

RECEIVED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 29 1987

National Register of Historic Places
Registration FormNATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fox Hill School

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 81 Water Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Danvers

N/A vicinity

state MA code 025 county Essex code 009 zip code 01923

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Valerie A. Talmage

Signature of certifying official

Dec. 18, 1987

Date

Executive Director, State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau Massachusetts Historical Commission

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:)

Patrick Anders

2/10/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use <u>Fox Hill School, Danvers, Massachusetts</u>	
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
<u>Education-school</u>	<u>other-Daycare center</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description	
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
<u>Mid-19th Century-Greek Revival</u>	foundation <u>stone</u>
_____	walls <u>wood</u>
_____	roof <u>asphalt</u>
_____	other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Fox Hill School, Danvers, a one-room schoolhouse built in 1879, occupies a small but prominent corner lot of about 8,700 square feet at the intersection of Water Street (Mass. Rt. 35) and Endicott Street, in this suburban town nineteen miles north of Boston. The building faces east onto Water Street; it is set back about eighty feet from Water Street and six feet from Endicott Street. The entire schoolyard is now landscaped to include a driveway, parking lot, and plantings of low shrubs and trees as well as a play area.

The immediate neighborhood is residential, with eight modest turn-of-the-century houses ranged along Endicott Street and a half-dozen Federal-period residences north of the school on Water Street, built during the heyday of this area (known as Danversport) as a shipbuilding and fishing center. The area to the west of this enclave, formerly the Endicott Farm, is now almost entirely occupied by shopping centers, light manufacturing, and highways. While a National Register-eligible residential district may be present around the school, its integrity has not yet been assessed.

The school takes its name from Fox Hill, a barely perceptible hillock at the end of a peninsula that was granted to Governor John Endicott in 1632-1636. It is surrounded on three sides by the Crane, Danvers, and Waters Rivers. A few successors to Endicott's fruit trees remain on the neighboring residential lots. The school is the second of that name in Danversport.

The wood frame school is rectangular in plan and measures 25 feet by 40 feet. It is a simple Greek Revival-style structure, 1 1/2-stories in height with front facing gable orientation. Its exterior is clapboard-sheathed and it rests on a foundation of rubblestone. There is a full basement. A pyramidal-capped chimney (not original) on the ridge is sited close to the east end of the building.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Fox Hill School, Danvers, Massachusetts

The east, main facade features two identical entrances--one for girls, one for boys--that comprise the two bays at the gable end. Each door is surmounted by a three-light fixed transom and set beneath a shallow-raking pediment. The raised panel doors are original. Two modern porches, both with simple balustered rails, provide access to the schoolhouse. One is a straight run of four stairs; the other, with a small deck, has an inclined handicapped-access ramp that leads at a right angle out to the enclosed yard on the building's south side. The low-pitched gable terminates in returns. A single 6/6 sash window, with shallow-raked pediment, is centered in the gable and lights the attic. Narrow, unornamented cornerboards frame the building.

The school is four bays deep with a broad entablature running the length of the building. On the north (Endicott Street) side, a small fixed window at the northeastern end lights the former cloakroom. Three symmetrically arranged windows complete the elevation's fenestration; all are simple 12/12 sash set beneath raking pediments. The south elevation is similar, except for the absence of the cloakroom window, removed in the mid-20th century.

The western (rear) elevation originally contained, on the first story, two 12/12 sash windows identical to those found elsewhere on the building. An emergency door replaced the northwestern window ca. 1910-1930. The single gable window mirrors that found on the main facade.

The building plan originally consisted of a single classroom entered through separate girls' and boys' cloakrooms. Both the chimney and a stairway to the basement were located between the two cloakrooms. While the large classroom space remains, the cloakrooms were converted to toilets and hallway ca. 1910-1930. Today, one of the toilets has been returned to its original condition and serves as a reception area.

The school is presently used as a childcare center. During renovation and restoration, the most prominent interior features, the chestnut matchboard wainscot, chalk rail, chair rail, and door and window frames, were returned to their original finish.

The schoolhouse has no surviving outbuildings. Its small site at one time included a small building housing a fire pumper, the building for Hose Company No. 8, which was placed, in 1884, on the southeast corner. (It was sold in 1925 and converted to a residence and is now located in the same block at 28 Endicott Street.) There were also two privies for the use of schoolchildren, located where there is now a paved parking area. During the course of restoration, the property was landscaped and parking and play areas added.

continued

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2 Fox Hill School, Danvers, Massachusetts

Archaeology

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the property, it is possible that sites are present. At least 13 sites have been reported in the general area (within one mile). The physical characteristics of the property prior to European contact would have made this an attractive area for native settlement and subsistence activities. The school is located on a peninsula between the Crane and Waters Rivers, which join with the Porter River to form the Danvers River. This area has been the focus of intense development during the historic period. Many favorable site locations around the periphery of these wetlands may have been altered or destroyed, though it is possible some sites survived. Since patterns of prehistoric occupation in Danvers are poorly documented, any surviving sites would be significant. Regional as well as local significance might result from sites found in this area and their possible associations with sites along the Danvers River/North River area, Beverly Harbor, and Salem Harbor, all known areas of prehistoric settlement.

There is also a potential for significant historic remains on the property. Background research, controlled testing, and excavation may help to determine whether or not archaeological remains survive from settlement and economic activities that predated the school's construction. The area was originally part of a farm granted to John Endicott in 1632, and was later important as an industrial and shipping center. Archaeological remains may survive on the property from these activities and from the school. Two privies have been reported under the paved area on the property. Each of these sources could provide detailed information on the changing social, cultural, and economic patterns that characterized the development from rural life to commercial life in the Danversport area.

8. Statement of Significance Fox Hill School, Danvers, Massachusetts

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ArchitectureEducation

Period of Significance

1879-1937

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

George Russell

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Fox Hill School, Danvers, a simple, one-room schoolhouse, retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association. One of only two district schools to survive intact in Danvers, it served elementary school-age children in the Danversport section continuously from 1879 to 1974. The gable front, 1 1/2-story school with intact Greek Revival-style detailing is a well-preserved example of its type and fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

The Danversport section of Danvers, located on two small peninsulas formed by the confluence of the Crane, Waters, Porter, and Danvers Rivers, saw its first European settlement as part of John Endicott's 1632 land grant. By 1754, with Endicott's Orchard Farm largely broken up, the area, an ideal milling site, received its first commercial settlement with the establishment of grist and saw mills. By the Revolution, a small but lively shipbuilding and fishing industry had been established as well. By the close of the 18th century, therefore, the village of Danversport was clearly established, a distinct community within the far larger town of Danvers.

While a school was built in Danvers as early as 1708, the town's first district schoolhouse was built in 1777, and was located near the site of the present (1852) Putnamville school (Danvers' only other intact district school), located 2 1/2 miles to the north of Danversport. In 1777, it was also voted to "set up a school for three months" in "New Mills" (Danversport). Classes were probably held in the Baptist meetinghouse, sited

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References Fox Hill School, Danvers, Massachusetts

Mss: School Committee Record Book, v. 5.
School Committee Reports: 1880, 1884, 1888.
Town Meeting Warrants, 1879
Accounts of Town of Danvers
South Essex Registry of Deeds
Danvers Archival Center, Peabody Institute Library

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☒ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested HPCA #10212 MA
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Inventory of Historic Assets #612

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

Quad- Salem Scale- 1:25000

UTM References

A

1	9	3	4	2	0	9	0	4	7	1	2	4	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See Assessors Map.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The bounds of the nominated property are those historically associated with the Fox Hill School.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James Dumke with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MA Historical Comm.
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date August 1987
street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone 617-727-8470
city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 Fox Hill School, Danvers, Massachusetts

on the northern peninsula, midway between the Porter and Crane Rivers. In 1783, just across from the meetinghouse, Danversport's first school was built. The land for the school was purchased by seventeen prominent citizens from the local baker, Charles Hall. Twenty years later, in 1803, the two-story "Brick House," Danversport's second school, was erected on Water Street, also on the northern peninsula, about 1/2 mile from the site of the nominated property. As Danversport continued to grow, the brick house became inadequate. A second building was constructed as an annex behind the first in 1849; some time later, the original building was demolished and a new, larger wing added. By the close of the 19th century, both had been removed.

By 1794, Danvers had four school districts, including District #2, Danversport; in 1820, that in "the Port" numbered the second largest student population, surpassed only by Danvers Center. Danversport at the mid-19th century was both a thriving port and a growing industrial area. By 1846, there were 157 ship arrivals, with six active wharves on the local rivers, and warehouses ranging along the shore, built to store goods. At least two brickyards were located in Danversport as well. The most extensive manufactory was the Salem Iron Factory, established on Danversport's southern peninsula (between the Crane and Waters Rivers) by Nathan Reed in 1796. Reed, who owned most of the Endicott Farm by the early Federal period, was a leader in patenting nail cutting and nail heading machines. By the Civil War, maritime-related development in Danversport slowed considerably. In its stead, factories grew up along the rivers to replace the wharves, and workers' housing joined the homes of merchants and sea captains in Danversport. The growth of industry drew immigrant workers: Irish families had arrived by 1844, followed in the late-19th and early-20th centuries by workers from Poland, France, Greece, and Italy.

In the mid-19th century, Danversport was described as having "55 houses, 2 grist mills, one foundry, one nail factory, one rolling mill--a millinery establishment, 4 shoe manufactories, a wool shop, morocco factory--tailor shop, post office, steam mill, tin and paint shops, blacksmith shop--two tan yards, three school houses, two meeting houses, a coffee mill, a railroad station and between three and four hundred inhabitants." The three schoolhouses were the aforementioned Brick House, its annex, and a predecessor of the nominated property, the first Fox Hill School, formerly an office for the Salem Iron Factory. This building was purchased by the town ca. 1825-1830 and moved "to the riverbank north of Mr. Bates' house." Its site is believed to have been that of the present nominated school on the corner of Waters and Endicott Streets overlooking the Crane River, just north of the Salem Iron Factory site; by 1850, the first Fox Hill School had been moved again, this time west down to Endicott Street, where, much altered, it served as a dwelling until its demolition in the 1950s.

continued

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Continuation Sheet

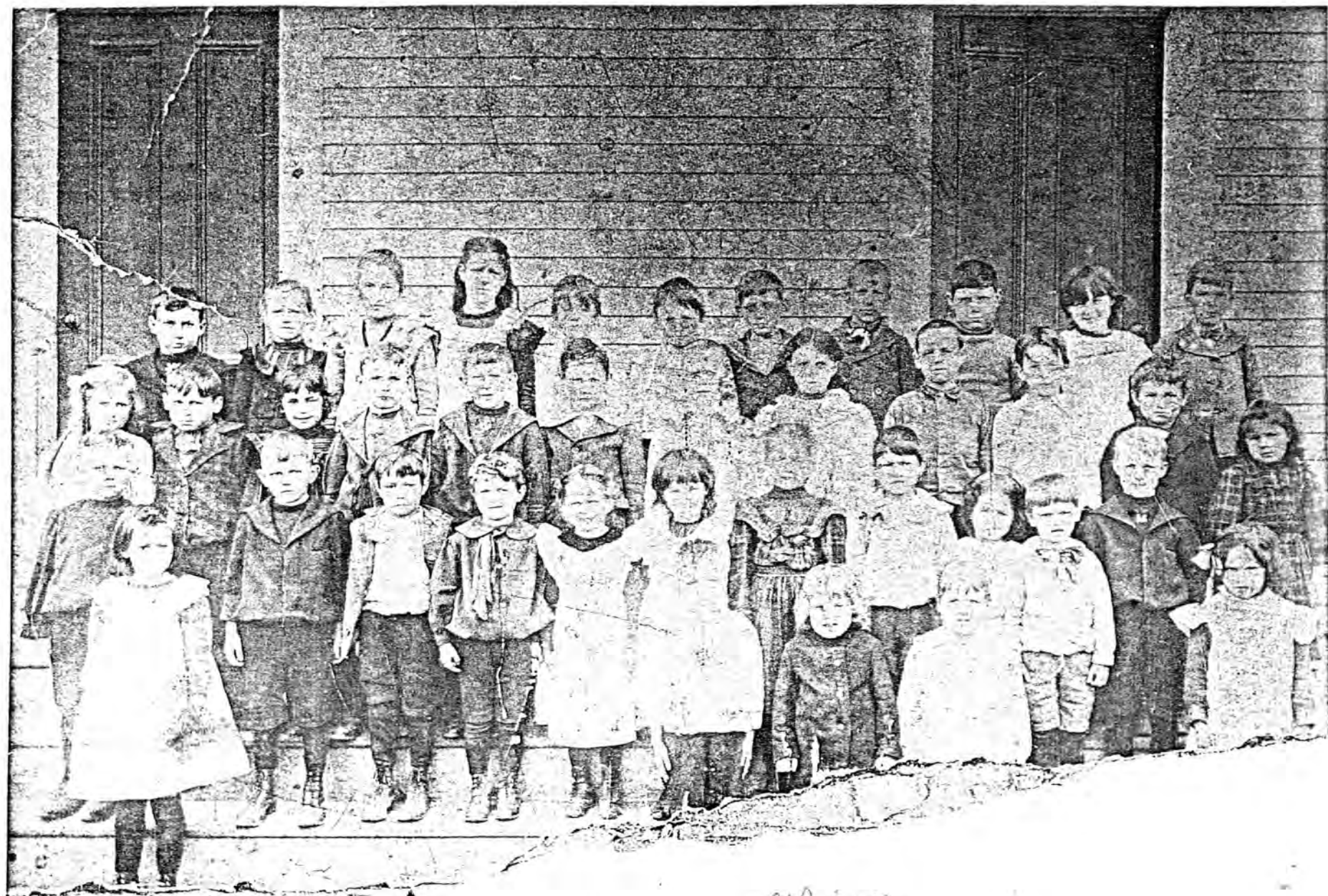
Section number 8 Page 2 Fox Hill School, Danvers, Massachusetts

By the 1830s, the bulk of Reed's property had been sold to Benjamin Porter of Marblehead, who purchased it in 1837. While the Porter family retained much of the Endicott Farm until the 1950s, a small strip of the property (three acres), used as a gravel pit and located "along the road to E. Needham," now Endicott Street, was at some time in the mid-19th century severed and sold to a succession of private owners. In 1875, the town of Danvers purchased the three-acre parcel from John Bates, foreman of the Salem Iron Factory. And in 1879, a town meeting approved the warrant "To build a school house on the Town lot (the gravel pits) on the corner of Water and Endicott Streets."

The plans for the new schoolhouse were approved by the Danversport School Committee, which selected a traditional Greek Revival-style building. With its single story, gable front, paired entries, and simple detailing consisting of cornice and returns, entablature, and shallow-raking lintels, the school followed the schoolhouse form and style popular throughout New England in the middle decades of the 19th century. It is believed to have been the last school in Danvers constructed in this conservative style. (While the Putnamville School, a smaller one-room Greek Revival-style schoolhouse erected in the northern section of Danvers in 1852, also survives, other district schools of the period, none of which are extant, were of two to four rooms; these include the Maple Street School (1856) and the Park Street School (exact date of construction unknown). Subsequent schools in the late-19th century are far more elaborate masonry blocks with Colonial Revival styling.

The Fox Hill School's builder was George W. Russell, a local resident, whose \$795 bid for construction (with inside blinds but without blackboards) was the lowest of five bids received. Russell was paid an additional \$50 to build a cellar beneath the schoolhouse. The small school, only a single room (and smaller than the Brick School House 1/2 mile away), served students from the immediate "Orchard Farm" area: Water and Endicott Streets, Clinton Avenue, and Bates Street. It was intended to hold 35 children in grades one through three. Until the end of the 19th century, whenever the student body exceeded that number, and after graduation, students went to the Brick School House. In 1893, the eight-room Danversport School opened to serve upper and lower grades, but the Fox Hill School continued to be used.

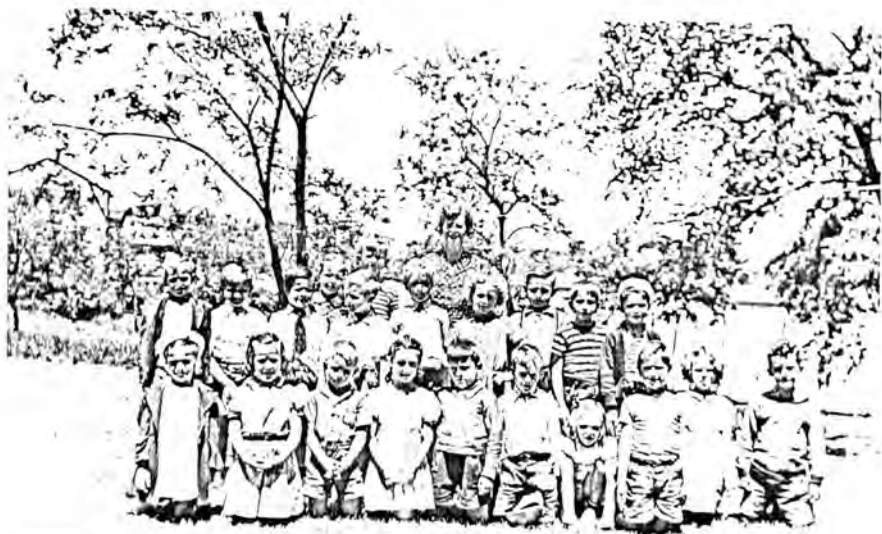
Fox Hill School remained in continuous service for early primary grades from 1879 to 1964; from 1964-1974, it was used only as a kindergarten. Today, the Fox Hill School remains central to the Danversport community; little altered, it is a daycare center and is available for local functions in the evening.



Albert
Bellevue

Freeman
Rackliffe

1900
38 children



1940 - 21 children

FILE
84-020-1

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Fox Hill School
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS

~~Substantive Review~~

DEC 29 1987

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-89

Date Due: 1/28/88 - 2/12/88

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2-10-88

☐ RETURN

☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

*Bare surviving one-room school house
of the late nineteenth century
executed in Greek Revival mode
retains high degree of integrity
and convey long standing associations
with the community's
educational development.*

Recom./Criteria Accept A+C

Reviewer Swasey

Discipline Architectural History

Date 2/10/88

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 ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ 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

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: _____



Fox Hill School

81 Water Street, Danvers, MA

Danversport July, 1985

Photographer: J. R. Dumke

Negative at 79 Water St. Danvers

Photo No. 1 of 2

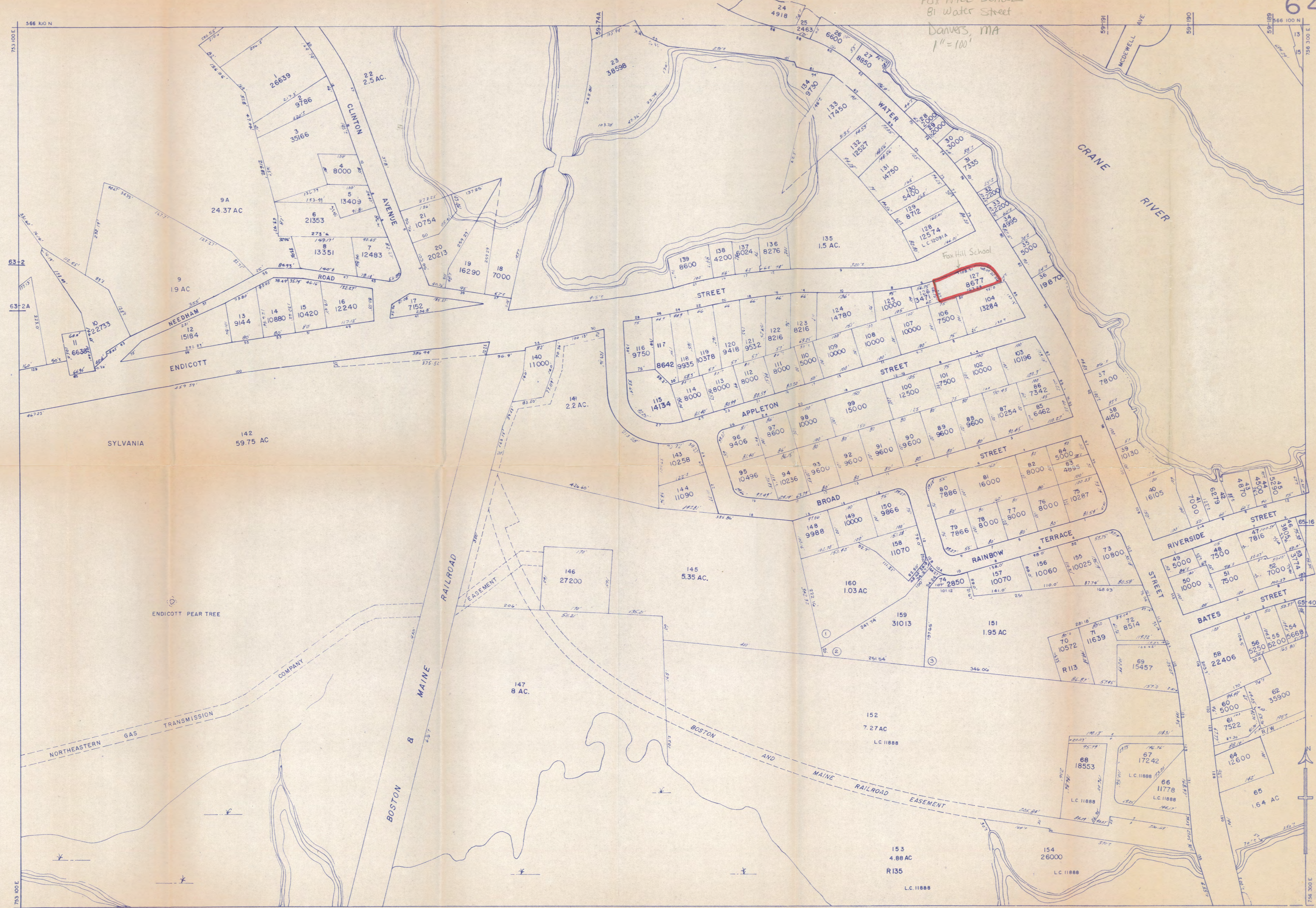
View Looking west at east (front)



Fox Hill School
81 Water Street, Danvers, MA
Danversport July, 1985
Photographer: J. R. Dumke
Negative at 79 Water St., Danvers
Photo No. 2 of 2
View looking west on Endicott St
showing adjacent residences

[illegible]

Fox Hill School
81 Water Street
Danvers, MA
1" = 100'



FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY
NOT FOR PROPERTY CONVEYANCES

COL - EAST INC.
BOSTON & PITTSFIELD

ASSESSORS MAP
DANVERS

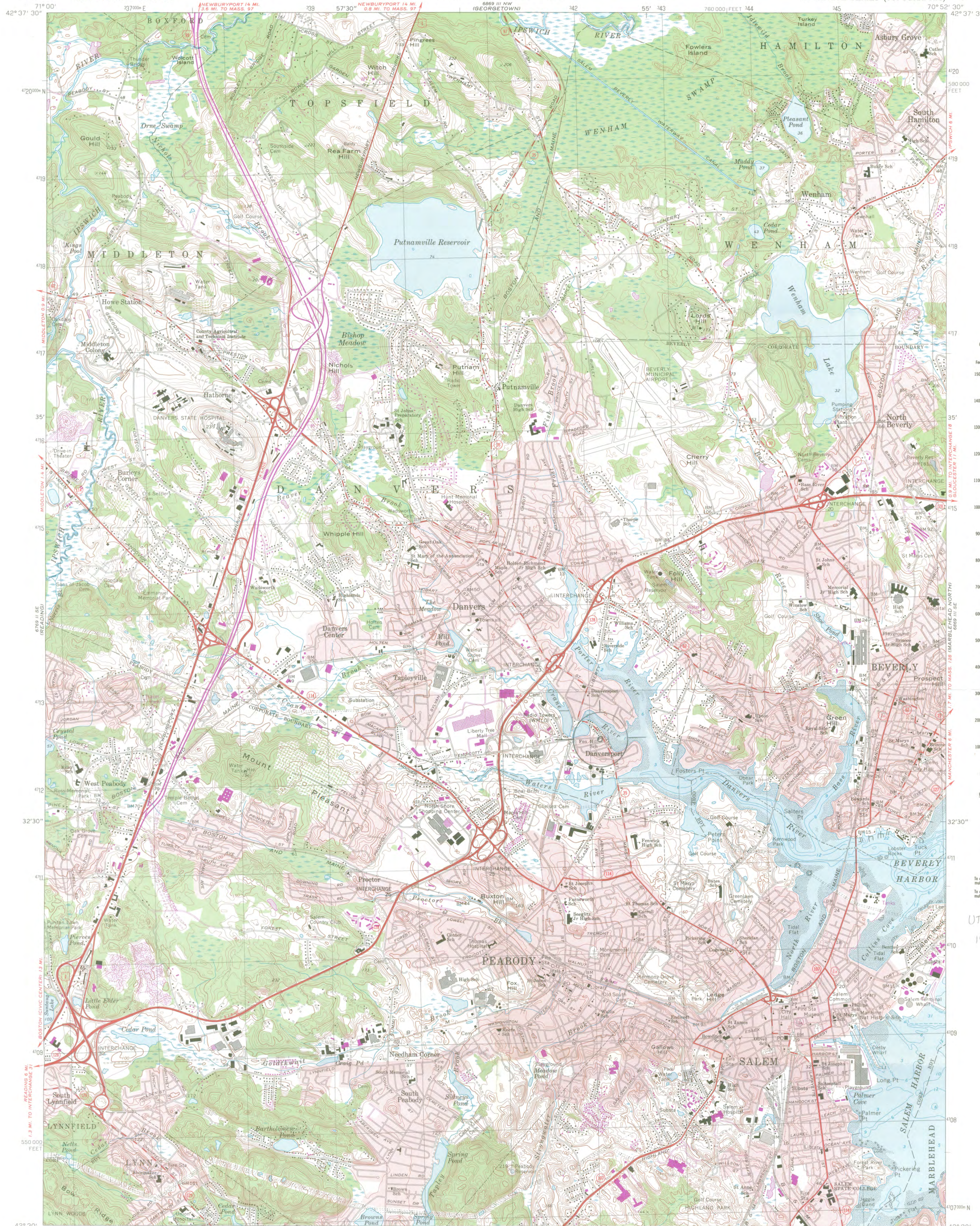
SCALE IN FEET
0 100 200 300

NO PARCEL 57,59

58 59 60
63 64 65
66 67

RECEIVED
OCT 18 1935
MASS. HORT. COMM.

D



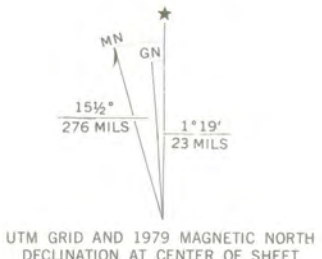
← Fox Hill
School
81 Water Street
Danvers, MA
Quad - Salem
Scale - 1:25000

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 3.048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

UTM Reference:
19 342090 4712460

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 1938. Topography by planimetric surveys 1942
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 240 and
241 (1970). 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

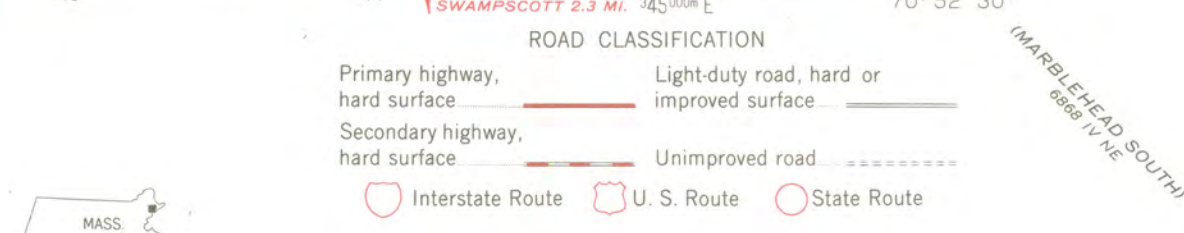


SCALE 1:25 000

1 000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 5 10 15 20 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



SALEM, MASS.
N4230—W7052.5/7.5
1970
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6669 III SW—SERIES V814

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Valerie A. Talmage

Executive Director

State Historic Preservation Officer

December 18, 1987

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the nomination forms for the following properties:

Danvers, Fox Hill School, 81 Water Street, HPCA #10212 MA

Douglas, E.N. Jenckes Store, Main Street

Malden, Odd Fellows Building, 442 Main Street

Winchendon, Murdock School, Murdock Avenue

They have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. No comments have been received to date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

BF/es

Enclosure