

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received OCT 27 1982
date entered

1. Name

historic Bradstreet Avenue School

and/or common Mary T. Ronan School (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 154 Bradstreet Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Revere N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~ 7th

state Massachusetts code 025 county Suffolk code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture	☐ museum
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial	☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational	☒ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment	☐ religious
☐ object	N/A in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government	☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial	☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military	☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Beachmont Apartment Associates, c/o Elaine B. Finbury

street & number 18 Crowninshield Street

city, town Peabody N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Suffolk County Registry of Deeds

street & number Pemberton Square

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth, #6 12/3/80
has this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ nodate 1978 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

Mary T. Ronan School, 154 Bradstreet Ave., Revere, MA

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved

date

N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mary T. Ronan School is a 2½ story brick building constructed in a Classical Revival style. The school occupies a half-acre lot in the Beachmont section of Revere, a dense hilltop neighborhood of houses dating from the turn of the century.

The Ronan School was built in 1896 as a simple rectangular structure. A smaller T-shaped wing was added to the rear in 1914 and copies the original design. The main block is 2½ stories high plus basement. Its steeply pitched hip roof, covered with asphalt, is broken on the facade by a gabled pavilion and by polygonally-capped dormers on the side elevations. Three thin chimneys pierce the roofline.

Several horizontal elements articulate the elevations of the Ronan School. A granite foundation and granite stringcourse outline the basement level, while a brick stringcourse and bracketed wooden cornice cap the walls. Windows are often grouped in threes, a motif reinforced by continuous granite sills on the second story. All the windows have splayed lintels of gauged brick, and those on the first floor are further ornamented by granite keystones.

The most striking design element of this building is its central frontispiece. Brick pilasters with plinths and Ionic capitals carved in granite support a gabled roof with dentillated cornice. This 3-story bay is entirely symmetrical. On the first floor, a round-arched doorway is flanked by narrow roundarched windows; a granite keystone ornaments the entrance arch. On the second floor, oval windows with granite keystones flank a pair of rectangular windows which are joined by a continuous granite entablature, on which the original name and date of the school are inscribed (Bradstreet Avenue School, 1896). A decorative iron balcony spans the base of these windows. In the gable field, a Palladian motif window features a granite sill, entablature, and keystone.

The Ronan School was renovated in 1981 for use as elderly housing, a process certified by the National Park Service for tax act purposes. Major work included restoration of the original entrance design, with its arched glazed transom, and replacement of the original 6 over 6 sash.

8. Significance

Mary T. Ronan School, 154 Bradstreet Ave. Revere, MA

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400-1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500-1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600-1699	☒ architecture	☒ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1896

Builder/Architect

N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mary T. Ronan School retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, and location. The building is associated with the historical development of the Beachmont area of Revere and is a significant example of its architectural type and period; it meets criteria A and C of the National Register.

The coastal highlands of Revere were increasingly developed as a summer resort from the mid-19th century on. Early in this period, Beachmont was occupied by tent-dwellers from the surrounding towns of Chelsea, Everett, and Malden during the hot season. By the late 19th century, however, more permanent residential subdivisions were platted.

The Boston Land Company had purchased most of the land here and chartered a narrow gauge railroad which connected Beachmont to Boston and Lynn in 1875. As an inducement to settlement, the Land Company offered to provide for five years a free pass to each property owner building a house worth \$2,000. A boom in both summer and year-round homes thus commenced, and between 1870 and 1900 the town's population doubled every decade. The Beachmont area filled in quickly with modest single and multi-family homes built in the Stick, Second Empire, and Queen Anne styles.

The first public school in Beachmont, established in the early 1870s, was located in a two-room building which also housed the community's religious services. A new, wood frame schoolhouse with eight rooms was dedicated in 1891. Continuing population pressures, however, soon demanded another schoolhouse. The Mary T. Ronan School was built in 1896 for \$35,000. This modern, eight-room brick building boasted an assembly hall on the top floor, electric lights, bells, and speaking tubes. Originally known as the Bradstreet Avenue School, the building has since been renamed for one of its early principals, Mary T. Ronan, who was named to the post in 1904.

The Ronan School is the most monumental civic building in Beachmont, and, like most of the town's other institutional buildings, dates from the turn of the century. Although not of exceptional design significance, the building reflects the picturesque massing and rooflines popular in the Beachmont development. It also typifies popular school design of the period which included masonry construction, two story on high basement height, and blocky form—here enhanced by a relatively elaborate frontispiece. Today the Ronan School is the best preserved structure remaining from its period in this neighborhood.

The Mary T. Ronan School has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register by the Department of the Interior, and has recently been recycled into 20 units of elderly housing.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 23,163 square feet *NP 6 acres winner 8/17/83*
Quadrangle name Lynn, Massachusetts Quadrangle scale 1:25,000
UMT References

A

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3	3	6	4	3	0
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4	6	9	5	4	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached deed description.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wendy Frontiero, Preservation Planner, with Elaine Finbury, Beachmont Associates

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date June 2, 1982

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Valerie Ann Talenge

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date Oct. 20, 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Bruce Van Duzee

date 12/10/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

Continuation sheet Mary T. Ronan School

Item number 9

Page 1

Bibliography

Better Schools for Revere, Revere School Study Group, 1954.

Fitzmeyer, William, Recollections of Early Days in Beachmont, Revere Public Library, 179 Beach Street, Revere, Massachusetts.

Shaw, Belle, Early Historical Facts About Revere, Revere Public Library, 179 Beach Street, Revere, Massachusetts.

Shurtleff, Benjamin, History of the Town of Revere, Bekler Press, Inc., Boston, 1938.

Inventory compiled by The Revere Historic Commission, February, 1978.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Mary T. Ronan School

Item number 10

Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

PARCEL #1 (Mary T. Ronan School)

NORTHEASTERLY: by Crest Avenue, one hundred ninety (190) feet;
SOUTHEASTERLY: by land now or formerly of Ralph and Joanna M. Anderson and K.J. Realty Trust, one hundred forty-one and sixty one hundredths (141.60) feet;
SOUTHWESTERLY: by Bradstreet Avenue, one hundred twenty-four and seventy-nine one hundredths (124.79) feet;
NORTHWESTERLY: by land now or formerly of John Milano and Dominic A. and Rosalie A. Ciambelli, seventy-four and forty-three one hundredths (74.43) feet;
SOUTHWESTERLY: by land now or formerly of the said Ciambellis seventy and three one hundredths (70.03) feet; and
NORTHWESTERLY: by land now or formerly of Patrick G. and Rita A. Turner, seventy-six and seventeen hundredths (76.17) feet.

Being 23,165 square feet, more or less.

Said land and buildings are shown on a "Plan of Land in Revere, Mass. for Crowninshield Corporation", prepared by James H. MacDowell-Design Consultant and Norman I. Lipsitz, Registered Land Surveyor, dated November 17, 1980 and recorded herewith.

Being the same premises conveyed to the City of Revere by deeds recorded with the Suffolk Registry of Deeds in Book 2350, Page 06 and Book 3920, Page 519.

States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Ronan, Marv, T., School
Suffolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 10127/82-2948
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83
Date Due: 11/25/82 - 12/11/82
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 12/10/82
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria H.C.
Reviewer Mar. Dangel
Discipline A.H.
Date 12/10/82
☐ 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
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

☒ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Area 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT 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: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



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Belmont, MA 02178
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Phone: 617-489-1377

12-13-81#3

Mary T. Ronen School
154 Bradstreet Avenue
Revere, MA
1981

Photo by/Negative filed with
Richard S. Mandelkorn
41 Barnard Road
Belmont, MA

View of main entrance facade

Photo 1 of 1



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1939. Topography by planimetric surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970.
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 240(1970), 246
and 248 (1971). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied by
Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

LYNN, MASS.
N4222.5-W7052.5/7.5
1970
AMS 6868 IV NW-SERIES Y814