



Working with Maps

Objectives:

1. Students will review basic map reading skills.
2. Students will learn the location of the cities of Worcester, Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island.
3. Students will explore the possibilities of why a canal was desired from Worcester to Providence.
4. Students will exchange ideas on the changes of a town and their reasoning for these changes.
5. Students will analyze the importance of Worcester becoming a port city.
6. Students will examine changes in the maps and predict what changes may occur in the future.

Resources:

Supplied in unit, the following maps:

- US Map
- Town of Worcester 1795
- Worcester in 1829
- Worcester in 1840
- Worcester in 1848
- Current map showing Worcester and Providence
- Satellite image of Worcester in 1995 with canal route illustrated



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Working with Maps:

Map: United States

Locate New England, and then Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Discuss why it would be important to get your goods to other parts of the world and how this could happen. Locate Worcester and Providence.

What does Worcester need to become a port city? _____

Is it possible for Worcester to become a port city? _____

Map: Town of Worcester 1795

Observe what Worcester looked like. Examine the streets.

Do any of these streets still exist and if so are their names still the same?

Which road would have been the most traveled? _____

Why were they named this way? _____

Map: Worcester in 1829

The Blackstone Canal has now been open for one year.

Has much changed from the previous map? _____

What might have caused this change? _____



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Working with Maps (page 2)

What might have changed as a direct result of the canal? _____

Examine where the canal basin and the canal were located. Was it necessary to put it in the center of town? Why? _____

Map: Worcester in 1840

The Blackstone Canal has now been in operation for eleven years. What has changed from the previous map? _____

What could these changes mean? _____

Are there other things that could have changed in Worcester that are not seen on this map? _____

If the Blackstone Canal affected businesses in downtown Worcester, would surrounding towns be affected? _____

What does it take to show that the Blackstone Canal was a benefit to Worcester and central Massachusetts? _____



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Working with Maps (page 3)

Map: Blackstone River Valley Map (current)

Examine the map, what does it show? _____

Follow the route of the Blackstone Canal/River, and observe which towns does it wanders through. Locate the path of the Blackstone Canal, which is designated as a pink line when it leaves the river. The Providence & Worcester Railroad bought the land of the canal's tow path to use for its tracks.

Does the map show this? _____

Map: The Blackstone Canal in Worcester (current)

Explore the differences in this map with the 1829, 1840 and 1848 maps.

What has changed? _____

Although the canal no longer exists in downtown Worcester, does it continue to affect Worcester (streets, highways, etc.)? _____

Map: Satellite image of Worcester in 1995

Locate the Blackstone Canal (its route has been drawn over the satellite image). Can you locate local landmarks such as the Worcester Common Outlets, Union Station, and highway (I-290)?

Do you think Worcester could recreate the canal? _____

If so, where would it be located? _____



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Working with Maps (page 4)

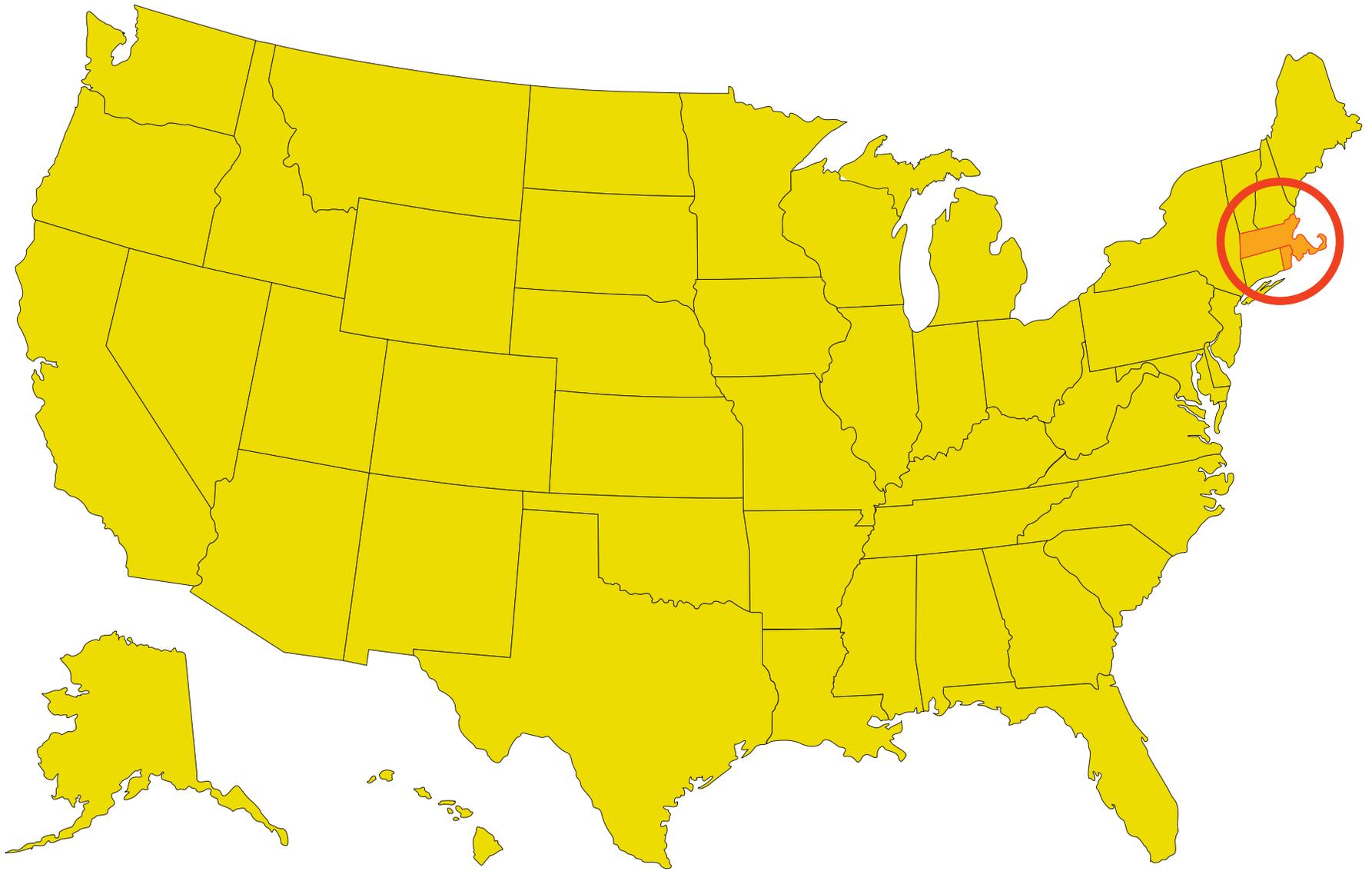
Does the city need a canal? _____

If the canal was recreated, how might it benefit Worcester? _____

Why may it not be a good idea to build a new canal? _____

Maps: All of them

What can we tell about Worcester by looking at these maps? _____



Worcester 1795



Lincoln Square

Second Parish Meeting House

Court House

Printing Office

Goal House

School House

Burpees Tavern

County Treasurer

Road from Boston

Heywoods Tavern

Bimelick Brook

Mowers Tavern

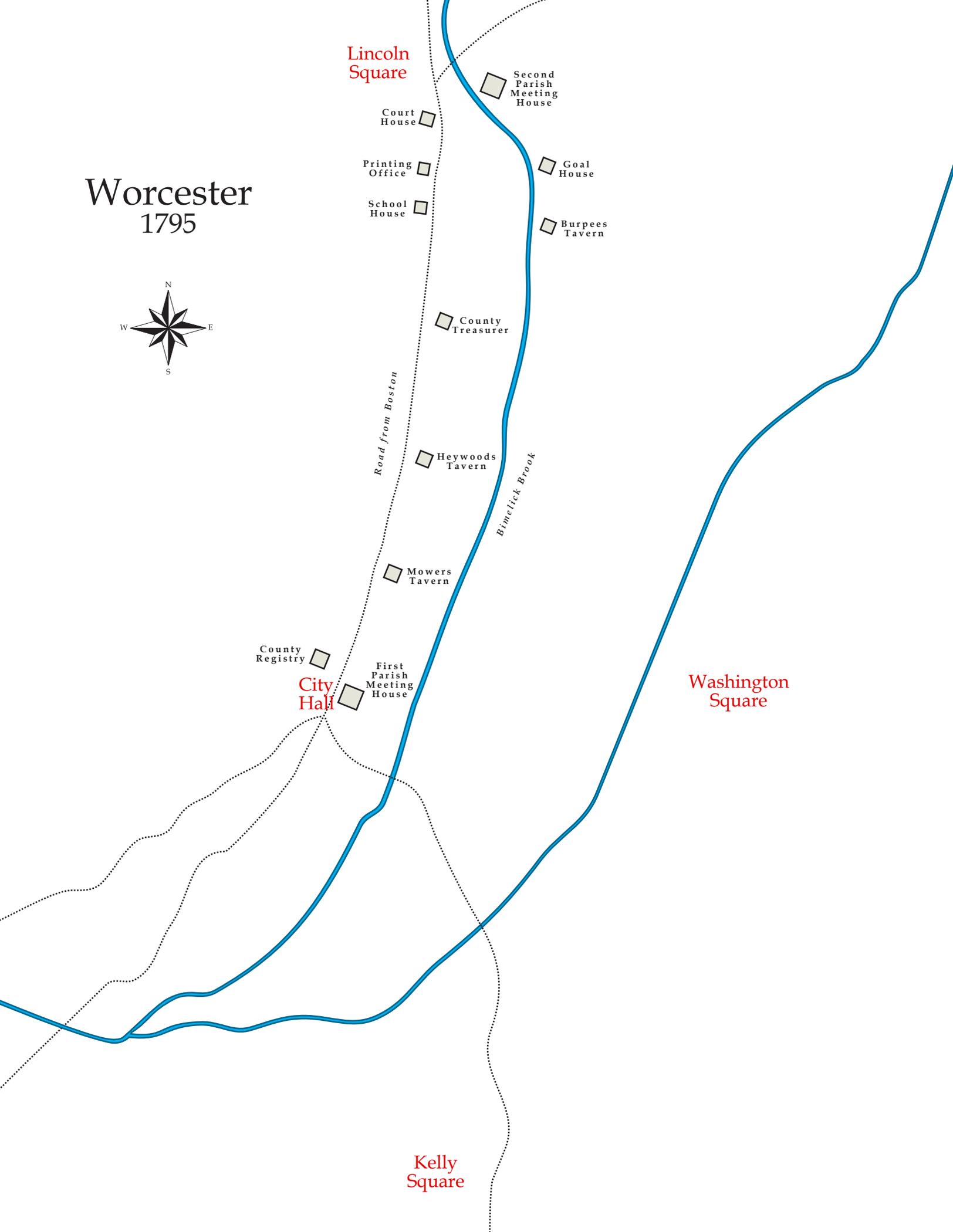
County Registry

City Hall

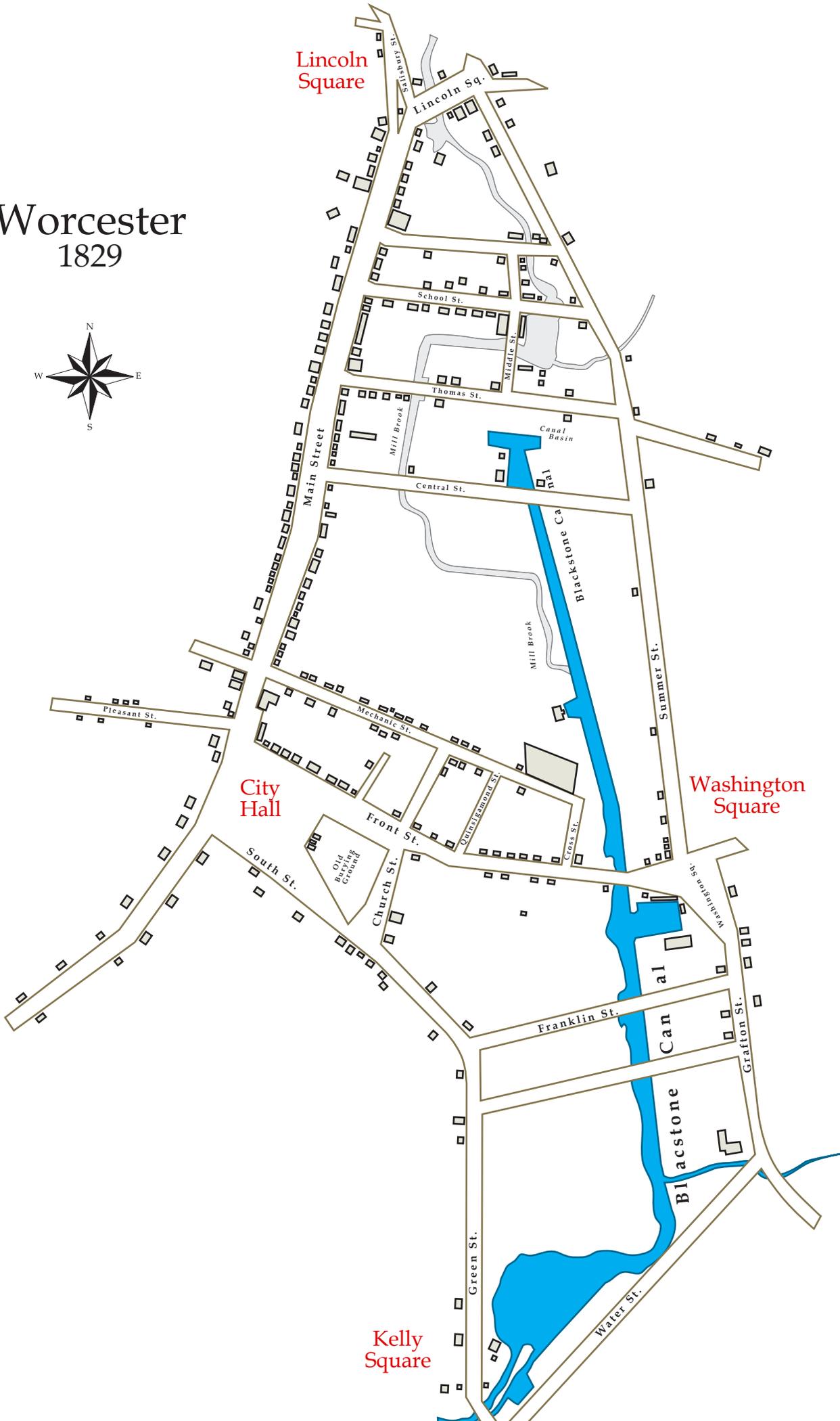
First Parish Meeting House

Washington Square

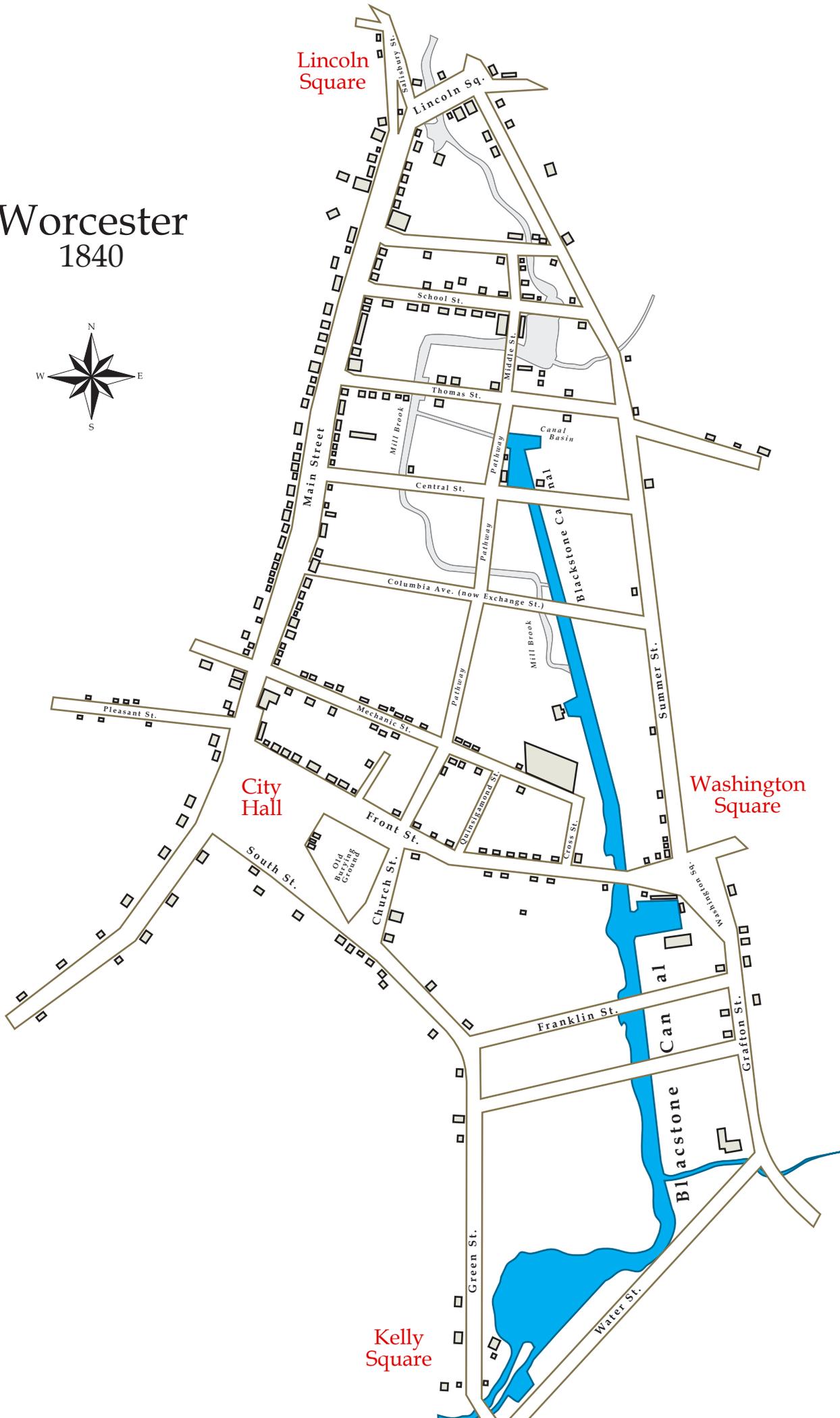
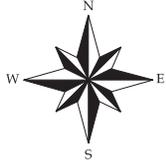
Kelly Square



Worcester 1829



Worcester 1840



Worcester 1848

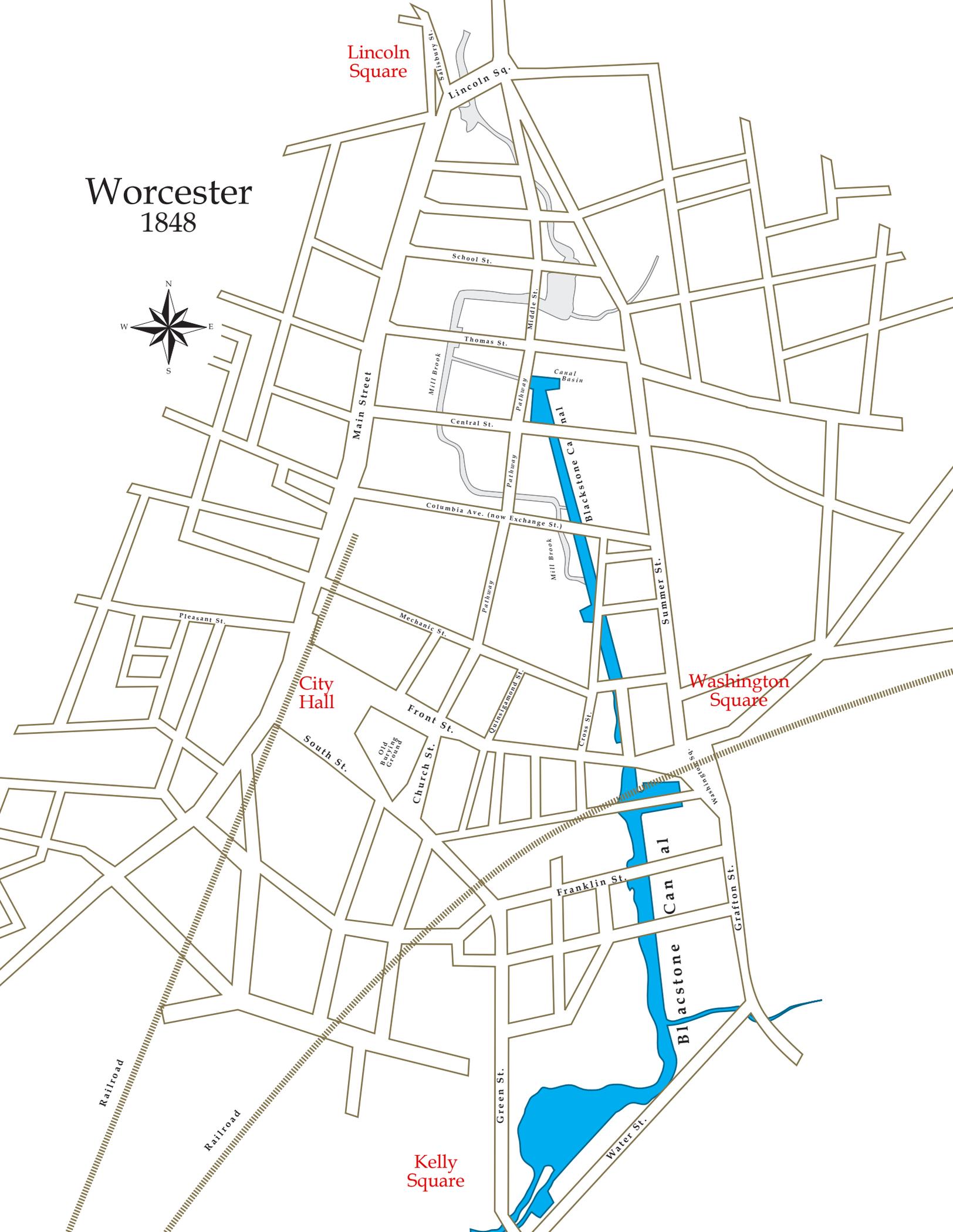


Lincoln Square

City Hall

Washington Square

Kelly Square







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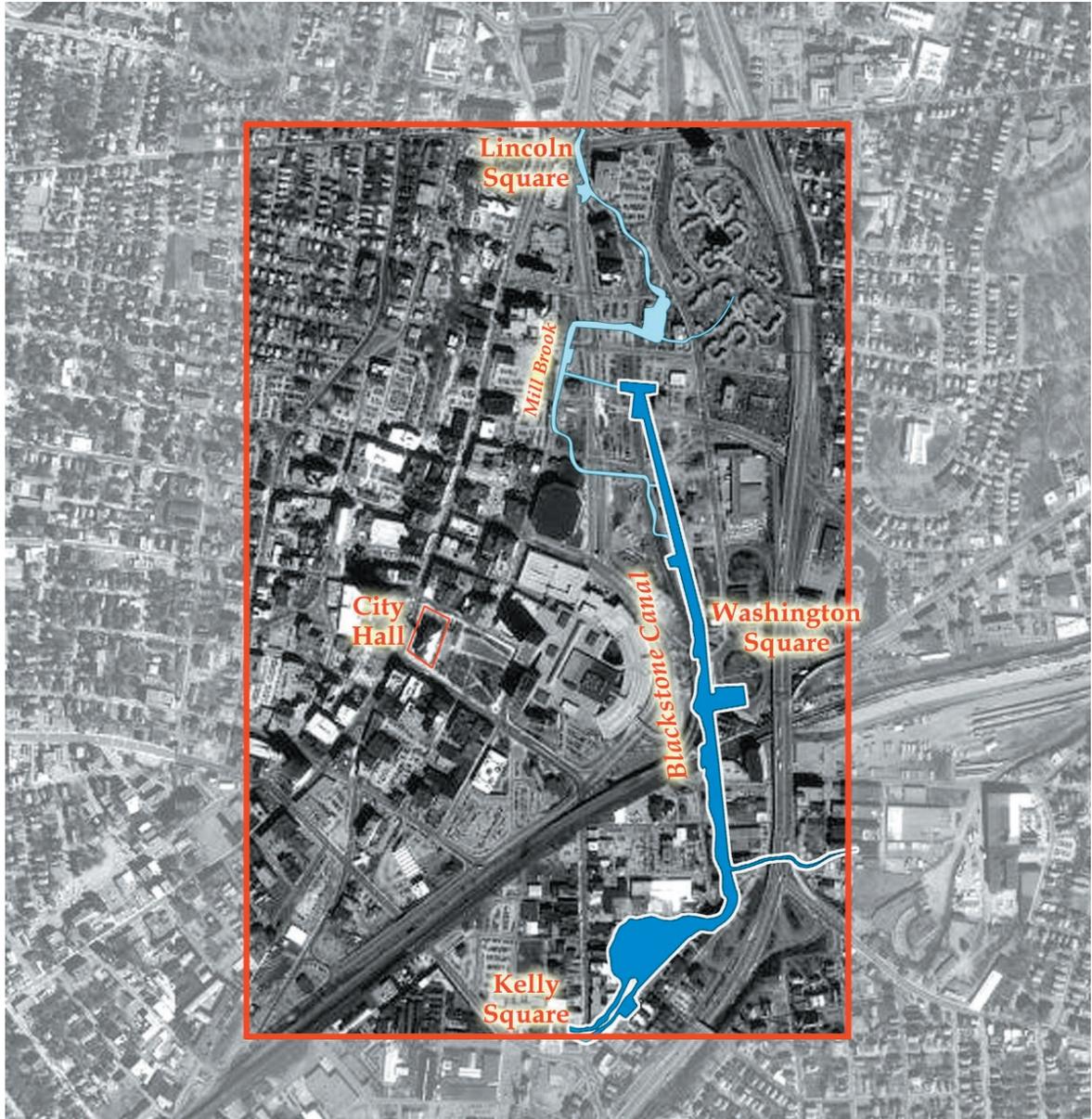
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Worcester
1995

with Blackstone canal route
through Downtown