial outbuildings. Industrial-related outbuildings may include outbuildings with agricultural functions and/or industrial functions, such as cottage industries, that focused on the manufacture of all or portions of boots and shoes.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

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Criteria Considerations

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Industry

Social History

Period of Significance

ca. 1864- 1964

Significant Dates

1884, 1890, 1893, 1919

1923 (building program)

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Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

J. Williams Beal
J. Williams Beal Sons
C. A. Batson Co.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The factory buildings at 7 Marble Street in Whitman, MA, operated for over 80 years as Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. The buildings date from ca. 1864 to the 1950s, representing much of Whitman's long heritage in the shoemaking industry. The complex consists of three contributing buildings and one noncontributing building (see Figures 4 and 5 and the data sheet). The earliest section of the complex (the north section of Building 1) was built ca. 1864 by Miller Cook and John Penniman, owners of one of the town's early shoe companies.² It was occupied ca. 1880 by Henry and Daniels, another local shoe company. The remainder of the complex (except the 1888 former Unitarian Church, Building 3) was built by Commonwealth Shoe, which was incorporated in 1884. Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. became a leading manufacturer, and was a significant presence in Whitman into the mid 20th century.

The evolution of Commonwealth Shoe as a major boot and shoe company ran parallel to the broader industrial development in Whitman. Under the leadership of its president Charles H. Jones, Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. grew incrementally in size and output introducing the latest shoemaking machinery. The primary owner of Commonwealth Shoe, Charles H. Jones, was a business leader involved in legislative matters affecting the shoe industry in Massachusetts and nationally. Commonwealth's success was largely based on a popular shoe named the "Bostonian Shoe." Still manufactured today, the Bostonian Shoe became nationally renowned for high quality men's dress shoes.

Architects for Commonwealth Shoe's expansion included Boston architect J. Williams Beal (1855-1919, additions 1891 and 1893), and the successor firm J. Williams Beal Sons (additions 1923). C.A. Batson was most likely the contractor for the 1919 expansions. Beal enhanced the utilitarian/vernacular mill

² Russell Gardner. *History of Whitman*

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construction, notably Building 1, with fashionable and prominent stair towers (photos 1, 3). The Beal partnership was responsible for a remarkable number of works in Boston and the vicinity, including churches, hospitals, schools, commercial buildings, and private residential buildings.

The former Commonwealth Shoe & Leather factory has been recently adapted for residential and commercial/retail use. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places with a local level of significance. The period of significance extends from the time the earliest section of the existing factory was built ca. 1864 until 1964, to allow 50 years for historical perspective.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

History of Whitman

Having evolved during the 19th century from a primarily agricultural area to a town with several active industries, Whitman is now a suburban community situated in southeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Abington on the north, Rockland and Hanson on the east, East Bridgewater on the south, and Brockton on the west. Whitman is 21 miles south of Boston, located in the northeastern portion of the Narragansett Basin in the northwest section of Plymouth County.

Whitman was originally settled and known as the "Little Comfort" section of Bridgewater. This area became part of the town of Abington in 1712. Around the time of incorporation in 1712, Old Abington (consisting of Abington, Rockland, and Whitman) had approximately 300 residents. By the time of the American Revolution, Old Abington had grown to 1,263 inhabitants. The State Legislature designated the area known as South Abington a township on March 4, 1875. The new township of South Abington included parts of Abington and East Bridgewater, and in 1875 also exchanged territory with Brockton. South Abington was an important industrial node around 1874-1875, and represented a significant loss to Abington when they separated. At town meeting in 1886 the citizens changed the name of the town to Whitman [MHC town report].

During its early development, Whitman was largely an agricultural community, but several other businesses started here. For example, lumbering provided timber for the North River shipbuilding industry and later for the wooden box industry. A group of industrial buildings was clustered near the southern end of Hobarts Pond. Early structures included a sawmill that was established ca. 1693, and a gristmill (ca. 1731) built by Isaac Hobart slightly southwest of the sawmill. On that same site, Colonel Aaron Hobart, son of Isaac, constructed a blast furnace/iron foundry (ca. 1764), which produced meetinghouse bells, munitions, and cannon balls. The southern end of Hobarts Pond, with its proximity to the railroad line, continued to attract Whitman's major industries through the 19th century. At the turn of the 20th century, it was the site of the Atwood Bros. wooden box factory, the Regal Shoe factory (a competitor to Commonwealth Shoe), and the large complex of the Whitman Manufacturing Co. South Abington's agricultural base declined between 1810 and 1830, and by the mid 19th century industrialization increased and several shoe factories appeared in the 1850s [MHC town report].

By the second half of the 19th century, several industries prospered, providing Whitman with a relatively diverse and strong industrial economy in the post-Civil War decades. In addition to boots and shoes,

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coffins, caskets, steel shanks, packing-boxes, tacks, and nails were manufactured. The making of tacks in Abington (Whitman) began about 1770, and by the second half of the 19th century became one of Whitman's chief industries.

Population growth and industrial expansion went hand in hand. In the fifteen years between incorporation in 1875 and 1890, the town nearly doubled in size. In the early 1880s alone, six large new factories were built. Others were expanded, such as Atwood Bros. wooden box factory, as well as several shoe factories including Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co., and their prominent rival the Regal Shoe Company (destroyed by fire 1973). Important industrial complexes included two major tack factories: Dunbar, Hobart & Whidden, and D.B. Gurney Co., as well as Jenkins Bros. Steel Shoe Shank Manufactory (later the United Shoe Machinery Co.). Industrial activity was primarily in the boot and shoe industry, which remained the chief economic base during the latter half of the 19th century, and the source of Whitman's industrial growth in the first half of the 20th century. Although no new shoe factories were built in Whitman after the 1880s, boot and shoe manufacturing superseded tacks and nails, shanks and counters, leather and welting lasts, eyelets, and paper and wooden boxes, many of which were ancillary to the shoe industry. With the former Jenkins steel shoe shank factory, now a branch of the United Shoe Machinery Co., the town "excelled in the production of shanks and shoe findings" [MHC town report].

Founding and Development of Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co.

The Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. was a successor to a few of Whitman's early shoe factories. Among its predecessors were the Marcus S. Reed Factory, begun ca. 1865 in South Abington (later called Whitman). The Reed factory operated on another site as a small boot and shoe factory under various names. Another predecessor to Commonwealth Shoe was the Henry and Daniels factory, itself a successor to earlier South Abington shoe companies, and the previous owner of the earliest extant shoe factory building on the present Commonwealth Shoe and Leather site (ca. 1864). After Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. acquired the west side of the present Marble Street complex, it became a Whitman landmark, and the sprawling complex eventually occupied property on both the east and west sides of Marble Street. (See historic photos, figures 2a and 2b.)

Founded and incorporated in 1884, Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. succeeded the Charles H. Jones Co., formed in 1882. Charles H. Jones (1855-1933) became president, a position he held until 1930. For most of its existence, Commonwealth Shoe was a family enterprise, run by three generations of the Jones family—Charles H. Jones, his sons Paul Jones and Charles H. Jones Jr., and grandsons Paul Jones Jr. and Charles Jones III.

Charles H. Jones, the son of Harriet and Isaac Jones, was descended from a family of Quakers, who had established themselves in Chatham on Cape Cod. Charles Henry Jones, was born in 1855 in Marshfield, MA, attended Boston public schools, and in 1872 graduated from Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire. After graduation, the seventeen-year-old Charles H. Jones went to work for the wholesale shoe firm Henry and Daniels as a travelling representative. In 1882 Charles H. Jones married Bessie Roberts of Boston, and they had four children Paul, Elizabeth, Charles Henry Jr., and Harriet.

In addition to being president of Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co., Jones Sr. held many other executive positions. He was vice-president of the Boylston Machinery Co., and held directorships at Batchelder & Lincoln Co., First National Bank, and the New England Shoe and Leather Association. A member of Beta Theta Pi, Jones also belonged to the Boston City Club, the Exchange Club, and the Eastern Yacht and Beverley Yacht clubs. In 1915, *Who's Who in New England* listed his "recreations" as

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farming and hunting. Charles H. Jones lived in Weston, MA, from at least 1910 through 1930, and had an office at 72 Lincoln Street, Boston.

Deed research confirms that Charles H. Jones Sr. bought his first shoe manufacturing business on May 1, 1882, from Marcus Reed, a native of Bridgewater. According to the 1880 census, Jones was living with Marcus Reed, Reed's wife, sister-in-law and brother, suggesting that Marcus Reed was mentoring Jones. The 2½-story frame building, known as the Marcus Reed Shoe Factory was located on the corner of Bedford (Rt. 18) and Auburn streets in "Auburnville" in southwest Whitman where the shoe industry began. According to Whitman historian Martha Campbell, the Reed factory had been operating since about 1865, when Marcus Stetson Reed had partnered with S. Bates to build a shoe factory and store. The S. Bates and M. S. Reed factory manufactured fine calf boots and shoes and their business expanded through the 1870s, employing 220 workers.

By 1880, Charles H. Jones had become an associate of Marcus Reed, and their company was known as Reed and Jones. On May 1, 1882, the 60 year old Marcus Reed transferred title to Charles H. Jones, who bought the M.S. Reed Factory and the machinery to carry on manufacturing boots and shoes, and called the new firm Charles H. Jones & Co. A year later, in 1883, Charles H. Jones sold the Reed factory to Stetson and Coombs. A photograph of the M.S. Reed factory (ca. 1880) is reproduced in the booklet "YESTERYEARS" published in 1962. The former Reed factory appears on two Sanborn Insurance maps: in 1891, the property is shown as the Eaton, Stetson & Co. Boot Manufactory; in 1896, it is named the Woodward Faulkner & Co. boot and shoe factory; but by 1900 the building is not shown.

Jones, along with his co-partners and financial backers Henry B. Endicott and Henry B. Williams, became directors of the newly formed Charles H. Jones & Co. (Plymouth County Deeds 484: 64), which conducted business in South Abington and Boston. Endicott was a prosperous industrialist and investor from Boston who lived in Dedham, operated the Endicott Shoe Company, and founded the Endicott-Johnson Shoe Company in New York State. It is not clear whether Jones ever operated his company, the Charles H. Jones & Co., at the former Marcus Reed factory.

In September 1882, Jones acquired another business. The origins of this business are not clear, but by 1878 it was known as Daniels and Jones. In 1880, John Q. Henry and John P. Daniels had acquired the title and business of their factory from Miller J. Cook Jr. and John Penniman. In 1882, Jones purchased the factory from his former employers Henry and Daniels, boot and shoe wholesalers of Boston. This small, relatively new factory building sat on the west side of a "townway" and was the nucleus of the present site known as the Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co., the main headquarters of the business.³

In 1882 the property purchased by Charles H. Jones & Co. from Henry and Daniels "lay on the west side of a townway leading southerly from South Ave. near Fairbank's marble shop to Broad Street." The so-called "townway" was later named Marble Street. In March, 1883 Charles H. Jones & Co. bought more land extending to Broad Street. According to an 1884 advertisement in the South Abington directory, Commonwealth Shoe had increased their facilities, bringing their capacity up to a daily production of 125 pairs of shoes or boots. The directors of Commonwealth Shoe that year were C.E. Bigelow, president, H. B. Endicott, treasurer, and C.H. Jones, secretary and general manager. The 1885 Sanborn Insurance Map delineates the Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. as a long rectangular building with a second shorter building running parallel with it.

³ In 1882 Miller J. Cook Jr. built a new factory called Old Colony Shoe Co., on the corner of Blake Street and Whitman Avenue.

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In 1895, the local paper reported that Commonwealth Shoe, among others, was expanding its factory. At this time shoes were distributed through jobbers (wholesalers) who then sold them to retailers. According to a Whitman Times article (1962) the wholesale firm of Smith and Stoughton owned retail outlets and formed a business arrangement buying and distributing Commonwealth's shoes. According to the 1965 Whitman Historical Commission booklet, the trademark '*Bostonian Shoe*' was acquired at this time (about 1896), after Commonwealth Shoe bought out Smith and Stoughton.⁴

Chronology of businesses at the two locations:

	Property at Marble Street, Whitman	Property at corner Bedford & Auburn Streets, Whitman
Date	Business Name	Business Name
Unknown	Miller J. Cook, Jr & John Penniman	
1865-1880		Marcus Stetson Reed & S. Bates (ca. 1865)
1878	<i>Reed & Jones working together - location unknown</i>	
1880	Henry & Daniels	Reed & Jones
1882	Charles H. Jones & Co.	Charles H. Jones & Co
1883		Stetson & Coombs
1884	Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co	Eaton Stetson & Co.
1891		Woodward Faulkner & Co
1896		building no longer extant
1970		

Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Company's branches extended to Maine. In 1897, at the behest of the Gardiner (ME) Board of Trade, Commonwealth Shoe, under Charles H. Jones Sr., opened Gardiner's first shoe factory on Maine Avenue. The four-story, wood-frame Gardiner factory featured a prominent Gothic Revival-style stair tower reminiscent of Building 1 in Whitman. The Gardiner branch, which produced the Bostonian shoe, prospered, leading to factory expansions in 1906, 1913, and 1934. Maine historians Danny D. Smith and Earle G. Shettleworth Jr. have written that by the 1930s, the plant's 350 employees were manufacturing 1,800 pairs of shoes daily. In 1951, the Gardiner Board of Trade built a new facility for Commonwealth Shoe off Brunswick Avenue, and they transferred their operation to what was reputedly one of the "largest, most modern shoe factories in the country." The new factory also featured a Gothic-style stair tower. The original factory on Maine Avenue was demolished in 1970.⁵

Moccasins and other casual shoes were made in their factory in Monmouth, Maine, which opened in 1949 and was moved to Freeport in 1954.

⁴ Located east of the Old Colony Railroad, Smith and Stoughton's property was destroyed by fire soon afterwards.

⁵ Photographs of the two factories are pictured in Danny D. Smith and Earle G. Shettleworth Jr., *Gardiner*, 84.

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Building Chronology

The 1885 Sanborn Insurance map shows the Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. buildings on the west side of Marble Street only. The entire block (bounded by South Avenue to the north, Marble Street to the east, Broad Street to the south and Day Street to the west) had a few other scattered buildings. A marble works was located at the northeast corner of the block (thus the name of the street), two single-family houses were located south of the Commonwealth Shoe factory facing east on Marble Street, and five houses, a barn, and a stable were located on Day Street to the west. A roller skating rink was located across Marble Street at the southeast corner of Marble and Broad streets. According to this map, the long rectangular, 3½-story wood and brick structure, currently known as Building 1, housed departments for sole-leather making, packing, cutting, stitching, and finishing, and included an office on the second floor. Attached to Building 1's west elevation, a small square four-story tower was used for stitching and crimping; and a westerly passageway connected to the smaller 3½-story rectangular building of similar construction (still extant), sitting parallel to Building 1, and containing departments for sole-leather making, bottoming, cutting, and stitching.

Much of the complex built between 1890 and 1923 was designed by Boston-based architect J. Williams Beal and the successor firm J. Williams Beal Sons. In 1890, J. Williams Beal designed the first north-south section of Building 2 along the east side of Marble Street. The long rectangular structure is three stories with a clerestory monitor. A stair tower was constructed just north of a new connector/bridge that linked the 2nd and 3rd floors of Building 1 and Building 2. Building 2 was used for "sole leather making, stitching and fitting." At the same time (ca. 1890), Building 1 was extended to the south along Marble Street, the north tower was constructed, and the boiler house attached to Building 1 was enlarged adding one new boiler. One house was removed for this construction.

The 1891 Sanborn map shows Buildings 1 and 2 connected by a two-story connector. Floor plans show a single row of wood columns in Building 1, and a double row in Building 2. The gable-front Unitarian Church (1888), located northeast of Building 2 and setback from South Avenue, appears on the 1891 and 1919 Sanborn maps as a separate structure (Figure 3). Beal's designs (1893) for the second southern extension to Building 1 delineate the east (front) elevation with the Colonial Revival style south stair tower. The rectangular south addition was the same height as the earlier section of Building 1, and extended a long way south towards Broad Street.

In 1895 the *Annual Statistics of Manufactures*, published by the Massachusetts Dept. of Labor and Industries, recorded that Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. had completed plans in November for the enlargement of the plant. By 1896 a new rectangular wing extended east from Building 2. This east-west addition was used for "finishing, treeing, making, fitting."

The architectural plans, stamped by C.A. Batson Co., for the next additions to Buildings 1 and 2 are dated 1919. It seems likely that Beal was the architect and C.A. Batson was the contractor only.⁶ During this construction program, Building 1 was expanded at the south end with a wing extending west along Broad Street. A south entry with its small gabled porch appears in historical photos (Figure 2a), but would have been removed when the south wing was added. The floor plan was structured with two rows of columns, unlike the rest of Building 1.

⁶ J. Williams Beal died in 1919 and may not have had a chance to sign his drawings. C. A. Batson's name appears on the 1919 plans for Building 2's east wing. The design strongly resembles the earlier design by J. Williams Beal (1890) for the west wing. All references to the Batson Co. identify them as contractors.

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In 1923, J. Williams Beal Sons designed a wing projecting west at the north end of Building 1 (fig. 4, 1f). The exterior design of this four-story addition with its straight-sided mansard roof blended seamlessly with the north-south main building (1864). The floor plans with single wood columns show that the factory was being modernized. For example, the third floor contained rooms for stenographers, the "Tag Department," and the "Order Department." The fourth floor was equipped with a sample room, emergency room, an office for a sales manager, a bookkeeper, a room for "Mr. Jones," as well as space for advertising. This coincides with the company's (Jones') decision in the 1920s to boost sales with a program of widespread advertising.

Historic photographs show that Marble Street in the 1920s was a busy thoroughfare with motor cars parked on both sides, and pedestrians crowding the sidewalks. At that time there was a restaurant adjacent to Building 1 at the north end, and several retail stores bordered South Avenue, west of Marble Street.

The First Unitarian Church (1888; Building 3 on the data sheet) at the corner of South Avenue and Marble Street was built on land given to Whitman's First Unitarian Society by Baylies Wood, A. E. Stetson, and C. D. Reed. Services began in 1891 and continued until 1968 when the Church closed. In his *History of Whitman*, Russell H. Gardner noted that Commonwealth Shoe and Leather Co. began to use the church structure as part of their "shoe stores and warehouse complex" in 1968. The connector between the church and Building 2 presumably dates to that period. Of historical interest for both its religious use and its subsequent role associated with the factory's shoe production process, Building 3, the former church, is a contributing element of the Commonwealth Shoe and Leather complex.

J. Williams Beal and J. Williams Beal Sons, architects

J. Williams Beal (1855-1919) was a well-known and prolific architect who practiced from various addresses in the city of Boston, including offices at Kilby and Summer streets.⁷ Born in south Scituate (now Norwell), J. Williams Beal was an early graduate (1877) of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's School of Architecture. He belonged to the first generation of Boston's professionally-trained architects schooled in the Beaux-Arts tradition. J. Williams Beal used a variety of revival styles including Classical, Romanesque, Gothic, Queen Anne, Chateau, and Colonial. After graduating from MIT, Beal worked in New York as a draughtsman for Richard Morris Hunt, and later for McKim, Mead and White. He also traveled and studied in Europe. In 1888, J. Williams Beal began his practice in Boston.

Beal's son Robert Washburn Beal (b. 1891), a landscape architect (Harvard A.B. 1913; M.L.A. 1914), was the first of the sons to start working in his father's office by 1915 (while still living at home). Two other of Beal's sons eventually formed a partnership (J. Williams Beal Sons): Horatio Williams Beal (b. 1889; Harvard A.B. 1911; M. Arch. 1915) and John Woodbridge Beal (1887 – 1971, attended Harvard School of Business Administration for one year). It is frequently written that there was a firm named J. Williams Beal & Sons, but this has not been confirmed.

During the 1910s J. Williams Beal had his office at 58 Summer Street and his son Robert also practiced at that address. In 1917, brothers Horatio W. and John W. Beal were listed as architects with an office at 62 Summer Street, while J. Williams and Robert Beal were still listed at 58 Summer Street. The two office buildings were next door to each other in the Downtown Crossing area of Boston at the intersection of

⁷ See attached Continuation sheet for a list of buildings by J. Williams Beal, and J. Williams Beal Sons. From Massachusetts Historical Commission (MACRIS database), Boston Public Library, Fine Arts Dept., Boston Architects Reference File. [Beal, Beal and Sons]

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Otis and Washington streets and it seems that the father and all sons were working in partnership, but their directory listings were separate.⁸ Following their father's death in 1919, J. Williams Beal Sons was formed in 1920, and all three of the sons were listed in the city directory that year at the address of the father's office: 58 Summer Street, Boston. By 1925, the three had moved to the same office at 185 Devonshire Street, Room 1101. J. Williams Beal Sons continued to design major works until at least 1950, long after their father's death. In later years, they tried to bring in partners. The firm was listed in 1962 as J. Williams Beal Sons & Granger, and in 1970, the firm was J. Williams Beal Sons & Poskus.

J. Williams Beal's early works are well documented. He built the English-revival All Souls' Unitarian Church (1888) now the Charles Street African Methodist Episcopal Church, a historic African-American Episcopal church in Boston, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 (MHC # BOS.11433). Architectural historian Douglass Shand-Tucci describes him as a "well-known Boston architect" who designed one of the most picturesque ensembles of fifteen attached brick and full half-timbered town houses. Known as Harriswood Crescent (1890; NRIND 3/13/1986), they were built in the newly fashionable streetcar suburb of Roxbury Highlands, and survive in fair condition, according to Shand-Tucci. J. Williams Beal's work was varied; for example in 1909 he was one of the renowned architects, including Peabody & Stearns, who were asked to design tenant housing for George Draper & Son (later Draper Corporation) workers in Hopedale, MA (NRDIS). The housing for Draper & Son, once the largest maker of power looms, was grouped on a development designed by noted landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff (1870-1957).

Beal's later work included many prominent buildings in Plymouth County such as Plymouth County House of Correction (1908-10), and the Walk-Over Shoe Company Clubhouse (1914), Brockton, MA (demolished). In 1917, J. Williams Beal designed a monumental 170-room, Colonial Revival-style seaside hotel on Manomet Point overlooking Cape Cod (destroyed by fire 1975). One of Beal's last projects was the Plymouth County Tuberculosis Hospital in Hanson, MA (1919 – 1921; damaged by a major fire in 2006).

J. Williams Beal Sons continued to design in various revival styles including the Whitman High School (1927, MHC # WHI.10) on 54 South Ave., a two-story, Georgian Revival building with a segmental portico and herringbone masonry accents [MHC town report]. At the end of the first quarter of the 20th century, J. Williams Beal Sons were one of a group of architects producing major theaters and concert halls in Boston. Their classicizing design for the Jewett Repertory Theater (now the Boston University Theatre, MHC # BOS.7488), 264 Huntington Avenue was built in 1925. The firm designed the Dyer Memorial Library (1930, MHC # ABI.132) in Abington, a handsome Colonial Revival-style building with rich decoration on the interior. In 1929, the firm designed a small-scaled skyscraper in the fashionable Art Deco style for the Granite Trust Company (MHC # QUI. 171, NRMRA) at Quincy Center. This was one of many Art Deco buildings that J. Williams Beal Sons built in Greater Boston. The firm continued with a partner until the death of John Woodbridge Beal in 1971. In 1939, Governor Saltonstall appointed John W. Beal Commissioner of Public Works for Massachusetts.⁹

⁸ The Harvard alumni directory noted that at the end WWI (Nov. 1918), Horatio "resumed the practice of architecture with his father at 58 Summer Street, Boston."

⁹ Unfortunately, some of John W. Beal's political connections caused problems. John was apparently the primary culprit when John and Horatio were convicted of bribing John Lyons, the Mayor of Cambridge, in 1939 in order to obtain a contract for the Cambridge Tuberculosis Hospital. <http://masscases.com/cases/sjc/314/314mass210.html> Mayor Lyons, an associate and the contractor for the project were also convicted for the bribery. Lewiston Daily Sun. Lewiston, ME, March 20, 1941, p.1.

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C. A. Batson and Co.

Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. plans dated 1919 bear the stamp C. A. Batson Co., but it is not clear whether Batson was the designer or the general contractor. According to *Boot and Shoe Recorder* (Oct. 1922), in the 1910s, the C. A. Batson Co. was located at 36 Station Ave. in Brockton, and worked as contractors. The company worked on City Housing in Brockton, and built a new addition for the manufacturing plant of Edwin Clapp & Son Inc., East Weymouth, shoe manufacturers since 1853.

C. A. Batson worked with J. Williams Beal Sons on a number of buildings. They include the Elks Building, 1218-22 Hancock St. (1924) in Quincy Center, Quincy (NRMRA, MHC # QUI.155), and the Classical Revival Masonic Temple (1926), 1156 Hancock St., Quincy, (NRMRA, MHC # QUI. 152).

Charles H. Jones and the Shoe Industry

Under Charles H. Jones, the Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. participated in the broad issues affecting the shoe industry. Charles H. Jones testified at public hearings held by the Attorney General and the Massachusetts Legislature. In 1895 the *Annual Statistics of Manufactures* by the MA Dept. of Labor and Industries recorded that hand lasters in the shoe factories were being replaced by machines. In 1899, Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. became embroiled in a dispute with the hand lasters and the Laster's Union over pay per shoe. The hand lasters at Commonwealth Shoe were being displaced by McKay machines, which stitched leather uppers to soles. The McKay machines increased production exponentially, making hand lasting uncompetitive.¹⁰

When Commonwealth Shoe decided to pay their lasters less per shoe, the workers held an unprecedented strike, and only returned to work after Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. and the Boot and Shoe Workers Union appeared before the State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation. Charles H. Jones signed a negotiated settlement. Following this, the Union and the lasters appealed to the Governor, but the earlier settlement was upheld.¹¹ Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co., like other major shoe factories in Massachusetts, adopted new technology to increase mass production and lower costs. Nevertheless the Company held a stamp for the local Boot and Shoe Workers Union that guaranteed their products were made using union labor. This was the beginning of a so-called 'golden age' of shoemaking.

Charles H. Jones promoted competition in the New England shoe industry. Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. was one of only two New England companies that joined the national sixty-member Shoe Manufacturers' Alliance, an organization formed to break the monopoly of the United Machinery Co. (USM), who charged royalties on selling and leasing essential shoe machinery. In 1906 Jones hired lawyer Louis Brandeis—later a Supreme Court Justice—to advocate for the Alliance against the leasing practices of USM [Letters of Louis Brandeis]. The Shoe Manufacturers' Alliance was unable to break the USM monopoly at this time, but over the next several decades challenges to USM's monopolist practices continued. In 1912 Jones appeared before the U.S Senate's Committee on Interstate Commerce, which was conducting an inquiry into the United Machinery Corporation.

¹⁰ Horace Greeley Wadlin and Charles Felton Pidgin. *Labor and Industrial Chronology of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*. pp. 97-98.

¹¹ *Ibid.* p. 125, 207.

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Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. in the 20th Century

In 1913 the Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. became a charter member of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. Jones had been a director the Boston Chamber of Commerce (1907), and remained an active member into the 1920s. Jones wrote numerous articles for trade magazines, including one on the condition of the shoe industry and its prospects for the future (1909). In 1919 Jones joined the Woodrow Wilson Independent League, a progressive political organization.

Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. became a dominant industry in Whitman, manufacturing fine shoes and boots that were sold across the country. Commonwealth's success was largely based on a popular shoe named the "Bostonian Shoe." Still manufactured today, the Bostonian Shoe became nationally renowned. In 1906, Commonwealth Shoe had decided to distribute directly to retailers. The widespread positive response to the Bostonian brand meant that sales quadrupled between 1909 and 1917. Charles H. Jones Sr. and his son, Paul Jones Sr., were convinced that advertising in dealer displays and newspapers would fuel sales, and in 1923 Commonwealth also began a program of national advertising. This is reflected in the west wing addition (1923) to the north end of Building 1, which allotted space on the fourth floor for the Advertising Dept. Historian Orra Stone wrote in his book *History of Massachusetts Industries* (1930) that under Jones' management, Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. ranked as one of the most consistent national advertisers in the footwear business. Stone also noted that Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. had expanded into a \$2,500,000 corporation that employed 1,200 workers.

During the 1920s and 1930s, Commonwealth bought retail stores and outlets across the country. Commonwealth's *Bostonian* shoes became world famous from its much expanded operation at the old Henry and Daniels site on Marble Street. Through government contracts they supplied shoes to the US Navy during World War II. In 1947 the Bostonian Shoe Sales Corp. was formed and became a division of Commonwealth Shoe under the direction of a vice-president. The Commonwealth Bostonian Shoe sales office was located in Boston. By 1962, the Whitman factory had been repeatedly expanded through the addition of wings and secondary structures.

In 1930, when Charles H. Jones stepped down as president, his son Paul Jones took over; but Charles Sr. continued as chairman until his death in 1933. In 1949, Charles H. Jones Jr. succeeded as president. In addition Charles Jones III, a third generation member of the Jones family, held executive positions in the company. In 1959, the family transferred ownership and operation to the management and certain employees of Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. Inc. Under their aegis, the company grew to 1,200 employees in its three factories as well as retail outlets throughout the country. Clearly a booster for the town, Jones is reported to have coined the slogan identifying Whitman as 'SHOE TOWN USA'.

In addition to supplying shoes to the US Navy in WWII, Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. took great pride in the entire company's contribution to the war effort. In 1944, against the backdrop of war, Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. published "Commonwealth in Battle Dress," a patriotic booklet of photographs and text. The book paid tribute to the achievements of the "Commonwealth family since Pearl Harbor, on both the military front and the production line at home." In 1944, more than 120 employees were on leave to serve in the armed forces. Groups of women and men from the both the Whitman and the Gardiner factories were photographed to commemorate up to 40 years of service to the company. The name of each employee appeared under the photos. Many single portraits celebrated the loyalty of employees, their experience, and expertise as artisans. One memorable portrait shows Ignazio Costa, a "European" hand shoemaker at work, using the methods learned during his years of apprenticeship in the "old country under exacting methods and deep rooted traditions." Another photo shows George Sexton, a "bed laster" at work with his machinery in Whitman. His two sons, both

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Commonwealth Shoe employees on leave, were in the Air Corps. The text underneath the photo records that George's son John had been shot down, and was now a prisoner of war. Commonwealth Shoe, like many companies at this time, regarded itself as a close-knit family. Third and fourth generations in the same family would maintain pride in their accomplishments as shoe workers.

In 1970, at a time when the New England's shoe industry was in decline, Kayser-Roth of New York acquired Commonwealth Shoe, and with it the *Bostonian Shoe* trademark. Only the sister factory off Brunswick Avenue, Gardiner, Maine, was retained by Commonwealth Shoe. Kayser-Roth owned many factories throughout the United States. Their specialty included clothing, hosiery and they marketed a broad range of products under trade names including *Bostonian Shoe*. Still manufactured today, *Bostonian Shoe* is still identified with high quality men's dress shoes.

The Commonwealth Shoe complex on Marble Street was acquired by the town of Whitman, and the Whitman Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (WEDIC) managed the property as a small-business incubator from 1982 - 2008. It was purchased in 2008 by a new owner who rehabilitated the buildings for combined residential and business use, including 127 residential apartments, fifteen commercial/retail spaces and a common area with a swimming pool, fitness center, and storage areas. One of the previously existing retail tenants has returned and sells clothing and other items with Irish-related logos. Other commercial tenants sell and print T-shirts and other sportswear; one sells sporting goods related to golf. The property is once more full of life and a major landmark of which the town of Whitman can be proud.

Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to the construction, operation, and shoe production at the Commonwealth Shoe and Leather Co. While structural evidence and construction features associated with existing mill buildings and mill buildings no longer extant may contribute information related to mill construction and the architectural features of buildings that have been demolished, much of the same information may also be available from documentary sources. Structural analysis of mill buildings (including outbuildings no longer extant) and architectural study of existing mill buildings may contribute important information related to power technologies in use at the mill, and how they may have changed over time. Detailed analysis of the contents of industrial trash areas may contribute information related to shoe manufacturing technologies in use at the mill, and how they may have changed over time with different aspects of shoe production. Structural remains and detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may contribute the material culture evidence that can document different stages in the production process from raw materials to finished products. The potential to locate information related to shoe manufacturing in cottage industries is also high. Cottage industries may contain information that indicates the role they played in the development of larger scale shoe factories.

The analysis of occupational-related features may also contribute evidence related to the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of groups of individuals that worked in the mills and by extrapolation, the larger Whitman community

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): MHC # WHI.2

HPCA # 23,625

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.85 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 42.080635 | Longitude: -70.932549 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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Or
UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 19 | Eastings: 340150 | Northing: 4660536 |
| 2. Zone: | Eastings: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Eastings: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Eastings : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The former Commonwealth Shoe and Leather Co. buildings stand on Whitman assessor's parcels 4-52-1 and 4-51-1. Assessor's parcel 4-52-1 includes Parcel I and Parcel III as described below and recorded by the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 19435, Page 4. Assessor's parcel 4-51-1 includes Parcel II as described below and recorded by the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Book 19435, Page 4.

Assessor's parcel 4-51-1 also includes what was formerly a separate lot and house on South Avenue, abutting the northeast corner of parcel 4-51-1. A line of convenience has been drawn to exclude the lot (formerly known as 141 South Street on assessors map 8, lot 3), which was acquired by the current owners after they purchased 7 Marble Street in 2008. It has been omitted from the National Register boundary because it was not historically associated with either the Commonwealth Shoe and Leather Company or the former Unitarian Church that became part of Commonwealth Shoe.

Three parcels with the buildings and improvements thereon situated in the Town of Whitman, County of Plymouth, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

PARCEL I: **UNREGISTERED LAND**

EASTERLY	by Marble Street, Four Hundred Thirty-seven and 58/100 (437.58) feet;
SOUTHEASTERLY	by Broad Street, on two lines, measuring One Hundred Sixty-Eight and 56/100 (168.56) feet and Thirty-seven and 95/100 (37.95) feet;
WESTERLY	by the land of Henri E. & Carole A. Perrault, Robert L. & Marie Y. Mantell, Harold T. & Phyllis E. Dodge, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C., Parker A. & Marion R. Bates and George N. & Ellen B. Harrington, Four Hundred Two and 89/100

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	Leather Co. , land of Poy L. & Helen L. Wong, and land of Charles F. Elliot et ux as shown on said plan on three lines measuring Eighty-eight and 50/100 (88.50) feet, Seventy-five and 02/110 (75.02) feet, and Seventy-five (75) feet, each respectively;
SOUTHEASTERLY	By land of Charles F. Elliot, et ux, as shown on the said plan, One Hundred One (101) feet.

Containing 70,113 square feet (1.61 acres), according to the said plan, and being shown as Parcel 2 on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Whitman, Mass. Owned by Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Company", dated December 1968, by C. A. Pickering Associates, Inc. recorded at Plymouth County Registry of Deeds in Book 4759, Page 206.

PARCEL III: UNREGISTERED LAND

SOUTHERLY	by Broad Street, One (1) foot;
WESTERLY	by land of Henri E. & Carole Perrault, as shown on a plan hereinafter mentioned, One Hundred Two and 27/100 (102.27) feet
NORTHERLY	by land of Robert L. & Marie Y. Mantell, as shown on said plan, One (1) foot;
EASTERLY	By PARCEL 1, as shown on said plan, One Hundred Two and 27/100 (102.27) feet.

Being shown in "Detail B" on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Whitman, Mass. Owned by Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co.", dated December 1968, by C. A. Pickering Associates, Inc.

Being part of the premises conveyed to Boston Commonwealth LLC and recorded by the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds in book 19435, Page 4, described in that record ad Parcel I, Parcel II, and Parcel III.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries enclose the land that is currently occupied by the former Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. buildings, and that was owned by Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co. while it was in operation

Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co.
Name of Property

Plymouth, MA
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Leslie Donovan and Katherine Matison, with Betsy Friedberg, MHC
organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission
street & number: 220 Morrissey Boulevard
city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125
e-mail betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us
telephone: 617-727-8470
date: April, 2014

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co.
Name of Property

Plymouth, MA
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co.

City or Vicinity: Whitman

County: Plymouth

State: MA

Photographer: Katherine Matison

Date Photographed: November, 2011 & June, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 9 Marble Street view north
- 2 Building 1, north tower
- 3 Building 1, south tower
- 4 Building 1, looking southeast
- 5 Building 1, interior stair, south tower
- 6 Building 2, former church –looking east
- 7 Building 2, east elevation
- 8 Building 2, room 304, looking west
- 9 Building 2, commercial space, looking east

Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co.
Name of Property

Plymouth, MA
County and State

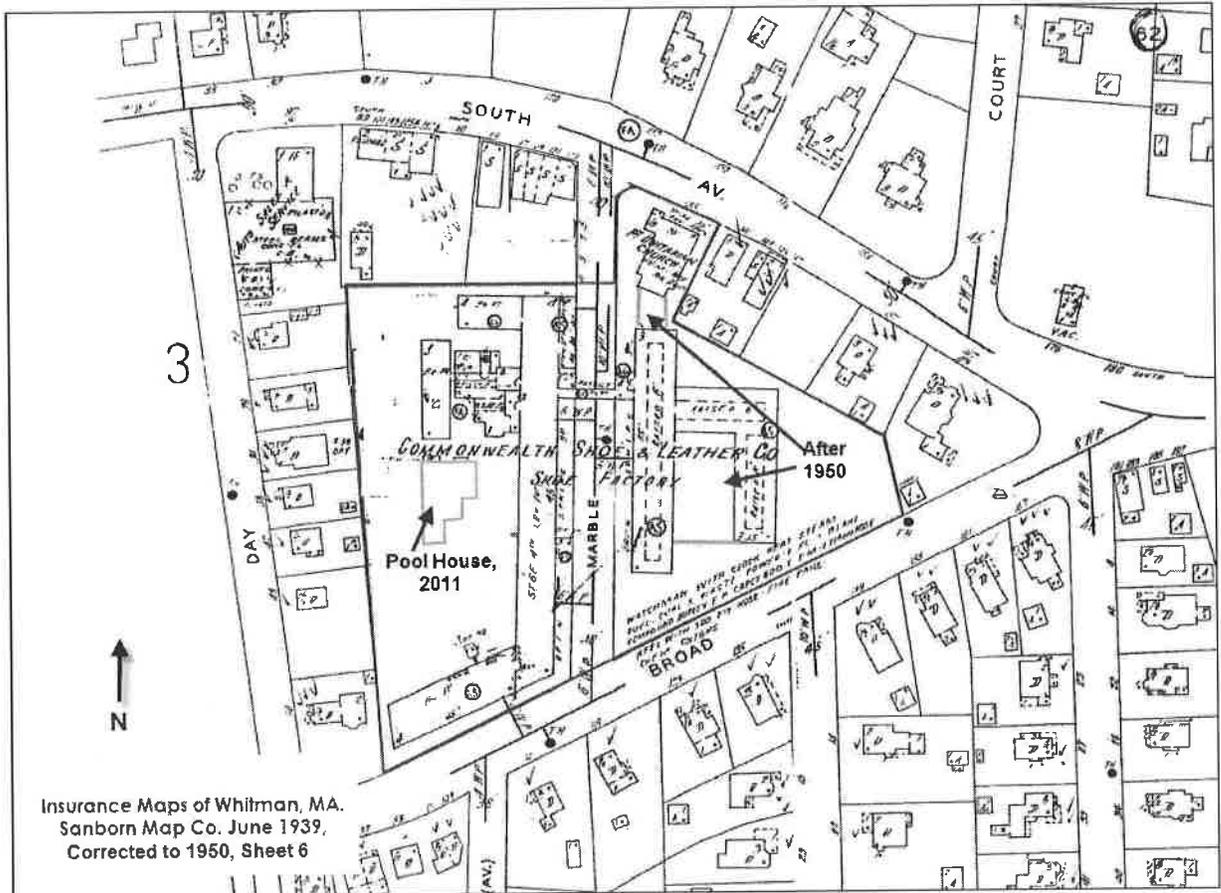


Figure 1 – Location Key

Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co.
Name of Property

Plymouth, MA
County and State



Figure 2a. Undated. View north, northwest. Building 1 at left, Building 2 at right. Between 1896 and 1919.



Figure 2b. Undated. View north. Building 1 at left, Building 2 at right. Two-story connector at center. After 1919.

Source 2a and 2b: Courtesy of Whitman Historical Society, Postcard collection.

Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co.
Name of Property

Plymouth, MA
County and State



Figure 3 – Undated. Historic view of First Unitarian Church, Building 2 at far right

Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co.
 Name of Property

Plymouth, MA
 County and State

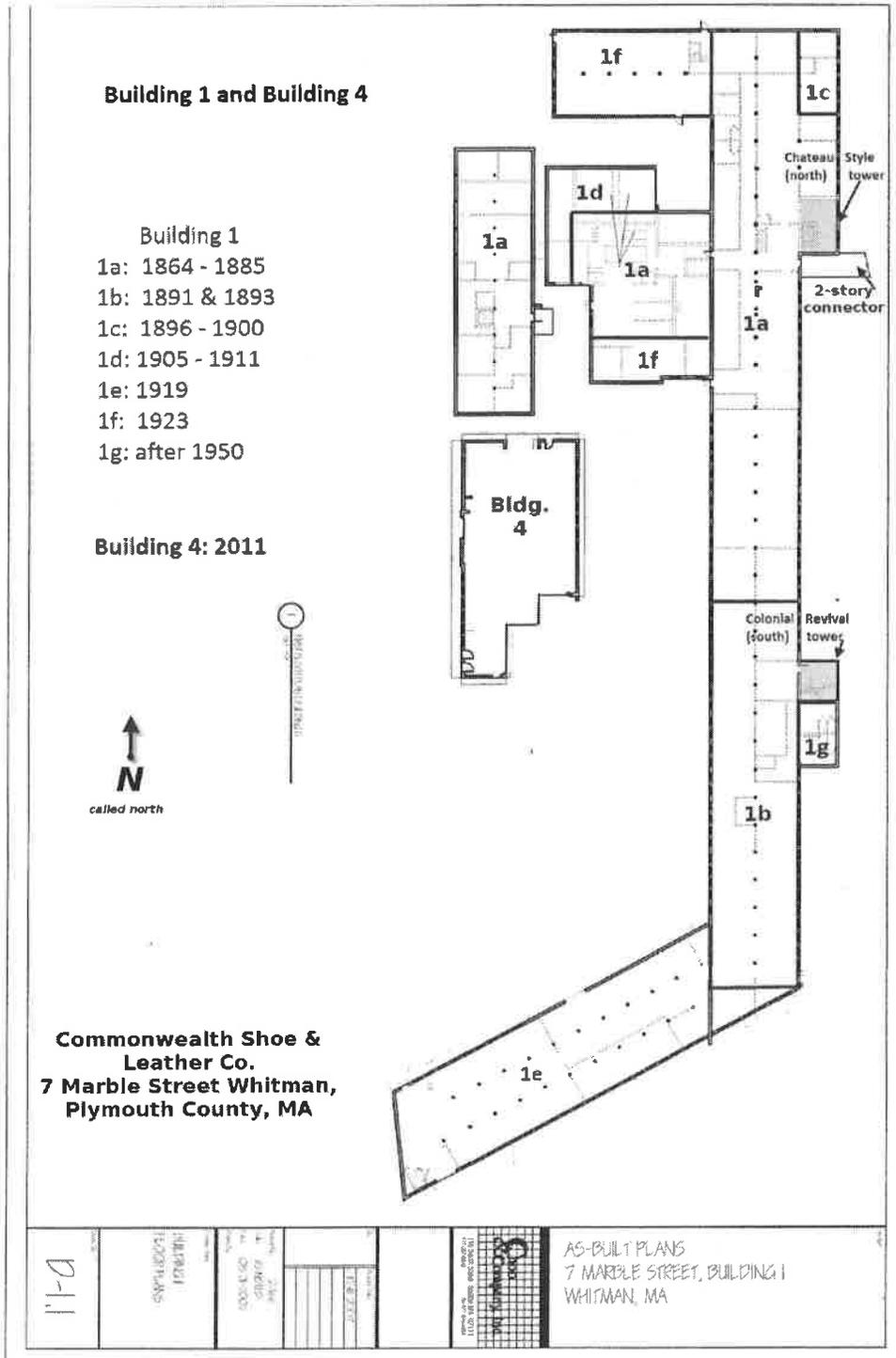


Figure 4-Building 1 Location Key for Data Sheet

Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co.
Name of Property

Plymouth, MA
County and State

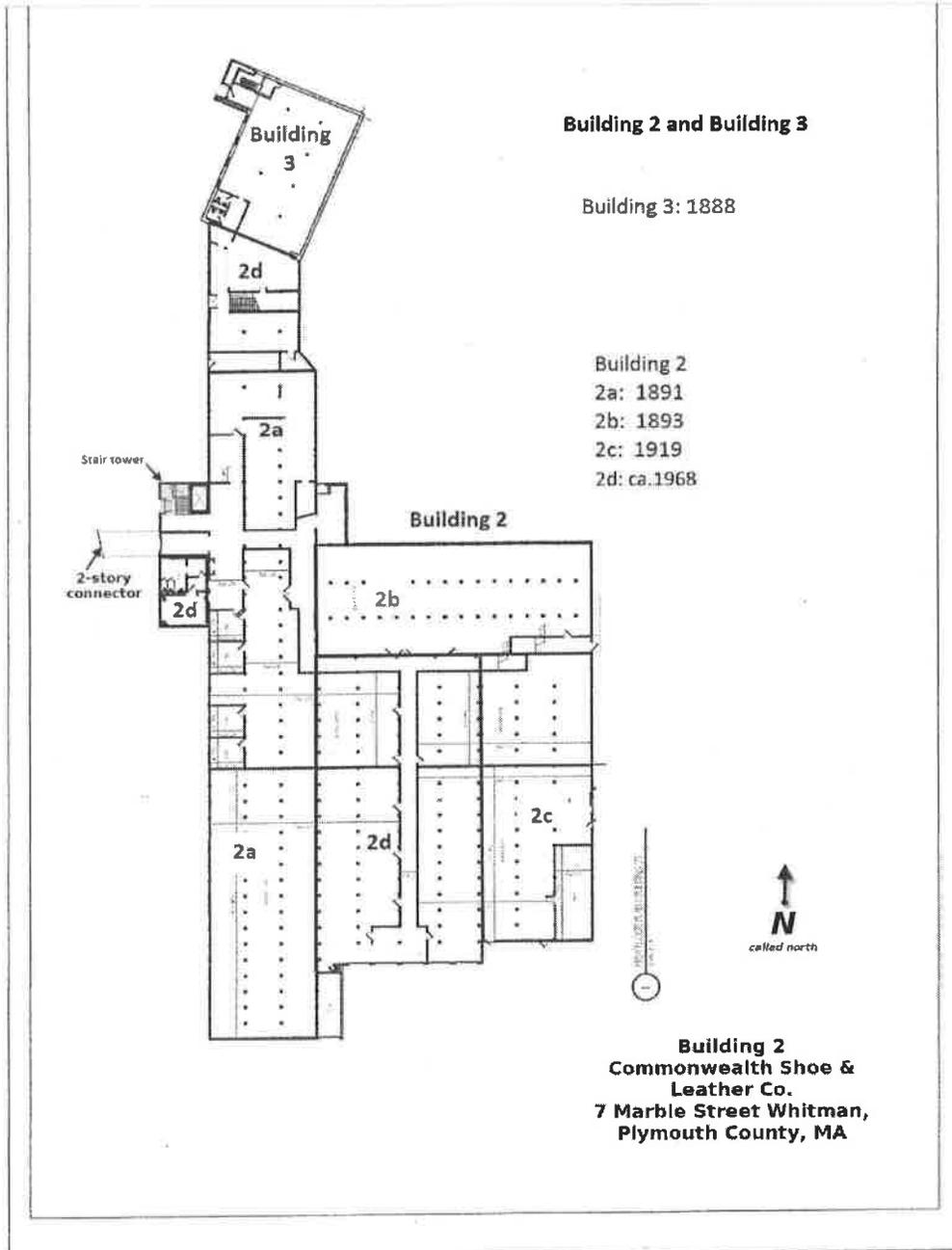


Figure 5 – Building 2 Location Key for Data Sheet

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

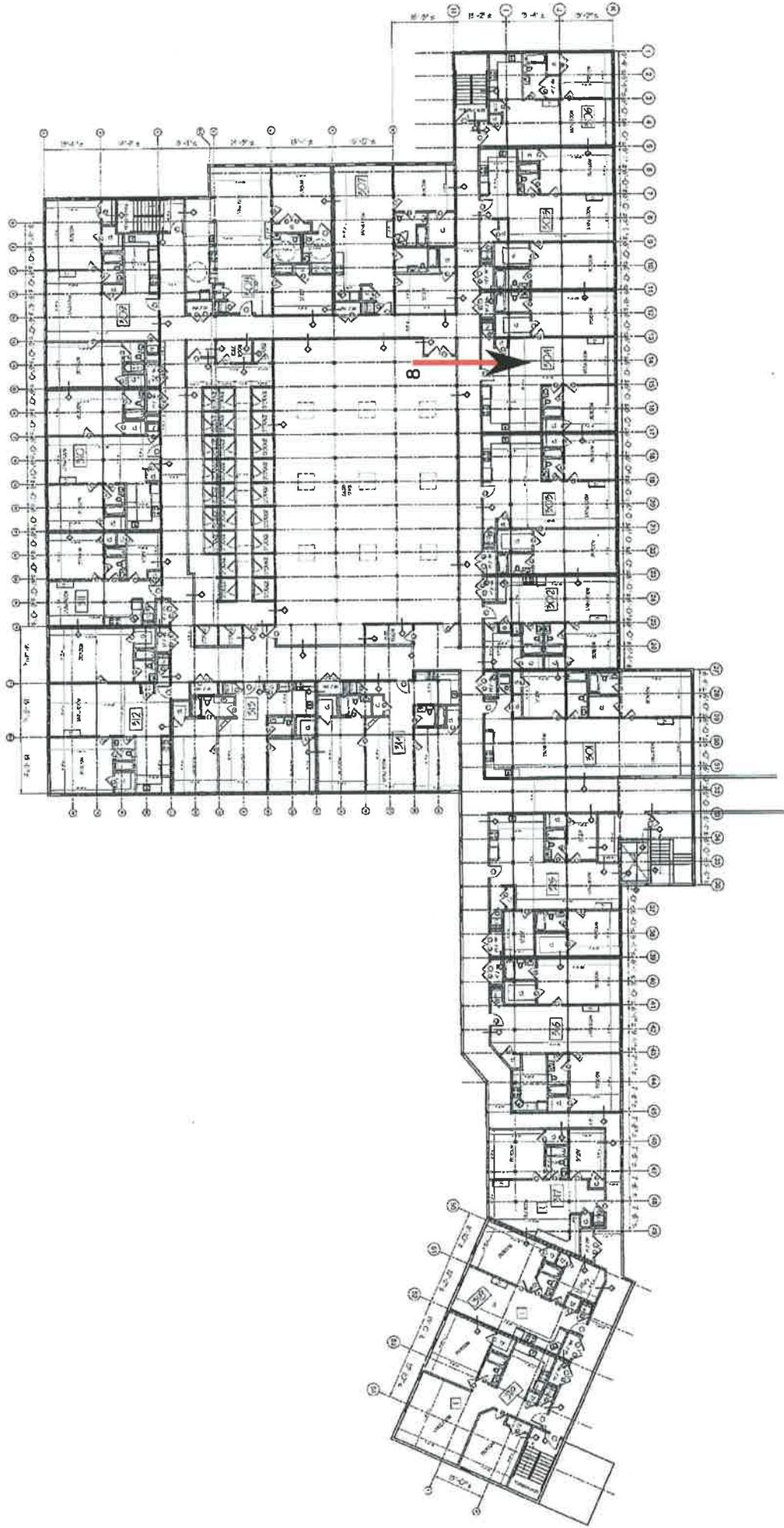
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**COMMONWEALTH SHOE AND LEATHER CO
Whitman (Plymouth County), MA
Data Sheet**

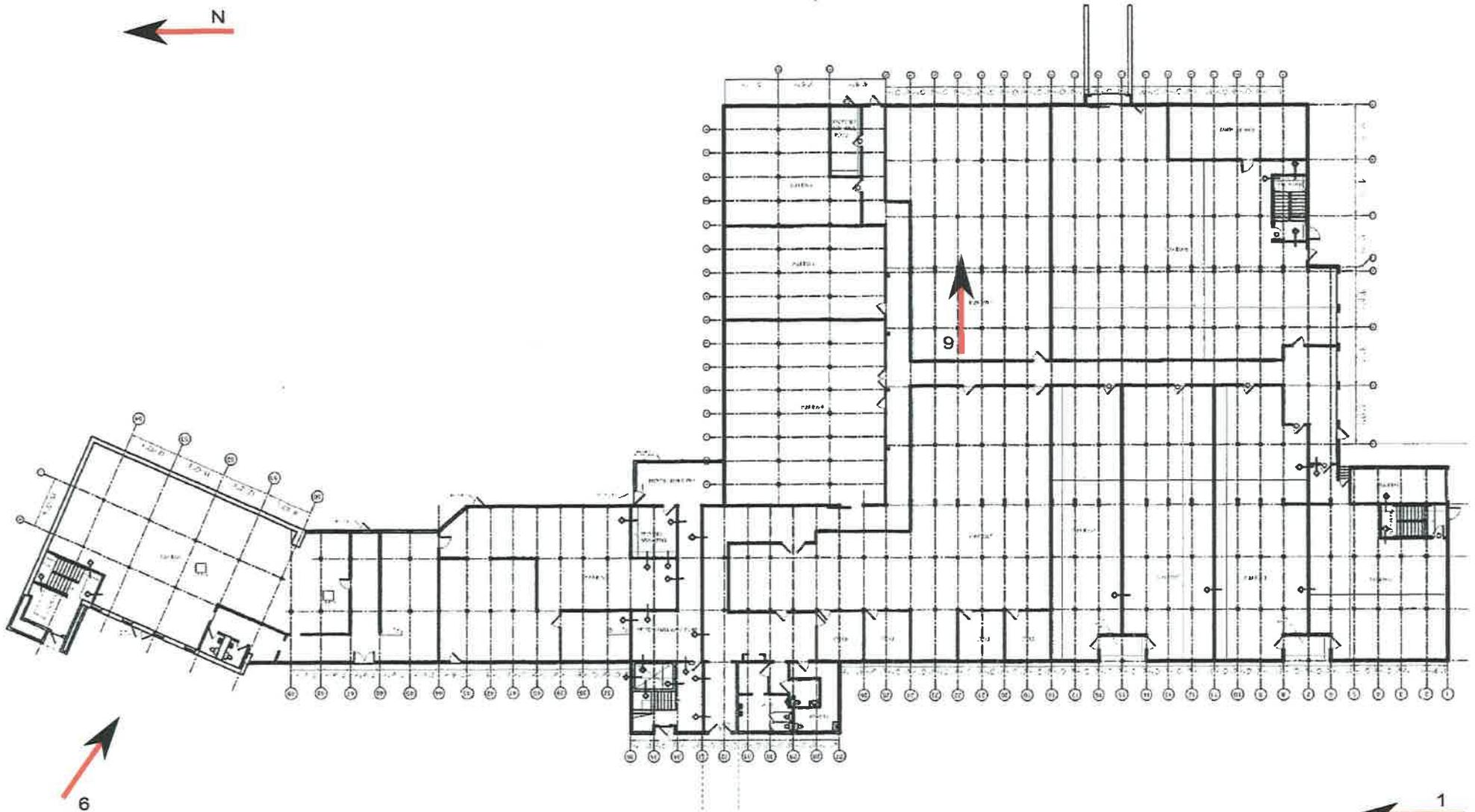
* Building ID #	Building Section	Date	Architect	Style	C/NC
Building 1					
	a	ca. 1864-1885		Second Empire	C
	b	1891 & 1893	J Williams Beal	Second Empire	
	c	1896-1900		Second Empire	
	d	1905-1911		Industrial/Vernacular	
	e	1919	C.A. Batson	Second Empire	
	f	1923	J Williams Beal Sons	Second Empire	
	g	after 1950		No style	
	connector bldgs. 1-2	ca. 1891			
Building 2					
	a	1891	J Williams Beal	Italianate/Vernacular	C
	b	1893	J Williams Beal	Italianate/Vernacular	
	c	1919	C.A. Batson	Italianate/Vernacular	
	d	ca. 1968		No style	
Building 3					
	(former church)	1888		Gothic Revival	C
Building 4					
	(pool house)	2011		No style	N/C

* Refer to figures 4 & 5 in NR nomination

Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co.
Whitman, Mass.
Building 2, 3rd Floor



Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co.
Whitman, Mass.
Building 2, 1st Floor



Marble Street



Photo 1 also appears on
Building 1, 1st Floor plan

Commonwealth Shoe & Leather Co.
Whitman, Mass.
Building 1, 1st Floor



1



Photo 1 also appears
on Building 2 plan

Marble Street

3



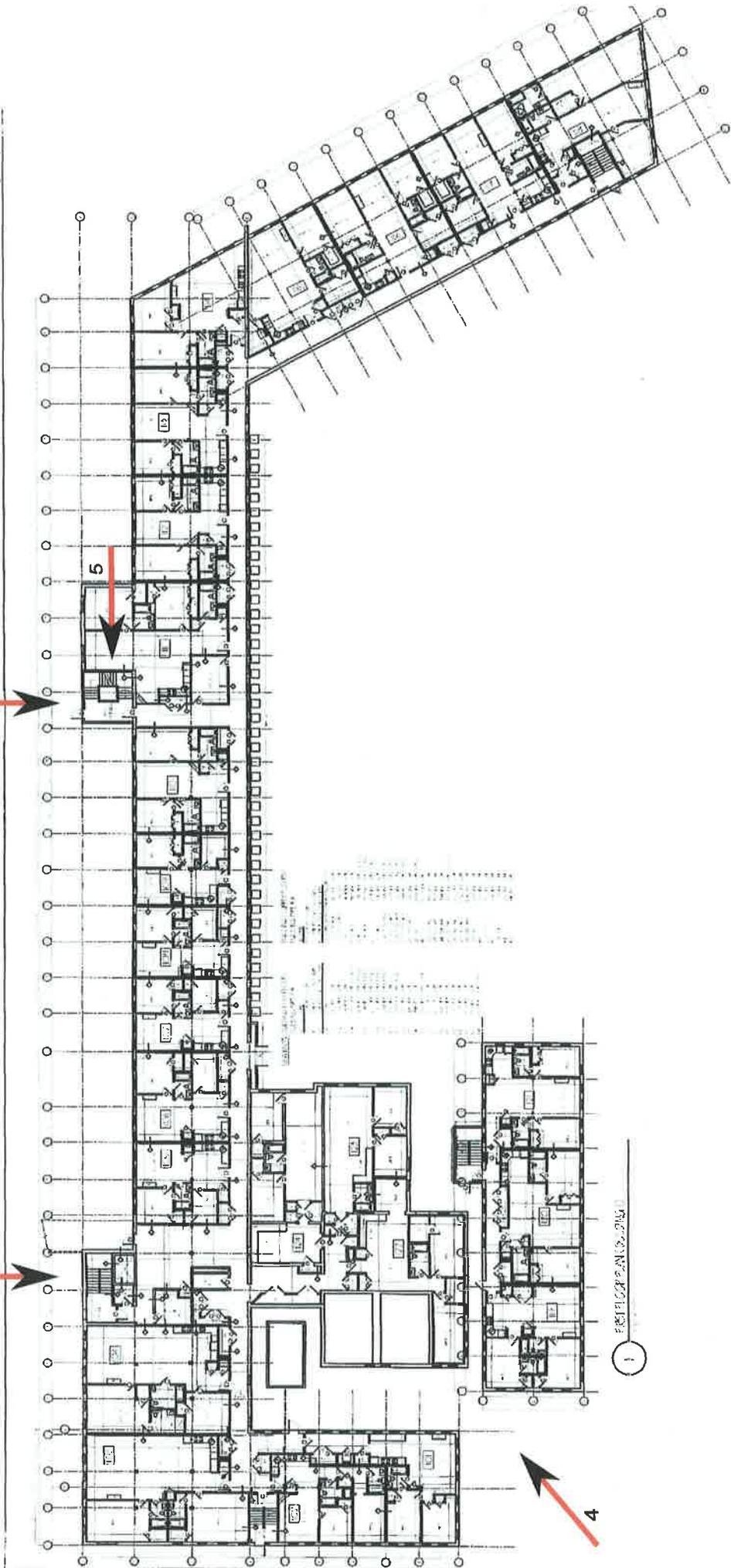
5



2

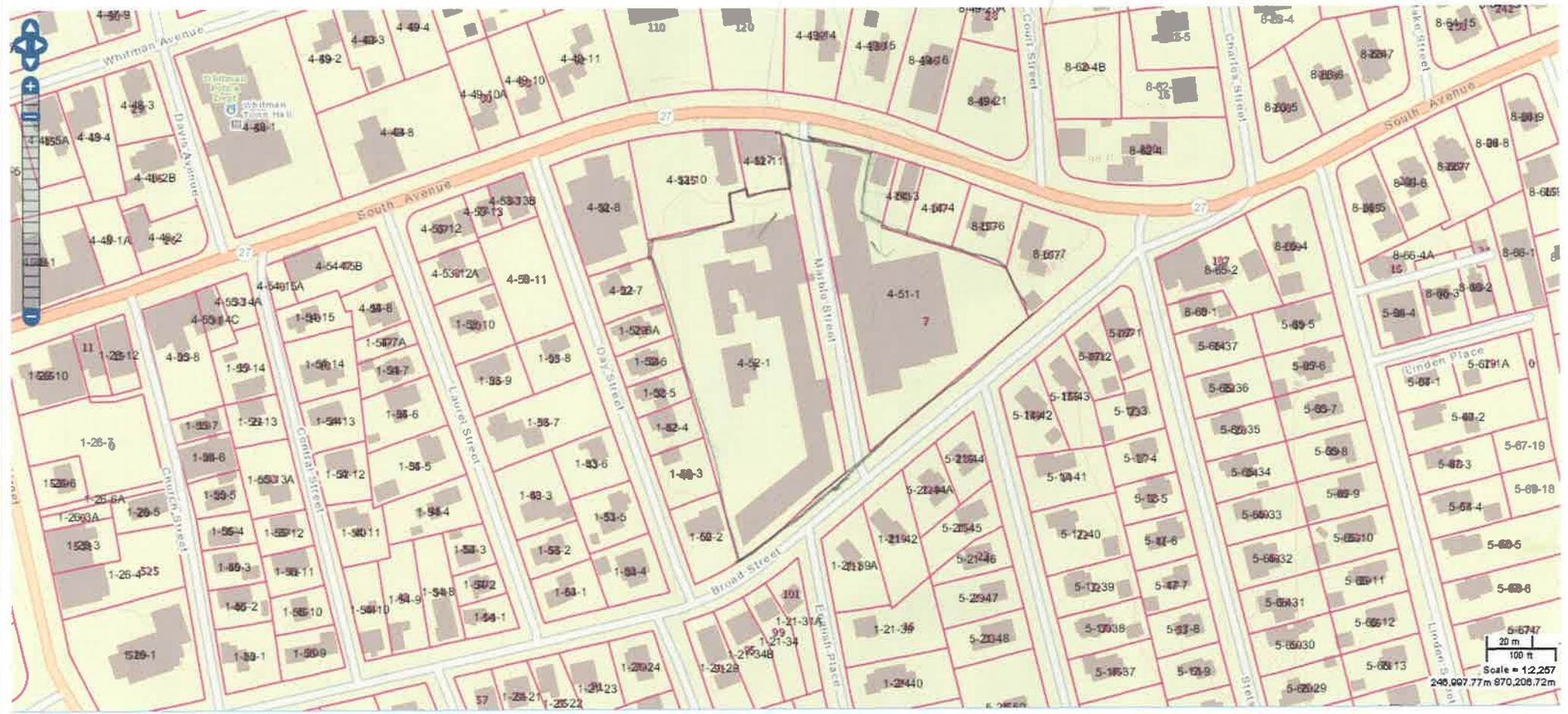


4



1

Commonwealth Shoe + Leather Co
7 Marble St., Plymouth County
Whitman, MA



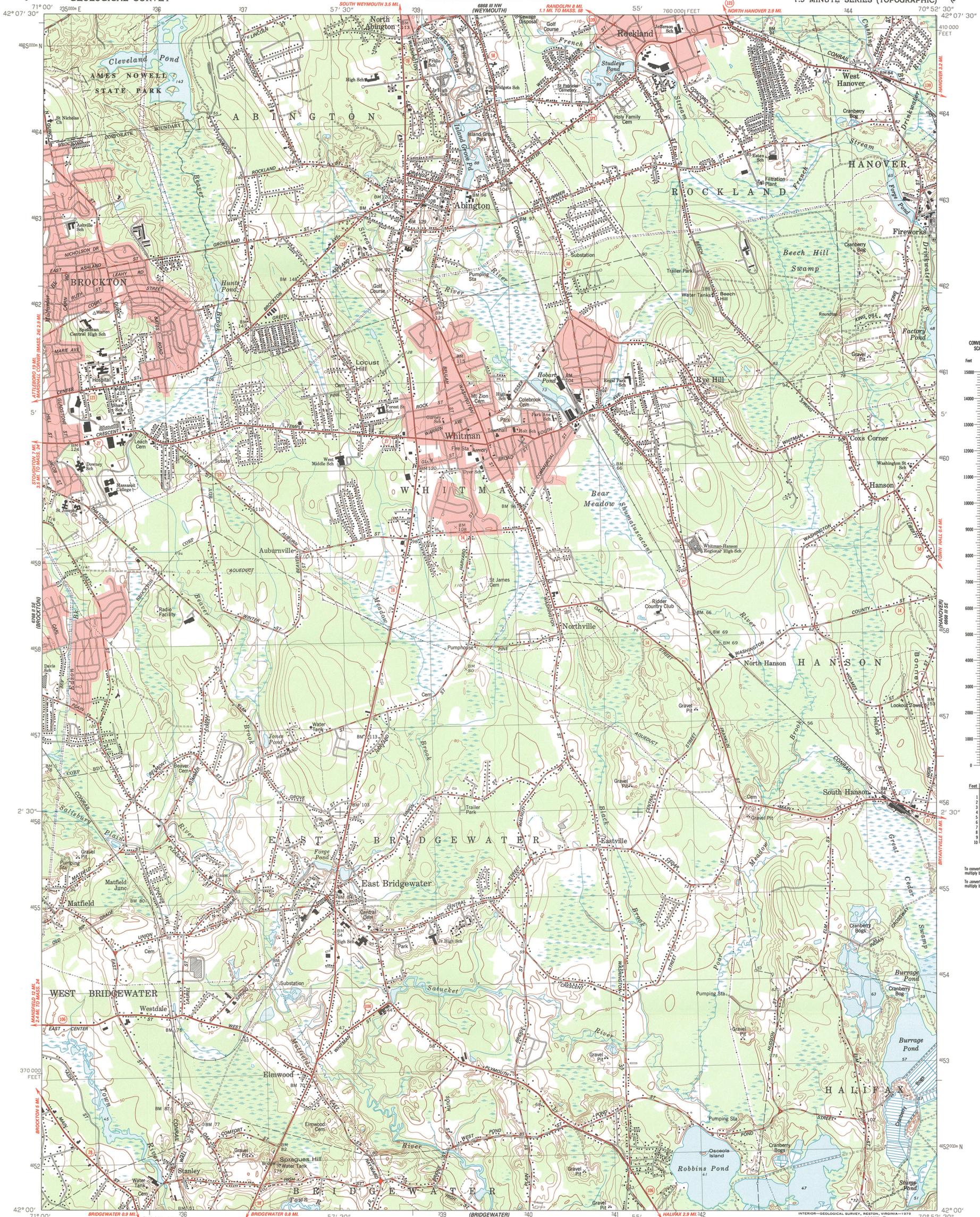
COMMONWEALTH SHOE LEATHER
7 MARBLE ST. WHITMAN, MASS.
PLYMOUTH COUNTY

19 340150
4660536

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

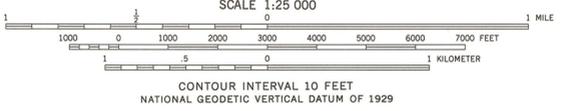
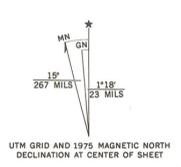
WHITMAN QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS—PLYMOUTH CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21286
8	24284
9	27282
10	30280

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, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
Topography by planimetric surveys 1935-1936.
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1975
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid ticks 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



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface — Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface — Unimproved road
Interstate Route — U. S. Route — State Route

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

WHITMAN, MASS.
N4200—W7052.5/7.5
1977
AMS 8888 III SW—SERIES V814















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