

MAY 23 1989

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FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
D	325

Town Wakefield

Address 39 Prospect Street

Historic Name West Ward School

Use: Present School

Original School

DESCRIPTION

Date c. 1847

Source West Ward School-Woodbury

Style Greek Revival

Architect BA

Exterior Wall Fabric Wood Clapboard

Outbuildings None

Major Alterations (with dates) 1946-47 South portico added; exterior enclosed stair on north. 1909

Condition Fair-Good

Moved NA Date NA

Acreage Under 1 acre.

Setting Approximately 175' frontage set back approx. 50' from curb - level lot. Residential neighborhood.

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Associates  
Organization Wakefield Historical Commission

Date March 1985

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).

Indicate north

UTM REFERENCE 19/328860/4707830

USGS QUADRANGLE Reading, Mass.

SCALE 1:25,000

**NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The sole survivor of 4 Greek Revival schoolhouses in Wakefield (South Reading), this building has remained substantially intact in both form and detailing since its construction and continues in its original use - both of which factors increase as significance. The building retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials workmanship, feeling and association, and meets Criterion C of the NRHP on the local level, *and criterion A at the local level.*

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE** Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

Of four Greek Revival schoolhouses built in South Reading in 1847 this is the only one remaining. It is two stories in height, presents its gable roof to the street and its boxed cornice makes full eaves returns to form a pediment. Full length panelled pilasters and a wide frieze complete the buildings' stylistic references to Greek temples. An enclosed portico and a single window at the second story are the only openings in the south facade while three bays articulate the building's length. The relatively few exterior alterations to the building make it an important building in both our local and national architectural heritage.

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

In the spring of 1845 South Reading's population was 1517. That same year the B & M Railroad came through town connecting South Reading with Boston. By 1850 the population had almost doubled with Boston businessmen and their families. In response, four outer ward schools and a high school were opened. The four outer ward schools were identical. The structural members were cut on the town Common to the correct size then transported to their sites where they were erected. Each had a woodburning stove and 2 outhouses but no water supply for several years. By 1852 one teacher was teaching 54 children in this school on the 1st floor. A 2nd floor classroom was added in 1858 and the students divided into Primary and Senior Departments. Thirty seven pupils (3-9) were in the Primary and twenty seven (7-14) in the Senior Department. During 1863 the boy who swept out the school and built fires for the 42 weeks was paid \$4 and the teacher \$210. Until 1884 there were 90 pupils in the two classrooms but the number was reduced to 75 when Hamilton School was built. In 1891 the school got lake water piped in. During the Depression it lost its cupola. Several times it has been threatened with closing but the town's residents have rallied and supported its use, so the school has been in continual use for 138 years.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Eaton, Lilley. A Genealogical History of Reading, Boston 1874.  
Wakefield Historical Society, Vertical Files, Schools.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Wakefield MRA  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
81. Wakefield Park <i>H.D.</i> <u>Substantive Review</u>	Keeper <u>Beth L. Savage 3/2/90</u> Attest _____
82. Wakefield Rattan Company <u>Substantive Review</u>	Keeper <u>Beth L. Savage 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
83. Wakefield Savings Bank Clock <u>Substantive Review</u> <b>DOE/OWNER OBJECTION</b>	Keeper _____ R Attest _____
84. Wakefield Trust Company Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
85. Wakefield Upper Depot Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
86. Warren, H.M., School Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
87. West Ward School Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
88. Winn Street Railroad Bridge <u>Substantive Review</u>	Keeper _____ R Attest _____
89. Winn, Suell, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
90. Winship, Charles, House	Keeper <u>Beth L. Savage 7/6/89</u> Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY West Ward School  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Wakefield MRA  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 5/23/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/06/89  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/22/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/07/89  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000748

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 7/6/89 DATE Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

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

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

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

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

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



D 325

39 Prospect St.

West Ward School

Worcester, MA, Ma



Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000300