

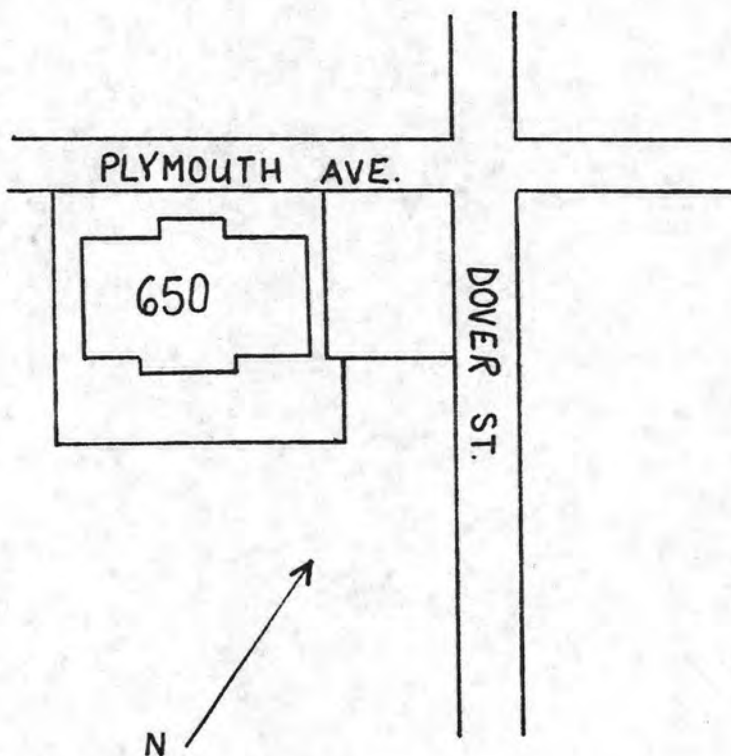
FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
I-12	531 7-14-78

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number INST 1-27A
1-29A

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location
in relation to nearest cross streets and
other buildings. Indicate north.



1. Town Fall River, Mass.
Address 650 Plymouth Avenue
Name William M. Connell School
Present use School
Present owner City of Fall River
3. Description: 2-story brick school
Date 1893
Source Fall River School Studies-Vol.
Style Romanesque Revival
Architect Joseph M. Darling
Exterior wall fabric Brick
Outbuildings (describe) _____
Other features 4-level center tower
open at top level w/polygonal cap,
Syrian arch entrance
Altered _____ Date _____
Moved _____ Date _____
5. Lot size: 28,386 sq. ft.
One acre or less X Over one acre _____
Approximate frontage 166 ft.
Approximate distance of building from street
50 ft.
6. Recorded by Patricia Giza
Organization FROHP
Date 10/2/80

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) City of Fall River

Original use School

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	<u>X</u>	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>X</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>X</u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The William M. Connell School (1893) is one of two virtually identical 8-room brick grammar schools designed by the prominent local architect Joseph M. Darling in the early 1890's. Both the Connell and its twin, the Davol School on Flint Street, are fine examples of the type of sturdy late 19th century brick schoolhouses which in their design and detailing rise above the level of simple functionalism. The symmetrical Romanesque Revival school is particularly notable for its square 4-level center tower with a Syrian arched entrance and open belfry. Details such as the brownstone sill and lintel courses, slate hipped roof, bracketed cornice and corbelled brick chimneys have also remained largely intact. The property is surrounded by an early iron fence with granite posts. Inside the school has four classrooms on each of the two floors and restrooms and utility rooms in the basement. Joseph M. Darling (d.1918) was a well-connected Fall River architect with a prolific practice whose work includes many of the downtown banks and office buildings as well as the Bradford-Durfee Textile School and the Stone and Aldrich Schools. The William Connell School was named in honor of the city's third Superintendent of Schools, at whose urging the policy of providing free textbooks to public school students was established. In 1874 Fall River became the first city in Massachusetts to provide free textbooks, some 10 years before the law required it. Connell was superintendent from 1872 to 1894. The late 19th century was a period of considerable school building in Fall River, as the population increased to meet the needs of the expanding textile economy. In 1889 the city had 42 schoolhouses with 182 study rooms and 30 recitation rooms. Between 1894 and 1900, 64 new classrooms were added by enlarging existing schools and building nine new schools. In view of this 20% increase in the number of schools within a six-year period, the use of the same plan for the Connell and Davol Schools would seem both practical and economical. As a distinctive example of the late 19th century brick schoolhouse, well-detailed, substantially constructed and largely unchanged, the William Connell School meets Criteria A and C of the National Register, individually.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

1895 Atlas of Fall River - Structure shown

Fall River School Studies - Vol. I - pg. 68 - Date erected 1893. Exterior face-brick roof-slate

Water Dept, City of Fall River on 3-31-1894 App. #5916

Providence Journal - Dec. 7, 1964 - clipping

Fall River Herald News - Mar. 19, 1918 - pg. 1 - name of architect

Phillips' History of Fall River, Fascicle II, p. 64-65

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 1/5/83

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 10

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Fall River Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Chace Mills

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

2/16/83 *Bruce M. Byers*

22. Chace, A. B., Rowhouses

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

2/16/83 *Delores Byers*

23. Chace's, Oliver, Thread Mill

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

2/16/83 *Delores Byers*

24. Charlton Mill

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

2/16/83 *Delores Byers*

25. Chase-Hyde Farm

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

2/16/83 *Delores Byers*

26. Children's Home

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

2/16/83 *Delores Byers*

27. Church of the Ascension

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

2/16/83 *Delores Byers*

28. Collins, William, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

2/16/83 *Delores Byers*

29. Connell, William M., School

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

2/16/83 *Delores Byers*

30. Cornell Mills

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

2/16/83 *Delores Byers*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Connell, William M., School (Fall River MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 16/83-15

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84

Date Due: 2/3/83 - 2/19/83

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2/6/83

Entered in the ☐ RETURN ☐

National Register ☐ 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 _____

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
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unsurveyed		

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres 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



NAME: William M. Connell School

LOCATION: 650 Plymouth Avenue
Fall River, Mass.

PHOTO CREDIT: Pamela Shields (1981)

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Fall River Office of Historic
Preservation
One Government Center
Fall River, Mass. 02722
(PSNR-7-7)

IDENTIFICATION: Connell School
Front View, looking east

Photo # 1 of 2



INST. 1-27A

JM. CONNELL SCHOOL (FRONT)

~~80~~ PLYMOUTH AVE

650

Fall River MA, Ma

Connell, William M., School

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000279