

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

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

Town Washington, Mass.
Washington MRA

Address Washington Mt. Road

Historic Name South Center School House

Use: Present vacant

Original school

DESCRIPTION

Date 1880

Source Washington Town Report, 1880

Style Late Greek Revival

Architect Unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) New roof,

1970, other general repairs

Condition excellent

Moved no Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting The South Center School House sits

on the west side of Washington Mt.

Road, in a rural setting.

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg
Preservation Planner

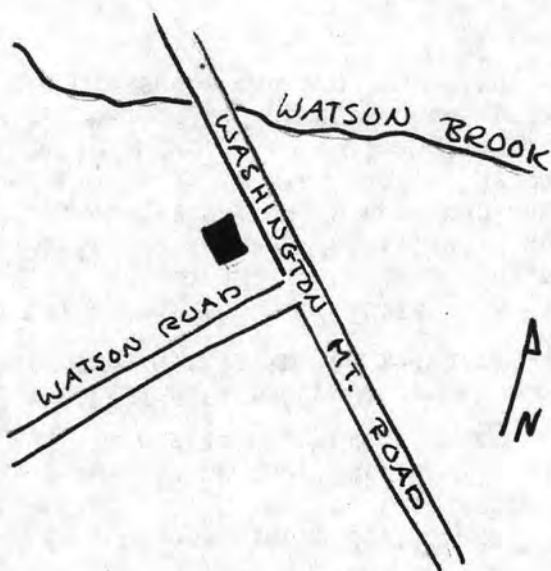
Organization Massachusetts Historical Comm.

Date June 1986

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

See Assessor's Map.



UTM REFERENCE 18/654360/4590140

USGS QUADRANGLE East Lee Quadrangle

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The South Center School House, Washington's last surviving one-room school, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It is a simple structure whose design reflects a late vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival. Sited midway between Washington's upper and lower districts, the school's location reflects the town's scattered linear development in the 19th century and lack of a full-fledged town center. The school served a diminishing local population over a 40-year period (1880-1922). It thus fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

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

The South Center School House is a simple rectangular structure with a gable roof, 1 1/2 stories in height. The wood-frame building rests on a rubblestone foundation. The building's single entrance, located in the two-bay-wide gable end, is asymmetrically placed and surmounted by a broad lintel. A small 2/2 fixed window is located beside the entry while a round light is centered in the gable above. The building is two bays deep, with 6/6 sash. A simple narrow cornice and corner boards frame the building. The building contains a single classroom and two tiny cloak rooms.

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

The South Center School House, the only surviving one-room school in Washington, was constructed in 1880 on the site of the town's first (late 18th century) school. The construction of four small schoolhouses for each of the town's four districts was among the few building projects undertaken by the town in the mid to late 19th century. The school cost \$300, while \$60 was spent on interior furnishings. In 1903, it was one of seven schools townwide, with a total of 100 pupils. As Washington's population dwindled in the early decades of the 20th century, the need for the school diminished. In 1921, it served nine students; in 1922, only one. At that time, the school was closed. It remained vacant until the 1970s, when it was refurbished by the Washington Historical Commission.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Elliot, History of Washington (1977)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 8/8/86
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 1

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Washington Multiple Resource Area
State Berkshire County, MASSACHUSETTS

Courtesy Byers 9/2/86

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Clark--Eames House

Entered in the for
National Register Keeper

Melvin Byers 9/2/86

Attest

2. Eames, Philip, House

Entered in the for
National Register Keeper

Melvin Byers 9/2/86

Attest

3. Lower Historic District

Entered in the for
National Register Keeper

Melvin Byers 9/2/86

Attest

4. Saint Andrew's Chapel

~~Entered in the~~ for
~~National Register~~ Keeper

accept Patrick Andrews 9/12/86

Attest

Beth L. Swage 9/12/86

5. Sibley--Cocoran House

Entered in the for
National Register Keeper

Melvin Byers 9/2/86

Attest

6. ~~South Center School House~~

Entered in the for
National Register Keeper

Melvin Byers 9/2/86

Attest

7. Upper Historic District

~~Entered in the~~ for
~~National Register~~ Keeper

Patrick Andrews 9/2/87 R S

Attest

Beth L. Swage 9/2/87

8. Deming-Root-Messenger-
Schultz House

~~Entered in the~~ for
~~National Register~~ Keeper

Eligible Patrick Andrews 9/12/86

Attest

Beth L. Swage 9/12/86

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

South Center School House (Washington MRA)
Berkshire County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. AUG 8 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88
Date Due: 9/4/86 - 9/22/86
Action: ACCEPT 9-12-86
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

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

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		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

South Center School House (Washington, D.C.)
Berlinda County
VA 22401

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage 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: _____



South Center School House 1880 #5
Washington Mass Multi Resource Nomination
Washington Mountain Road
Washington, MA 01223
James N. Parrish 11/9/81 BCRPC
Photo 11 of 25 Roll 17 Frame 21A
View N.W. of South gable and east elevation
of the South Center School House.

Washington MA, Ma



17-23

South Center, School House
Washington, Ma.

J. P. Parris

Washington, Mass. MRA

67%

SOUTH CENTER SCHOOL HOUSE:
WASHINGTON BUILT MID 19TH
CENTURY. WASHINGTON MA

~~62%~~ ~~68%~~

28E

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000302