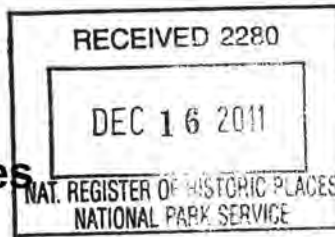


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1059

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Berwick High School

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 45 School Street

N/A not for publication

city or town Berwick

N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county York code 031 zip code 03901

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Ernie S. A. Newbery SHPB 11/22/11  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Edson H. Beall 1.27.12  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> C. REVIVALS/ Colonial Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE  
walls: BRICK  
STONE/Granite  
CONCRETE  
OTHER/Cast stone  
roof: SYNTHETICS/Rubber  
other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

The former Berwick High School building is located on the northeast fringes of downtown Berwick, a short distance from the Salmon Falls River, which separates Maine and New Hampshire. The main block of the two-story brick building was erected in 1927, and later expanded by means of a pair of wings built in 1953 and 1960. The school currently sits on a large town-owned lot of land, which is also occupied by the Berwick police station and administrative building. In March, 2010 the town voted to allow a 75 year ground lease of that portion of the town parcel that holds the former Berwick High School building in order to facilitate redevelopment of the building. Boundaries of the ground lease will serve as the boundaries for this National Register nomination. A small residential neighborhood containing a number of nineteenth century houses lies just to the southwest of the school and serves as a buffer between the school property and the downtown commercial area. Similar residential development can be found to the west of the school as well. The areas directly north and east of the school property are characterized by large open undeveloped tracts of land. The Berwick High School building stands on a relatively flat lot the northwest side of School Street, set back from the road approximately 85 feet. A paved driveway runs along the northeast side of the building, providing access to a large partially paved parking area at the rear of the lot. A grass lawn divided by paved walkways is maintained at the front of the building. Mature trees and shrubs are planted at the front and along the southwest side of the building. The southwest corner of the lot also features a small cluster of mature trees. A flagpole stands roughly half way between the building façade and School Street. Erected in 1928, it consists of a steel flagstaff set on a simple granite base and topped by a ball finial.

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### **Narrative Description**

The Berwick High School is a two-story building designed in the Colonial Revival style. The school consists of a main block (1927), a wing off the northeast elevation (noted here as "north" wing) from 1953, and a second wing off the southwest elevation (noted as "south" wing) from 1960. The north wing includes a small single-story ell at the rear, used as maintenance area. The south wing includes a large two-story gymnasium off the rear (see attached building key). All sections of the building except the gymnasium and maintenance area are constructed of red brick trimmed with tan brick, in the form of quoins, water tables, a belt course, and the main entry surrounds. Brick was laid in a modified Flemish bond (headers every fourth row on the main block and every sixth row on the side wings). Cast stone was used for window sills, except at the basement level of the main block, where rough-cut granite sills are in place. Each section of the building is enclosed by a flat roof finished with recent rubber roofing material. Roof edges are capped by painted metal coping. The gymnasium is constructed of concrete block, as is the maintenance ell, which has a brick veneer at its northeast elevation. Window openings on the main block hold historic wood 9/9 double hung sash, while most windows in the additions retain the original bands of steel sash. There are a variety of pane configurations for the individual steel sash. Those on the northeast elevation of the north wing and the southwest and northeast elevations of the south wing are divided into 10 panes. Most of these have a lower operable hopper and upper pivoting panel. Steel sash on the southwest face of the north wing are divided into 12 panes and have a central pivoting panel.

#### **Main Block**

The main block (nine bays wide and four bays deep) rises from a partially exposed concrete basement and is enclosed by a flat roof framed by a low brick parapet, which is stepped at the center of the façade (southeast elevation) and features a cast stone plaque identifying the building as "Berwick High School." The symmetrical façade is 9 bays wide and features a central main entry. Access to the main entry is by means of a low granite stoop. The entry is framed by simple brick pilasters supporting a cast stone entablature bearing the construction date (1927) and topped by a decorative iron balustrade. The original cast-iron lighting fixtures flank the entry doors. The historic glazed wood double doors were replaced by the existing wood windows, although the original fanlight remains above the opening. Above the main entry is a large paired window set within a brick segmental arch with cast stone impost and keystone. Other windows at the façade and side elevations of the main block have splayed brick heads with cast stone keystones, while those at the northwest elevation have plain splayed brick lintels.



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Only a portion of the upper floor is visible at the two side elevations, due to construction of the side wings. Detailing of the four-bay side elevations matches that of the façade. The rear elevation (northwest) of the main block has less architectural detailing than the other exterior walls; the only significant ornamentation being brick quoins and a brick water table above the basement level. A wall chimney projects from the rear elevation and extends approximately five feet above the roofline. Window openings have simple cast stone sills and splayed brick heads. An original entry to the basement is centered on this elevation and holds the original paneled wood double doors. Another entry was inserted in the location of an original window at the second floor when a fire escape was added (date unknown) and today holds a modern flush metal door.

#### Classroom Wings

The classroom wings measure approximately 35' by 75' each, and while they both contain two full floors on the interior, the top of the foundations are closer to grade than on the main block; thus the wings are shorter than the central block. In addition, the front elevations of the matching wings have little in the way of fenestration – which serves to reinforce the classical prominence of the earlier building. A wide entry holding modern aluminum double doors is located at the first floor beneath a single small window at the second story of each wing. The window and door openings have splayed brick heads with a cast stone keystone. Only the window of the north wing retains the historic wood double-hung sash, while the other is blocked by plywood. The facades of both wings are decorated by a tan brick water table and quoins. Much of the wall space at the façade is occupied by a large brick panel with cast stone corner blocks. Side elevations of the classroom wings have similar detailing to the facades. Windows have cast stone sills and simple lintels formed by a course of header bricks. At the northeast elevation of the north wing windows at the first floor are arranged with two sets of paired sash at the center, flanked by two sets with six sash each. The second floor is the same less the two central pairs. The southwest elevation of the south wing have an asymmetrical arrangement (same at both floors) of a single offset window near the center, flanked by two sets of 7 grouped sash. Four of the five symmetrically arranged windows facing the rear courtyard are set individually rather than in bands.

#### Maintenance Wing

Measuring roughly 36' x 49', this addition was built for the school maintenance department in 1953. It is single-story brick addition projects from the north corner of the building (constructed in 1953 along with the north classroom wing) and features the same brick water table and quoins (on its northeast face) as the classroom wings. The northeast elevation of this utilitarian structure has a vehicular bay with an overhead door and a pedestrian entry with a modern flush door. The northwest, southwest, and northeast elevations feature large window openings with historic steel sash (now covered by plywood). The sash are set in pairs, as follows: four pairs on the northwest elevation, two pairs on the southwest elevation, and one pair on the northeast elevation. Each of the individual sash is divided into six panes and has an operable lower panel.

#### Gymnasium Addition

A two-story concrete block gymnasium (constructed in 1960) with a single-story rear ell is located in the west corner of the building. Measuring 72' by 52', the gymnasium has little in the way of architectural detailing other than plain door and window openings with concrete sills. The small windows are set high on the walls and are evenly spaced along the southwest, northwest and northeast elevations. Each sash is divided into six panes and has an operable lower panel.

#### Interior

The interior retains a significant amount of historic fabric and the floor plans have undergone only minor reconfiguration over the years, most notably within the main block where a few of the original classrooms were subdivided into smaller rooms, the main entry vestibule was converted to office use, the former second floor meeting hall was converted to a classroom, and modern suspended ceilings were installed. Despite these changes, the historic character of the interior is preserved, with most classrooms retaining their historic trim, built-in cabinetry, and chalkboards. The two historic steel staircases remain in use and the two added classroom wings are largely intact (finishes and floor plans).

The main block (built 1927) is rectangular in plan and features a wide central corridor (at basement and first floors) with staircases at either end. At the third floor the stairs open directly into the assembly hall space. The two historic staircases are enclosed by exposed painted brick walls and consist of steel steps with paneled risers, concrete treads and landings, and simple steel balustrades with wood hand rails. The basement holds utilitarian spaces (principally storage and mechanical rooms). When originally constructed, there were windows lighting the basement on all elevations. Like most high schools built in this era, it is likely that the basement originally included manual training rooms (original floor plans



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have not yet been located to confirm) but with construction of the side wings, use of the basement for classroom space was likely curtailed due to lack of natural light. The first floor of the main block houses four large classrooms and several small offices. Much of the second floor is occupied by the original assembly hall (along the rear wall), which remains a large open room. There is one classroom just to the southwest of the assembly hall and three others along the opposite southeast wall. While a number of modern features were installed at the first and second floors (most noticeably suspended panel ceilings), many historic finishes remain throughout, including wood baseboards and chair rails. Although the upper portions of the large window openings of the main block were blocked on the interior when suspended ceilings were installed, the historic multi-pane wood sash remain in place. Several rooms also retain original built-in cabinetry (small storage cabinets). Little has occurred in terms of room subdivision and corridors remain at their historic width.

The classroom wings increased teaching space for the school, adding nine spacious classrooms, including science laboratories. Each wing also features a wide corridor with locker storage. Finishes within the wings were more utilitarian than those of the main block, with exposed painted masonry walls (brick and CMU) and little in the way of trim. The rooms and corridors within the wings are finished with acoustic tile ceilings, linoleum flooring and vinyl baseboards. Rooms within the wings remain in their original configurations.

The gymnasium consists of a large open two-story space with a series of small rooms (offices and storage rooms) along the north side (contained within a single-story wing built along with the gym). The gym space has exposed painted CMU walls, high windows with six-pane pivoting metal sash (that appear to be original features) and exposed steel trusses supporting the roof (see attached photo). The space remains at its original dimensions. Two walls of the gymnasium are covered with sound absorption panels up to the height of the windows. The lower portion of these two walls (approximately 7') are covered by protective padding. There is currently only one basketball backboard suspended from the ceiling although the floor is painted with court lines.

The building does not include a cafeteria. Students took their lunches at the nearby town hall where there was a large kitchen and dining hall. This practice began in 1943 when the town instituted a hot lunch program for all students and continued until an addition with a cafeteria was constructed at the adjacent Estabrook Elementary School (1960s).

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

**Period of Significance**

1927 - 1960

**Significant Dates**

1927, 1953, 1960

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

(main block) Richardson, J. Edward (1873-1947)

(both additions) Snow, Philip P. (1914-2011)

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The Period of Significance (1927-1960) covers the construction dates of the main block and two additions and marks the period when the property achieved the character on which its significance is based.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The former Berwick High School meets Criteria A and C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and is significant on the local level in the areas of Architecture and Education. The period of significance, 1927 - 1960 encompasses the building's construction dates (1927/1928 for the main block, 1953 for the north wing, and 1960 for the south wing/gym). It possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The property is significant for its associations with the education of Berwick children, providing public high school education to the community for over 80 years. The school represents early 20<sup>th</sup> century changes in educational practices resulting from legislated reforms to improve sanitary conditions, update curriculum, and operate schools more cost effectively. The high school building is also an important architectural landmark for the town and a good example of a type and period of construction, namely a 'modern' 20<sup>th</sup> century high school.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Criterion A: Education**

Berwick's educational system has been evolving throughout the town's history, from one-room scattered district schools to today's regional schools that accommodate students from multiple communities. During this time the system developed in terms of how children were educated, where they were educated, what they studied, how they studied. The Berwick High School represents a stage in this evolution – a period in which school buildings had become relatively sophisticated, and in which several courses of study were offered. Between the opening of the school in 1928 and its closing in 2001, it was central to the town's educational system as its only public high school. Closing of the school marked the end of an era for truly "local" high school education, as students now attend the regional high school.

The opportunity for "higher learning" (classes beyond eighth grade) was presented in 1791 when a school was established in the village of South Berwick.<sup>i</sup> The first high school building in what is today the town of Berwick was constructed shortly after 1872 when the town voted to erect a grammar school/high school building. Prior to 1872 three of Berwick's local district elementary schools also held high school classes. No doubt, overcrowded conditions at the district schools were a major reason for establishment of a consolidated high school. In addition, an 1870 state law abolishing school districts and transferring control of schools to the town (rather than multiple district committees) paved the way for a consolidated high school. The state legislature had also recently passed laws providing generous financial incentives, in the form of state aid, to assist towns in establishing free high schools. This two-story Second Empire style wood frame structure stood near the town center (on the same site as the 1927 high school building) until 1894 when it was destroyed by fire. It was quickly replaced by a new high school building, a simple two-story Shingle style wood frame structure with a hip roof, known as Sullivan High School. On June 6, 1927 a fire broke out in the boiler room of the Sullivan School while classes were in session. Students and faculty fled out of the building thinking it was merely a fire drill but the school was completely destroyed, leaving only the chimney remaining the next day. Construction of the existing high school was delayed for a short time because the town was already in debt close to their legal limit and could not borrow additional funds without a special act of the legislature, which would not convene until January of 1929. The town was, however, able to secure private loans from local citizens, who were then repaid after the 1929 legislature met. On July 11, 1927 townspeople voted to erect "a new building, of brick construction, at a cost not to exceed the sum of \$50,000."<sup>ii</sup> Construction of the new Berwick High School continued throughout the subsequent 1927/28 school year, during which time classes were held at the local Knights of Pythias building. Research indicates that the flagpole standing at the front of the school was donated by C.E. Ricker, a local plumbing contractor, in 1928.

As had been the case at the Sullivan High School, the new Berwick High School included classrooms for seventh and eighth grade students as well as those at the high school level. Although the trend toward constructing separate junior high schools for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students began around 1915<sup>iii</sup> in many Maine communities, many of the smaller towns like Berwick did without through the mid-twentieth century. The first floor of the Berwick High School was originally occupied

<sup>i</sup> This school later became Berwick Academy located in the town of South Berwick.

<sup>ii</sup> *Fosters Daily Democrat*, July 12, 1927, page 1.

<sup>iii</sup> Herbert, 1951, p. 378



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by the Junior High students.<sup>iv</sup> The number of students attending the high school was relatively stable during the 1930s and 1940s, averaging about 95 students per year. The 1936 Annual Report of the High School Principal notes that there were "four instructors conducting three courses of study, General, College Preparatory, and Commercial..." the standard high school curriculum at the time. During the tenure of Payson Smith as Maine Superintendent of Education (from 1907-1916) commercial/vocational training became a part of most high school curricula. Smith advocated teaching academic subjects as well as practical subjects, such as typing, shorthand, sewing, cooking, agriculture, and industrial arts. Vocational education was further advanced by the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917, which provided federal matching funds to establish vocational education programs in secondary schools throughout the country. The commercial programs were expanded in 1953 when the north wing was constructed; it held new classrooms for vocational training, including industrial arts and home economics.

Academics were not the sole focus of school life at Berwick High School. In keeping with a growing trend toward supporting extracurricular programs, the school offered student a range of activities to supplement their studies. When the building was opened in 1928 the school had a number of active clubs, including French, Latin, Debating and Politics Clubs as well as a drama group and Glee Club. By 1940 the school also had a thriving athletics program, offering football, basketball (played in the town hall), and softball. Due to overcrowding in the grammar schools, a sixth grade class was also located in the high school building in the mid-1930s, in a room that was to have been the library. A small library was kept in a room that had been designated as the Superintendent's office. The building was enlarged in 1953 with construction of the north wing, which housed four large classrooms and a maintenance wing. A second larger addition was constructed off the south end of the building in 1960. In addition to four new classrooms, the south wing held a science laboratory and a large gymnasium.

In 1948 the seventh and eighth grade classes were moved from the high school building to the new Estabrook Elementary School, freeing up much needed space for high school classes. By 1950 the number of high school student had begun to decline, with only 88 enrolled in the high school that year. The Berwick High School continued to function as the town's only high school until 2001 when a regional school was constructed in North Berwick for the towns of Berwick, North Berwick, and Lebenon. The old high school building in Berwick has been vacant since that time.

### **Criterion C: Architecture**

Educational reformers and commissions in the early 20th century, particularly in states where educational legislation had recently been passed, were pushing for improvements to school buildings as the basis for establishing successful school practices. Countless books, articles, pamphlets, and studies were released, by both the architectural and educational communities, setting forth principles and standards by which new schools should be constructed, taking into consideration changes in health concerns, curriculum and building technology. A report on Minneapolis public schools notes that "designers responded with spacious, well-lighted buildings furnished with a variety of new equipment and specially programmed rooms. Plans were based on I, U and H shapes, and featured large windows, well-ventilated and heated spaces, and closely studied and carefully planned interior arrangements that provided for hygiene, fireproofing, and student safety."<sup>v</sup> These building requirements were utilized almost universally in this country for new school construction from about 1910 into the 1930s. Among the laws implemented by the state of Maine during this period was a requirement that all plans and specifications for public school buildings be approved by the state Superintendent of Schools and the state Board of Health.<sup>vi</sup>

To assist communities in efforts to bring school buildings up to more healthful and safe standards, the state Educational Department published guidelines for the improvement of existing schools and grounds as well as for construction of new buildings. In 1904 the State of Maine Educational Department published a pamphlet entitled *Improvement of School Buildings and Grounds* in which they made detailed recommendations for all aspects of new school design and construction, from selecting the site to appropriate materials for floors and blackboards. The recommendations made in the Maine publication were consistent with those found in the many reports relating to educational reform released nationwide. Among the recommendations of the Maine Educational Department that most strongly influenced the design of the new Berwick High School were the following:

<sup>iv</sup> *Foster's Daily Democrat*, undated article in collection of Berwick Historical Society (appears to be September 9, 1928)

<sup>v</sup> "Minneapolis Public Schools," 2005, p14

<sup>vi</sup> "Laws of Maine," 1915, p 6-7

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- Foundation walls should be of solid masonry and the top of the foundation wall should be at least 3'6" above the ground.
- Buildings should not exceed two stories in height.
- The exterior of the building should be "simple in construction, yet dignified in its adornment".
- The entrance should be sheltered by a "suitable portico".
- Corridors should be wide enough for two rows of students going opposite directions to pass "with perfect freedom" (no less than 8 feet wide).
- Coat rooms should be well-ventilated to allow clothing to dry and should be located so that the teacher can clearly see them.
- Stairs should be at least five feet wide.
- Classrooms should be from 2/3 to 3/4 as wide as they are long and should not exceed 30' in length.
- Height of the classrooms should be between 11 and 14 feet.
- Floor area of a classroom should allow no less than 20 square feet for each student.
- Windows should be on the wall to the students' left side and the rear window on this wall should be within one foot of the rear wall, while the front window should be opposite the first row of student seats.
- Bottom of the windows should be on level with the eyes of the majority of students occupying the room and should extend to within six inches of the ceiling.
- Windows should be "massed with narrow mullions between the different divisions".
- Floors should be of yellow birch or, if necessary, a superior quality of spruce.
- Blackboards should be at least 3'6" wide and the height off the ground should be appropriate to the age of students.
- Classroom doors should have transoms of at least one foot in height.
- Interior finishes should be of yellow birch, native oak, hard pine or a superior quality of spruce, covered with two coats of varnish ("Improvement of School Buildings," 52-62).

The Berwick High School is an excellent example of this new school building type and the only school building in town from this era. It was designed by J. Edward Richardson (1873-1947), an architect from Dover, New Hampshire. Born and educated in Dover, Richardson opened his own architecture firm in 1894. He was responsible for the design of "many fine residences in Dover and adjoining towns,"<sup>vii</sup> as well as at neighboring summer resorts. Richardson is also credited with designing an "elegant new fire station"<sup>viii</sup> in Dover, the D.A. Hurd residence in North Berwick (NR: 79000180), Dover City Hall (1934), 1928 additions to the second Dover High School (61 Locust Street), two buildings at the Austin-Cate Academy in Strafford, New Hampshire, and a school, library and fire house in North Berwick, Maine. The school is typical of the few municipal/institutional buildings that have been identified as having been designed by Richardson, principally in the use of Colonial Revival style detailing and a similar palette of red brick and cast stone trim.

According to a list of school construction projects maintained by the Maine Department of Education, both additions to the Berwick School were designed by architect Philip P. Snow (1914-2011) of Saco, Maine.<sup>ix</sup> A native of Biddeford Pool, Maine, Snow received a degree in engineering from the University of Maine. He founded his own design firm following WW2 (later Philip Snow Associates). Snow worked until his retirement in 1978, designing numerous schools and school additions throughout Maine. Among his work were elementary schools for the communities of Waterford, North Yarmouth, Livermore, Kennebunkport, and Cumberland and additions to the Norway High School, the Falmouth Junior High School, and Burnham Elementary School in North Kennebunkport.

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#### **Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

The town of Berwick developed from a rural eighteenth century lumbering village to a thriving commercial town that prospered in the nineteenth century as a result of industrial expansion in the neighboring town of Somersworth, New Hampshire, located just across the Salmon Falls River. Berwick was part of the town of Kittery (along with the communities of South Berwick, North Berwick and Eliot) until 1713 when Berwick was set off as an independent town that included land

<sup>vii</sup> *Granite Monthly*, 1900, p241.

<sup>viii</sup> *Granite Monthly*, 1900, p241.

<sup>ix</sup> This list reflects school projects initiated between 1915 and 1971. A copy of the list is on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission in Augusta, Maine.

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that today makes up the towns of Berwick, North Berwick (set off in 1831) and South Berwick (set off in 1814). Although the seventeenth century settlement of Berwick (known as the Upper Parish or North Parish of Kittery) initially took place in the north part of the parish at Blackberry Hill, a secondary village developed in the southern part of the parish at Old Fields (a.k.a. Oldfields). Early settlers were attracted to the region by abundant forests of pine, which provided for a thriving lumber industry. As early as 1634 saw mills were operating on the Great Works River (now located in the towns of North and South Berwick). Soon after, mills were also established on what is today the Salmon Falls River. The focus of town life shifted toward the geographic center of town, in the vicinity of the Great Falls along the Salmon Falls River, after 1825 when a significant cotton mill was established on the New Hampshire side of the river in the town of Somersworth. The Great Falls, with its drop of 100 feet, was a significant power source that eventually supported seven textile mills and a large collection of other manufacturing facilities in Somersworth. Industry expanded, although on a much smaller scale, to the Berwick side of the river. By 1872 a number of small manufacturing enterprises had been established in Berwick, including a machine shop, blacksmith shops, a shoe factory, bleachery, harness maker, reed weaving and a woodworking shop. Industrial expansion continued through the late nineteenth century, so that by 1904 Berwick boasted a large number of modest manufacturing concerns producing a variety of goods, among them harnesses, carriages, tools, leather goods, wood boxes, building materials, soap, confections, and cigars.

The town of Berwick subsidized a school for local children as early as 1714, with classes taught in private homes, but it was not until about 1718 that a schoolhouse was constructed. This first school was located in the southern part of the parish in Old Fields, which today is part of the town of South Berwick. It was reported that "reading, writing, and spelling" were taught at the earliest schools.<sup>x</sup> By 1724 there were two schoolhouses in Berwick and classes were held in two-month sessions, until 1760 when the first full school year was introduced. After 1766, when a committee was appointed to "better regulate schools for the future," two schools were functioning regularly (History of York County, 1880 302). The number of students registered for school reached 563 by 1878 and there were 896 school children attending 16 small rural schools by 1880.

Prior to the mid-twentieth century, elementary and grammar school classes (kindergarten through eighth grade) were held in a number of small schoolhouses scattered throughout town. Although there were as many as 16 of these small schools at one point, by 1936 the number was down to seven. The school Superintendent's reports in the first half of the twentieth century continually note problems with upkeep and inefficiencies in the small schools, some of which served only a handful of students. *The Story of Berwick* notes that "These one and two room schools were for community centers as well as school buildings, community sings, lectures, and many other community activities took place in these buildings."<sup>xi</sup> The small elementary/grammar schools remained in use until 1948 when the Estabrook School was constructed adjacent to the high school and all of the lower grades were consolidated there. The Estabrook School was subsequently supplanted by three more recent schools, the Hussey School (grades K through 4), Knowlton School (grades 5 and 6), and Noble Middle School (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades), all of which continue to function today.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"A Mysterious Fire Destroys a High School." *Foster's Daily Democrat* (June 7, 1927), Dover, New Hampshire.

*Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Schools, Berwick, Maine.* Berwick, Maine: 1921-1961.

*Atlas of York County, Maine.* Philadelphia: Sanford, Everts & Co., 1872.

"Berwick Cannot Raise Money Needed For New High School." *Foster's Daily Democrat* (June 21, 1927), Dover, New Hampshire.

Clayton, W.W. *History of York County, Maine.* Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1880.

*The Granite Monthly.* Volume 28. Concord, NH: The Granite Monthly Company, 1900.

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<sup>x</sup> *The Story of Berwick*, 1963, p30.

<sup>xi</sup> *The Story of Berwick*, 1963, p32.



Berwick High School  
Name of Property

York County, Maine  
County and State

Herbert, Richard A. Modern Maine its Historic Background, People and Resources. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1951.

Insurance Atlas of Berwick, Maine. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1898, 1905, 1912, 1925, 1946, 1965.

Laws of Maine Relating to Public Schools, 1915. Waterville, ME: Sentinel Publishing Company, 1916.

"New Berwick, ME, High School Risen From Ashes Opens Today." (Undated newspaper article in collection of Berwick Historical Society – appears to be from Foster's Daily Democrat, September 9, 1928, Dover, New Hampshire.)

"Serious Fire in Berwick, ME." Foster's Daily Democrat (June 6, 1927), Dover, New Hampshire.

The Story of Berwick, 1713-1963, 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, Berwick, MA: 1963.

"Town Pledges Aid to Replace High School Burned Recently." Foster's Daily Democrat (July 12, 1927), Dover, New Hampshire.

Varney, George J. The Gazetteer of the State of Maine, "History of Berwick, Maine," Boston, MA: B.B. Russell publisher, 1886.

Zellie, Carole. Minneapolis Public Schools Historic Context Study. Prepared for Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission, 2005. (pdf download)

[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/hpc/docs/TableofContents.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/hpc/docs/TableofContents.pdf)

**Repositories**

Berwick Public Library, Berwick, Maine. Collection includes annual reports of the town.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Maine Historic Preservation Commission

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 1  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>19</u>	<u>348889</u>	<u>4792120</u>	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Berwick High School  
Name of Property

York County, Maine  
County and State

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property occupies a portion of Berwick town lot U004/142 on town assessors map R-46 and is delineated on the attached copy of the town map. For purposes of the National Register nomination, the property boundaries match those of a 75-year ground lease granted by the town in 2010 (see attached aerial photo illustrating boundaries of ground lease).

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The school currently sits on a large town-owned lot of land, which is also occupied by the Berwick police station and administrative building. In March, 2010 the town voted to allow a 75 year ground lease of that portion of the town parcel that holds the school building in order to facilitate redevelopment of the Berwick High School. Boundaries of the ground lease have been used as the National Register boundaries as well (see attached delineation of ground lease boundaries) as neither the police station nor administrative building contribute to the areas of significance outlined in this nomination.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Christine Beard  
organization Tremont Preservation Services date 27 October 2011  
street & number 21 Market Street telephone 978-356-0322  
city or town Ipswich state MA zip code 01938  
e-mail christinebeard@verizon.net

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Berwick High School

City or Vicinity: Berwick

County: York State: ME

Berwick High School  
Name of Property

York County, Maine  
County and State

Photographer: Christine Beard

Date Photographed: November/2009 (Photos 1-4, 6, 7)  
December/2010 (Photos 5, 8, 9)

Location of Original Digital Files: Tremont Preservation Services, 21 Market Street, Ipswich, MA 01983

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 9 (ME\_York County\_BerwickHigh\_0001.tif)  
Streetscape view of southeast façade (right), camera facing west
- 2 of 9 (ME\_York County\_BerwickHigh\_0002.tif)  
Southeast façade, camera facing northwest
- 3 of 9 (ME\_York County\_BerwickHigh\_0003.tif)  
Southwest elevation of south wing, camera facing north
- 4 of 9 (ME\_York County\_BerwickHigh\_0004.tif)  
Rear (northwest) additions, camera facing south
- 5 of 9 (ME\_York County\_BerwickHigh\_0005.tif)  
Northeast elevation of north wing, camera facing west
- 6 of 9 (ME\_York County\_BerwickHigh\_0006.tif)  
Gymnasium interior, camera facing west
- 7 of 9 (ME\_York County\_BerwickHigh\_0007.tif)  
First floor of main block, north stair, camera facing northeast
- 8 of 9 (ME\_York County\_BerwickHigh\_0008.tif)  
First floor of main block, north corner classroom, camera facing north
- 9 of 9 (ME\_York County\_BerwickHigh\_0009.tif)  
Second floor of south wing, corridor, camera facing southeast

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**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Berwick  
street & number P.O. Box 696 telephone 207-698-1101  
city or town Berwick state ME zip code 03901

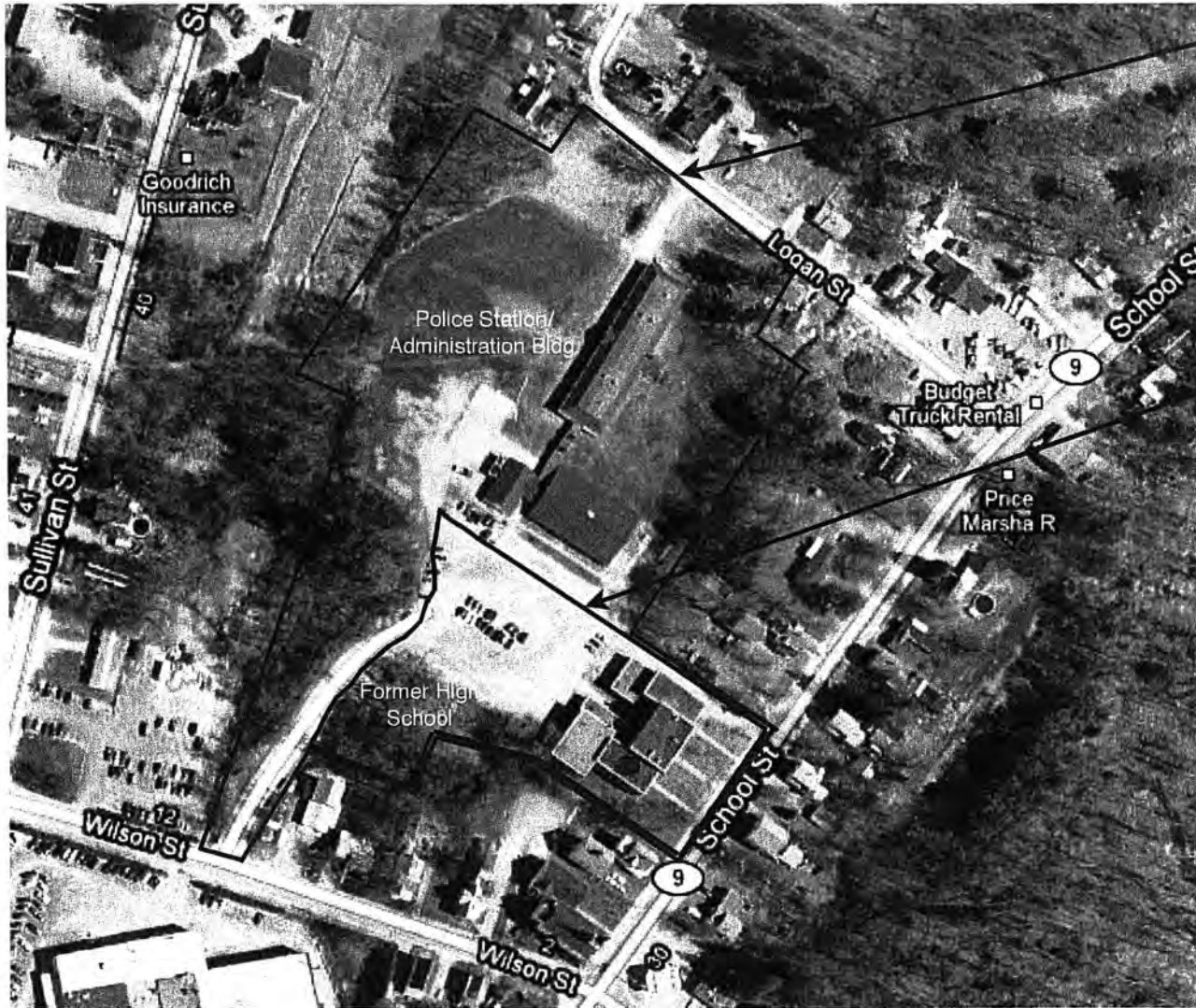
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



**BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL**  
**York County, Maine**

*Aerial Photograph referenced in Verbal Boundary Description, Section 10.*



Boundary Of  
Town-Owned Property

Boundary Of  
Parcel To Be Redeveloped  
And To Be Listed In  
National Register

Property Owned By  
Town Of Berwick  
Berwick, Maine  
(Including Former High School)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Berwick High School

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MAINE, York

DATE RECEIVED: 12/16/11      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/11/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/26/12      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/31/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11001059

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    1.27.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL ; YORK CO., ME





BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL ; YORK CO., ME



BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL; YORK CO., ME



BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL; YORK CO., ME



BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL; YORK CO., ME





BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL, YORK CO., ME



BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL; YORK CO., ME

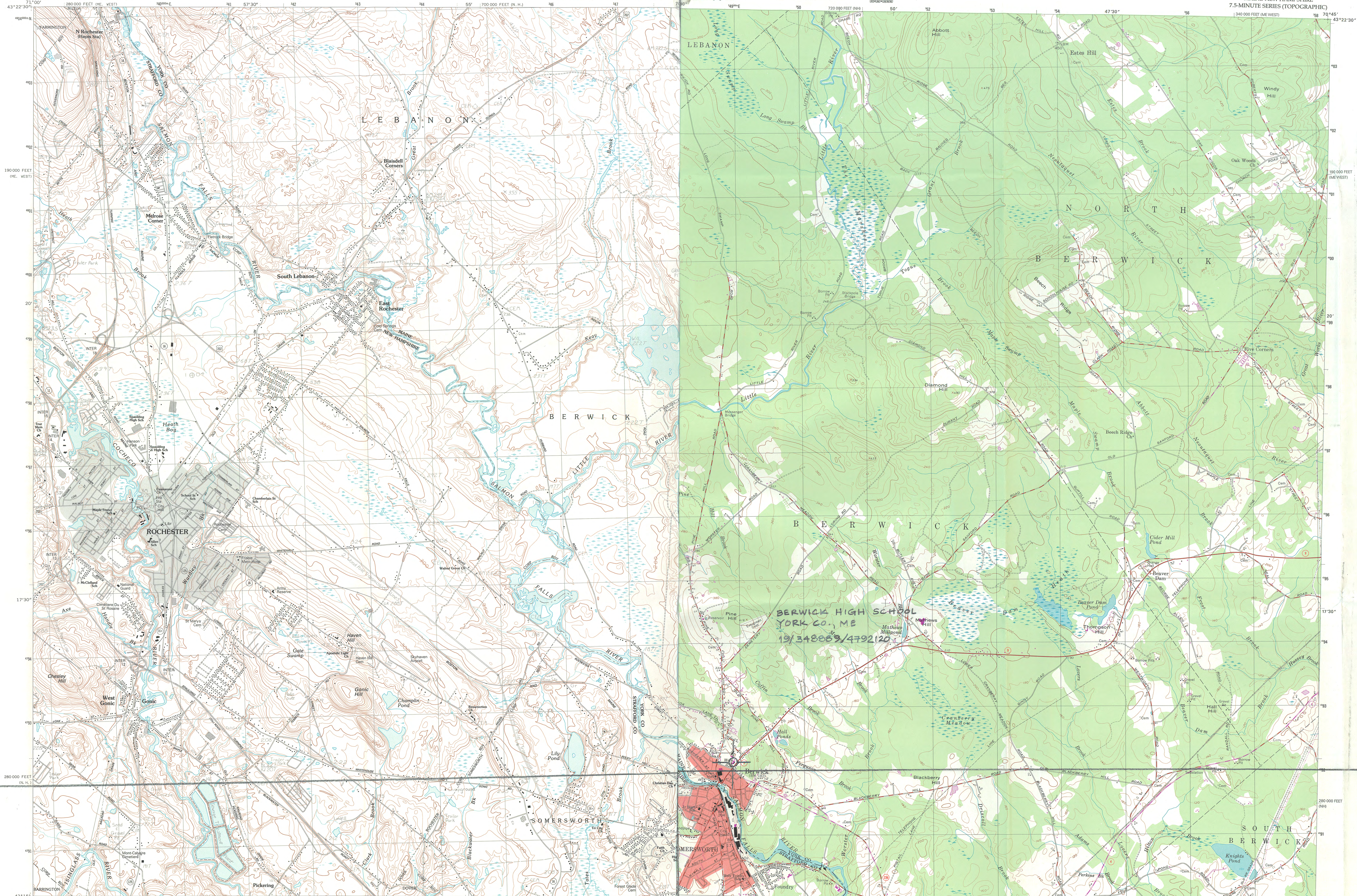


BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL; YORK CO., ME



BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL; YORK CO., ME





BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL  
YORK CO., ME  
19/348869/4792120

PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
CONTROL BY USGS AND NOS/NOAA  
COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN  
FIELD CHECKED 1981. MAP EDITED 1983  
PROJECTION TRANSVERSE MERCATOR  
GRID 100-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR  
10,000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS  
UTM GRID DECLINATION  
1983 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION  
1730 WEST  
HORIZONTAL DATUM  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
AND MAINE WEST ZONE  
To place on the predicted North American Datum of 1983, move  
the projection lines as shown by dashed corner ticks (5 meters  
north and 41 meters west).  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any  
Federal and State Reservations shown on this map.

SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

ROAD LEGEND

- Improved Road
- Unimproved Road
- Interstate Route
- U.S. Route
- State Route

ROCHESTER, N. H. - MA  
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1983  
43070-C8-TF-024

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Farmington	Milton	Sawford	Blair Lake	Somersworth	Dover West	Dover East	

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
COMPILED 1958. PLANTINITY DERIVED FROM IMAGERY TAKEN  
AND OTHER SOURCES. PHOTOSPECTRA USING IMAGERY DATED 1998;  
CULTURE OR DRAINAGE CHANGES OBSERVED. SURVEY CONTROL  
IS OF 1959. BOUNDARIES, OTHER THAN CORPORATE, VERIFIED 1999  
AMERICAN DATUM OF 1927 (NAD 27)  
Zone 19  
Maine coordinate system, west zone  
Zone 18  
Maine coordinate system, west zone and  
imperial coordinate system  
Imperial Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19  
Imperial Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed  
ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83  
minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic  
Survey software  
Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content standards  
if conflict with previously mapped contours

SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Milton	Blair Lake	Blair East	Blair West	Blair North	Blair South	Blair East	Blair West

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary Highway
- Hard Surface
- Secondary Highway
- Hard Surface
- Unimproved Road
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road

Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

SOMERSWORTH, ME-NH  
1998  
NIMA 6870 IV SE-SERIES V811