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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

28 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Butler School

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 812 Gorham Street

N/A not for publication

city or town Lowell

N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Middlesex code 017 zip code 01852

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith B. McDonough

12/13/94

Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer  
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 certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_

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): \_\_\_\_\_

for  
Signature of Keeper  
Edson H. Beall

Entered in the Date of Action  
National Register 2/2/95

Butler School  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, MA  
County and State

**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**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT: not in use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite

walls brick

roof slate

other wood trim

**Narrative Description**

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

**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.

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

- A** owned by 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

**Period of Significance**

1882 - 1920

**Significant Dates**

1895: addition

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Frederick W. Stickney

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Lowell Historic Board

Butler School  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, MA  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acree of Property** 1.33 acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 1 9	3 1 0 7 2 5	4 7 2 2 1 5 0	3.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2.			4.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

     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**

Margo B. Webber, Preservation Consultant for the Lowell Historic Board  
name/title and Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date December 1994

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116

**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 City of Lowell

street & number City Hall, 375 Merrimack St. telephone 508-970-4278

city or town Lowell state MA zip code 01852

**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.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1**Butler School  
Lowell (Middlesex County)  
Massachusetts****7. DESCRIPTION**

The Butler School is an imposing brick structure built in 1882 in the Queen Anne style. Its facade faces west towards Gorham Street and is situated close to the street, while the building itself spans the entire depth of the large, open site, creating an impressive mass within the context of the smaller-scaled residential buildings that abut the property. The building's design features a prominent gabled pavilion on the facade as well as a tall wooden gable centered on each of the north and south elevations. A large brick addition to the east of the original structure was completed in 1895 and is compatible in its massing and design. Minor changes to windows and doors have occurred over the years, and the building is in need of considerable exterior repairs and repainting. Still, it retains its historic integrity of location, design, setting materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The building's site consists of a 1.33 acre parcel on the east side of Gorham Street, a busy thoroughfare between central Lowell and the area just south of the school known as South Lowell. The entire site is raised up from Gorham Street by a two-foot high retaining wall, atop which runs a chain-link fence to separate the open schoolyard from the busy street. The school building occupies nearly the full depth of the site. To its west, a wide walkway leads down a short run of stairs to street level, with grass and trees to each side. The south portion of the site is paved and used as a parking area. Directly north of the building is a paved playground extending east as far as the 1895 addition. Further north, the site is entirely an open grassy field.

The building's overall massing consists of the original 2-1/2 story rectangular block set on a raised base of matching brick. A gabled pavilion spans the three central bays of the facade. Gables and dormers enrich all three sides of the hipped slate roof. To the east, the matching east end pavilion has been incorporated into a three-bay, connecting ell that adjoins the 1895 addition. The addition itself is a large squarish brick mass of the same width and height as the original school, and also features a hipped slate roof but without gables or dormers on the side elevations.

The building's facade is seven bays wide, dominated by a central full-height pavilion with brick pilasters at its corners and between its three bays. The pavilion is one bay deep at the second story and two bays at the first story. A flat roof caps the front, one-story portion, while the main unit has a broad gable across its entire width. The pavilion has a wide, segmental-arched center entrance which now frames a later infill panel above plain wood doors. A granite water table defines its base. Continuous granite lintels and sills frame the narrow paired windows to each side of the entrance and the tall center window pair at the second story. Above this window are granite plaques reading "Butler School" and below it "1882." Flanking this unit and above it in the gable are three windows with twelve-light rectangular bases and round-arched transoms. The transoms are infilled with wood panels at the two lower openings but the third-story design is intact. A stepped brick cornice with recessed panels sits above a simpler brick cornice at the second story. The gable features machine-cut

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**United States Department of the Interior  
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Lowell (Middlesex County)  
Massachusetts**

scrollwork, a large rosette on each side of the third-story window and a large triangular sunburst panel in its peak.

The facade's two sets of outer bays each have matching window openings of tall, narrow form with segmental-arched brick heads and a carved rosette in the arched panel above each one's four-over-four sash. Inappropriate wood storm sash conceal the first floor designs. Each side of the hipped roof has a hipped dormer with two six-over-six sash centered between the two end bays.

The matching north and south elevations of the 1882 school building are ten bays long. Full-height brick pilasters define the center two-bay unit that has straight granite lintels at the first story windows and two decorative brick panels above them. Elsewhere on these elevations, uniform window designs match the facade in their arched brick heads and wooden rosette detail. A granite water table, granite sills, brick coursing at the first story's springer height and the second story's sill level and a simple stepped brick cornice unify the design. Matching hipped dormers with paired six-over-six sash flank a central two-bay wood-framed gable. The gable features two double-hung windows (now boarded) flanking a central carved panel with a daisy-like motif. Above this, the triangular pediment has four smaller panels, each with carved floral motifs. Rising from behind each gable is a tall shingled ventilator with large vents on each side. Atop their wooden cornices rise plain brick chimneys, originally concealed by tall hipped roofs that have been removed. A small, flat-roofed basement entry enclosure has been added in the third west bay of the south elevation and in the third east bay of the north elevation.

The original school is connected to its 1895 addition by a recessed brick ell of matching two-story height which is actually an extension of the original two-story east end pavilion. Its north and south elevations are of matching design. An irregular pattern of small rectangular and round-arched windows echoes the interior stair configurations. The cornice repeats the stepped brick band capped by a band of recessed panels of the west pavilion. In the easternmost bay are paired wooden entrance doors, raised up from grade by four granite steps and a landing which are covered by an open hipped porch supported by a turned wooden post at its outer corner.

The 1895 brick addition echoes the massing, materials, and detailing of the original building. It is two stories in height and has a broad hipped roof sheathed in slate. The arched window designs, brick coursing, granite water table, and stepped brick cornice all repeat the detailing of the earlier building. The addition has four regularly spaced window bays on its north and south elevations. The east (end) elevation has two outer bays of windows and two more bays grouped towards the center bay of exit doors. A metal fire stair extends across the central portion of the elevation. Two hipped dormers with paired six-over-six windows are centered over the inner window bays.

The Butler School exterior in large part retains its historic design integrity. Unattractive storm sash have been added to most of the first floor windows and some of the wooden gable decoration and

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**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation Sheet**

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**Butler School  
Lowell (Middlesex County)  
Massachusetts**

window trim is in need of repair and repainting. Yet these minor items do not significantly detract from the overall quality of this fine Queen Anne design.

The building interior consists of a central corridor which widens to a large central hall with classrooms along its outer edges. In the west pavilion is the original wooden stair that features wainscoted railings and turned posts. Throughout the interior, original wood door surrounds with rosette cornerblocks and other typical period trim are largely intact.

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the school property, sites may be present. At least six sites have been recorded in the general area (within one mile). The property exhibits locational characteristics including good drainage, level to moderately sloping ground surfaces, and close proximity to river Meadow Brook, which are favorable for prehistoric site locations. In general, however, the potential for significant archaeological survivals, either prehistoric or historic, is low as a result of impacts from school construction and other historic-period land use. The school site was graded at the time of construction. In the 1920s, the original school property was enlarged with the purchase of a former Lowell Bleachery tenement, which was demolished for the south parking area. Significant archaeological survivals for this structure are unlikely. In the 1930s, the north playing field was acquired from an adjacent bank-owned residence. No potential resources have been identified for this area. Sheet refuse patterns produced by student activities around the school may be present; however, in the absence of other archaeological date, this information would be of limited interpretive value.

(end)

**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Butler School meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places, with local significance. Under Criterion A, the Butler School is significant for its role in the late 19th century development of Lowell's school system that grew and changed dramatically to accommodate an enormous population increase associated with the city's continued industrial expansion. The new interior layouts designed to suit various grade configurations and new teaching formats are well illustrated in this facility. Under Criterion C, the property is a well-preserved example of a public building designed to meet the highest educational standards of the day and to provide a quality edifice appropriate to the City's high regard for public education. The property is a fine example of the Queen Anne style adapted to the particular requirements of a school building. Both the original 1882 structure and its 1895 addition illustrate major characteristics of the style, as well as an early awareness of compatible expansion, even as early as the beginning of its period of significance which

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Lowell (Middlesex County)  
Massachusetts**

spans from 1882 to 1920. The period of significance ends at 1920, the year in which the City's school system introduced the junior high school concept, meaning individual schools, including the Butler School, were reorganized. Also starting in 1920, the textile industry that had fed Lowell's rapid population growth in the 19th and early 20th century was in a dramatic decline.

Criterion A

Prior to Lowell's incorporation as a town in 1826, it was part of East Chelmsford and as such had two district schools, each of which contained students of many different ages. In 1824, the owners of the Merrimack Manufacturing Company started a school for their own operatives under the supervision of the Rev. Theodore Edson. With incorporation, the new town created six school districts, each with its own school, and an annual appropriation of \$1,000 to fund them. The school-age population increased rapidly. The Lowell High School opened in 1831, with eight members in its first class, including Benjamin Butler, for whom the Butler School was named. As the district system quickly became overcrowded, its system of multiple ages within a single classroom and instructional program could no longer serve its students very effectively. In 1832, the district system was replaced by a graded system, following trends established in Boston and Newburyport.

After much heated debate between Rev. Edson and the corporate interests led by Kirk Boott who opposed the new plan, it was voted to consolidate the system into two large schools, the North and South Grammar Schools, (later to be renamed the Bartlett and Edson Schools). These schools opened in 1833, while primary schools continued to be situated throughout the city. Three years later, the City Charter made provision for a School Committee of six members plus the mayor and aldermen to administer the city schools, thereby lessening the ability of the corporate interests to influence educational policies. Among the School Committee's first members was Warren Colburn, a close friend of Rev. Edson, and a distinguished educator in his own right.

During the next several decades, the school system underwent rapid expansion directly related to dramatic increases in population as the City's textile industry required more and more operatives. Additional schoolhouses were built, including the Franklin Grammar School in 1839, the Moody Grammar School in 1841, the Green School in 1841, the Mann Grammar School in 1844, the Colburn School in 1848, and the Varnum School in 1857. Typically, the grammar schools were still being built to house one large room on each floor as a schoolroom for 198 students, sometimes with one or two smaller recitation rooms as well. Primary grades (1-3) were separated from the grammar grades (4-8) although they were frequently located within the same buildings.

For a time in the 1830s, separate Irish schools were run within the public system, but jealousies ensued and soon after it was decided not to separate the schools by ethnic or religious creed. In 1851, a new class of intermediate schools was started for the many beginning Irish students who were too old for the primary schools but not yet ready to enter grammar school. After ten years, these schools

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
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Lowell (Middlesex County)  
Massachusetts**

were no longer needed and were consolidated into the grammar schools.

As the city's population continued to grow and concerns for public education remained strong, two free Evening Schools were incorporated into the public system in 1857. These classes, previously sponsored by the Lowell Missionary Association, were geared to the new immigrant population. By 1859, there were six evening schools, each holding two sessions per week, and upwards of 500 pupils enrolled in them. The School Committee also ran a Training School for teachers which insured that all teachers in the public schools would be of a high caliber.

Economic decline in Lowell during the Civil War years caused a decrease in school attendance as up to 600 people emigrated from the area. A few of the schools were temporarily closed. A law was passed requiring children to attend a certain amount of school to be allowed to work in the mills: for those over age 12, at least one 11-week term within the prior year; and for those under 12, at least one 18-week term every year.

In all, by 1868 there was the one high school, eight grammar schools and 47 primaries within the city, employing as many as 98 teachers. As new neighborhoods were established further out from the mills, so too were new primary and grammar schools put up in the more outlying areas. Housing construction in the Gorham Street area dated back to the 1830s when the Lowell Bleachery was constructed, and the nearby Carter Street Schools had adequately served the neighborhood's children through the 1870s. With further residential expansion in the area, construction of an additional grammar school, the Butler School, became necessary.

The school was named for General Benjamin F. Butler, then Governor-elect of Massachusetts, who had lived much of his life in Lowell. After graduating with the first class from Lowell High School in 1834, he went on to become a lawyer, statesman and soldier. Reports were mixed as to his effectiveness as a brigadier-general during the Civil War, but in later years he became something of a local hero for his advocacy of the ten-hour work day and as a strong supporter of public education. An article from the *Lowell Daily Courier* (1/22/97) explained the reason for this: "It was expected that the Governor would make some substantial present to the school, but the only thing that was ever received from him was a bronze medallion bust of himself."

The grammar schools, being the highest level of schooling that most students completed, underwent continual improvements in the 1870s and 1880s. The curriculum was expanded to include music and drawing, as well as the "three R's" of reading, writing and arithmetic, English grammar and geography. New schools erected during this period to relieve overcrowding of the North and South Grammar Schools (now known as the Bartlett and Edson Schools, respectively) included the Highland School and the Butler School in 1882, and the Pawtucket School in 1884. The new Lowell High School was built in 1893.

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**United States Department of the Interior  
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Lowell (Middlesex County)  
Massachusetts**

By 1895, an addition to the Butler School was completed to help alleviate overcrowding during a period of continued expansion by the Lowell textile mills in general and by the related Lowell Bleachery operation. Even with the new addition, two additional classes were held in the hallways, so rapid was enrollment increasing during the 1890s.

Changing educational philosophy nationally led to the creation of junior high schools in Lowell, beginning in 1920. Junior highs grouped grades seven through nine together. The Butler School housed both a grammar and junior high school within its walls for many years, as well as an evening grammar school. Eventually it became an elementary school, until being replaced in 1993 by a new elementary school several blocks away.

The school's site was enlarged in the early 1920s with the acquisition of a former Lowell Bleachery tenement to the south (the present south parking area). The north playing field was acquired in the late 1930s from the adjacent bank-owned residence.

Criterion C

The Butler School was completed in 1882 and is a fine example of Queen Anne architecture, illustrating many characteristic features of the style. Its prominent massing and fine detail reflect an era in which the City placed great emphasis on quality education. The design incorporated the latest teaching philosophy in terms of classroom sizes and interior layouts. The design of the later addition showed continued concern for creating an up-to-date facility while also being an early example of compatible new design.

A survey of Lowell's remaining 19th century schools identified this structure as one of three school buildings worthy of individual National Register listing. Most of the other resources have lost their integrity through incompatible alterations to original fabric and/or design features, whereas the Butler School retains nearly all of its historic design integrity.

The building was designed by Lowell architect Frederick W. Stickney, one of the City's most productive architects of the time. Other buildings in Lowell which he designed included the Lowell High School, Public Library and the Bartlett, Moody and Highland Schools. The school was constructed at a cost of \$55,930 and was originally built to house seven grammar classes and one primary grade. The four-room addition of 1895 was designed by Stickney and Austin at a cost of \$19,338.

The Queen Anne design uses a large facade gable, many hipped-roof dormers and a tall wooden gable on each of the side elevations as the main character-defining elements. The gables feature a large amount of carved wood in panels and trim to enliven the design. Round-arched windows on the

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United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation Sheet

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Butler School  
Lowell (Middlesex County)  
Massachusetts

facade, a large projecting pavilion, and granite and brick coursing all around the building also enrich the design.

The building's interior layout was considered the most effective way of teaching when built. On each floor, a central large hall/recitation room was flanked by two large classrooms on each side, with stairs and small offices in the two end pavilions. Each classroom had an entire wall of tall windows for natural lighting and ventilation. The addition provided two more classrooms on each floor, again designed to afford an abundance of natural light and air with uniform window walls.

The addition's exterior appearance closely matches the design and detailing of the original school. The massing is a large block with a hipped roof and hipped dormers on the end (east) elevation. Turned wood posts adorn the entry porches in keeping with the original building's wood trim. Granite and brick window trim and string courses repeat the original details, intentionally unifying the addition with the 1882 structure.

The site of the Butler School was graded at the time of construction. In later years, the south side of the site and portions of the north schoolyard were paved in asphalt.

(end)

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Annual Report of the Superintendent of Schools", 1882, 1883, 1895, 1920, 1928.

City Atlases, 1879, 1896, 1924, 1936.

Coburn, Frederick W., The History of Lowell and its People, NY: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1920, pp. 188-194, 294-295, 368-370.

Hurd, A History of Middlesex County, p. 20.

*Lowell Daily Courier*, January 22, 1897.

Lowell of To-Day, *Lowell Daily Citizen*, 1893, pp. 86-90.

Lowell, A City of Spindles, Trades and Labor Co., 1900.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

**Butler School  
Lowell (Middlesex County)  
Massachusetts**

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Boundary Description:

Beginning at the northwest corner of the property delineated as 812 Gorham Street, the boundary proceeds northeast along the northerly edge of the parcel for a distance of 177.8 feet where it turns southward for a distance of 83 feet along the rear property lines of #41 and #43 Livingston Street. It then turns eastward for a distance of 52 feet along the southerly boundary of #43 Livingston Street to the west side of Livingston Street, runs southward for 115 feet, then turns west along the north edge of #59 Livingston, and again turns south along the rear property lines of #59 and #63 Livingston Street to the southeast corner of the school parcel. From here, the boundary runs westward along the school parcel's southern edge until reaching the east side of Gorham Street, then proceeds north and northwest along the east side of Gorham Street to the point of beginning. See attached City of Lowell assessor's map #183.

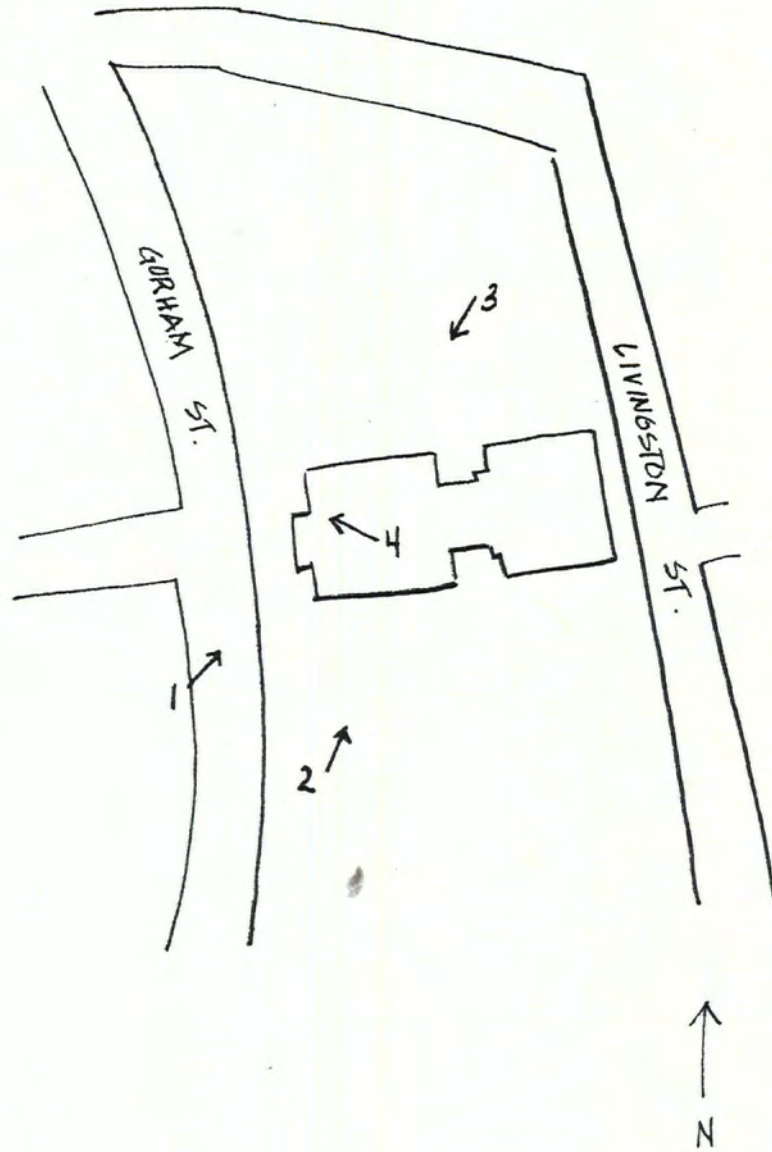
Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the entire 1.33-acre, City-owned school property known as the Butler School, with the exception of a narrow drive from the southerly edge southward to Carter Street which is fenced off and not visually or use-related. The boundary includes the school building, the paved parking lot to its south, and the paved playground and grassy schoolyard north of the building.

The nominated property is bounded to the north, east and south by residential structures dating from the 19th and 20th centuries. These are a mixture of single and multi-unit dwellings built primarily as mill workers' housing. Across Gorham Street to the west are a fire station and a mix of commercial and residential properties bearing no relation to the school. Both visually and historically, the boundary appropriately separates the school and its site from its adjacent residential and commercial neighbors.

(end)

SKETCH MAP SHOWING  
LOCATION OF BUTLER SCHOOL  
AND PHOTO VIEWS  
(NOT TO SCALE)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Butler School

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 12/28/94      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/11/95  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/27/95      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/11/95  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 94001634

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    2/2/95 DATE <sup>to</sup> National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_ count      \_\_\_ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

\_\_\_ historic      \_\_\_ current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_ architectural classification  
\_\_\_ materials  
\_\_\_ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period              Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates                      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_ summary paragraph
- \_\_\_ completeness
- \_\_\_ clarity
- \_\_\_ applicable criteria
- \_\_\_ justification of areas checked
- \_\_\_ relating significance to the resource
- \_\_\_ context
- \_\_\_ relationship of integrity to significance
- \_\_\_ justification of exception
- \_\_\_ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_ acreage              \_\_\_ verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_ UTMS              \_\_\_ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_ sketch maps      \_\_\_ USGS maps      \_\_\_ photographs      \_\_\_ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



BUTLER SCHOOL  
812 GORHAM ST.  
LOWELL, MA  
MIDDLESEX CO.

PHOTO BY: MARGO WEBBER  
OCTOBER, 1992

ORIG. NEG AT: LOWELL HISTORIC BOARD  
JFK CIVIC CENTER  
LOWELL, MA 01852

STANDING SW OF BUILDING AND LOOKING NE TOWARDS WEST ELEVATION

PHOTO 1 OF 4



BUTLER SCHOOL  
812 GORHAM ST.  
LOWELL, MA  
MIDDLESEX CO.

PHOTO BY: MARGO WEBBER  
OCTOBER, 1992

NEG. AT: LOWELL HISTORIC BOARD  
JFK CIVIC CENTER  
LOWELL, MA 01852

STANDING SOUTH OF BUILDING, LOOKING NORTH AT SOUTH ELEV.

PHOTO 2 OF 4



BUTLER SCHOOL  
812 GORHAM ST.  
LOWELL, MA  
MIDDLESEX CO.

PHOTO BY: MARGO WEBBER  
OCTOBER, 1992

NEG. AT: LOWELL HISTORIC BOARD  
JFK CIVIC CENTER  
LOWELL, MA 01852

STANDING NE OF BUILDING, LOOKING SW AT NORTH ELEV.

PHOTO 3 OF 4



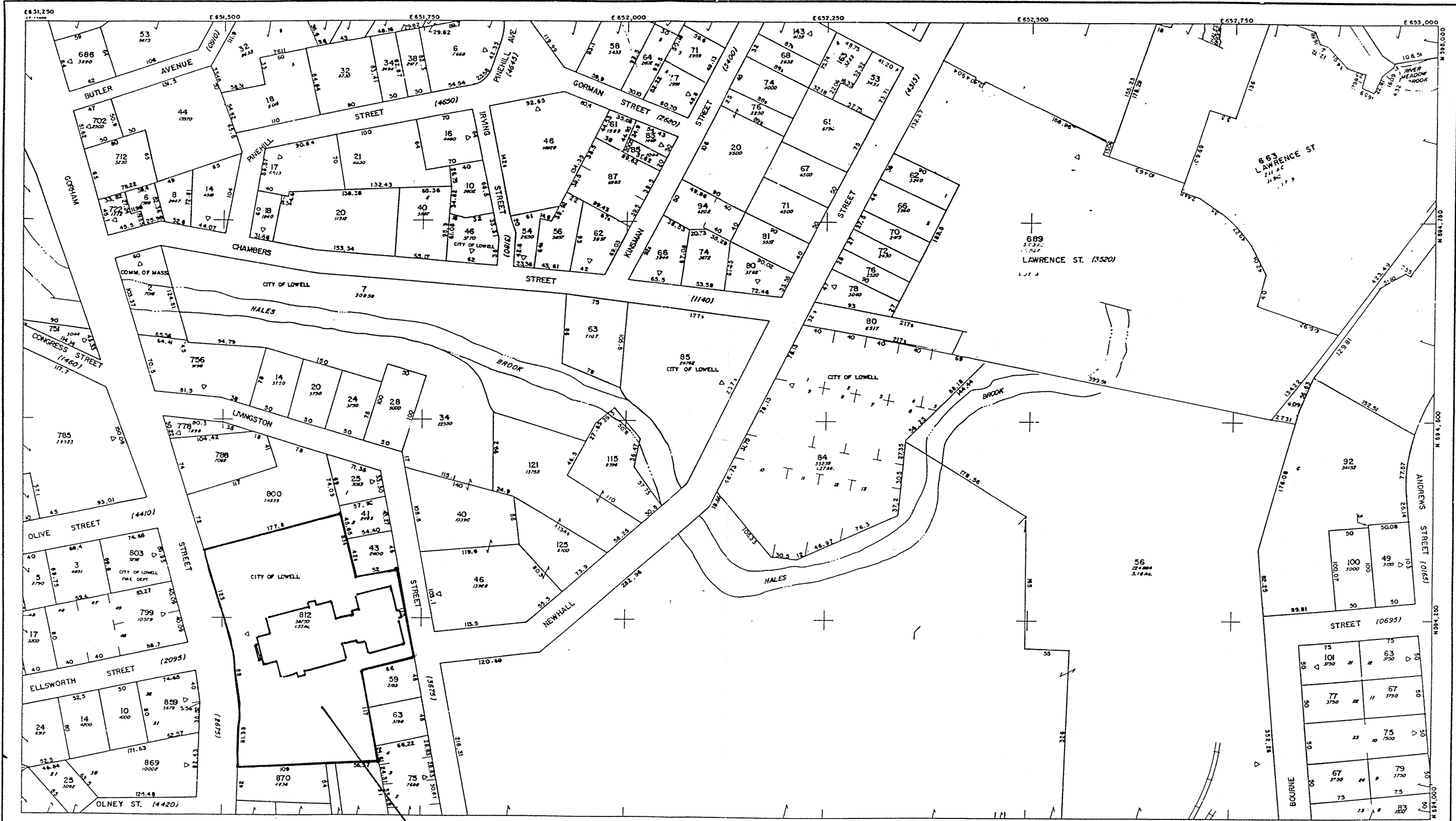
BUTLER SCHOOL  
812 GORHAM ST.  
LOWELL, MA  
MIDDLESEX CO.

PHOTO BY: MARGO WEBBER  
OCTOBER, 1992

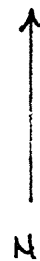
NEG AT: LOWELL HISTORIC BOARD  
JFK CIVIC CENTER  
LOWELL, MA 01852

LOOKING NW AT WEST STAIRHALL, FIRST FLOOR

PHOTO 4 OF 4



BUTLER SCHOOL  
 812 Gorham Street  
 Lowell, MA  
 Assessor's Map #183



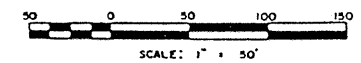
PREPARED BY  
**HUNNICUTT & ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
 A DIVISION OF L. ROBERT KIMBALL & ASSOC.  
 ENGINEERS - APPRAISERS - CARTOGRAPHERS  
 ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

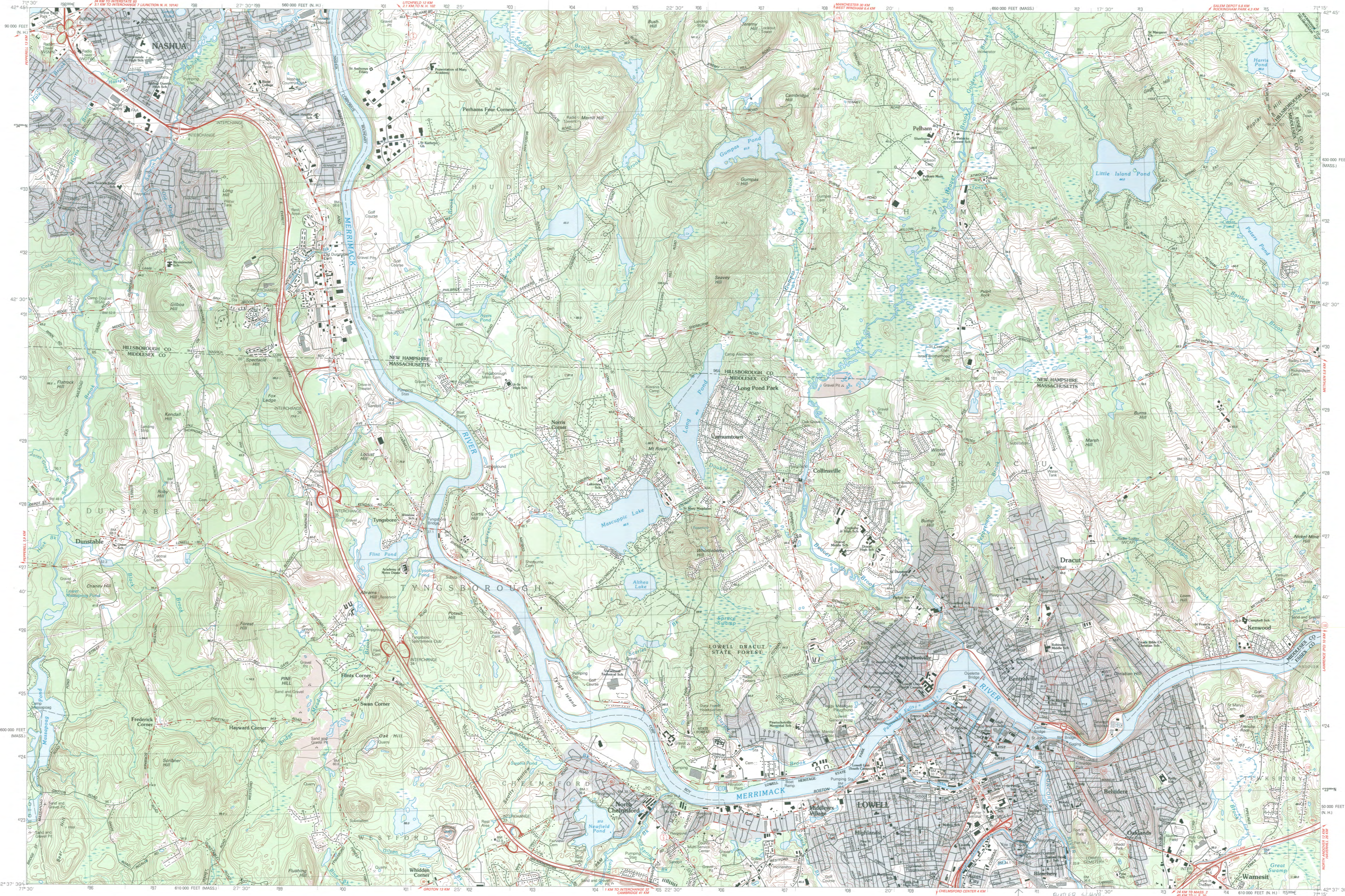
TOPOGRAPHIC PLANS DATED 4-30-80  
 USED AS BASE FOR OWNERSHIP MAPPING

REVISIONS	
DATE	REV. BY

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP MAPS  
**CITY OF  
 LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS**  
 DATE: JAN. 1, 1982

SHEET INDEX		
163	182	203
164	183	204
165	184	205





**Lowell**  
**MASSACHUSETTS-NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
 1:25 000-scale metric topographic map

**7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING**

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names

**GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**  
 1987

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works. Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies. Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1981. Field checked 1983. Map edited 1987. This area also covered by 7.5-minute 1:25,000-scale maps: Nashua South 1965 and Lowell 1966. Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19 Universal Transverse Mercator 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone, and New Hampshire coordinate system 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 40 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks. There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
 CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER  
 OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS	
Meters	Feet	Diagram		1	2
1	3.2808			1	2
2	6.5616			3	4
3	9.8424			5	6
4	13.1232			7	8
5	16.4040				
6	19.6848				
7	22.9656				
8	26.2464				
9	29.5272				
10	32.8080				

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808  
 To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

UTM grid convergence (GN and 1983 magnetic) at center of map. Diagram is approximate.

1 Merrimack  
 2 Nashua  
 3 Haverhill  
 4 Trowbridge  
 5 Lawrence  
 6 Ayer  
 7 Billerica  
 8 Reading

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
 DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

**Topographic Map Symbols**

Primary highway, hard surface	
Secondary highway, hard surface	
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	
Unimproved road, trail	
Route marker, Interstate; U. S. State	
Railroad: standard gauge; narrow gauge	
Bridge: drawbridge	
Footbridge; overpass; underpass	
Bus-stop area; only selected landmark buildings shown	
House; barn; church; school; large structure	
Boundary:	
National, with monument	
State	
County, parish	
Civil township, precinct, district	
Incorporated city, village, town	
National or State reservation; small park	
Land grant with monument; found section corner	
U. S. public lands survey; range, township, section	
Range, township; section line: location approximate	
Fence or field line	
Power transmission line, located tower	
Dam; dam with lock	
Cemetery; grave	
Campground; picnic area; U. S. National monument	
Wellhead; water well; spring	
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave	
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	
Contour: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	
Distorted surface; strip mine, lava; sand	
Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate	
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	
Rapid; large and small; falls, large and small	
Swamp; marsh	
Submerged marsh; land subject to controlled inundation	
Woodland; scattered trees	
Sand; mangrove	
Orchard; vineyard	

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request



RECEIVED 413

DEC 28 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

December 12, 1994

Carol Shull  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Butler School, 812 Gorham Street, Lowell (Middlesex County),  
Massachusetts, 01852.

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Because the city of Lowell is a participant in the Certified Local Government program, the owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60-120 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Mayor Richard Howe  
City of Lowell School Department  
Steve Stowell, Administrator, Lowell Historic Board  
Margo Webber, Preservation Consultant  
Anne O'Brien, Librarian, Pollard Memorial Library