

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

For NPS use only

received SEP 25 1986

date entered OCT 23 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections**1. Name**

historic School Street School

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 40 School Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Haverhill N/A vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Essex code 009

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Charing Cross Corporation

street & number 18 Crowninshield Street

city, town Peabody N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 32 Federal Street

city, town Salem state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle Massachusetts Historical Commission
Inventoryhas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate November 30, 1984 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission, 80 Boylston Street,

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description The School Street School, Haverhill, Massachusetts

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The School Street School in Haverhill, Massachusetts, is a rectangular brick structure with a shallow hip roof. Built on a lot that slopes steeply from the north to south, the school is two stories high with a full basement; the latter is fully below grade at the north end but above grade at the southern end. Constructed in 1856, the building is a well-detailed example of the use of Italianate-style detailing in schoolhouse architecture. Its almost severe detailing, symmetry and lack of intricate ornamentation give this restrained building a sense of simple dignity.

On all four facades, the building's bays are demarcated by monumental brick pilasters, which support a restrained brick entablature. Above this is a projecting cornice of wood, supported by heavy brackets. The school is surmounted by a shallow hip roof, sheathed in asphalt shingles, and was originally crowned by a small cupola or bell tower, which was removed when the building was reroofed ca. 1915. At that time, the two central chimneys were enlarged for the installation of a new heating system.

The primary east and west facades are identical. Each includes an array of stylized brick pilasters combined with rigidly symmetrical fenestration arrayed on either side of a large, shallow projecting central bay. The school's entrances, which are located at both east and west side within these projecting bays, are set within round-arched openings with prominent brownstone voussoirs and oversized keystones. Sturdy wood double doors are surmounted by glazed transoms. On the top floor, each central bay holds a Palladian-inspired tripartite window grouping with a 12/12 window framed by two 8/8 windows. These and all other windows in the school, which have 12/12 wood sash, are framed by simple brownstone sills and lintels.

The north and south facades of the school are four bays deep; again each bay is separated by brick pilasters. A cast-iron fire escape (added ca. 1915) is located at each end of the building. Two second-floor 12/12 windows at each end were altered ca. 1915 to provide access to the fire escapes through doors. On the south, or downhill facade, there are twin entrances to the basement level in the outer window bays.

Inside, the school's upper two floors are identical in plan. A central hall divides the building at each level, with a stairway at each end. There are two classrooms on either side of the hall, a total of eight classrooms. The basement level holds restrooms and storage space. Interior finishes are utilitarian and include wood-paneled doors throughout the building, window and door trim in all of the classrooms, fine wood railings on the two stairways

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leading from the first to the second floors, and wainscotting lining the majority of the structure's walls.

In 1915 the School Street School was modernized to a degree. As noted above, changes included the removal of the cupola when a new roof was applied, the lengthening of one window to a door on the second level of each endwall in order to provide access to fire escapes, and the enlargement of the central chimneys due to the introduction of a new heating system.

The schoolyard has been altered over time. At the north end of the lot there is a concrete retaining wall. The stone walls and terracing date to the 1930s; they were built as W.P.A. projects. Most of the lot is surfaced with blacktop or packed dirt.

The present owners of the School Street School have made plans to remodel the nominated property into condominiums using the investment tax credit. Proposed alterations of the interior include the removal of the coat closets and linoleum and for the retention of the wainscotting, door trim, and wood floors.

Archaeology

Given the extensive terracing and landscaping done to the lot during the 1930s, the potential for survival of any significant prehistoric or historic archaeological site is unlikely.

8. Significance

The School Street School , Haverhill, Massachusetts

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

Specific dates 1856 **Builder/Architect** Joseph P. Richards

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The School Street School retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The building is historically significant for its associations with Haverhill's development as an industrial town, its emergence as a major shoe manufacturing center, and its commitment to public education in the mid to late 19th century through an extensive municipal building program. The school is architecturally significant as an early and well-preserved example of Italianate styling in an educational building whose plan exhibits a progressive interest in healthful schoolhouse design. The building was designed by the regionally prominent architect Joseph P. Richards. The School Street School thus fulfils Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

Prior to the construction of the nominated property, Haverhill's commitment to public education was longstanding. The earliest public school was established in 1660, and the first schoolhouse was built in 1679. A School Committee was formed in 1789, and issued regulations setting out a course of study the following year.

The opening decades of the 19th century saw Haverhill grow from an agriculture-based village to a manufacturing town. Shipbuilding, which had begun in the 1750s, reached its peak in 1800 with three shipyards in the central village and another at East Haverhill. Other early industries included tanning and hatmaking, but it was with the manufacture of shoes that Haverhill became most strongly identified. This industry developed relatively slowly in Haverhill; as late as 1794 there were reportedly only two shoemakers in the town, and their production was confined to supplying members of the community. During the War of 1812, however, shoes began to be shipped to other cities and towns as far away as Philadelphia. Production was increased to meet the new demand, and shoe manufacturing grew from a cottage industry to factory production in shoe shops employing as many as thirty people. By 1837, there were 42 shoe manufacturers as well as related industries such as tanning thriving in Haverhill.

The growth of the shoe industry attracted workers to Haverhill from the surrounding rural area, swelling the already increasingly population. An 1837 census shows a population of 4,726, up from 3,912 in 1830. A mid-19th century local history by George Wingate Chase noted that "the large increase in the population of the town created a demand for more extensive and perfect school accommodations in the central district."¹ To meet the demand, three small wooden schoolhouses were built in 1838, two in westerly partsof the village, on High Street and on Washington Street, and the third in the easterly part of the village on the present site of the School Street School (giving the street its name). These buildings greatly expanded the public school system; Chase

continued

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Haverhill, MA

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A

1	9	3	3	0	5	2	5	4	7	3	7	7	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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

E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is bounded by School and Lindel Streets, the school yard and structure fills the entire area between the streets and is bounded by private residences to the south. See, also, Assessors' Map.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

Betsy Friedberg Preservation Planner, Massachusetts Historical Commission, with Frederick Lyman, Preservation Consultant

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 1986

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Valerie Talmage

State Historic Preservation Officer

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 9/19/86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 10-23-86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
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wrote that "previous to this the old building at the head of the common was the only public school house in the village."² This was not an uncommon situation: an 1873 report by the Massachusetts Board of Education noted that "in 1837, when the Board was established, the condition of the public school-houses throughout the state . . . was disgraceful,"³ and cited overcrowding and dilapidated buildings as the major problems. The new schoolhouses in Haverhill, although simple two-room structures, reflected a growing concern for public educational facilities.

The two rooms of the early building on School Street provided separate quarters for the primary and grammar schools, with an average attendance of forty pupils in each. The town soon outgrew these schoolhouses as well as its other facilities, and once again schoolrooms were overcrowded. The Washington Street School, which was enlarged in 1845, was finally torn down and replaced by a two-story brick structure in 1849. An attempt was made to enlarge the School Street School by removing the partition and making one large room for the grammar school, and turning the basement into the primary school. This proved to be an unsatisfactory arrangement as the basement was "damp and unhealthy."⁴

The shoe industry, which had suffered losses in the financial panic of 1837, had fully recovered by 1850. The California Gold Rush and the settlement of the American West opened new markets for goods manufactured in the industrial Northeast, and Haverhill shared in the ensuing prosperity "as its rapid growth in population, wealth and business, fully proves."⁵ Production was greatly increased by the mechanization of the industry and the transition from small workshops to the factory system. By 1857, there were more than 90 shoe manufacturers in Haverhill, as well as a number of related industries. This meant prosperity for the town, and much-needed new schools could finally be built to serve the growing population. A School Committee report of 1857 noted that "the rapidity of the increase of pupils demanding admission to our schools, is indeed surprising and may be regarded as an evidence of the thrift and industry of the town which draws towards it in consequence an emigration surpassing that of any in Essex County." These immigrants were for the most part Irish and rapidly found employment in shoe factories. The report went on to say that the new schools were a matter of necessity due to both population increase and "the imperfect nature of former structures."⁶

The Old School Street School was torn down in 1855, and the following year two new schools were erected, one on the School Street site, and the other on Winter Street, at a cost of about \$15,000 each. Like the Washington Street School, these were two-story brick structures; however, they were much larger, and each contained several rooms. They were designed with careful

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consideration of health factors such as ventilation, light, and temperature control. The School Committee Report of 1857 described the opening of the School Street School:

A large group of happy scholars greeted their teachers at the very commencement. On leaving their former school quarters, in basements and rooms, inconvenient, crowded, and imperfectly ventilated, they felt that a new era had dawned, and that the school-room was no longer regarded as a place repulsive and forbidding in its nature--a place where the air and sunshine was debarred from entrance, but a healthful, attractive place of study.⁷

The schools were set up on the then-modern grading system, with three grades--grammar, intermediate, and primary--subdivided into smaller divisions. Each division had a separate room, with closets. A large hall provided space for the entire school to assemble, and the basement space could be used as playrooms when the weather did not permit recess to be held in the large schoolyard.

The town of Haverhill took great pride in the new schools. According to the School Committee Report of 1857, "the expenditure of so large a sum of \$30,000 for school houses in a single season, particularly distinguished the town, as it respects a liberal provision for educational purposes." The new schools may have represented the latest theories in education and public health, but the report went on to warn that "ample, and even extravagant, as the provision was thought by some to be, a single year's experience shows that the time is not distant when additional room will be required."⁸

Space, ventilation, and light were the primary concerns for the School Street School, but questions of style were not overlooked. In his design, Boston architect Joseph P. Richards applied Italianate-style decorative features to the simple rectangular brick block. Richards, who began his career in the office of the prominent 19th century architect Gridley J. F. Bryant, had been the head draftsman of the Charles Street Jail and other notable Bryant buildings. By 1856, Richards had established his own firm, with an office in Boston at 41 Court Street, on the corner of Tremont Street. Richards was involved in the Richardsonian Romanesque addition to the 1864 Sudbury Public Library in 1882. Little else is known of his career. The School Street School is Richards' only known school building.

Haverhill and its industry continued to grow throughout the remainder of the 19th century. By 1870, the year in which it was incorporated as a city, Haverhill had earned a reputation as the "Queen Shoe City." Additional schools were built to accommodate the increasing population; attendance at the

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School Street School was kept to around 300 pupils to avoid overcrowding. In 1870, the newly formed City School Committee recommended consolidating schools and closing ungraded one- or two-room schoolhouses, but the proposal was strongly resisted by parents and the small schoolhouses continued to operate until well into the 20th century, often with just a handful of pupils. In contrast to this, the School Street School continued to be regarded as one of the most modern schools in Haverhill and remained among the largest.

The population of Haverhill increased dramatically between 1870 (13,092) and 1890 (27,320), as new waves of immigration brought Italian and Eastern European workers to the city's shoe factories. The school system faced several problems in addition to overcrowding. Truancy was frequently cited, although many of the "truants" were hard at work in the factories. An attempt was made to hold factory owners responsible for child laborers who were supposed to be in school, but this does not seem to have been successful. The new immigrants often did not speak English, and the language barrier contributed to a high illiteracy rate. Evening and trade schools were organized to help reach the child laborers and early dropouts, as well as illiterate adults.

By the late 1880s, parochial schools began drawing many pupils away from the public schools. The school system expanded in 1897 with the inclusion of the schools in Bradford, a town annexed by Haverhill in 1897. In 1930, it was recommended by the School Committee that the School and Winter Street schools be replaced by more modern structures, but the Depression prevented this from taking place. The School Street School continued to function in its role as a grammar school, and the neighborhood surrounding it remained for the most part residential. The school went from being one of only four public schools at the time of its construction to being one of twenty-five by 1940. A decline in public school enrollment, from 6,500 in 1924 to 3,800 in 1946, had little impact on the School Street School, which because of its fairly central location continued to have attendance of between 200 and 300 students. The school was in use until 1981, when it was finally closed due to a general decline in the school-age population.

The School Street School, which today stands as one of the two oldest public school structures in Haverhill (the other being the Winter Street School), testifies to the important role that public education played in the town's development. The building is architecturally significant as a well-detailed example of Italianate-style schoolhouse architecture, whose carefully thought-out design reflects the latest trends in mid 19th century educational theory. The school's Boston-based architect, Joseph P. Richards, considered concerns of light and ventilation as well as style in his well-conceived plans. The building's large windows, symmetrical arrangement of large

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received
date entered

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classroom spaces, cloakrooms, assembly halls, and play and storage areas were all designed to provide a healthful environment for education. In addition, fine Italianate-style detailing, unified by brick pilasters on all four facades and a bracket-supported, shallow hipped roof, distinguish the School Street school from other Haverhill educational buildings of the mid 19th century and later.

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FOOTNOTES

1. George Wingate Chase, The History of Haverhill, Haverhill, MA, 1861, p. 513.
2. Ibid.
3. Report of the General Agent of the Massachusetts Board of Education, Wright & Potter, Boston, 1873.
4. Chase, p. 513.
5. Chase, p. 532.
6. Report of the School Committee of the Town of Haverhill, Haverhill, MA, 1857, pp. 14-15.
7. Ibid., p. 10.
8. Ibid., pp. 14-15.

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National Park Service**

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School Street School



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Page 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Chase, George Wingate. The History of Haverhill. Haverhill, Mass. 1861.

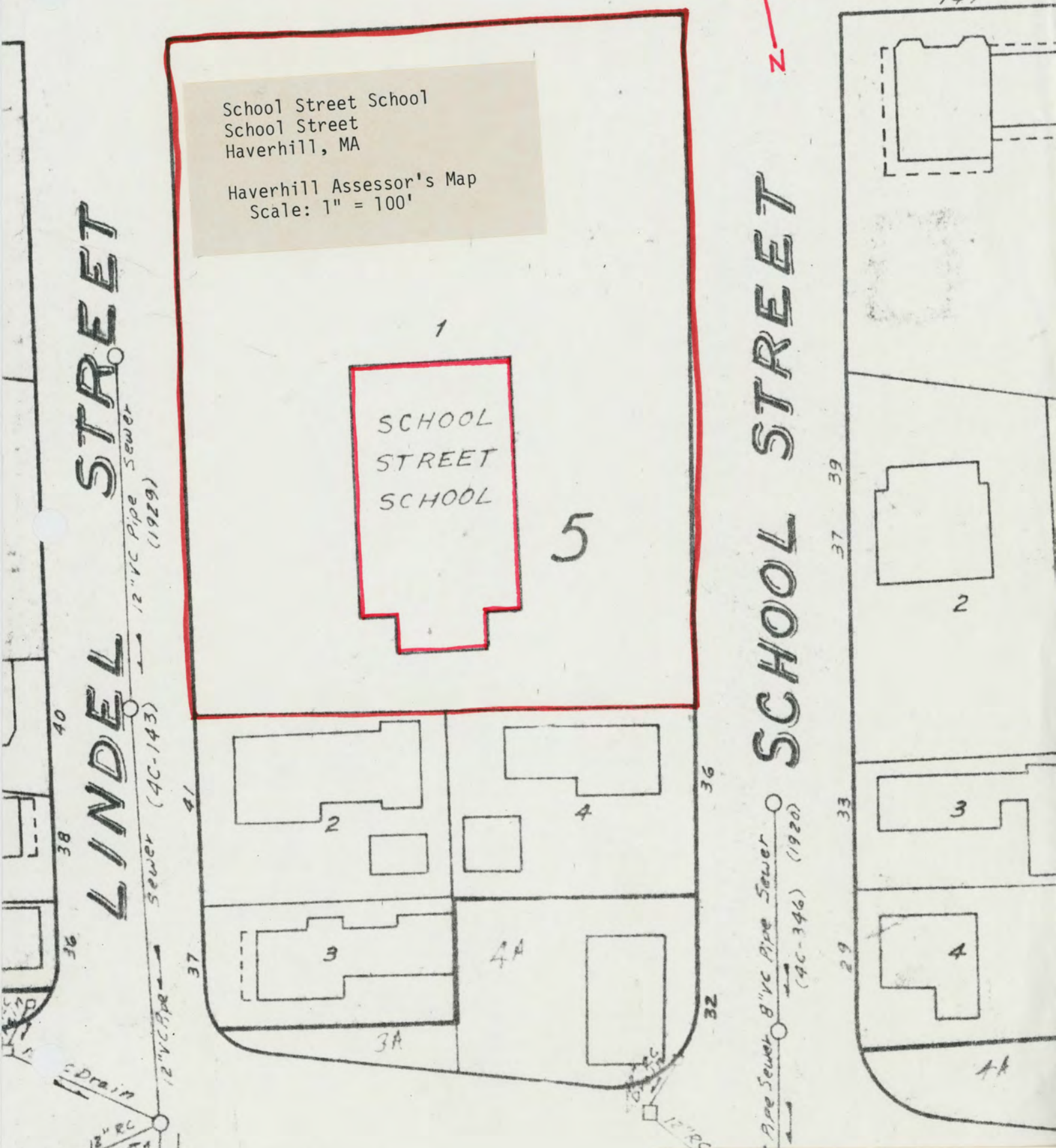
Freeman, Donald C. History of the Education in Haverhill. Haverhill, Mass. 1970.

Haverhill Board of Trade. Haverhill - An Industrial and Commercial Center. 1889.

Haverhill School Committee. Report of the School Committee of the Town of Haverhill. Haverhill, Mass. 1857.

Report of the General Agent of the Massachusetts Board of Education. Wright & Potter. Boston. 1873.

ET



School Street School
School Street
Haverhill, MA

Haverhill Assessor's Map
Scale: 1" = 100'

SCHOOL
STREET
SCHOOL

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

School Street School
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS

SEP 25 1986

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88
Date Due: 10/23/86 - 11/9/86
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10-23-86
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Entered in the
National Register

Federal Agency: _____

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	
	☐ unaltered	
	☐ altered	

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: _____



School Street School, Haverhill, MA
Door on East Facade

School Street School

School Street

Haverhill, MA

date: March, 1986

photographer: American Landmarks, Inc.

and negatives 167 Milk Street

stored at: Boston, MA 02114

view of door on East facade

photo #1 of 2



School Street School
North and West Facades

School Street School

School Street

Haverhill, MA

date: March, 1986

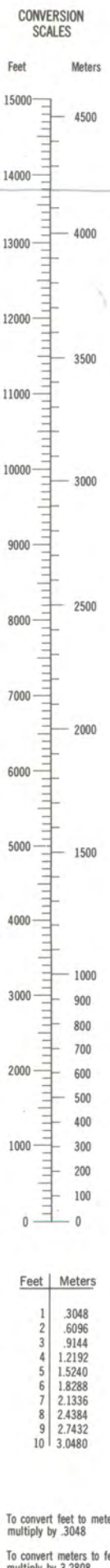
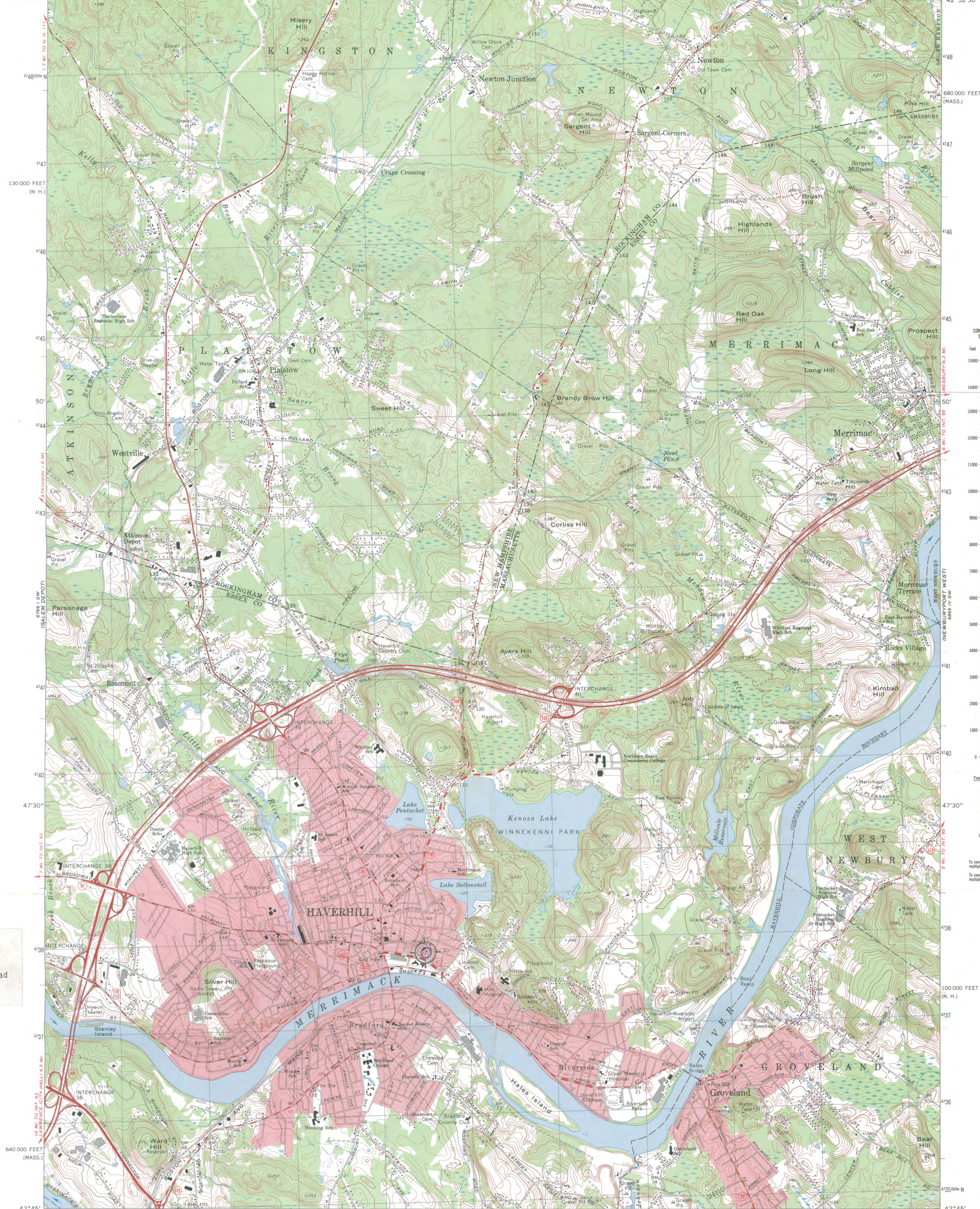
photographer: American Landmarks, Inc.

negatives 167 Milk Street

stored at: Boston, MA 02114

view of North and West facades

photo #2 of 2

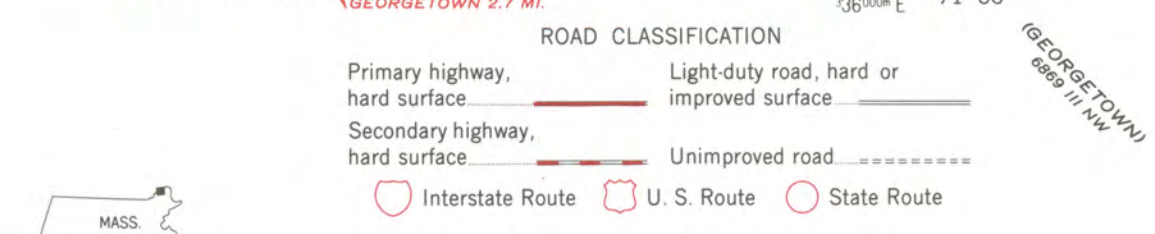
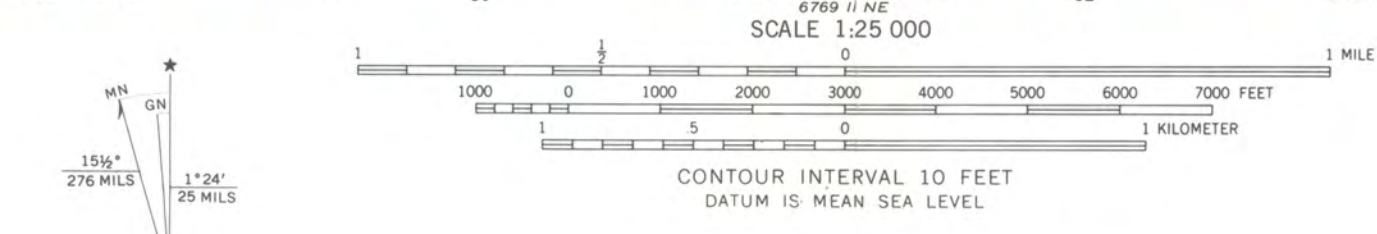


School Street School
School Street
Haverhill, MA

UTM reference: Haverhill Quad
19/330/525/4737.700

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography in Massachusetts by photogrammetric surveys 1942
Topography in New Hampshire by photogrammetric methods from
aerial photographs taken 1953. Field checked 1955
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and New Hampshire coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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

HAVERHILL, MASS.-N. H.
SE/4 HAVERHILL 15' QUADRANGLE
N4245-W7100/7.5

1972

AMS 6769 1 SE-SERIES V814