

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

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

For NPS use only
received JUN 4 1984
date entered JUL 5 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Cranch School

and/or common Cranch School

2. Location

street & number 270 Whitwell Street- N/A not for publication

city, town Quincy N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Norfolk code 021

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name City of Quincy

street & number 1305 Hancock Street

city, town Quincy N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 650 High Street

city, town Dedham state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of #757 the Commonwealth has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

Cranch School, Quincy, 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 Cranch School of 1900 is a handsome institutional example of the Renaissance Revival style executed in brick. Sited on a sloping triangular parcel bounded by Whitwell Street (south), Glendale Avenue (northeast) and Maywood Avenue (west), it faces west in a primarily residential, turn of the century neighborhood. The site itself is largely paved to form a play area; there are no associated outbuildings.

The symmetrically designed Cranch School is rectangular in plan with a projecting central entrance pavillion. It rises two stories from an uncoursed granite foundation to a hipped, slate clad roof with terra cotta cresting at the ridge. Large interior end chimney's pierce the main roof while a third rises through the entrance pavillion. The body of the building is brick laid in a common running bond. The rusticated first story is separated from the second by a granite belt course; the second story terminates in a corbelled cornice. Windows, which are symmetrically placed and vertically aligned, have granite sills and flared, brick lintels; they generally contain 6/6 double hung sash.

The school's relatively complex facade is dominated by the central entrance pavillion which projects in two parts. The centermost portion, enclosed by a hipped roof, contains four conventional windows at each story. Additionally, a pair of narrow lights containing 2/2 sash occupies the center bay of the first story. A large granite block, bearing the school's name, is located directly beneath the central windows of the second story. Side elevations of this section contain one window at the first story and two at the second. Flanking this central section are paired, one story entrance blocks whose shed roofs continue the slope of the main roof. Identical in design, each contains a recessed entry set in a round arch surround whose tympanum is filled with brick laid in a basket weave pattern. The entry is flanked by narrow 1/1 sash rising directly from the basement and by blank rondels in the spandrels. Side elevations of these sections contain original four panel doors flanked by window's with 4/4 sash at the first story, and a 4/4 round arched window in the gable. On both sides of the central pavillion, the main block contains three windows at each story.

Side elevations (north and south) are simply organized with four windows at each story including the basement. Both elevations gain in height toward the rear of the school due to the sloping site.

First and second story fenestration divides the 18 bay rear elevation (east) into four sections: the outer sections contain four small windows at each story while the center sections each contain five larger windows separated by a blank bay. The basement contains four entries irregularly interspersed with windows. The rear slope of the roof contains two eyebrow dormers.

The school's interior is simply appointed with some tongue and groove vertical wainscoting in the classrooms.

8. Significance

Cranch School, Quincy, MA

Period

Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) community development
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1900

Builder/Architect Albert H. Wright

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cranch School possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. It is significant as a well designed and preserved example of early 20th century institutional architecture in Quincy and as a reflection of intensive civic growth at that time. Thus, the Cranch School meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The Cranch School was completed and transferred from the Commissioner of Public Works to the School Department on January 5, 1901. It opened two days later with 200 pupils from grades 1-6; grades 7-8 were added to the school population during the next two years. The school was named for the Honorable Richard Cranch, the 18th century owner of the land on which it stands. Richard Cranch (1726-1811) was a prominent citizen who served as a Representative to the General Court, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and as the town's first postmaster.

The Cranch School was erected in a growing residential neighborhood just west of the city's commercial and civic center to alleviate overcrowding in existing schools. Following an established local pattern, the neighborhood became defined by walking distance to the school and gradually became known as Cranch Hill.

The Cranch School became part of the nationally known and much emulated Quincy Public School System, developed by Francis D. Parker, the superintendent of Quincy Public Schools from 1875-1880. Based on a study of contemporary education methods in Germany, Parker's system emphasized learning as an enjoyable experience during which practical and useful skills could be acquired. By 1906, Daniel Monroe noted in Quincy, Old Braintree and Merrymount that some people have even gone "so far as to utter the heresy that the city's distinction as the birthplace of the presidents and the source of one of the granites is distanced by the praise of her schools."

The Cranch School is one of an unusually high number of well designed and preserved brick schools dating from the turn of the century in Quincy. Designed by local architect, Albert H. Wright, its plan is based on two earlier Quincy Schools: The Massachusetts Fields School of 1898 and the Gridley Bryant School of 1896. With its richly articulated design based on the Renaissance Revival and Queen Anne styles, the Cranch School is a particularly handsome example.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Annual Report, 1901. City of Quincy, 1901. (Quincy Historical Society Library).
Edwards, William Churchill. Historic Quincy, Massachusetts. Quincy: City of Quincy, 1957.
(Boston Public Library).
Quincy Patriot Ledger. December 29, 1900, p.2. (Crane Public Library)

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1.44

Quadrangle name Blue Hill, MA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	9	3	3	4	1	9	0	4	6	7	9	1	8	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

Zone	Easting			Northing										

D

Zone	Easting			Northing										

E

Zone	Easting			Northing										

F

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H

Zone	Easting			Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification

Starting at a point on the southeasterly line of Maywood Ave at the point of curvature at the intersection of Maywood Ave and Whitwell Street and bounded and described as follows Northeasterly by Maywood Ave one hundred eighty one and 28/100 (181.28) feet.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

Candace Jenkins, Director Preservation Planner with Deborah Dunning, Alisa McCann, name/title and Robert Luongo

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date May 10, 1983

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

city or town Boston state MA

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

Patricia L. Weselowski

State Historic Preservation Officer
title Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 5/22/84

For NPS use only

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

for Alisa Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 7/5/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Cranch School

Item number 9 & 10

Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

Quincy Patriot Ledger, September 7, 1901, p. 4. (Crane Public Library).
Wilson, Daniel Munroe. Quincy, Old Braintree, and Merrymount. Quincy, 1906. (Crane Public Library).

10. Verbal boundary description and justification

Northwesterly by the curved line at the intersection of Maywood Ave and Bedford Street thirty-four and 10/100 (34.10) feet;
Northeasterly by Bedford St. seventy-five and 90/100 (75.90) feet.
Northeasterly by the curved line at the intersection of Bedford Street and Glendale Road eighteen and 34/100 (376.90);
Northeasterly by Glendale Road three hundred seventy-six and 90/00 (376.90);
Southeasterly by the curved line at the intersection of Glendale Road and Whitwell Street.
Northwesterly by three hundred sixty-seven and 90/100 (367.90) feet.
Northwesterly by the curvature of Whitwell Street and Bedford Street twenty-four and 28/100 (24.28) feet;

Assessor's Plan #1181, Plot 1 described as land located on the premises numbered: 1. 236 262 Whitwell Street, 2. Unnumbered Maywood Ave., 3. 67-73 Bedford Street, 4. 155-185 Glendale Road.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Cranch School
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUN 4 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85
Date Due: 7-5-84 / 7-19-84
Action: ACCEPT 7-5-84
 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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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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

Grand School
Franklin County
MASSACHUSETTS

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

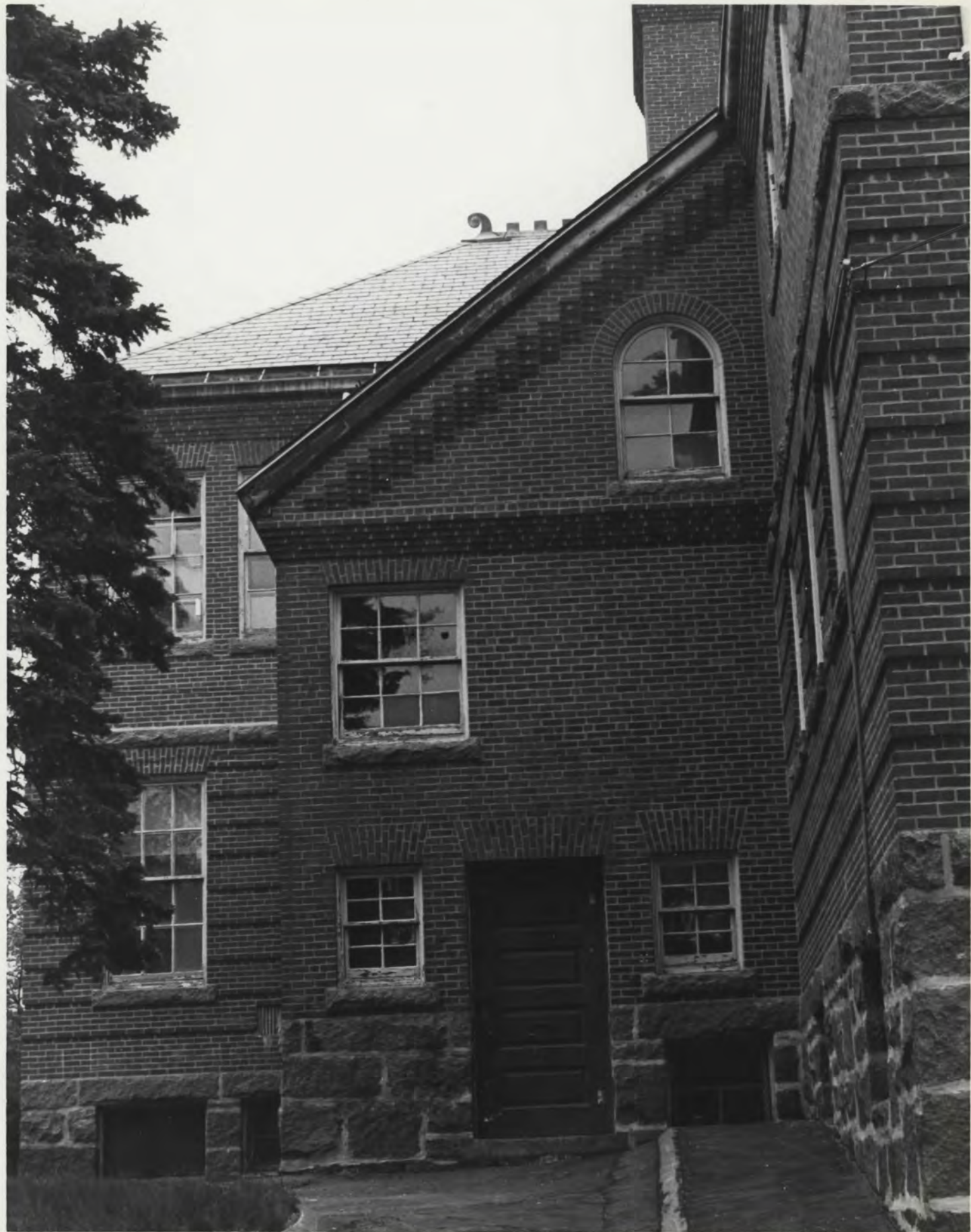
title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Cranch School
270 Whitwell Street
Quincy, MA
Alisa McCann 5/20/83
Historic Properties Assoc.
6 Faneuil Hall, Boston, MA
3 of 5
Detail, facade, NE

THIS PAPER
MANUFACTURED
BY KODAK



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING
1100 S. EAST ASIAN BLDG.
CHICAGO, ILL. 60607

Missing Core Documentation

Property Name

Cranch School

County, State

Norfolk,
Massachusetts

Reference Number

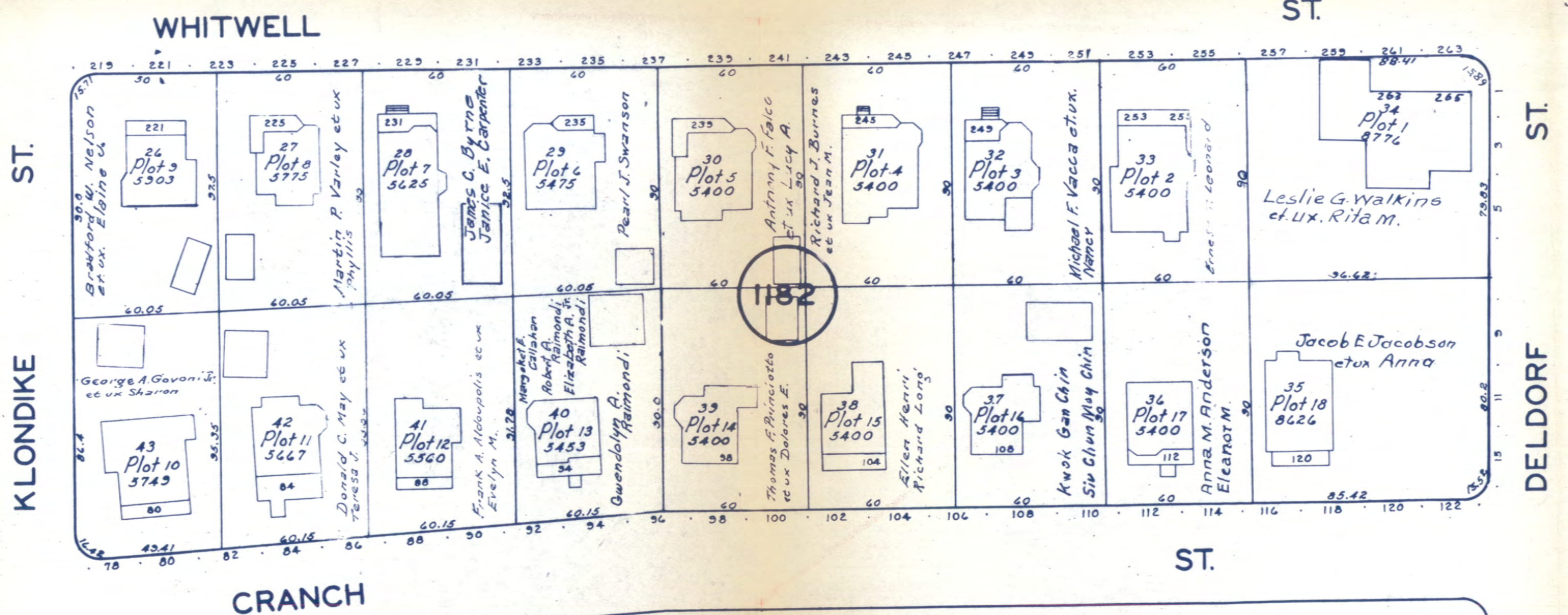
84002872

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form

Photographs (#s 1-2, 4)

USGS Map



SEE PLAN 1184

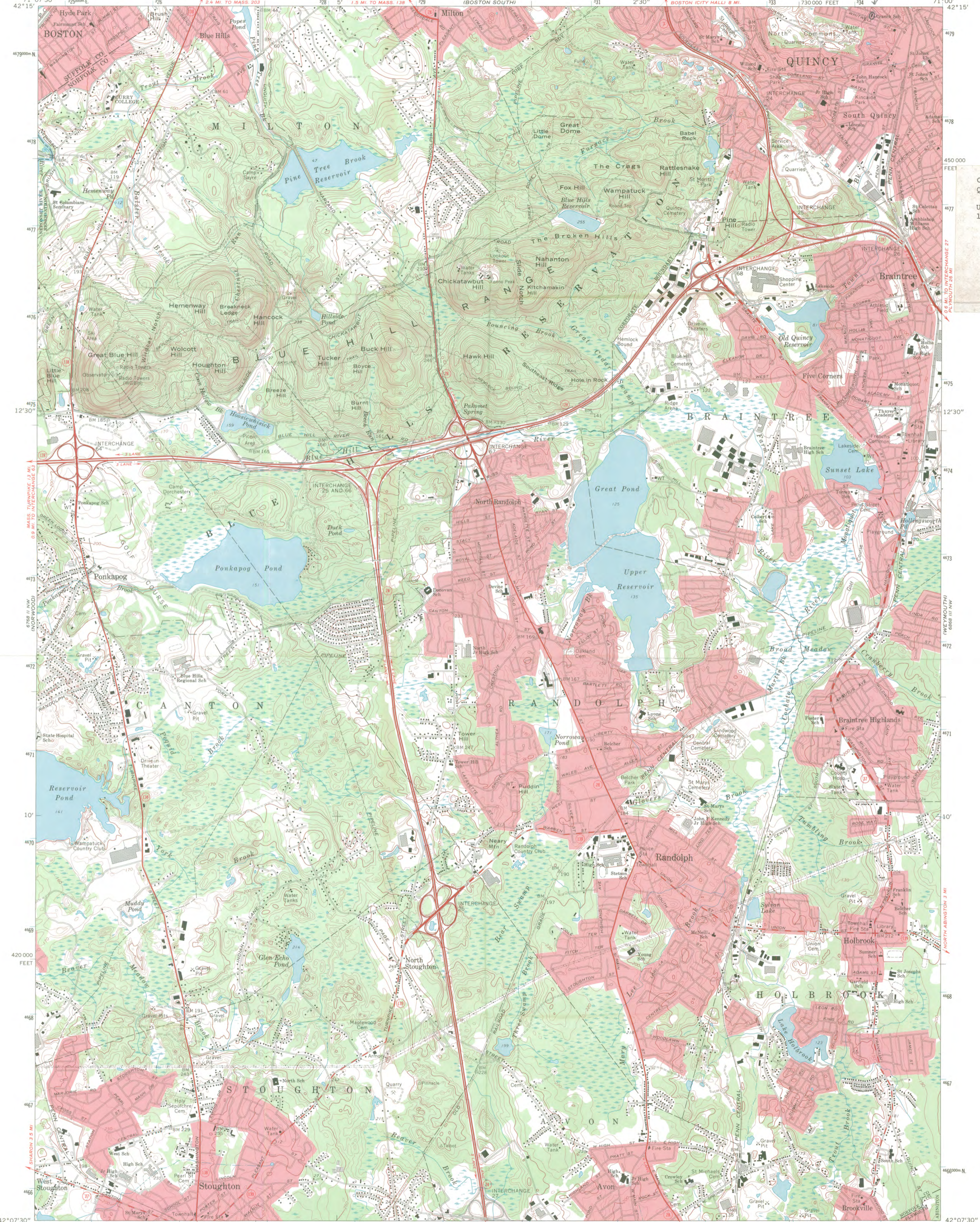
SEE PLAN 1185

SEE PLAN 1168

RES. B

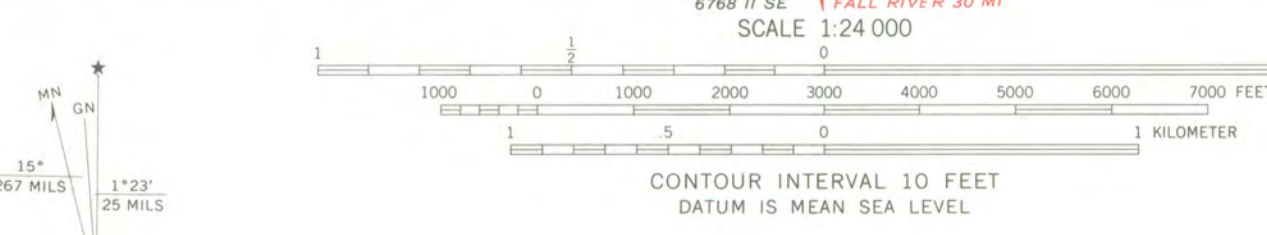
Cranch School
270 Whitwell Street
Quincy, Ma.

Lot 1181
1983
Scale:
1" = 40'



Cranch School
Quincy, Ma.
UTM:
19/334190/4679180

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
Topography by planimetric surveys 1936. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface ——— Light duty road, hard or improved surface ———

Secondary highway, hard surface ——— Unimproved road ———

○ Interstate Route □ U. S. Route ○ State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

BLUE HILLS, MASS.
N4207.5—W7100/7.5
1971
AMS 6768 II NE—SERIES V814

RECEIVED

JUN 20 1983

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Boony - Crank School

YES
OF



FRANCIS X. MCCAULEY

City of Quincy, Massachusetts

City Hall

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

RECEIVED

FEB 15 1984

MASS. HIST. COMM.

February 14, 1984

Ms. Valerie A. Talmage
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary of State
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Dear Ms. Talmage:

I am pleased that the Massachusetts Historical Commission is considering the Cranch School, 270 Whitwell Street, Quincy, Mass., for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The City of Quincy is extremely proud of its history and of the fine examples of architecture that are present throughout the City. We are heartened when historically significant structures can be put to new uses while still retaining their historic value. We believe that this is the case with the Cranch School and we hope that you will concur.

We await your decision and look forward to hearing from you after your March 14, 1984 meeting.

Sincerely,

Francis X. McCauley
Francis X. McCauley
MAYOR

FXM:GAF