

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Uptown Somerset Historic District Boundary Increase
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number roughly bounded by West Union Street, North Center Avenue,
West Main Street and North Edgewood Avenue not for publication n/a
city or town Somerset Borough vicinity n/a
state Pennsylvania code PA county Somerset code 111 zip code 15501

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986,
as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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
x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that
this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide x locally.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brent Glass Brent Glass, Exec. Dir. 2/18/97
Signature of certifying official Date

PA Historical and Museum Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the
National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
4. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register _____
(See continuation sheet).
 determined eligible for the _____
National Register
(See continuation sheet).
 determined not eligible for the _____
National Register
 removed from the National Register _____

 other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper 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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>13</u>	<u>05</u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>13</u>	<u>05</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) n/a
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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade Sub: specialty store
Domestic single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade Sub: specialty store
Domestic single dwelling
Commerce/trade professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate
Classical Revival
No Style
Second Empire

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
roof Asphalt
walls Brick, Weatherboard
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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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 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.

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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce
Architecture

Period of Significance 1872-1947

Significant Dates 1872

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder unknown

Section 8 Narrative, Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.2

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Table with 4 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing, Zone, Easting, Northing. Row 1: 17, 663805, 4430255, 3. Row 2: 4. Includes 'See continuation sheet.'

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

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name/title	<u>Ann Safley and Doug Reynolds, Historic Preservation Specialists</u>	date	<u>January 12, 1997</u>
organization	<u>BHP, PA Hist. and Mus. Commission</u>	telephone	<u>(717) 783-9922</u>
street & number	<u>P.O. Box 1026</u>	city or town	<u>Harrisburg</u>
city or town	<u>Harrisburg</u>	state	<u>PA</u>
		zip code	<u>17108</u>

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Uptown Somerset H.D. Boundary Increase
Somerset County, PA

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The Uptown Somerset Historic District Boundary Increase lies west of the public square between North Center Avenue and North Edgewood Avenue along West Main Street and West Union Street. This area consists primarily of commercial buildings that date between ca. 1873 and ca. 1980. There are a total of eighteen buildings, thirteen of which contribute to the historic district. Four of these contributing buildings are good examples of the Italianate style constructed between 1873 and 1877. The five noncontributing buildings in the Boundary Increase area consist of mid to late twentieth century commercial one story buildings. These buildings stand on the north side of West Main Street and marginally impact the integrity of the streetscape. Also within the Boundary Increase area are three parking lots and one public park (not counted as resources). These areas are scattered and minimally impact on the integrity of the historic district.

The north side of West Main Street, between North Center and North Edgewood Avenues, contains nine buildings. Of these nine, five are contributing buildings that consist of three Italianate (160, 152, and 136 West Main Street) and two early twentieth century commercial buildings (168 and 118 West Main Street). The three Italianate buildings are former residences similar in massing and design. All three are constructed of brick, have five bays with center entrances, segmentally arched tall narrow windows on the second floors, and bracketed eaves. The first floors of these buildings have been altered for commercial use and contain large display windows flanking the central entrances. These buildings were constructed after the fire of 1876 and reflect the architectural taste and economic prosperity of that time. The two early twentieth century commercial buildings are two stories and constructed of brick. The Somerset Drug Store, constructed ca. 1935, at the corner of West Main and North Edgewood has a metal awning that covers the entire length of the first floor. The second floor has a simple fenestration pattern of eight windows. The J.C. Penney store, built ca. 1926, is constructed of white glazed brick with a nine windows across on the second floor. The first floor consists of a plate glass display window across the entire facade except the end bay at the south end of the facade which contains a separate entrance to the second floor. The store entrance is recessed created by the rounded corners of the display windows. The four noncontributing buildings along this block retain the setback of the streetscape and the commercial character.

The south side of West Main street consists of four buildings and a public park. The three story brick Vanear Building at 101 West Main Street, on the square, originally was a Second Empire style building but has undergone changes over time. Constructed in 1895, the Hotel Vanear had a projecting center tower with arched recessed openings. The front contained large plate glass display windows on the first floor and a rounded projecting bay on the second and third floors. There were numerous gable-roofed dormers projecting from the mansard roof. Many of these details were destroyed a 1931 fire. Today the former hotel is a flat-roofed buildings with only a slight offset in the cornice line to indicate the location of the entrance tower. Rounded projecting bays covered with decorative wood shingles remain only on the east facade (facing South Central Avenue).

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Next to the Vanear Building stand the Newberry Department Store. Built ca. 1945, Newberry's is a two story simple commercial building with five casement windows across the facade on the second floor. A broad red band with J.J. Newberry on it runs across the entire facade separating the first and second floors. The first floor consists of plate glass display windows with a central entrance. The park that lies between Newberry's and Dave's Carpet was the location of Trinity Lutheran Church that burned in 1965 and has since remained vacant. The brick Second Empire style building, constructed in 1873, that now houses Dave's Carpet (127 West Main Street) was originally a residence. It has a simple concave mansard roof, bracketed cornice, and round-headed dormers with finials. The east facade features a second story projecting bay and windows along the first floor that have been boarded up. The front of the building has recessed entrances flanked by plate glass display windows. The windows on the second floor have been reduced in size within their original openings. On the lot immediately adjacent was a similar building that was torn down in the early twentieth century and replaced by the Law and Finance Building, originally the Ferner Hotel, at 133 West Main Street, constructed ca. 1920.

The block along the south side of West Union Street included in this Boundary Increase consists of five buildings and three parking lots. The most architecturally significant of these five buildings is the Italiante style building at 139 West Union Street now used by the VFW. Originally a residence this brick building, constructed ca. 1873, retains very good integrity in spite of a new entrance door and large addition on the rear. The bracketed cornice, tall narrow windows, and window and door surrounds reflect the popular architectural style and economic prosperity of the time. Other historic buildings on this block (167, 151, and 133 West Union Street) are vernacular in form and have undergone some alterations, primarily the installation of vinyl siding and some window replacement. One building at 131 West Union Street is a modern one story small commercial building, directly abutting 133 West Union, and does not contribute to the historic district.

Ten of the 18 buildings in the Increase were built as commercial buildings. The remaining eight were built as residences and the mix reflects the fact that merchants and others related to the commercial activity of Somerset lived and worked in the same neighborhood. Six buildings originally constructed as dwellings--136, 127 152 160 West Main Street and 133 West Union Street--have been converted to commercial use. A seventh, the vernacular brick sid-gabled building at 139 West Union Street, has been converted to use as a social hall of the local VFW chapter. All of the buildings built for commercial use remain in use by stores or as law offices. None were converted to residential use.

The overall integrity within the Boundary Increase remains good and reflects the prosperity of the community through the extant architecture. The buildings of the Boundary Increase are consistent with the styles, materials, massing and scale found in the adjoining (to the north) Uptown Somerset Historic District, though the latter district contains antebellum era buildings as well late 19th and early 20th century buildings. The general appearance of the Boundary Increase is generally inseparable from the previously listed district and reflects continuity of use, streetscape appearance, and integrity.

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The Uptown Somerset Historic District Boundary Increase is significant for the period 1872, the approximate date of the earliest built resource in the Increase, to 1947. It is significant under National Register Criterion A for commerce, as part of Somerset Borough historic central business district, and under Criterion C for its late Victorian era commercial and residential architecture. This area of Somerset was redeveloped after a major fire in 1876 and reflects the prosperity of a late 19th and early 20th century commercial center associated with being a county seat and railroad community.

This portion of what would become Somerset County was first settled by European descendants in the mid 1770s. The village of Somerset (also called Brunerstown and Milford Town) was made the seat of county government when the county was created in 1795. The community was officially designated a Borough in 1805. According to the 19th century narrative compilation History of Bedford, Somerset, and Fulton Counties Somerset Borough, had in 1807, 72 buildings and 103 tax payers. The community's influence as a local center of commerce and government failed to extend much beyond county lines. Nevertheless by 1850 several thousand people lived in Somerset Borough, and the surrounding agricultural region clearly recognized and reinforced Somerset's role as a local center for trade, commerce, and government. Agricultural growth in the county continued through the 19th century, reinforcing Somerset's commercial and political position, and its architecture reflected this success. A major fire in 1872 devastated much of the commercial district, especially the Boundary Increase area, where not a single building was left standing. This fire was followed by another fire in 1876, again affecting the commercial center of Somerset but leaving more buildings standing than the previous fire. Rebuilding occurred more slowly after the 1876 fire. Brick also became, by far and away, the most commonly used building material in the Increase as a result.

Despite the fires, Somerset's regional long term importance as a county seat and commercial center for the surrounding area was never diminished and assured the community's survival after these devastating fires. The commercial significance of the Uptown Somerset Historic District and of the Increase in fact grew with the arrival of the Somerset and Cambria Railroad in 1873, connecting Somerset's lumber and farm goods to larger markets elsewhere and bringing stability to these local activities. The Mansard-topped residential building at 127 West Main Street and the vernacular homes at 152 and 160 West Main reflect settlement of the Increase by merchants and commercial workers who became part of Somerset's rebirth in the 1870s. Similarly, late 19th century prosperity is marked by new construction in the Increase at 139 West Union Street, 136 West Main Street, and 101 West Main Street. The overall continued use of storefronts for commercial purposes, and subsequent (dates unknown) conversion of six residential buildings to places of commerce reflects the broad and predominant pattern of activity that occurred in the Increase.

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The architectural significance of the Boundary Increase is evident in the individual buildings within the Increase and by the Increase as a whole, which has streetscapes and building fabric, massing, scale, and design clearly conveying late 19th and early 20th century period construction. The period of growth and change after the 1876 fire are illustrated by predominant brick construction and characteristic late 19th century architecture features including corbelling, bracketed cornices and arched and segmentally arched windows popular in the late 19th century. The continuity or Somerset's prosperity is marked by the architectural transition to Revival style buildings--both Classical and Colonial--in the Uptown Historic District, and repeated in the Increase. These influences are seen in the Increase in the Law and Finance Building at 133 West Main, the hipped roof building at 133 West Main Street and the Somerset Drug Store Building at 168 West Main Street. The residential architecture of the Boundary Increase is also representative of the period of significance. Mid-1870s dwellings at 127 Main (later converted to commercial use) 152 West Main and 160 West Main again are characterized by brickwork, fenestration, and roof patterns highly characteristic of the era and consistent with those of the Uptown district. Also, later dwellings and commercial buildings such as the ca. 1883 Parker House (Finlay's Pharmacy) at 136 West Main, retain eaves, bracketing, and cornices consistent with the modest application of period Italianate influences of construction detailing found in commercial centers of the era in this part of Pennsylvania. Another good example is the ca. 1926 commercial block (now J.C. Penney's) at 118 West Main Street. The building retains recessed, rounded plate glass windows and a store front highly characteristic of 1920s storefronts.

This Increase area's history and architecture through the period of significance are generally consistent with that found in many southwestern Pennsylvania communities. Storefronts typically provided a range of specialized goods and services including drygoods, groceries, provisions, hardware and other consumer products and legal and financial services. The residences housed clerks and shop owners as well as people who worked elsewhere. Second floor residential use was present in the Increase area; most commercial buildings, however, served primarily commercial commercial functions throughout.

The commercial history and architecture of the Boundary Increase, as already noted, compares favorably and is historically consistent with that found in the National Register listed Uptown Somerset Historic District as well as nearby communities such as Uniontown in Fayette County or Greensburg in Westmoreland County. Specifically, historically and architecturally, the Increase reflect the development of Somerset from the major fire of 1872 through the late 19th century and the first half of the twentieth century.

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Bibliography

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Boundary Description:

The northern edge of the Boundary Increase cojoins the southern edge of the Uptown Somerset Historic District. The boundary begins at the northwest corner of the intersection of West Main Street and North Edgewood Avenue and proceeds to the northwest corner of West Union Street and North Edgewood Avenue.

The boundary then turns east along the north side of West Union Street to a point in front of the post office directly north of the rear lot line of 131 North Center Avenue.

The boundary then turns south, crossing West Union Street and continuing along the rear lot lines of properties fronting North Center Avenue to the southwest corner of the lot line at 104 West Main Street. The boundary then turns east to a point opposite the northeast corner of the lot at 101 West Main Street. At this point the boundary departs from the previously identified and cojoined boundary of the National Register listed Uptown Somerset Historic District.

The boundary turns south, crossing West Main Street, to the rear lot line of 101 West Main Street, then turns west following rear property lines of properties on the south side of West Main Street between North Center Avenue and Church Alley.

At the east side of Church Alley, the boundary turns north to the north side of West Main Street.

The boundary then turns west, running to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary incorporates historic resources of residential and commercial construction and use from the period 1872-1947. The buildings in this Increase are consistent with the appearance and fabric found in the adjoining Uptown Somerset Historic District and retains integrity as a whole to convey the historic use and appearance of commercial and architectural activity in Somerset. The Boundary Increase excludes adjoining properties to the west, south, and east that are less than fifty years old, properties that have been so heavily altered that they fail to convey their historic appearance and use, and vacant lots that do not convey significance for either commerce or architecture.

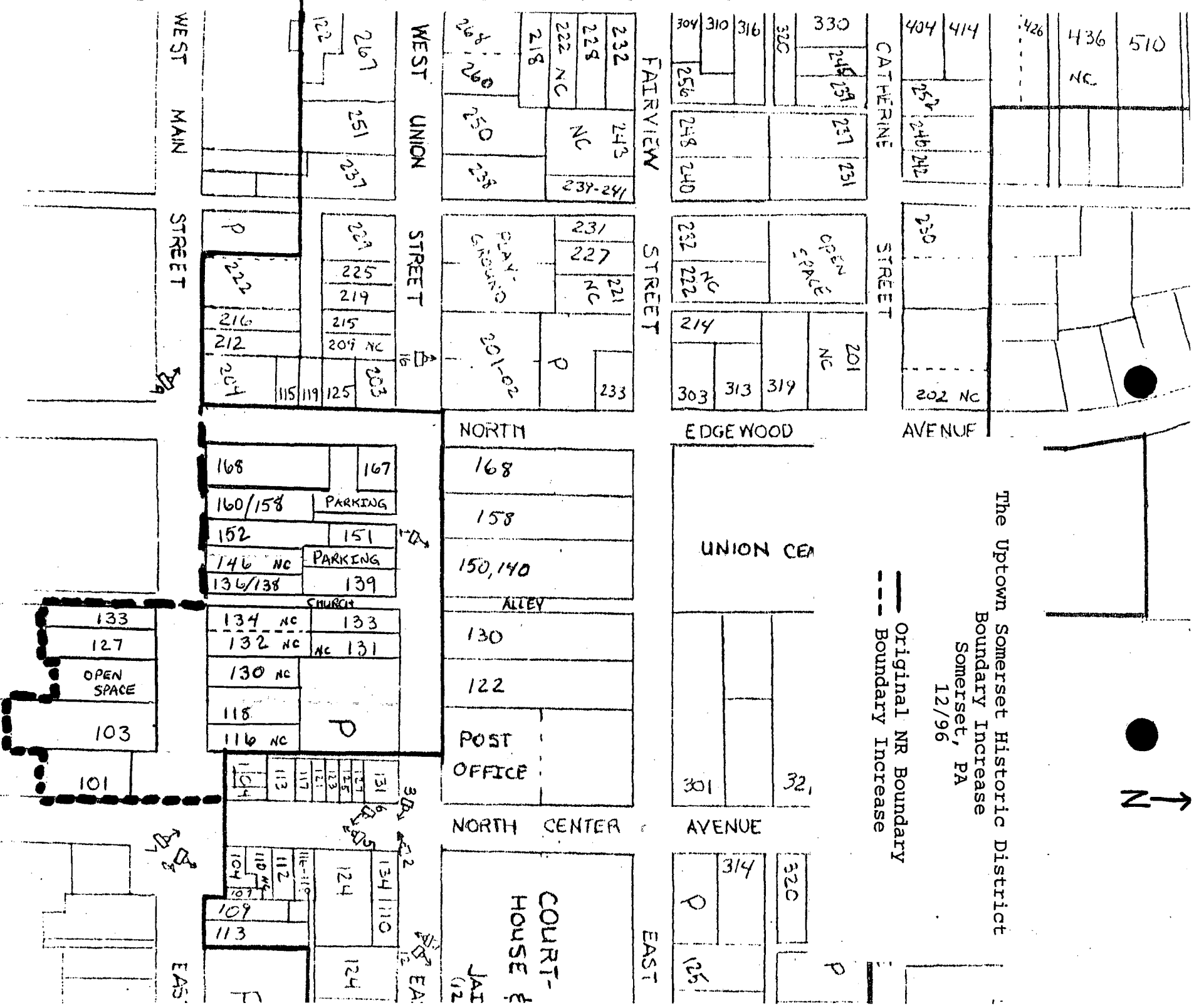
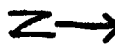
The Uptown Somerset Historic District

Boundary Increase

Somerset, PA

12/96

— Original NR Boundary
 - - - Boundary Increase



426
436 NC
510

404
414
250
246/242

CATHERINE STREET
250
202 NC

330
248 251 237 231
320
316
310
304
256
248 240
232 222
214
303 313 319
201 NC

FAIRVIEW STREET
231
227
221 NC
233

232
228
222 NC
218
243
NC
237-241
231
227
221 NC
201-202
233

WEST UNION STREET
201-202
233

267
251
237
223
225
219
216
212
204
203
209 NC
125
119
115

WEST MAIN STREET
214

NORTH
168
158
150, 140
ALLEY
130
122
POST OFFICE

EDGEWOOD AVENUE
UNION CEN
301
321

168
167
160/158 PARKING
152
151
146 NC PARKING
136/138
139
CHURCH
134 NC
133
132 NC NC 131
130 NC
118
116 NC
131
127
125
123
121
117
113
112
110-119
134 110
124
124

NORTH CENTER AVENUE
COURT-HOUSE & JAIL

EAST
320
314
125

103
101
109
113
107
104

EAST

OPEN SPACE

133
127

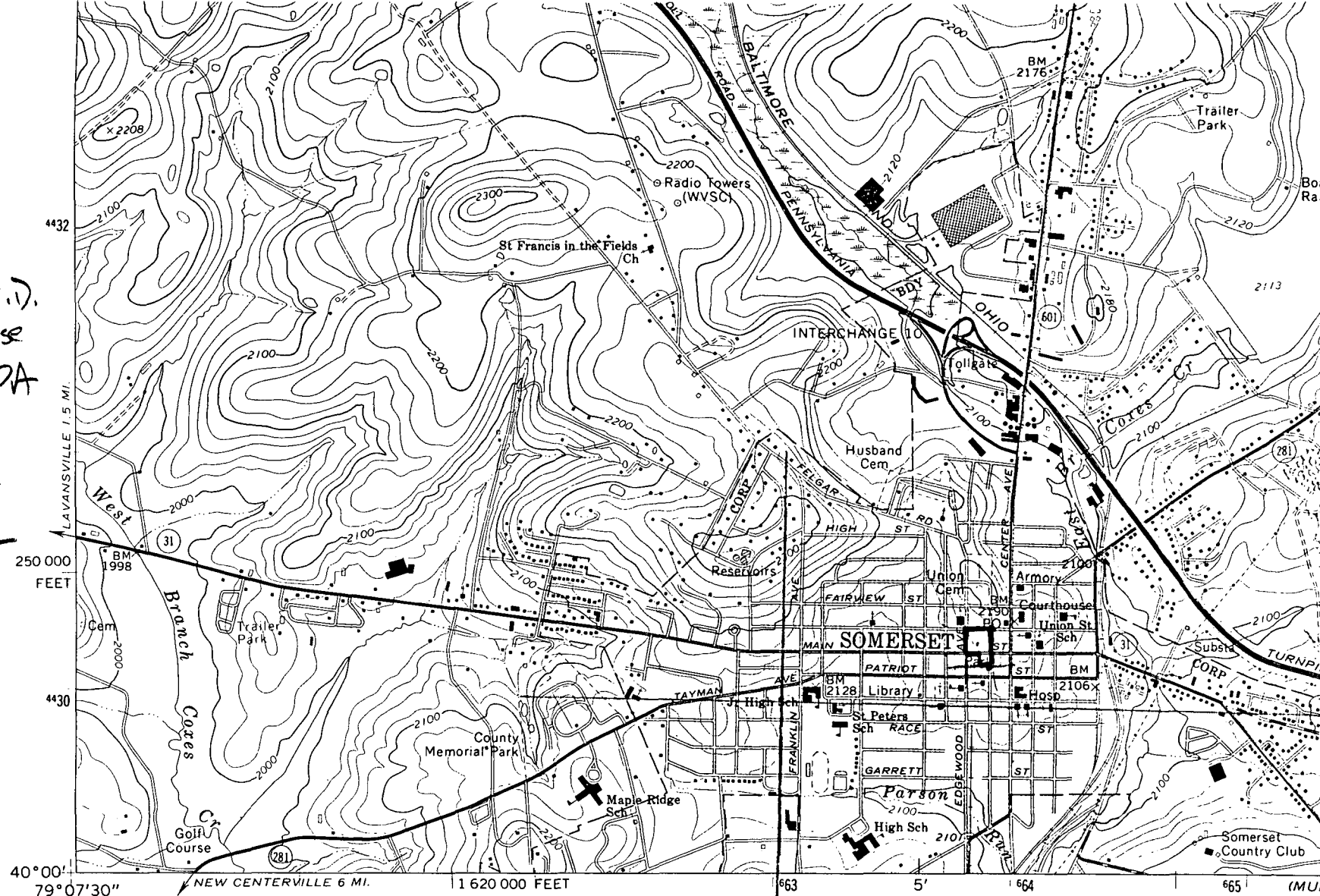
103

101

Uptown Somerset H.D.
 Boundary Increase
 Somerset County, PA
 Zone 17
 E 663805
 N 4430255

Somerset
 Blvd

(ROCKWOOD)
 5163 1 NW



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1967

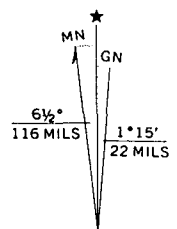
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue

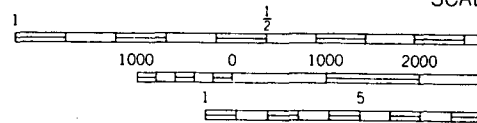
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983



UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR IN NATIONAL GEODETIC

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACT
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 DENVER, COLORADO 80225
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS