

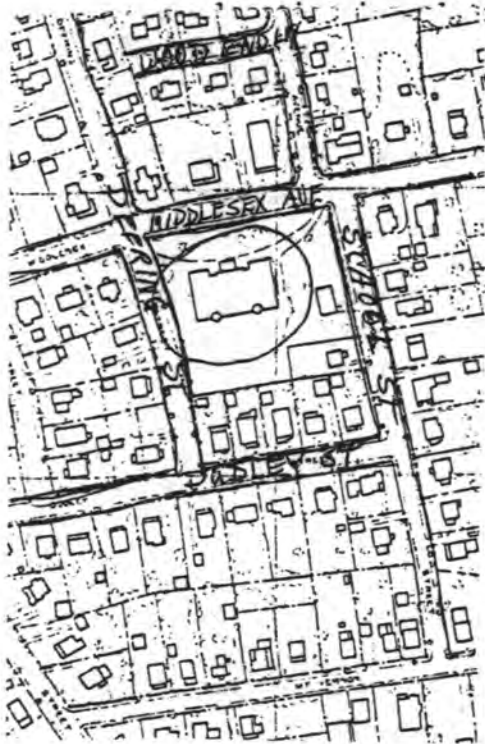
FORM B - BUILDING

Area C	Form no. 192
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION ^{XXXII 25}
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Reading
 Address 64 Middlesex Avenue
 Historic Name Highland School
 Original School
 Present School
 Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization
 Public Town of Reading
 Original owner Town of Reading



Proximity to nearest
 other buildings
 features.

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1896-97
 Source Town Report 1896-97
 Style Second Renaissance Revival
 Architect Horace G. Wadlin
 Exterior wall fabric brick, concrete
 Outbuildings None
 Major alterations (with dates) towers'
turrets removed 1960's
 Moved NO Date _____
 Approx. acreage 1 acre

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Associates

Organization Reading Historical Commission

Date November 10, 1980

Date 6/82

Setting Set on a corner plot, on a good-sized hill, the school commands the site.

UTM: 19/326620/4710220

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

A well-built school structure, the building is 2 stories on a high basement, with center pavilion and porte cochere with flanking blocks. The educational floors are emphasized by thin, light-yellow brick, while the basement is dark-red brick. An egg-and-dart string course divides the two. Fenestration on the main facade has arched tops; granite keystones punctuate the larger openings. Four massive chimneys enliven a low hipped roofline.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

The Reading Highlands describes roughly the northwest section of the town lying between Mt. Vernon, Lowell, Bancroft, and Prospect Streets. The 1875 map shows significant settlement in this area only along Mt. Vernon and High Streets, but population growth was expected and encouraged. The Highlands Depot was built in 1873 and streets laid out over the old Bancroft family holdings. Streets were cut through Manning's large nursery.

In 1902 Highland School had grades 4-8. Class size was much larger than today--with the peak of 54 and the low of 39 registered in each classroom, though average attendance was much lower. In 1912 electric light was installed in 2 classrooms here: why not in all, it is hard to say. In that year, the boys and girls were given separate, organized recesses, a measure in part to decrease congestion in the schoolyard. The junior high occupied the first floor from 1915-1927.

The solidity and continuing use of this school reflects the importance Reading placed on its school buildings at the turn of the century.

(The building was built in 1896-7 for a cost of about \$55,000 for both land and construction.)

School use was discontinued in 1981.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Bishop, Vignettes, p. 90

Town Report: 1896-7

How Reading Grew Up by Reading College Club, 1978

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: C-192
Property Name: 64 Middlesex Ave	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

On the west facade, a central arched opening is flanked by oval windows. Windows are deep-set and grouped horizontally. A large third-floor window over the arch has a leaded glass fanlight. This is Reading's architecturally most distinguished school building. It is thoughtfully composed, finely constructed, and well placed on its site.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Highland School is significant (1) for its role in the residential development of the Reading Highlands area; (2) for its connection with the prominent local architect Horace G. Wadlin; (3) for its commanding presence in its neighborhood; and (4) as an excellent example of the Second Renaissance Revival style. The school retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling, and meets Criteria A, B, and C of the National Register.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 6/19/84
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 4 of 9

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 31. Damon, Joseph, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 32. Damon, Washington, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 33. Dewey Place | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 34. Durgin House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 35. Eaton-Prescott House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 36. Elliott, Luther, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 37. Hall, Stephen, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 38. Hartshorn, Timothy, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 39. Hartwell House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 40. Highland School | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | <u>Melona Byers</u> 7/19/84 |
| | | Attest | _____ |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Highland School (Reading MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUN 4 1984

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/5/85

Date Due: 7/5/84 - 7/9/84

Action: ACCEPT 7-19-84

RETURN

REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Entered in the
National Register

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. 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

Highland School (Reading M.R.A.)
 Middlesex County
 MASSACHUSETTS

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Highland School

Reading MA, Ma

64 Middlesex Ave

C-192

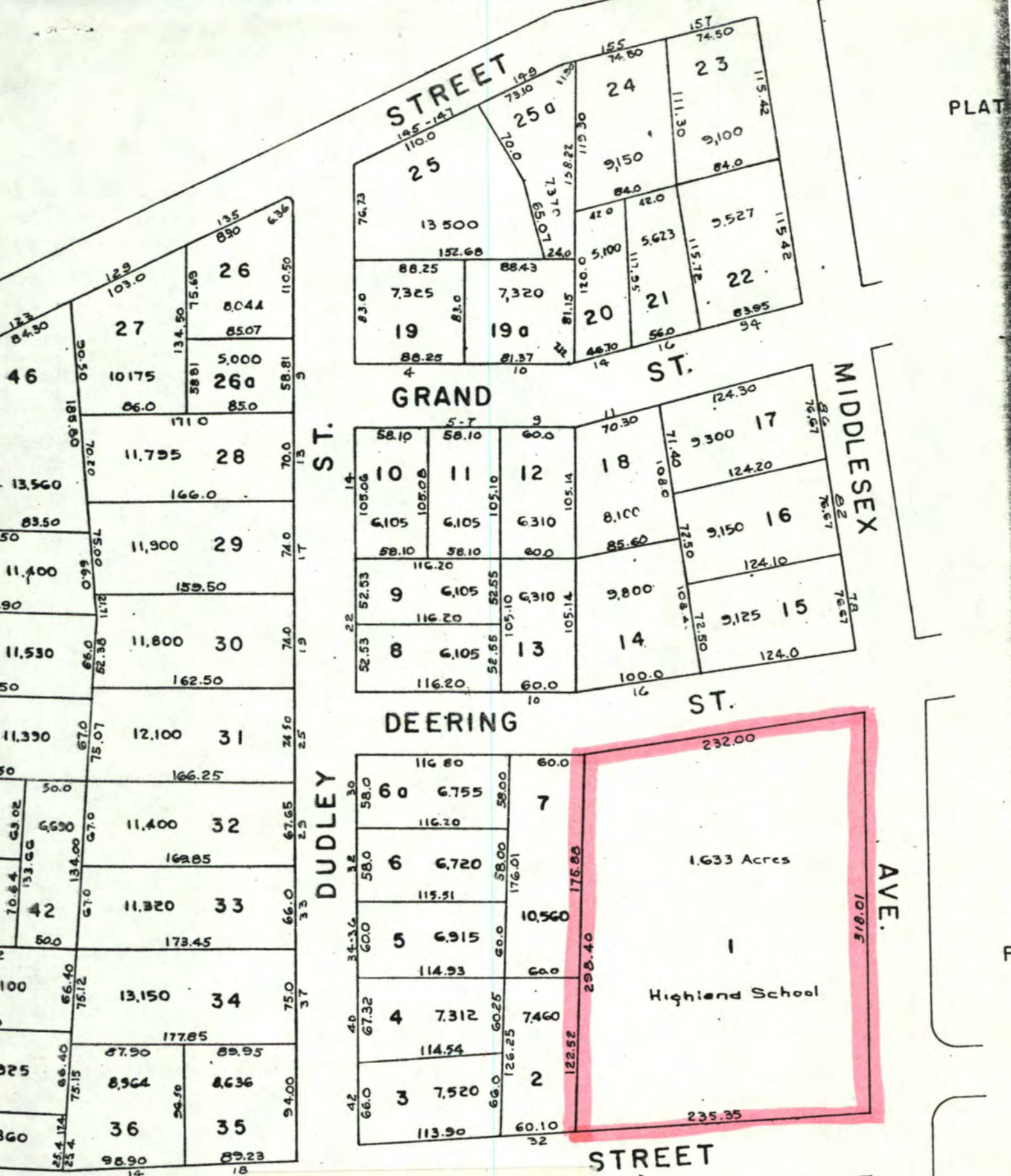




Roxbury M.R.A., Ma

Middlesex Ave Highland School

~~XXVII~~
25A



SCHOOL

#C-192 * 64 Middlesex St.
 Map 73, Lot 01
 1983 Assessors Map
 1" = 100'

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000290