

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).
Indicate north

See attached sheet

UTM REFERENCE 19/315300/4692720
USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON
SCALE 1:25,000

AUG 21 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1989

AREA

FORM NO.

	37
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WALTHAM, MA MRA

Town Waltham, MA

Address 10 Ash St.

Historic Name Ezra Fitch School

Use: Present school

Original school

DESCRIPTION

Date 1932

Source placque on bldg.

Style Art Deco

Architect Fay, Spofford and Thorndike

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) substantial

modern rear addition - NC

Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage 71,400 sq.ft. ^{1.63} A 68-21-1

Setting located to the east of the watch

factory complex in a densely settled

residential area of mid-late 19th c. houses

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon

Organization Waltham Historical Comm.

Date June 1986

revised by C. Jenkins 3/88

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Ezra Fitch School possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and associations. It is a late addition to Waltham's municipal building program, following the 1920s construction of City Hall. It represents a consolidation of services in the South Side which experienced a population explosion in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Unlike other municipal buildings which are usually classically derived, this one displays a restrained but well-detailed version of the currently popular Art Deco style. The School meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

Architecturally, the Ezra Fitch School is significant as a locally sophisticated example of early 1930's Art Deco School design. It is one of only three examples of this style in Waltham and is the only Art Deco school building in the city. The original building is of a T-shaped configuration. Its walls are faced with buff brick. Its main facade is characterized by a projecting center pavilion flanked by wings. Access to the main entrance is provided by cast stone stairs. The center pavilion's entrance bay is flanked by brickwork piers with stylized Art Deco plaques near the top of each. The front doors are surmounted by a square metal panel which contains a Z-shaped form composed of the words "A.D. 1932, Ezra Fitch School." The upper portion of the entrance bay features a steel sash multipane window, which in turn is surmounted by a ribbed, T-shaped metal panel with Art Deco treatments. In general, the planar surfaces of the masonry walls are pierced by large multipane steel sash windows. The overall effect is one of a streamlined and stylish primary school building. A two to three story rear addition has not impacted the quality of the original design.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

The Ezra Fitch School was opened in the Fall of 1932. It was named the Ezra Fitch School "in honor of an old and respected citizen and businessman of Waltham. Ezra Fitch was president of the American Waltham Watch Co. during the late 19th/early 20th c. This building represents the work of the Boston architectural firm of Fay, Spofford and Thorndike. Ralph Temple Jackson was this building's engineer. The general contractor was a local firm-- M.F. Stankard and Son. Further research is needed on the work of Fay, Spofford and Thorndike. During the early 1950's this firm was engaged in the design of Alaskan military installations. The contract for the Ezra Fitch School's construction was \$124,722.27. Its construction was part of a South End-wide school reorganization plan. On June 13, 1932, by vote of the School Committee, the old Bemis School was discontinued and Bemis students were transferred to the Fitch School. The Fitch School was originally designed as an eight room building. It contained space for an office and dental clinic as well as classrooms. The Fitch School represents a late addition to a neighborhood whose building stock dates primarily from the mid-1850's-early 1890's.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Waltham City Documents 1932--Waltham Public Library RW 3.52, 1932.
- "Waltham Meeting Present and Future School Housing Needs," Dec. 1951, A Report of the Center for Field Studies," publ. by Harvard University

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Waltham MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | |
|----------------|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 31. | Fitch, Ezra, School | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 32. | Flagg, Frederick, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 33. | French, Daniel, School | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| <i>See</i> 34. | Fuller--Bemis House | Substantive Review | Keeper <u><i>Bob F. Savage</i></u> | <u>3/9/90</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| <i>See</i> 35. | Gale--Banks House | Substantive Review | Keeper <u><i>Bob F. Savage</i></u> | <u>3/9/90</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 36. | Gibbs, William, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 37. | Gilbrae Inn | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 38. | Grove Hill Cemetery | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 39. | Hagar--Smith--Livermore--Sanderson
House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 40. | Hager--Mead House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Fitch, Ezra, School
NAME:

MULTIPLE Waltham MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 8/21/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/05/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/21/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/05/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001489

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 9/28/89 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count ☐ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

☐ historic ☐ current

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification
☐ materials
☐ descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage ☐ verbal boundary description
☐ UTM's ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



10 Ash St.

Ezra Fitch School #37

Waltham, MA MRA

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Ezra Fitch School #37

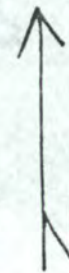
10-14 Ash Street

1" = 100'

1975; updated to 1987

Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #68-21-1



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301